

## Engagement

NNTC has a consistent approach when project proponents seek to undertake activities which impact our members' title and rights – title and rights which we recognize belong to all Nlaka'pamux. NNTC has rejected the BC Treaty process as it does not allow for proper recognition of title and rights and has rejected the provincial referral system as it is a title killer. Instead, NNTC has direct engagement with governments and third parties. NNTC is not opposed to development but all developments must be consistent with Nlaka'pamux title and rights. Fundamentally, NNTC will not agree to providing proponents with certainty but will provide predictability. Always, there must be recognition of Nlaka'pamux jurisdiction.

The Nlaka'pamux Resolution on Natural Resources sets out the principles. The NNTC Resource and Land Use Decision-Making Policy and Process sets out engagement steps. The NNTC Environmental Assessment is a further step in engagement. Protocols and Agreements set out the terms of the engagement and the on-going relationship with proponents. The Shared Decision Making Board is the forum for exercising Nlaka'pamux jurisdiction in consent based decision making related to engagement.

The NNTC engagement model has been developed and implemented over two decades with the goal of being a foundation for advancing collaborative relationships and decision-making with the Crown and proponents. At the core of the model is a vision of working together from the earliest point in time, with open perspectives and mindsets, to ensure that the necessary and proper information is gathered that includes the Indigenous perspective and will inform assessment of potential impacts of projects on Nlaka'pamux Title and Rights. Alongside that principled approach to information-gathering, is a solutions-oriented perspective which sees Nlaka'pamux and other decision-makers work together in an open and transparent manner to focus on what will work between them. As distinct from an approach based on a narrow focus of trying to define the limits of how parties need to work together - which often emphasize preparing records for worst case scenarios of legal conflict - the NNTC's model focuses everyone actively and concretely on identifying and working towards what will advance reconciliation in the particular instance at hand. In the words of Grand Chief Bob Pasco:

The NNTC's approach is not a prescriptive one - it does not prejudge what may be important to any party, and does not prejudge what outcomes will be. Rather, underlying the entire approach is the NNTC's vision that working together honorably, openly, in a principled manner, with respect, and through utilizing the best information possible, a pathway forward together can and will be found.

NNTC has engaged with proponents ranging from individuals to multi-national corporations for short term projects through to projects impacting generations to come.

Prospective project proponents please contact the NNTC office for further information and a copy of the NNTC Resource and Land Use Decision-Making Policy and Process document. The earlier the contact, the better.