



Metis Rights & Accommodation

Metis Consultation: The Basics



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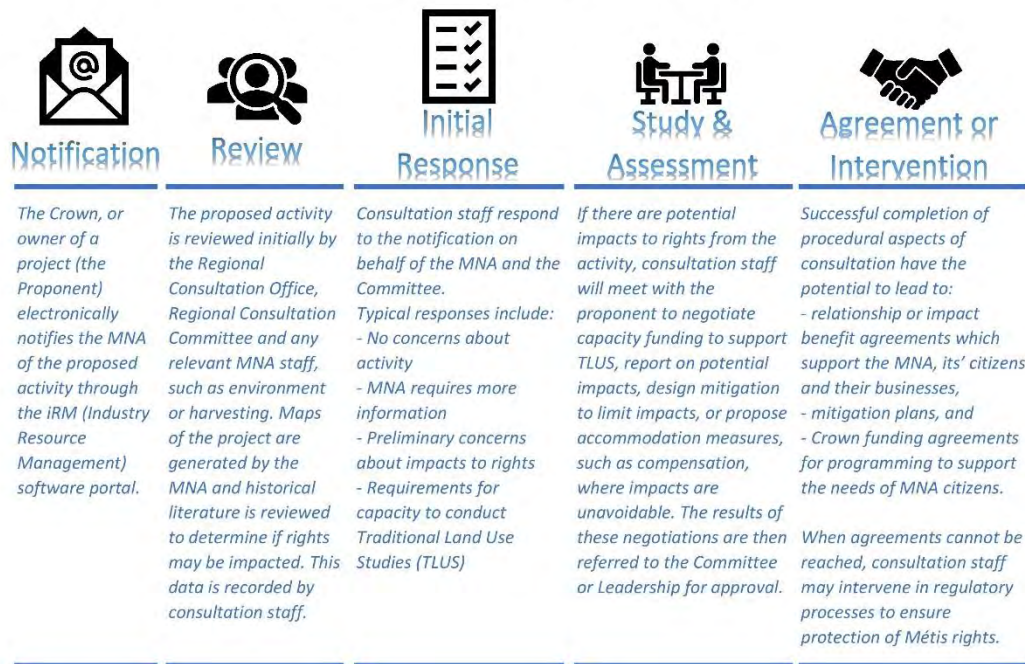
What is Consultation?

Consultation is a formal legal process that governments must undertake with the authorized governments of the Métis people based upon Métis peoples inherent right to land, resources, and economic interests. The Crown has a duty to consult with Indigenous people when there is a potential for an activity to impact to Indigenous rights. Impacts can be caused by: projects (development/infrastructure), or changes in legislation / policy.

The basic process the MNA undertakes for consultation is highlighted in the diagram below. Through consultation, potential impacts to indigenous rights are identified which require either mitigation or accommodation.

- *Mitigation*: a technical adjustment to a proposed project that would minimize adverse impacts (for example, modifying a pipeline route or facility location to remove or lessen the impact).
- *Accommodation*: providing compensation for adverse impacts which cannot be avoided or mitigated.

The MNA Consultation Process



Why is consultation important?

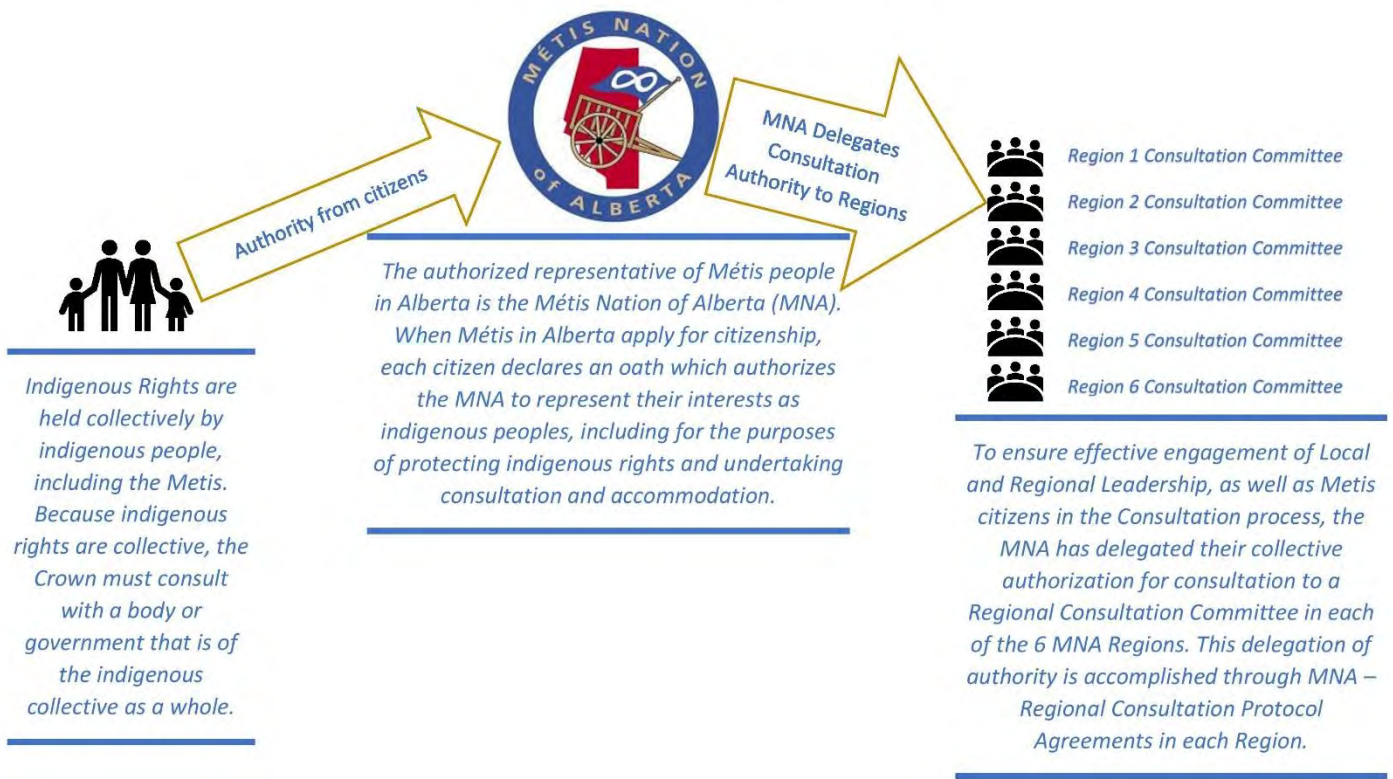
Consultation is a tool for protection of:

- Métis rights, claims, and interests;
- Métis culture, traditions, and quality of life;
- The environment.

Effective consultation ensures Métis voices are heard and responded to appropriately. The Crown is required to engage in consultation with the representative government of an indigenous collective. For the Métis in Alberta, the recognized and representative government is the MNA. When a notification for a proposed activity which requires consultation is received, the MNA conducts a full review the proposal. This may include: developing GIS mapping, reviewing historical literature and archaeological sites, conducting Traditional Land Use (TLU) studies, citizen engagement events and development of reports.

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Authorization for Consultation



What is a TLU study?

TLUs identify the historical and contemporary exercise of the rights of Métis people on the land. These studies are a great opportunity for Métis citizens to participate in the consultation process! Ultimately, the goal of a TLU study is to tell “the story of a person’s life on the land” (Tobias, 2000, p. 2). TLU studies are compiled by the MNA and form the evidentiary basis of the Métis assertions of collective indigenous rights. Considerations during a TLU include:

- Traplins & harvesting sites
- Medicinal plants – locations & uses
- Sacred cultural sites
- Water bodies & organisms
- Animal use of the land
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

What is Indigenous Resource Management (iRM)?

IRM is an Indigenous Resource Management tool designed by the MNA specifically to facilitate a single window approach to consultation. The software designed to streamline and coordinate a multitude of interdependent activities including TLU data collection and safeguarding, receipt and management of industry notifications, and impact assessment. As a web-based application, the software is accessible by consultation staff in all Regions and is utilized to engage in and monitor consultation activities across the province while respecting Regional jurisdictional authority over those activities.



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How can I get involved in Consultation?

Contact your MNA Regional Consultation Office to let them know you are interested in sharing your knowledge in upcoming TLUs, your availability, and the best way to contact you. The Regional Consultation Coordinators are also available to answer any questions you have about consultation and its process or to discuss any concerns you might have with a proposed project.

MNA Region 1 Consultation Office	Cheryl Gordon - Regional Consultation Coordinator P.O. Box 1350 10104 – 102 Avenue Lac La Biche, AB T0A2C0 (780) 623-3039 Office (780) 623-2733 Fax CGordon@metis.org Consultation Notifications Email: MNAR1notifications@metis.org
MNA Region 2 Consultation Office	Lyle Lawrence - Consultation & Climate Leadership Coordinator 5102 – 51 Street Bonnyville, AB T9N 2H1 (780) 826-7483 Office LLawrence@metis.org Consultation Notifications Email: MNAR2notifications@metis.org
MNA Region 3 Consultation Office	Nicole Shepherd - Regional Consultation Coordinator 1415 – 28 St., NE Calgary, AB T2A 2P6 (403) 569-8800 Office NShepherd@metis.org Consultation Notifications Email: MNAR3notifications@metis.org
MNA Region 4 Consultation Office	TBD Consultation Notifications Email: MNAR4notifications@metis.org
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MNA Region 6 Consultation Office	Garrett Tomlinson, LLM (cand.) – Regional Consultation Coordinator 9621 90 Ave. Peace River, AB T8S 1G8 (780) 624-4219 Office (780) 624-3477 Fax GTomlinson@metis.org Consultation Notifications Email: MNAR6notifications@metis.org