

Indigenous Engagement in Northern Construction Projects

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An important component of completing work in remote Canadian communities is the meaningful involvement of Indigenous groups. For many projects, it is likely that the Proponent has already completed some form of stakeholder engagement during the preconstruction phase, but it is important to continue this engagement throughout the project to prevent the Indigenous stakeholder's involvement from being minimized.

There are three main streams of Indigenous engagement that should be considered while completing a northern construction project in a remote area; training, employment, and procurement. Providing training that leads to meaningful employment is extremely important but may be difficult to carry out for short-term projects. Boosting local employment rates immediately increases local economic factors and provides future opportunities for individuals through the experience they receive during the project. Procurement of goods and services can also bring significant benefits to the community and local Indigenous businesses. These businesses often hold valuable knowledge and resources that can greatly increase the chances of the project's success.

Using the Faro Mine Remediation Project in Yukon, Canada as a specific example, this presentation will explore some of the unique ways we have been able to increase Indigenous involvement on our projects, as well as some of the challenges that have been faced.

Rob Yeomans

Mr. Yeomans has lived and worked throughout Northern Canada and with northern First Nations for over 23 years. Residing in Whitehorse, Yukon, Rob Yeomans is the Socio-economic Development Manager for Parsons, working on the Faro Mine Remediation Project. Previous to his role at Parsons, Rob worked as a communications and engagement specialist on the implementation of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act and was a senior manager with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board since opening its doors in 2005. His role at the Faro Mine Remediation Project includes a strong focus on the Kaska nation and other First Nations affected by past operations of the Faro Mine.