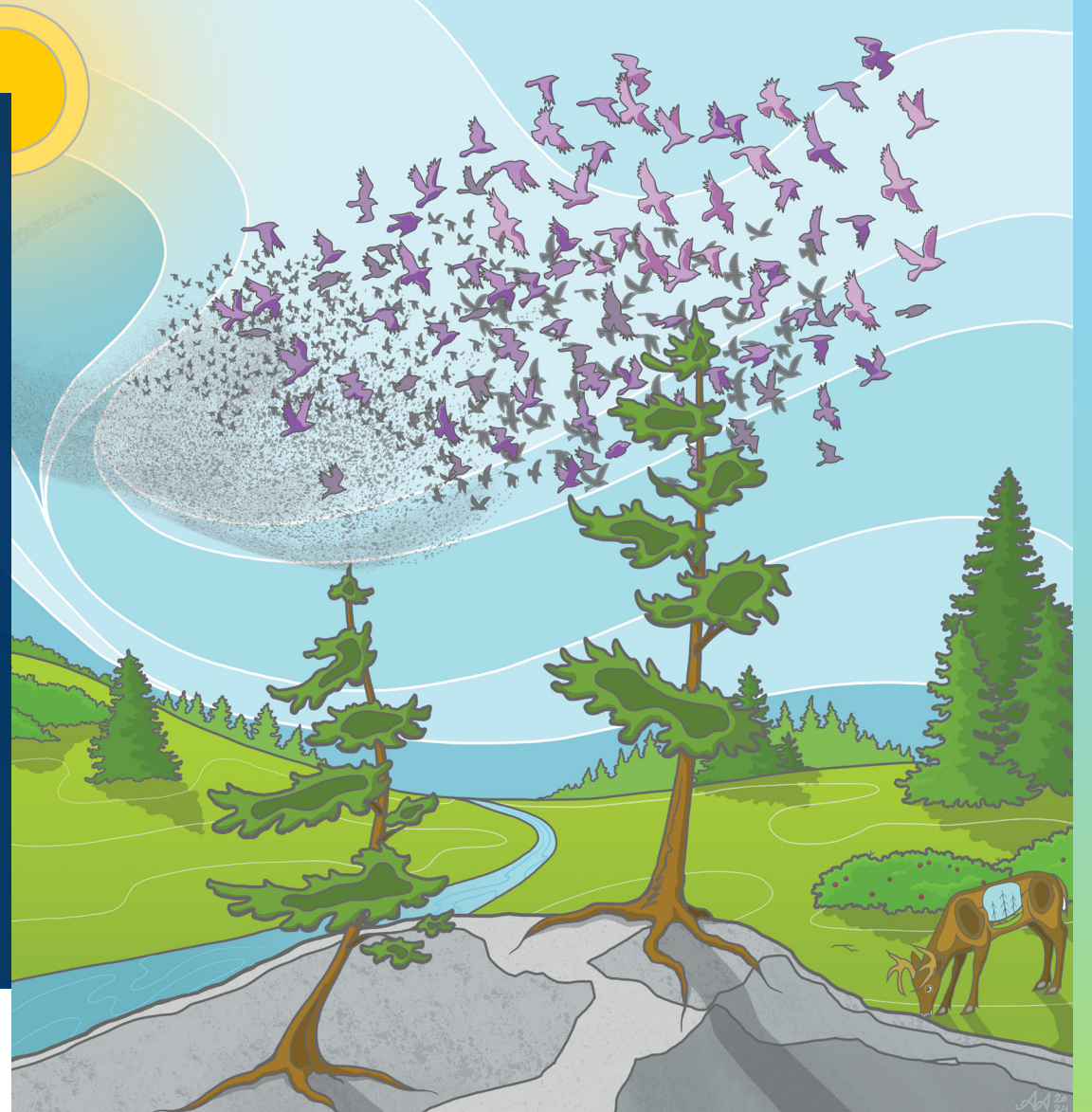


# The IESO Indigenous Engagement Framework





**Lesley Gallinger**  
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Vice President  
Corporate Relations,  
Engagement and Strategy

## Message from Lesley Gallinger and Carla Y. Nell

**Across Ontario, the journey to  
secure the province's shared energy  
future has begun.**

Whether it's procuring new sources of generation, planning for transmission lines or enabling remote communities to generate their own electricity, the IESO operates for today and plans for tomorrow to maintain a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity system for future generations. We do so by engaging with purpose and building and strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples.

As we prepare for the electricity system of the future, we know that driving meaningful and lasting change will take collective effort. We understand that our commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is key, and it involves an ongoing process of fostering a culture of respect and inclusion both within our organization and in our relationships with Indigenous peoples.

With Indigenous communities increasingly leading change in the province's energy sector, we must forge a transparent and truthful way forward that acknowledges the historical grievances endured by Indigenous communities for much of Ontario's history.

Energy creates sustainable, vibrant and empowered communities. Ontario's energy transition cannot succeed without Indigenous input and leadership. The IESO has formalized its commitment to enabling Indigenous participation in the energy transition through the creation of an Indigenous Engagement Framework, which outlines our approach to open dialogue with communities and building relationships that are based on transparency, honesty and authenticity.

We recognize Indigenous peoples' special connection to the land, the environment, and unique cultural heritage and values. By capturing these perspectives through genuine and meaningful conversations, our partnerships with Indigenous communities will become more informed and collaborative, and therefore strengthened.

Make no mistake: building positive, inclusive and enduring relationships with Indigenous peoples is foundational to the success of Ontario's energy transition. This requires Indigenous communities, decision-makers and sector stakeholders to go far – together – on this continuing journey.

We are in an unprecedented and exciting time in the sector, and we are pleased to invite our past, our present and our future partners to embark on this journey with us. As we change and grow as an organization and sector, we look forward to collaborating with Indigenous peoples and communities to drive and guide our shared energy future.

**Lesley Gallinger**  
CEO and President

**Carla Y. Nell**  
Vice President  
Corporate Relations,  
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## Our Commitment

### We share a common energy future.

The IESO is committed to building enduring relationships and inclusive partnerships to chart the course ahead.

We will engage with purpose across the province and reflect on perspectives from all interests, creating powerful collaborations and meaningful outcomes.



# Engaging with Indigenous Communities

**We are committed to building and strengthening our relationships with Indigenous communities across Ontario.**

We recognize the diverse cultural histories, connections to the land and the Canadian constitutional rights of Indigenous people. We will aim to start conversations early and often with a view to collaborating on energy-related priorities, as we strive to develop relationships and partnerships that over time will result in meaningful opportunities and positive outcomes.

To support our journey towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, we are committed to listening to Indigenous perspectives and building shared understanding with Indigenous communities.

The IESO's six engagement principles will be applied to every engagement opportunity, ensuring that we honour our commitments to Indigenous communities:



## **Purposeful**

We will be intentional in our support for Indigenous-led initiatives that provide reliable, affordable and sustainable energy to communities across the province.



## **Inclusive**

We will be deliberate about creating opportunities for involvement by Indigenous communities to ensure their perspectives and interests are heard and included.



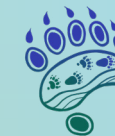
## **Timely**

We will engage with Indigenous communities early in our processes, ensuring sufficient time for meaningful input before decisions are made.



## **Accessible**

We will meet Indigenous communities where they are on their energy journey and be open to learning and understanding their unique perspectives and energy priorities.



## **Traceable**

We will seek input from Indigenous communities and demonstrate how their perspectives have informed decision-making.



## **Transparent**

Our engagement with Indigenous communities will be open, honest and sincere to shape meaningful outcomes.

# How We Engage with Indigenous Communities

The IESO acknowledges that Indigenous peoples are distinct from other energy sector partners. To recognize the unique perspectives of Indigenous peoples in Ontario's energy landscape, we are committed to providing every Indigenous community with direct access to an IESO Indigenous Relations representative to support ongoing relationship building and focus on topics that are relevant to that particular community.

The IESO recognizes that each Indigenous community in Ontario is unique and understands that the way we engage will need to be tailored to meet different community needs. Therefore, we will offer a breadth of communications and engagement methods, including:

## Methods of Engagement:

- In-person and virtual meetings
- Telephone calls
- Community meetings
- Webinars
- Regional roundtable discussions
- Participation in public policy and Indigenous leadership forums
- Indigenous-focused events (i.e. First Nations Energy Symposium)
- Focused efforts to include Indigenous organizations in our work
- Grassroots participation in local community events

In broad terms, our engagements are designed to achieve one or more of the following for Indigenous communities:



**Inform:** to educate, empower, build capacity, understanding and awareness. This will include helping Indigenous communities understand the role of the IESO in Ontario's electricity system.



**Involve:** to gain insights, inclusive of the needs, priorities and interests of Indigenous communities, as we work towards informed outcomes. These actions will vary from highly technical involvement to community-level engagement to foster participation in potential opportunities.



**Collaborate:** to solve shared challenges and build enduring partnerships. These diverse engagements may focus on an urgent system need or informing longer-term initiatives and developments to deliver a reliable, affordable and sustainable system into the future.

# Investing in Communities

Indigenous communities are playing an increasingly active role in Ontario's energy sector in the areas of conservation, energy efficiency, generation and new transmission projects.

The IESO delivers the Indigenous Energy Support Program to support broad equitable participation in Ontario's electricity sector through funding for community capacity building, energy planning, renewable energy development and energy knowledge, awareness and skills building.

## Indigenous Energy Support Program Elements



### Capacity Building

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



### Economic Development

Support economic development opportunities for renewable energy projects and transmission projects, partnerships and other innovative solutions.



### Energy Resiliency & Monitoring

Support development of strategies for community energy resiliency, readiness and monitoring, including energy planning, project monitoring, impact assessments and auditing.



Illustrations courtesy of Adrienne Assinewai, owner of RavenStar Studio.  
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# Artist's Statement

## Cover image: *Connection*

*Connection* reveals the sacred lines that link the living world and the environment and between earth and sky. The flock is representative of the individual being a part of the whole; it must move within and respect its environment but when working together becomes a powerful force of nature itself. The white pines show us determination and perseverance, they survive and thrive where others have difficulty doing so. The birch trees so essential to a traditional lifestyle hold the four directions as well as the seven grandfather teachings within their branches in this piece. All of these beings from tree to rock show us how we are all connected and part of a larger family.

## Our Commitment image: *Memengwaanh Gtigaan* (Butterfly Garden)

In this piece I have included two species that are intricately connected and forever tied to one another, the milkweed and the monarch. Monarchs are tied not only to this plant but also to ancestral lands, and generations will travel to and from these places. They do this together, they overwinter together and they travel back together. They help one another reach their destination in this way. In the wings I have shown the essence of home and community, how everything is tied to one another from the water to the earth to the sky. Monarchs show us that even the most small and seemingly insignificant of beings carries purpose across Turtle Island. Included in this piece are other plants native to Ontario, the wild strawberry and Black-eyed Susans.

## Engagement Principles

**Purposeful:** Wolf is considered the brother or twin of the People so I thought it would be a good representative of the Indigenous communities in which engagement will happen. Wolf walks with purpose toward a set goal.

**Inclusive:** Beaver is always working to improve and maintain a system that it creates. This system/environment is mutually beneficial to a wide variety of other flora and fauna in the surrounding area as well as its family unit.

**Timely:** Deer is quick and sure-footed. Each step is swiftly yet carefully placed to ensure a good journey forward into the future.

**Accessible:** Turtle is a knowledge keeper as well as mediator and passes on teachings that are vital for future generations. They are a master of timing and know when to expend energy and conserve it depending on their needs and the environment.

**Traceable:** Bear is a searcher always looking for new things and letting others know where they have been by scratching trees, and turning rocks and logs (demonstrating a path taken). Bear clan is also responsible for the passing on of cultural practices and medicine lore.

**Transparent:** Ravens are known for their smarts, problem solving, and memory. They shape their environment and relay information to others in their community.

## Engagement Types

**Inform:** a person speaking openly and from the heart.

**Involve:** taking into consideration not only one another but also our environment and community.


**Collaborate:** many plants species work in harmony to create a better community for themselves and others. We can do the same, working together toward a common goal.

## Investing in Communities

**Capacity Building:** the sharing of knowledge from one generation to another ensures we all get a voice in our future.

**Economic Development:** utilizing two-eyed seeing to work with the needs of our communities and the environment.

**Energy Resiliency & Monitoring:** working together and sharing ideas to ensure success for our future generations.



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