

Due Diligence Practices and Procedures with Respect to Indigenous Rights 2022

NorthWest Copper's projects are located in the province of British Columbia, Canada where Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are protected by federal and provincial laws that align with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The latter recognizes that Indigenous peoples have the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and in 2019 the province of British Columbia enacted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) as a provincial legal framework to establish a path for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, also commonly referred to as First Nations.

NorthWest Copper is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and to seeking their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent when undertaking mineral exploration activities in their territories. In 2022, efforts were made to engage early in a manner that provides time and opportunities to discuss activities and ways to minimize and manage potential impacts on the environment, cultural practices and tradition use, and archaeological artifacts.

As a standard practice, NorthWest Copper reaches out early in the year to begin its engagement regarding proposed exploration activities. When seeking authorization to conduct exploration work, NorthWest shares permit applications with Indigenous leadership and the lands and stewardship teams prior to sending applications to the Ministry of Energy, Lands and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI). This provides an opportunity for groups to consider the proposed activities and the potential impacts on ecological and cultural values and traditional use. NorthWest Copper encourages Indigenous communities to provide input and feedback on how the activities could be tailored to minimize the potential for impacts as well as implement sound stewardship practices. By taking this approach, NorthWest Copper can identify management plan requirements, share employment opportunities, discuss contracting with Indigenous lead businesses and partnerships, and ensure field activities meet stewardship expectations and practices.

For each of our project sites, NorthWest Copper works with Indigenous leadership to establish exploration agreements that define the Indigenous communities' expectations with respect to environmental management, cultural protection, employment, contracting, and engagement. To elevate the importance of our relationships with Indigenous communities, NorthWest Copper had 98% of its field and management team undertake cultural awareness training in 2022. This helped to build a broader understanding and respect for the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and we believe will serve as a foundation to develop an Indigenous Peoples Policy and Reconciliation Plan in the future.