



Aboriginal

Effective engagement with all stakeholders is critical to the success of projects and developments affecting Aboriginal and First Nations interests. Stikeman Elliott brings its leading business law expertise to the rapidly evolving Aboriginal law landscape, working with our clients to create economically and environmentally viable business solutions that encourage empowerment, participation and long-term project support from Aboriginal and First Nations participants.

We understand the perspectives and priorities of all parties in Aboriginal engagement from coast to coast to coast. We have particular expertise in the assessment, negotiation and strategic management of Aboriginal issues for project developers on treaty and non-treaty lands. Our experience includes advising on the negotiation of partnerships, joint venture arrangements and benefit agreements, as well as on Crown consultations. In addition to acting on all the modern-day First Nations treaties in British Columbia, we represent developers and First Nations groups across Canada in on-going projects regarding the growth of infrastructure, energy production and natural resource extraction.

As counsel to Aboriginal and First Nations groups – as well as to the governments, developers and lenders whose plans and projects impact their communities – we understand the perspectives and priorities of all parties. This allows us to effectively identify solutions to the complex issues that affect these projects.

Accolades

- *The Legal 500 Canada 2019* for Aboriginal

Recent Work

- Mi'gmawei Mawiomi in a joint venture with Innergex Renewable Energy Inc. for the development of 150-MW wind project on Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula, the biggest First Nations' wind farm in Canada.
- The Lax Kw'alaams First Nation in negotiating the C\$2B Benefit Agreements with the Province of BC, NW LNG and PRGT.
- ITC Holdings Corp. in the development of an underwater electricity transmission line beneath Lake Erie between Ontario and Pennsylvania. The project is located on the traditional lands of several First Nations, including lands claimed by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC).
- Vail Resorts, Inc. in connection with its C\$1.4B acquisition of Whistler Blackcomb Holdings, Inc., and the completion of the 60-year extension of the Master Development Agreements.
- Seven Generations Energy Ltd. in its investment in Steelhead LNG, developer of two proposed LNG projects on Vancouver Island. First Nations relationships and Aboriginal law considerations were critical to this investment decision by Seven Generations.

- Canadian Mining Exploration Company in an exploration agreement with a local First Nation related to mining claims in Northeastern Ontario.
- Mining Equipment Suppliers in negotiation of agreements with First Nations to jointly supply equipment and services to mining companies in Ontario.
- Mining Equipment Supplier in negotiation of a joint venture with First Nations to supply equipment to mining projects in Eastern Canada.
- Aquilini Group - Eagle Spirit Energy proposal to construct an oil pipeline from the Alberta border to the northern west coast of BC. Project involves partnering with 40 different First Nations groups.
- Dominion Diamonds Corporation as counsel throughout the development and approvals process, including its relations with the federal and territorial governments, Aboriginal communities and regulators on the expansion of the Ekati Mine.
- Anishnawbe Health Toronto in the acquisition of land and the construction of a new community health centre which incorporates traditional Aboriginal medicine in treatment to serve an urban Aboriginal population of 50,000 people in downtown Toronto.