



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING  
COMPANIES | **NEW BRUNSWICK**

ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES D'INGÉNIEURS-  
CONSEILS | **NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK**

## ***Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program***

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**Presented by GITPO Consultants Ltd**

**Success through engagement and respect**



GITPO Consultants Ltd. is a multiservice national Aboriginal consulting practice with a focus on respectful cooperation and collaboration amongst First Nations, Indigenous peoples and organizations, private sector and industry, non-governmental organizations, and governments at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels.

The GITPO team includes Chief Roger Augustine, AFN Regional Chief for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Tom Mann, former New Brunswick Deputy Minister and Aboriginal relations specialist, and Don Ferguson also a former Deputy Minister. Together they provide a combined over 100 years of First Nations and Indigenous relations, health and social services, and consultation, mediation, and government experience.

### **Program Objectives:**

The program is designed to advance the orientation and enhance the membership's level of understanding of the social, cultural, and business landscape in play in the Canadian economy. Participants will be exposed to information designed to enhance their appreciation for the current and evolving landscape in conducting their business on the unceded, un-surrendered traditional lands of the Mi'gmaq, Wolastoqey and Passamaquoddy People.

A desired outcome for the Association is to begin the development of a respectful relationship with First Nations and their staff and organizations. The relationship would lead to a codification of mutual values and understandings in a Protocol.

### **Deliverables:**

Advanced appreciation and understanding of the legal and social context for the relationship between Canada and the Indigenous peoples.

Participants will receive a certification of completion for the complete program, if they attend all 8 webinars.

### **Webinars:**

A series of eight (8) webinars will be presented in two sessions (May 27-June 10 & September 9- October 7) in a Lunch and Learn format from 12:00-1:30 pm. The webinars will be facilitated by Tom Mann.

The goal is to establish a foundation of understanding and appreciation of the evolving business environment and the required relationship and engagement with First Nations and Indigenous communities and their leaders and staff.



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## Session 1

*June 3: Welcome to the Program and Overview of the Landscape:  
Presented by Chief Roger Augustine*

With a welcome from Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Roger Augustine a foundational introduction to First Nations of Wabanaki Territory, a brief historical perspective leading to the “new legal, constitutional and policy landscape will be featured. Introduction and warm up to the program.

*June 10: Reconciliation; A non-Indigenous person's perspective:  
Presented by Don Ferguson*

One person's personal learning path about Indigenous Peoples and their history including their shared history with Canada and how that knowledge has shaped personal views and actions. Reflections on how each of us can make a difference in our search for Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

*June 17: The Legal Framework  
Presented by Tom Mann*

Probing into the landmark decisions of Canadian courts what are the legal obligations of the Duty to Consult? How is this Duty met? What is meaningful relationship building, engagement and consultation? A case study into Corporate-Aboriginal Relations in New Brunswick will be presented.

## Session 2

*September 9: Beyond the Legal Framework  
Presented by Chief Terry Richardson of Pabineau First Nations, CEO Denis Caron, Belledune Port Authority*

A how-to discussion on establishing and maintaining a mutually constructive process over the longer term and building trust in a complex and diverse environment. The discussion will delve into the alignment agendas to support successful projects.

*September 16: Respecting Treaty Rights in 2021 Part I  
Presented by Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. (MTI) Treaty Staff*

Familiarise participants with a background to the Covenant of Peace and Friendship Treaties that are enshrined in the Constitution Act (1982), the nature of the Treaty Relationship, the Honour of the Crown and general principles of Treaty Interpretation and Implementation.



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*September 23: Respecting Treaty rights in 2021 Part II*

*Presented by Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc. (MTI) Treaty Staff*

We are all Treaty People. The challenges to create and maintain relationships within the Canadian federation and balance Aboriginal interests with other societal interests. Comparing historic treaties, negotiated through translators over a short period of time with modern treaties negotiated by adequately resourced and professionally represented parties over a long period of time.

*September 30: Now Is the Time*

Industry Leaders/ proponents discuss what they have learned and adapted their practices to better understand the landscape and to have successful projects. A combination of critical 'relational' thinking with critical 'project' path realities will be explored.

*October 7: Best Practices and Success Stories*

An overview of the working environment in the province, state of relationship(s) and navigational tools and their interplay will assist to chart current and future projects. The values of meaningful relationship building will be underscored.