

Land Use Planning in British Columbia: *Working With Communities*



The B.C. government is modernizing land use planning (LUP) in partnership with First Nations to ensure responsible stewardship and management of land and resources that includes the unique values, perspectives, and knowledge of First Nations.

The modernized approach to land use planning includes partnerships with First Nations, and engagement with local governments, stakeholders, industry, and the public.

Working Together

Land use planning is a transparent and public-facing process that respects the values, knowledge, and traditions of Indigenous Peoples. Working together with First Nations, local governments, and stakeholders helps set a shared vision for public lands that is responsive to the impacts of climate change and supports a strong, sustainable, and innovative economy.

Partnerships with First Nations

First Nations in British Columbia have unique Treaty, and affirmed and inherent rights that must be recognized and upheld in specific circumstances. The B.C. government is committed to implementing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and direction provided in the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Partnering with First Nations on land use planning projects supports these commitments.

Engagement with Local Government

Engagement with local governments is a core principle of land use planning to assist in building healthy and thriving communities.

The B.C. government recognizes that local governments have a unique role and perspective in land use planning and decision-making processes related to provincial public lands within, and bordering, their jurisdictional boundaries. Local government interests, including employment, services, recreation, and the local economy may be affected by provincial land use decisions.

The B.C. government is committed to working with local governments throughout provincial land use planning processes to ensure community interests, values and priorities are identified and addressed. Local governments will be involved early and on an ongoing basis throughout the planning processes to ensure consistency and co-ordination between local government and provincial-First Nations-led land use planning.

Recognizing the Role of Local Governments

In 2021, the B.C. government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities renewed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) recognizing that local government jurisdictions may be affected by the negotiation of land, resource, and economic development agreements with First Nations. The MOU reflects a commitment to “sincere and honest engagement” between the Province and local governments regarding agreements and initiatives with First Nations, including land use planning.

Engagement with Stakeholders and the Public

Engagement in land use planning is the process of seeking interests, ideas, and perspectives from various groups including stakeholder groups, organizations, and the public. It occurs periodically throughout a project to ensure input is understood and considered in planning-related decisions and direction.

Learn More Online At:

www.gov.bc.ca/landuseplanning

Project planning teams are developing project-specific engagement strategies early in the process to guide stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the planning project. Engagement opportunities may include meetings, workshops, advisory groups, open houses, phone and email communication, and online surveys or questionnaires.

Engagement with stakeholders and the public will continue to be an important part of land use planning as project teams seek to understand the interests, values and priorities of the organizations and citizens in the planning areas.

Online Project Information and Engagement Platform

The B.C. government is improving the way land use planning project information is shared and collected. An online platform ([Planning in Partnership](#)) has been created to serve as a central hub for all active land and water planning projects in B.C. The platform provides project-specific details of all active land and water planning projects including project timelines, reports and analyses, and information on opportunities for stakeholder and public engagement.

Land Use Planning Process

A land use planning process can be separated into four broad stages. These include:

