

Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations



Effective corporate–Aboriginal relations are increasingly important to our objectives as a country. The need to build and leverage mutually beneficial relationships is at the heart of success and prosperity for industry, public sector organizations, and Indigenous communities and businesses, and sets the foundation for reconciliation in Canada.

The Conference Board of Canada’s Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations (CCAR) is a multi-stakeholder executive network with a mandate to create equitable, constructive, productive, and collaborative corporate-Aboriginal relations. It fosters honest dialogue in the pursuit of practical solutions to challenges and opportunities that are top-of-mind for Indigenous, private, and public sector organizations.

The Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations (CCAR) provides a confidential venue for senior-level representatives from public, private, and Aboriginal organizations to build and leverage their relationships to better meet their objectives. It is a forum where Canada's foremost leaders in Aboriginal relations candidly share their experiences, as well as best practices, in a safe environment.

Exclusive benefits of membership

- Increase your network of Aboriginal relations professionals, whom you can access throughout the year.
- Work collaboratively and develop productive, trusted relationships with peers and stakeholders from across the country, in an intimate and confidential forum.
- Hear and learn from experts and practitioners on key corporate-Aboriginal relations issues and the challenges their organizations face.
- Access practical ideas about how your organization can develop and maintain effective corporate- Aboriginal relations.
- Keep your finger on the pulse of key developments and contemporary issues in corporate-Aboriginal relations.
- Benefit from ongoing engagement and updates between meetings through webinars, blogs, conference calls, and social media.
- Receive our quarterly bulletin, which lists not only CCAR-related events, publications, and webinars, but also those of the Northern and Aboriginal Policy group (in which the Council is housed).

Who should join

This Council is for senior corporate, Aboriginal, and public sector leaders responsible for developing, managing, and leveraging their organization's relationships. Members have strong knowledge and expertise on the general themes covered by the Council, and are committed to moving the conversation and practices surrounding corporate-Aboriginal relations forward in Canada. They have a vested interest in building trusted relationships as a foundation for pursuing mutually beneficial outcomes and partnerships.

“CCAR provides the opportunity for open, candid discussion on a number of issues with practitioners from various sectors and jurisdictions across Canada, resulting in valuable dialogue, debate, problem-solving and information exchange. Membership in CCAR has helped us gain further insight regarding Aboriginal relations and key developments through high-quality programming, networking opportunities, and information sharing.”

Lesley Williams, Senior Manager, Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Resource Development

Looking forward

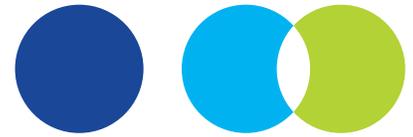
Every two years, the Council’s advisory committee and its members collectively identify the priority topics they would like to explore. The Council is proud to offer a program plan for the coming two years that is forward-looking, relevant, and actionable. Moreover, this program plan and the meeting agendas and webinars that are associated with it are developed with enough flexibility to address the changing needs and interests of Council members as well as emerging issues that were not originally anticipated.

Meeting topics 2017 to 2019

<p>November 2017 Understanding and Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>This meeting will address the following fundamental questions: How do we go about the implementation of UNDRIP? What do we mean by FPIC, and how might it be applied in practice? In answering these questions, the meeting will focus on the development of a better understanding of the expectations of the different stakeholders. Moreover, it will compare the role of the private and public sectors regarding UNDRIP and FPIC.</p>
<p>May 2018 The Evolving and Increasing Importance of Communications and Social Media for Corporate–Aboriginal Relations.</p>	<p>This meeting will examine the increasing use of various social media tools and how they affect communications surrounding corporate–Aboriginal relations. It will identify how new forms of communication practices impact public perception. It will also explore the changing and increasingly prominent interface between industry and Indigenous administrative bodies.</p>
<p>November 2018 Métis and Indigenous Rights: What Do Changing Status, Norms, and Jurisprudence Mean for Corporate–Aboriginal Relations?</p>	<p>This meeting will address the following question: What do changing status, norms, and jurisprudence surrounding Métis in Canada mean for corporate–Aboriginal relations? It will examine how discourse, the law, and policy are evolving with respect to Indigenous rights and title. And it will identify actionable ways to support Indigenous rights while encouraging responsible development and investment in Canada.</p>
<p>May 2019 Linking Private, Government, and Indigenous Priorities Surrounding the Availability and Quality of Remote Infrastructure in Canada.</p>	<p>This meeting will assess the implications of poor and unavailable infrastructure (roads, housing, health care infrastructure, water infrastructure, etc.) for communities and for industry objectives in remote Canada. With this as a backdrop, it will explore the opportunity to link private, government, and Indigenous priorities regarding the availability and quality of remote infrastructure.</p>
<p>November 2019 Reconciliation, UNDRIP and FPIC: Working Towards Consensus on Key Objectives and Principles</p>	<p>This meeting will look back on the first half-decade since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Final Report and its 94 Calls to Action. It will also explore key developments associated with Canada’s adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), with an emphasis on its principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The adoption of UNDRIP and the pursuit of Canada’s reconciliation agenda are not distinct—they combine to influence an evolving policy, programming and legal environment in Canada.</p>

“Membership in CCAR is pivotal for institutions like the First Nations University of Canada. It creates a much-needed space where we, as educators, can network with, and better understand the unique needs and challenges facing, both business and government. This, in turn, helps us to better prepare the next generation of Indigenous leaders. It also provides an important opportunity to grow and develop our unique partnerships and spark engagement throughout Canada.”

Dr. Mark S. Dockstator, President, First Nations University of Canada



“The Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations (CCAR) is one of the best forums I have had the opportunity to participate in, and it provides a lot of value to my organization. The meetings provide a unique opportunity to thoughtfully and candidly discuss cutting-edge ideas and practical issues with business, government, and Indigenous leaders from across the country.”

Justin Huston, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs

Member organizations

Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs

BC Hydro

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Canadian Electricity Association

Canadian National Railway Company

Canadian Pacific Railway Company

Confederation College

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

Emera Newfoundland & Labrador

Employment and Social Development Canada

Enbridge Gas Inc.

Enbridge Inc.

Miller Thomson LLP

National Association of Friendship Centres

Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada

Royal Bank of Canada

Stantec

Contact

Stefan Fournier

Director, Indigenous and Northern communities
The Conference Board of Canada
613-526-3090 ext. 449
stefan.fournier@conferenceboard.ca

Jo-Leen Folz

Network Officer
The Conference Board of Canada
613-526-3090 ext. 493
folz@conferenceboard.ca

www.conferenceboard.ca/networks/ccar

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