

Government of Saskatchewan's Proponent Handbook – Voluntary Engagement with First Nations and Métis Communities to Inform Government's Duty to Consult Process

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Abstract

In June 2013, the Government of Saskatchewan released the Proponent Handbook – Voluntary Engagement with First Nations and Métis Communities to Inform Government's Duty to Consult Process (Handbook). The Handbook is intended to clarify how information gathered by proponents through voluntary engagement can inform government's duty to consult processes and build trust and co-operation between government, industry, and First Nations and Métis communities. The Handbook is a companion document to the Government of Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework (CPF). The CPF, a Cabinet approved policy, articulates Government's commitment to fulfill the crown's legal duty to consult and accommodate.

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Karen Bolton is the Director of Aboriginal Consultation for the Ministry of Government Relations. Karen has 18 years of consultation experience with federal and provincial governments, addressing agricultural, environmental, municipal, First Nation and Métis issues. Karen and her team provide advice and guidance to ministries, agencies and Crowns on the implementation of the Governments of Saskatchewan's Consultation Policy Framework, and manage the First Nation and Métis Consultation Participation Fund to ensure duty to consult objectives and obligations are met and First Nation and Métis relationships are strengthened.