

TOWN OF CALEDON PROPONENT LED DEVELOPMENT INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Town of Caledon has reconciliation goals developed to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous communities. The Town has expectations for Indigenous Engagement on Development Application projects that meet the criteria outlined below. Within the Application process, you will notice requirements for proof of engagement with Indigenous Nations.

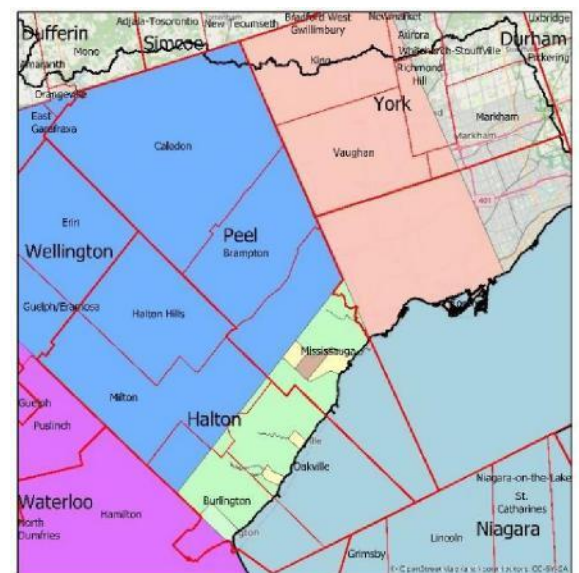
The Town of Caledon is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the traditional Territory of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinabek of the Williams Treaties. Caledon honours and respects Indigenous heritage, traditional knowledge, and the long-lasting history of the land. In addition, Caledon strives to protect the land, water, plants, and animals that have inhabited this land for generations and those generations yet to come. As part of Caledon's commitment to meaningful Indigenous engagement, we encourage proponents of development applications to follow these suggested best practices for Indigenous engagement on projects in Caledon.

WHY INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT

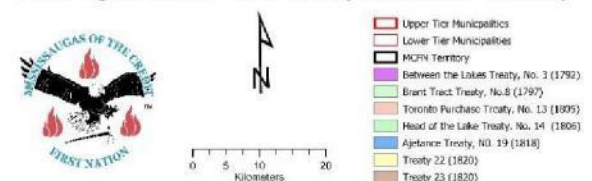
Indigenous engagement is important as it promotes respectful and inclusive practices when working on projects that may impact Indigenous lands, treaty rights, resources, or communities. By involving Indigenous Peoples in the decision-making process, proponents can align their projects with Indigenous perspectives, cultural values, and sustainable development goals. Meaningful engagement fosters collaboration, mitigates conflicts, and achieves mutually beneficial outcomes for all parties involved. This approach recognizes Indigenous rights, interests, and knowledge leading to stronger relationships and sustainable project outcomes.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The Crown (the Federal and Provincial Governments) has a constitutional Duty to Consult Indigenous Nations where contemplated Crown decisions or actions may adversely affect Aboriginal or Treaty Rights. While certain procedural aspects of consultation may be delegated to proponents, including developers and municipalities, the legal responsibility for fulfilling the Duty to Consult rests with the Crown.



Peel Region within MCFN Treaty Lands and Territory



In addition, Ontario's land use planning framework promotes early and meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities on planning matters. Through the Planning Act, and the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, municipalities and proponents are encouraged to engage with Indigenous communities to foster relationship-building, information sharing, and consideration of Indigenous perspectives in planning and development processes.

The Town of Caledon is committed to building respectful relationships with Indigenous communities that have treaty rights, traditional territories, or asserted rights within our municipal boundary. Meaningful engagement helps inform planning decisions, promotes mutual understanding, and supports the Town's commitment to reconciliation.

We value the guidance and contributions from members and leaders in these communities:

[Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation](#)
[Ajetance Treaty #19 \(M.O.U. signed 2022\)](#)

[Six Nations of the Grand River](#)

[Huron-Wendat Nation](#)

[Haudenosaunee Confederacy](#)

WHEN TO ENGAGE

Archaeologists must follow the strict criteria in [the Province's Standards and Guidelines](#) for engaging Aboriginal Communities in archaeology. The requirement is to engage at stage 3 however proponents are encouraged to engage earlier.

In addition, and consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 issued under the authority of the Planning Act, and the [Town's Official Plan](#) policies, including sections 6.4.3 and 28.3, the Town strongly encourages proponents to establish contact and engage with Indigenous communities as early as possible in the planning and development process

The following is a list of applications that the Town and Provincial Ministries may require applicants/proponents to complete Indigenous Engagement, separate from required archaeological assessment:

- Official Plan Amendments
- Zoning Bylaw Amendments
- Draft Plans of Subdivision/Condominium
- Site Plans

ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

Establish Engagement Expectations

- Engage with Indigenous Nations early to understand their expectations and build relationships.
- Seek feedback from Nations throughout the project's phases.
- Maintain regular communication and update contact lists

Confidentiality

- Communicate with each Indigenous Nation individually, unless the Nation indicates otherwise.
- Do not share the views of one Nation about a project with another Nation, or in a public report, without prior consent.
- Share meeting summary notes with participants and advise if they will inform or be added to a public report.

Consistency

- Be consistent with engagement messaging. For example, identify a project by the same name in all communications.
- Use consistent formatting (or a template) for project documents to make information easily accessible and recognizable for Indigenous Nations.

Inclusiveness and Consideration

- Provide Indigenous Nations reasonable time to respond to requests, and to review and validate draft meeting summaries, such as 5 - 8 business days for meeting invites and 2 - 4 weeks for reviewing draft reports.
- Understand that it is common to have follow-up discussions using various methods of communication after initial engagements. Remember that this does not mean the project is more or less important to the Indigenous Nation involved.
- Where possible, maintain a single point of contact from your organization for communications with an Indigenous Nation regarding a specific project.
- Learn about important events for Indigenous Nations, such as celebrations, ceremonies or traditional hunting times that may affect the timing and priority of the Nation for engagement. It is important to avoid reaching out during significant dates like National Indigenous Peoples Day or Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Provide key information that is directed to Nations as a courtesy, especially if the information is provided to the public.

INITIAL OUTREACH

DO:

- ✓ Copy appropriate Nation and Project Staff
- ✓ Provide key Project details, such as
 - Project name
 - Project location (with map), summary of project details
- ✓ Offer a meeting to introduce the Project
- ✓ Follow up
- ✓ Provide attachments in an accessible format, such as PDF
- ✓ Provide contact information for further information

DON'T:

- x Address all correspondence to Chief and Council.
- x Identify the project by a different name in different communications.

MEETINGS

DO

- ✓ Plan enough time for the meeting.
- ✓ Share an agenda and slide deck in advance for the Nation's review.
- ✓ Prepare internally before the meeting.
- ✓ Turn on videos or have a profile picture if cameras are turned off.
- ✓ Begin with a round of introductions starting with Nation
- ✓ Allow Indigenous Nations to choose whether meetings are conducted in person or online, and to determine the location for in-person meetings.
- ✓ Build in time for health breaks.
- ✓ If the meeting is held in-person, bring hard copies of material.
- ✓ Consider supporting the costs of participation.

DON'T

- x Assume meeting participants are familiar with the project and the history leading up to the project.
- x Wait until the end of the meeting for questions.
- x Promise what is not realistic.

ENGAGEMENT TRACKING

It is important to keep track of engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and representative organizations and maintain a record of all communication, such as:

- When, where, with whom, and how the engagement occurred,
- The shared issues and interests, and how they were addressed, and
- Follow-up actions or commitments resulting from communication.

For more information and guidance on Indigenous Engagement, please contact: Sandra Sharpe, Indigenous Engagement Advisor sandra.sharpe@caledon.ca and/or visit our official website at [Town of Caledon: Indigenous Relations, A Path to Reconciliation](#)

For planning related questions, contact the Planning and Development Department at 905-584-2272 ext. 7338.

Acknowledgment:

I/We understands the Town of Caledon's expectations for indigenous consultation and engagement on proponent-led projects and is committed to aligning our approach with the Town's protocols.

We understand that we will lead Indigenous consultation and engagement for our development project, and that we can access the Town's Indigenous Engagement Advisor at any time during the project to get advice to support a positive, timely outcome for all parties.

We will keep a log of all Indigenous consultation and engagement actions for each project and retain it for the duration of any project, at minimum. We will make the log available to the Town of Caledon for any purpose, including but not limited to review, publication, evaluation, reporting, and legislative compliance.



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