



# Social License: Aboriginal Businesses

# Triton Environmental: Recap

- Employee-owned, incorporated in 1989
- 6 strategic locations in Western Canada



# First Nations Partnerships: Recap

- Long-standing relationships for 25 years
- Business partnerships: skills transfer, capacity-building, career development
- Success:
  - 20% aboriginal employees including senior positions



# First Nations Partnerships: Recap

- Existing Partnerships:
  - **Metlakatla** (Prince Rupert)
    - Khtada Environmental LP
  - **Haisla** (Kitimat)
    - Haisla-Triton Environmental Services LP
  - **Nisga'a** (Terrace)
    - Hobiye Management Ltd. (Joint Venture)
  - **Simp'cw** (Kamloops)
    - Estsék' Environmental Services LLP
  - **Stellat'en** (Fraser Lake)
    - Memorandum of Understanding



KHTADA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES LP



Haisla Business Operations Inc.



ESTSÉK'  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES LLP

# Benefits

## Social

- Infrastructure
- Social Services
- Education
- Career Development
- Capacity Development/enhancement

## Economic

- Individual & Business Economic benefits
- Enhancing business experience & capacity to deliver



# Risks (Non-Involvement)

- Alienation from the project
- Reduced interest in the project
- Increased effort to resolve disputes
- Increased timeline & cost
- Potentially more adversarial process
- “where’s your ‘Good News Story’?”



# Aboriginal Businesses

- Wide variety of models out there
  - Direct suppliers/providers
  - Partnerships
  - Independent Aboriginal Entrepreneurs
  - Direct community ownership
  - Firewalled businesses

# Social License & Aboriginal Business

*How does involvement of an Aboriginal Business relate to Social License?*

“Local community's acceptance or approval of a company's project or ongoing presence in an area”

**Engagement of individuals and businesses from affected communities in meaningful work has potential to give affected community some degree of control over their scope.**



# Social License: Opportunities “Better be Meaningful”

- “Designated”
  - “Set aside”
  - “Pre-determined”
- Do not dictate what the opportunities are:  
Understand what communities offer

*“Token” “Participant” “Representative”*

# Aboriginal Business & Social License: Environmental Assessment Process

- Many varieties of Aboriginal Businesses
- Much interest in engaging in this type of work
- For many proposed projects, this phase of work ends up being the only work (or the majority of the work) completed on the proposal.
- Systemic challenges in involving Aboriginal Businesses: Challenges can be resolved
- Failure to incorporate can lead to suspicion and/or lack of trust in the process
- Can feed into an informed consultation process.

# Aboriginal Business & Social License: Key Points: Discussion & Conclusion

- Factors affecting support or opposition
  - “**Environmental impact**”
  - “**Economic benefits**”
  - “**safety and well-being of local community**”

Strong **leadership** and **oversight**

- **Consultation** with local community
- **Communication channels** with public
- **Familiarity** with local community
- Highest confidence in **local consultants**