



Indigenous Communities - Q&A

The Important Role of Indigenous Communities

First Nation and Metis communities are essential partners in meeting Ontario's future energy needs.



Indigenous Communities determine if their community will **host electricity projects**



Ongoing engagement is critical to ensuring a reliable and sustainable energy future



To promote Indigenous leadership and participation in the energy sector and advance economic reconciliation, the LLT procurement is expected to include rated criteria – similar to the LT2 RFP – that incentivize Proponents to form **economic partnerships with Indigenous Communities**

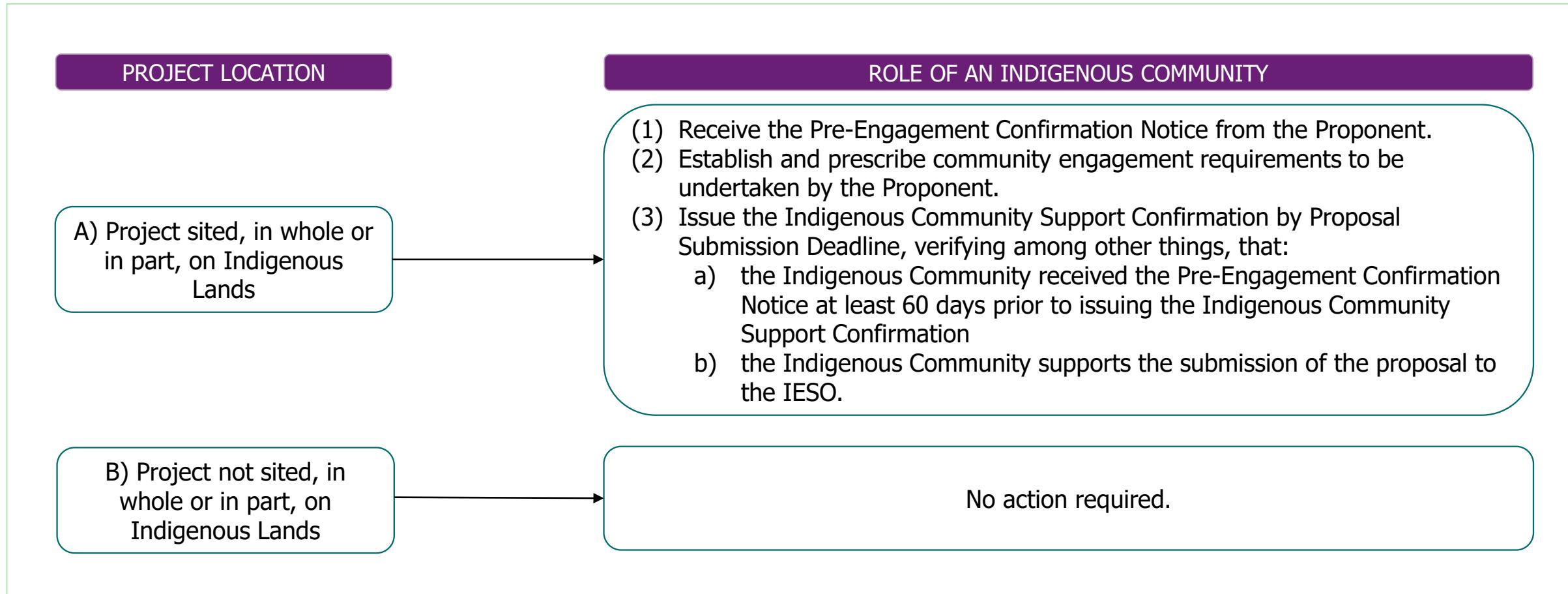
Recap: Indigenous Community Participation

The IESO expects that rated criteria will continue to apply to incentivize Indigenous Community Participation, including Local Indigenous Community Participation.

The LLT RFP, Contract and Prescribed Form: Evidence of Indigenous Community Participation will be updated to better align with the policy intent to recognize projects that are proposed to be sited on:

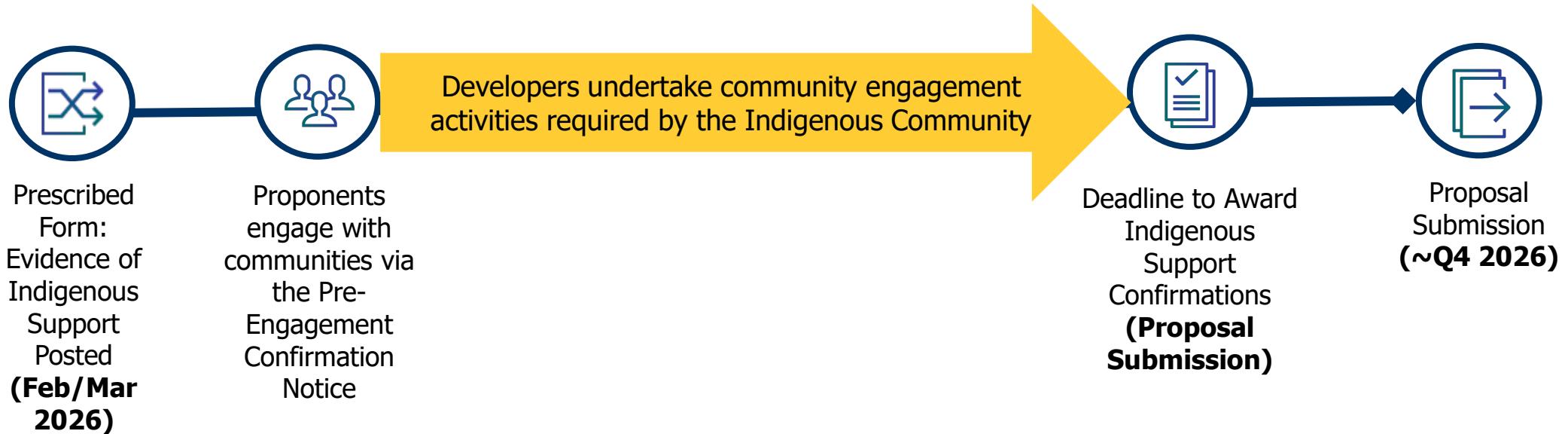
- Indigenous Lands of participating Indigenous Communities; or
- Lands within the treaty area, or the established or asserted traditional territory or homeland, of the participating Indigenous Community or Indigenous Communities

Recap: Role of Indigenous Communities



LLT Community Engagement Overview with Timelines*

The IESO has encouraged Proponents to engage with communities early. To help communities anticipate the process, an example activity timeline snapshot is provided below.



*These timelines are approximate and are subject to change depending when final policy direction is received from the Ministry, and when final RFPs and Contracts are posted.

Feedback Informing the LLT RFP and Contract

Topic: Optional Termination Provision in the LLT Contract

What we've heard:

First Nations rely on financing for equity contributions; termination risks make projects unbackable. Risk deters Indigenous partnerships, undermining partnership goals.

IESO Response:

After reviewing the potential risks and implications flagged, the IESO has decided not to include optional termination as part of the LLT Contract.

Indigenous Energy Support Program Overview

The Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP) promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector by supporting community capacity building. Funding is available to eligible Indigenous communities and organizations across Ontario for:

- Community energy planning
- Energy skills-building, education and awareness
- Energy infrastructure development

IESP Areas of Funding

The IESP provides support through three Areas of Funding (AOF).

Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP)

Capacity Building

Support community capacity building initiatives and projects including training, community events, youth and elder workshops and hiring of a Community Energy Champion.

Economic Development

Support community energy infrastructure development projects, including procurements, renewable energy, transmission, battery storage, partnerships and capital projects.

Energy Resiliency & Monitoring

Support development of strategies for community energy resiliency, readiness and monitoring, including community energy planning.

IESP Maximum Funding Amounts

Area of Funding	Capacity Building	Economic Development	Energy Resiliency & Monitoring
Maximum Funding Amount	<u>Part A: Up to \$195,000</u>	Up to \$250,000	Up to \$135,000
	<u>Part B: Up to \$150,000</u>		

IESP Project Types

Capacity Building (Part A)	Capacity Building (Part B)	Economic Development	Energy Resiliency & Monitoring
Up to \$195,000	Up to \$150,000	Up to \$250,000	Up to \$135,000
CEC Salary Up to \$165,000 for 3 years	Community Energy Engagement Up to \$75,000	Feasibility Study Up to \$50,000	New Community Energy Plan Up to \$135,000
Additional Qualification Top Up (if applicable) Up to \$15,000 for 3 years	Energy Skills Building Up to \$75,000	Partnerships Up to \$85,000	Update Community Energy Plan Up to \$75,000
CEC Expenses Up to \$15,000 for 3 years	Innovative Knowledge & Data Sharing Up to \$60,000	Project Development Up to \$250,000	
		Innovation Up to \$250,000	

Building Ontario Fund Support for LLT RFP

- Indigenous communities have consistently noted that access to capital is a significant barrier to economic participation in IESO RFPs
- Building Ontario Fund will provide loan guarantees to Indigenous partners who participate as equity partners in successful LLT projects
 - Guarantees are provided through the [Indigenous Opportunities Financing Program \(IOFP\)](#)
 - For more information, please reach out to partnerships@buildingonfund.ca

Key Feedback Requested from Indigenous Communities

Your insights are important. The IESO is requesting the following:

1. How **can the IESO better support Indigenous Communities** in making informed decisions about proposed projects? Are there **specific tools, resources, or types of information** that would be most helpful?
2. Is the **format and content of the prescribed form clear and easy to complete?**

Next Steps

- The **IESO invites written feedback by February 13, 2026.** All written feedback should be submitted to engagement@ieso.ca.
- For the LLT RFP the IESO will continue engaging prior to the release of final RFP and contract.
- To stay informed, please subscribe to receive email communications at www.ieso.ca/subscribe.