



Modernizing Land Use Planning in British Columbia: Working with Communities

The B.C. government is modernizing land use planning in British Columbia to advance reconciliation efforts, support economic opportunities, and guide stewardship of provincial public land and resources that reflects the diverse values and interests of all British Columbians.

The modernized approach to land use planning includes partnerships with First Nations, collaboration with local government, and engagement with communities, stakeholders 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, innovative economy.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS

The B.C. government has been engaging with First Nations communities throughout the province over the past two years to inform the design, development and implementation of a modern approach to land use planning and to seek ways of working together. 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*. The partnership approach with First Nations on modernized land use planning aligns with these principles.



COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Collaboration and engagement with local governments is a core principle of modernized land use planning to assist in building healthy, 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 in collaboration 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 2018, the B.C. government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities signed 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

Working with stakeholders and the public in land use planning helps build lasting solutions to land use issues. Engagement with all stakeholders and the public will occur at key milestones in the process for all projects within the modernized land use planning program to ensure local interests and priorities are identified and factored into the land use planning process.

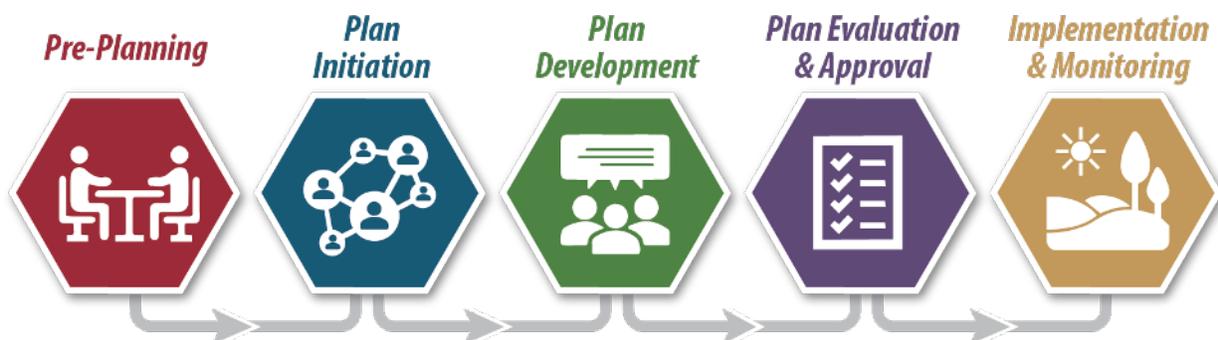
Project planning teams are developing project-specific engagement strategies early in the plan initiation phase to guide stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the planning project. Engagement opportunities may include meetings, workshops, advisory groups, open houses, phone and email communication,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

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

ONLINE PROJECT AND ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

The B.C. government is improving the way land use planning project information is shared and collected. A new online platform (<https://landuseplanning.gov.bc.ca>) has been created to serve as a central hub for all active land use planning projects in B.C. The platform provides project-specific details of all active land use planning projects including project timelines, reports and analyses, and information on opportunities for stakeholder and public engagement.

LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development

LEARN MORE ONLINE AT:
www.gov.bc.ca/landuseplanning