

Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations

Energy Council

Terms of Reference

Energy Council will operate under the following principles:

Respect the spirit and intent of the treaty and respect the rights of each and every First Nation as contained in the Treaty and the Charter Declaration of Rights.

The Treaty

1. We shall continue to practice our own tribal political systems and laws, and we intend these separate jurisdictions to continue;
2. We shall continue to express our sovereignty as Nations;
3. We shall assist each other to reaffirm our continuing Hereditary Title and expression to our rights; and defend these against any erosion through external forces;
4. We shall collectively join other First Nations efforts to pursue the full exercise and aboriginal rights and title;
5. We shall continue to enter into bilateral and multilateral relationships with each other to strengthen and assist in settling matters and common concerns regarding our respective cultural identities, traditions, diversity, equality of our peoples and our common boundaries according to our traditional laws;
6. We shall, in the spirit of sharing and co-existence, continue to enter into mutually beneficial relationships regarding access to traditional territories and natural resources. These include all resources that come from our territories.

Charter Declaration of Rights

- The right to self-determination and the freedom from arbitrary authority;
- The right to make our own choices and act on our own behalf;
- The right to consent to and to approve of how we are governed;
- The right to organize ourselves internally and externally without requiring the consent of any other group;
- The right to participate in any organization or forum without diminishing our sovereignty;
- The right to maintain, enjoy and exercise our Aboriginal Rights and Title;
- The individual right to the pursuit of prosperity;
- The individual right to basic human rights

The Energy Council will perform the following:

1. Protect

- a. Ensure that all Nations and Communities in the North are treated honestly and fairly by Government and Industry.
- b. Assist in the development of protocols between Government, Industry and the Northern Nations.
- c. Develop standard that can be agreed to by First Nations and Governments.
- d. Ensure that consultation and accommodation are carried out in good faith by Governments or Industry.
- e. Restructuring the Federal and Provincial relationship regarding mineral development on Aboriginal title lands.

2. Develop

- a. Monitor energy development to ensure First Nation participation in energy development.
- b. Identify and lobby for the energy needs of First Nations communities.
- c. Work with Industry and Crown Corporations to ensure First Nations participation in the development of all forms of energy.
- d. Ensure First Nations benefit economically and socially in energy development.
- e. Chart a new course of prudent development that would address Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations priorities.
- f. Contribute to a more secure energy future for all Canadians.
- g. Forge alliances and partnerships with industry.

3. Communicate

- a. Assist in communication and awareness of proposed/existing energy project development and/or potential implications to First Nations.
- b. Assist in the identification of energy based initiatives, which can be undertaken by First Nations.

4. Meet and Report

- a. The members will establish their own procedures and meeting schedules.
- b. The members will report to the assembly.

* For purposes of these Terms of Reference, reference to “energy” shall include hydroelectric, wind power, tidal or river run power, oil and gas and wood/carbon burning related initiatives and projects.