

## IESO Engagement

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**From:** Haris Ginis  
**Sent:** January 19, 2018 1:37 PM  
**To:** IESO Engagement  
**Cc:** Sue Flaman  
**Subject:** Feedback from Dec 19, 2017 Webinar (Indigenous Conservation Report)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback following the Dec 19, 2017 public engagement webinar. On behalf of Union Gas please find our comments below.

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### Questions for input:

#### Do you have additional feedback that would help the IESO form its report?

Union Gas has a history of building strong, mutually-beneficial relationships with Indigenous communities in Ontario. Much of the feedback the IESO received from those communities aligns with Union Gas' experience working with Indigenous communities. Union Gas recognizes the unique cultural and historical characteristics and connections to the land, and reflects that in its practices. Union Gas' history includes:

- An excellent track record of consulting with Indigenous leadership before beginning the rollout of any program;
- Supporting the advancement of, and building local capacity for, Indigenous community members through education, sponsorships and economic development; and,
- Collaborating with Indigenous employment agencies to promote outreach and the hiring of Indigenous peoples at Union Gas.

With respect to energy conservation programming, Union Gas recommends the IESO employ a broader scope than just electricity conservation to better support its customers. Two suggestions are provided below.

First, challenges faced by local Indigenous communities must be taken into consideration when energy conservation programs are being designed, to balance broader community needs that may fall outside the scope of other energy conservation programs (for example, moisture/mold issues, poorly constructed housing stock, and other health and safety issues). Energy conservation is one pillar of a healthy community and the IESO report should encompass a holistic approach to any future government funding.

Second, collaboration with natural gas utilities ensures that the energy conservation programs offered to Indigenous communities are streamlined and comprehensive. Union Gas welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the IESO on programs within Indigenous communities. Union Gas' relationships and expertise with its Indigenous partners across Ontario, as well as its experience delivering joint DSM and CDM programs to Indigenous communities, can be leveraged to ensure future program success. Specifically, Union Gas suggests exploring the following collaboration opportunities:

- Developing energy conservation program strategies for Indigenous communities;
- Providing funding for educational initiatives with respect to energy conservation;
- Sponsoring community energy events; and,
- Sharing knowledge and resources with Indigenous communities.