

# Maximizing Indigenous Participation in Metallurgical Coal Developments to Reduce On-Reserve Poverty

RemTech 2021 Conference



# National Coalition of Chiefs (NCC)

- Formed by First Nation Chiefs in response to poverty crisis and social-despair that currently exists in First Nations communities across Canada.
- A community of pro-development First Nation Chiefs that advocate for the development of energy resources in their communities.
- Intent to create a national organization focused on creating mutually-beneficial relationships among First Nations and industry leadership.
- Committed to defeating on-reserve poverty by:
  - Working with natural resource industry
  - Speaking out in support of responsible development, and
  - Creating a forum for discussion between First Nations Chiefs and leaders from the natural resource industries of Canada.



# Indigenous poverty in Canada today

- According to the Canadian Poverty Institute:
  - 1 in 4 Indigenous peoples (Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit) or 25% are living in poverty
  - 4 in 10 or 40% of Canada's Indigenous children live in poverty
- Addressing on-reserve poverty remains a critical issue alongside preservation of culture, protecting Aboriginal and treaty rights and enhancing self-determination
- Some First Nations communities have broken out of poverty
  - Advantageous proximity to urban areas or from opportunities in the natural resources sector





# Who are Atrum Coal and Cabin Ridge?



**We are responsible mineral developers of metallurgical (steelmaking) coal in Alberta.**

- Our approach involves sustained, open, and transparent communication with stakeholders and governments.
- We are committed to environmental stewardship and minimizing our project footprint.
- We acknowledge Indigenous rights and the importance of reconciliation and consultation with Indigenous Peoples and others in all of our project areas.



# Indigenous Partnership – an enhanced vision

## VISION FOR THIS FRAMEWORK

This framework seeks to establish Indigenous parties as co-proponents of responsible, modern, and ethically sourced metallurgical coal in southwest Alberta for steelmaking projects.

- Atrium and Cabin Ridge are building a new, more collaborative approach that goes beyond previous ones.
- Implementing this means all engaged parties can contribute insight and expertise, ensuring projects meet the highest standards and have the strongest foundation.
- This is intended to be long-term, including post-closure stewardship of land and water resources.
- Atrium and Cabin Ridge support Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action Recommendation #92 for Business and Reconciliation. Drawing on this, our regional approach to steelmaking coal development includes:

- Membership in a Regional Collective Steering Committee with oversight and input;

- Potential for Indigenous and successor entity equity participation and board representation;

- Training, education, and employment opportunities;

- Potential for the establishment of ventures for mine development and post-closure stewardship.



# Indigenous Partnership = oversight

**The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide oversight regarding mining activities, and work collectively within the framework to maximize expertise and responsible development.**

- Key activities involve guidance on environmental and cultural data collection, mine planning, environmental assessments, and long-term stewardship and legacy infrastructure.
- This committee will be comprised of leadership representatives from the industry and participating Indigenous communities, with decisions made via consensus.
- **The committee is expected to receive guidance from 3 Project Working Groups:**
  - Land Working Group
  - Water Working Group
  - Mine Planning Working Group



# Indigenous Partnership = ownership and economic development

The key elements of this economic development outline are equity participation, board representation, and Indigenous participation.

The purpose of it is to:

- Fulfill the stated principles that support reconciliation with Indigenous communities, and
- Work within these principles to ensure those communities will participate and benefit from the project.

The Regional Collective Steering Committee will be fully funded by participating metallurgical coal companies.



# Responsible mining

- Mining matters because minerals and metals are a part of everyday lives.
  - From sporting goods to smart phones, transportation and building products, modern mining supports our daily lives.
- Modern, responsible mining places priority on protecting land, water and wildlife.
  - Land - 'Progressive Reclamation' that includes recontouring, revegetation, and reforestation means that surfaces disturbed by mining activities are returned to an appropriate land use as soon as possible.
  - Water - Capture and treatment of mine-affected water using engineered facilities means that selenium can be managed to meet regulatory requirements.
  - Plant and Wildlife – Plant and wildlife diversity can be maintained by an approach that restores pre-mine habitat conditions or replaces certain habitat components for others of similar benefit to the ecosystem.



Luscar coal mine, Alberta



# Thank-you!

**For more information please visit:**

[www.coalitionofchiefs.ca](http://www.coalitionofchiefs.ca)

[www.elancoalproject.ca](http://www.elancoalproject.ca)

[www.cabinridgecoal.com](http://www.cabinridgecoal.com)

[www.responsiblemining.ca](http://www.responsiblemining.ca)