



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated each year on August 9. This year's theme is "Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples and the Call for a New Social Contract" and is timely as many look to the future post-COVID and consider how to rebuild better. We know there is much work to do to achieve the United Nation's sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that Indigenous communities face specific challenges in contributing to the SDGs and benefiting from their implementation. The pandemic has shone a light on [systemic inequalities faced by Indigenous communities](#) globally. At the same time, it has also accelerated many changes, including technological changes that, if used well, can improve collaboration on achieving the SDGs. These have resulted in heightened awareness that whatever happens next, it must be done collaboratively.

Newmont's Global Center for Indigenous Community Relations was founded in 2021 to promote meaningful engagement between Newmont, the mining industry and Indigenous Peoples to create mutually beneficial outcomes. We believe that it is critical for us as a Company and for the wider industry seek to understand the priorities for Indigenous communities as they work toward the SDGs and the role we can play together in meeting them.

In reflecting on this year's theme for International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, we believe the resource industry can contribute to a sustainable development with Indigenous communities by demonstrating our commitment to seeking free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and building long-term partnerships for shared value.

Consent is a component of Indigenous people's right to self-determination, a foundational human right that has too often not been granted when determining how lands and resources will be used. As [RESOLVE](#), an independent, non-partisan non-government organization, points out, [meaningful processes to seek consent and respecting the outcomes of those processes are a moral imperative, reduce conflict and make sound business sense](#). True commitment to consent requires us to build relationships before we even propose a project.

RESOLVE recently published [the FPIC Guide](#), which builds on collected experience from Indigenous communities, civil society and companies in [the FPIC Solutions Dialogue](#). This guide outlines critical considerations, actions and resources for each step of mining development.

Newmont has been a proud participant of the FPIC Solutions Dialogue for almost a decade and it has informed our approach to new projects. For example, with the recent acquisition

of GT Gold, located in Tahltan Territory in Northern British Columbia, Newmont recognized the need for consent and a strong and respectful relationship with the Tahltan nation. One practical way we are working towards this is focusing on building relationships first and then seeking consent to conduct exploration drilling. We are focusing on visiting Tahltan communities when it is safe to do so with COVID precautions in place and undertaking a Traditional Land Use Study, so that we can better understand the values and connection Tahltans have to their land.

One of the most foundational principles for FPIC to be successful is that Indigenous communities lead the design of the process. More and more, Indigenous communities are taking a principal role in designing processes, ensuring their values are understood and respected. One such example is the [First Nations Major Projects Coalition](#), which has issued standards and guidance on principles and criteria for project assessment in member communities. This approach allows member First Nations to have a mechanism to understand potential impacts – positive or negative – from a proposed project and to participate in the design of the project. These are critical inputs to achieving FPIC and the process will be more effective through its community-led design. The resource industry must support this type of collaborative effort to build effective and culturally appropriate FPIC processes.

The mining industry can also contribute to Indigenous community development through robust and long-term partnerships. Whether it is through bilateral partnerships with individual Indigenous communities for a specific project, or working with multilateral networks to solve social, environmental and economic challenges facing both industry and host communities.

One example of a multilateral network is the [Social Aspects of Closure Research Consortium](#), an initiative of the [University of Queensland's Center for Social Responsibility in Mining](#). This three-year initiative conducted research to identify people-centered approaches to social closure. This included examining case studies of Indigenous participation in closure phase activities and through an international Indigenous exchange forum. This forum provides the opportunity to understand Indigenous peoples experiences post-closure resulting in guidance on incorporating traditional knowledge and advice on long-term stewardship in planning and executing mine closure.

The ICMM recently released a new resource called "[Partnering for our Common Future: Optimizing mining's partnering capability to contribute to community resilience and thriving societies](#)", which provides guidance to companies on how to be a meaningful partner for the SDGs and communities development goals. [SDG Goal 17 to "strengthen the means for implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development"](#). As the pandemic begins to abate, we must move from transactional relationships to robust and productive partnerships. Resources such as this one lay out the pathway to do that.

The new social contract called for on this year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples isn't written yet. As an industry, we have an opportunity to create shared value as an inclusive partner for Indigenous communities in their long-term development.