

### **Consultation Guidelines Correction**

Following the July 28, 2014 release of *The Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management* (the Guidelines), the Aboriginal Consultation Office identified a necessary correction to be made. This email is to advise all First Nations' consultation contacts of the correction and its purpose to ensure clarity in the procedural application of the Guidelines and the administration of Alberta's consultation process.

The Guidelines' correction is with regard to **Chapter 3**, Process for Consultation. **Section F**. Stages of Consultation. **Heading ii**. Information Sharing. **Subheading d** (page 15). Follow up with First Nation, where the first paragraph currently states:

*A First Nation response to a notification package should include a written submission to the proponent with a copy to the ACO staff member identified on the file, quoting a First Nation consultation number, if applicable.*

The underlined portion of the above text is being deleted (to be incorporated in the next written update to the Guidelines), such that the revised section will now read:

*A First Nation response to a notification package should include a written submission to the proponent, quoting a First Nation consultation number, if applicable.*

### **Reason for Correction**

This change is necessary to procedurally clarify the correct sequence of events at stages of the consultation process, avoid the unnecessary duplication of correspondence, and enable all parties in the process to focus on seeking to address potential impacts to Treaty rights and traditional uses. First Nations written responses to notification packages from proponents will be routinely received by the ACO's First Nations Consultation Unit in the Record of Consultation. The existence of this procedural step in the Guidelines renders-and-provision of this correspondence as a copy to Approvals Specialists or to the FNC Unit email address, at this stage of the process, unnecessary and duplicative.

### **Effective Date of Correction**

The change is effective immediately, and all First Nations consultation contacts are requested to assist in ensuring this change is widely communicated by advising their office staff of this revision. This correction will also be posted to the Aboriginal Relations website <http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca/> - Aboriginal Consultation Office, where it will remain until adoption in the Guidelines' next written update.

### **Information**

Questions regarding this correction and procedural operation of the Guidelines should be directed to your local ACO Consultation Advisor