

Due Diligence Practices and Procedures with Respect to Indigenous Rights 2023

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 in Canada.

NorthWest Copper is committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples and to seeking their Free, Prior and Informed Consent when conducting mineral exploration activities in their territories.

In 2023, efforts were made to engage early in a manner that provides time and opportunities to discuss activities, ways to share economic opportunities through contracting services and employment, and steps to minimize and manage potential impacts to 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 and this was done in 2023. 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 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 Nations 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 ensures the field and management team undertake cultural awareness training and continue to stay up to date on changes provincial policies with respect to Indigenous rights and title. In 2023, NorthWest Copper continued to engage and work with Indigenous communities to keep them apprised on changes within the organization. The development of an Indigenous Peoples Policy and Reconciliation Plan will be targeted for 2025 to enable the current leadership team to continue building the leader-to-leader relationships which will be the foundation of the Plan.