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Natural Resource Sector

## Natural Resource Sector (NRS) Aboriginal Liaison Program: Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the goals of the NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program?

- *To enhance awareness among Aboriginal groups regarding the NRS's role in regulating the lifecycle of natural resource development, e.g. oil and gas, forestry, mining, renewable energy, etc. and,*
- *To enhance awareness among Government staff regarding potential impacts and benefits to Aboriginal groups regarding the regulation of oil and gas activities and other types of natural resource development.*

### What is the NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program?

- *Through the NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program, agencies partner with Aboriginal groups to develop liaison & monitoring projects tailored to their interests, concerns, technical capacity, etc. A NRS Aboriginal Liaison project may include information sharing protocols, participation in field inspections, monitoring assignments, training, job-shadowing, complaint review processes, community information sessions, and other activities relating to compliance oversight of natural resource development.*
- *The NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program supports creating greater Aboriginal community awareness of NRS development, safety, environmental and emergency management, and restoration activities by providing for the development of a knowledgeable, trained and properly equipped resource within the community.*

### What is the role of a Liaison?

- *The liaison will encourage two-way communication and information sharing between Aboriginal groups and the NRS.*
- *Once trained, liaisons could be assigned to local monitoring and inspection tasks as appropriate and potentially accompany inspection staff in the field. This may include generating summaries of their observations to share with their communities which would allow for the transparent reporting of any sampling or analysis results.*

### How is the NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program being developed?

- *An opportunity has been provided for Government and Aboriginal groups to work together in partnership to develop a broad NRS Aboriginal Liaison program that would support creating greater Aboriginal community awareness in various sectors of natural resource regulatory oversight, development, safety, environmental and emergency management, and restoration activities, etc. The NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program is*

*being developed in collaboration with participating Aboriginal groups, focusing initially on communities along the LNG corridors and upstream T8 communities.*

- *Development will be supported by having opportunities for Aboriginal Liaisons to be trained by, work with, & mentor alongside experienced government regulatory staff. Aboriginal knowledge and information sharing is a critical element in this partnership.*
- *The development of the program also provides the opportunity to strengthen relationships between Aboriginal groups and government by the parties collectively working together towards a common understanding of what values are important on the land base, and how by working together we can look to improve oversight, management, and stewardship of those values.*

**Will the scope of the Liaison role grow over time?**

- *Coordinated through a Natural Resource Sector (NRS) Committee co-chaired by the OGC and the EAO, a broader sector-wide Aboriginal Liaison Program is under development to provide opportunities for Aboriginal groups to participate in compliance oversight of natural resource development.*

**Will other First Nations have access to the First Nations Monitoring & Liaison Program?**

- *The NRS Aboriginal Liaison Program Steering Committee is exploring ways to build programs with Aboriginal groups potentially impacted by natural resource sector activities. The steering committee is currently working with the following Aboriginal groups in the development and implementation of liaison pilot programs for their respective communities*
  - *Saulteau First Nations,*
  - *Prophet River First Nation,*
  - *Haisla Nation,*
  - *Nisga'a Lisims Government,*
  - *Carrier Sekani First Nations, and*
  - *Lake Babine Nation.*
- *The program may be expanded in future years pending the availability of resources and success of the current pilot projects. At this time funding and resources are limited and temporary and inhibit the further development of Liaison Programs with other Aboriginal groups. NRS agencies continue to explore opportunities to address these constraints.*

**For further information, please contact:**

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