

Steelport Battery Project

Community and Indigenous ENGAGEMENT PLAN

In preparation for IESO LT2 RFP



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1 Definitions

Aboriginal, collectively refers to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada, defined in the Canadian Constitution.¹ This distinction was legalized in 1982 when the Constitution Act came into being. Section 35 (2) of the Act states, “Aboriginal Peoples of Canada” includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

Anishinaabeg, (alternatively spelled Anishinabe, Anicinape, Nishnaabe, Neshnabé, Anishinaabe, Anishinabek) are a group of culturally related Indigenous peoples present in the Great Lakes region of Canada and the United States. They include the Ojibwe (including Saulteaux and Oji-Cree), Odawa, Potawatomi, Mississaugas, Nipissing and Algonquin peoples.²

First Nation is one of three Indigenous people of Canada, the other two being Métis and Inuit. Due to the *Indian Act*³ still being in force, the term “Indian” remains in the Canadian Constitution, however terminology has changed to be more reflective of today.

Haudenosaunee, called the Iroquois Confederacy by the French, and the League of Five Nations by the English, the confederacy is properly called the Haudenosaunee Confederacy meaning People of the long house. The confederacy, made up of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, was intended to unite the nations and create a peaceful means of decision making.⁴ Located along the banks of the Grand River, Six Nations is the only reserve in North America where all six Haudenosaunee nations live together, including the Tuscarora.⁵

Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), “The IESO is the coordinator and integrator of Ontario’s electricity system. Our system operators monitor the energy needs of the province in real time – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – balancing supply and demand and directing the flow of electricity across Ontario’s transmission lines.”⁴ More about the IESO: <https://www.ieso.ca/>

¹ Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11., <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Const/index.html>

² Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anishinaabe>

³ Indian Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. I-5), <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/i-5/>

⁴ Independent Electricity System Operator, <https://www.ieso.ca/en/>

2 Introduction

As Ontario’s electricity system evolves to become more diverse and dynamic, procurement processes must evolve along with it. The resource adequacy framework published on the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator’s (IESO) website targets robust competitive processes that focus on cost-effective reliability, while more effectively balancing ratepayer and supplier risk in this changing environment. This considers risks regarding new projects and the risk that communities can pose to a project’s timeline and overall success.

The IESO is currently undertaking the third Long-Term Capacity Services Project Request for Proposals window 1 (LT2c-1 RFP) to procure up to 600MW of energy storage. The IESO’s LT2c-1 RFP bid deadline is December 18, 2025.

NRStor Inc., Mississaugas of the Credit Business Corporation (MCBC), and Six Nations of Grand River Development Corporation (SNGRDC) and Aecon (collectively the Project Partners) are developing an up to 150 MW, 1,200 MWh Battery Energy Storage System project in the City of Hamilton, through the jointly owned organization, Steelport Battery Project Inc. The development efforts are in response to the LT2c-1 RFP issued by the Government of Ontario through the IESO. A map showing the proposed Project location is provided in Appendix A.

The Project will help bring the Province of Ontario (the Province) closer to achieving net-zero goals through greater system flexibility and responsiveness by increasing renewable generation. Additionally, the Project will be able to help with a variety of essential grid services, including offering emissions-free capacity, operating reserve, and frequency regulation, which will further reinforce grid stability, performance, and resilience.

NRStor will engage with neighbouring property owners or occupants, the public, municipalities, and Indigenous partners on each Project it is pursuing. The Partners will engage with local communities in the Project development process to ensure broad community support and to remain competitive in the RFP process.

The Steelport Battery Project is located within the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) and Six Nation of the Grand River (SN). The Partners will engage with local communities in the Project development process to ensure broad community support and to remain competitive in the RFP process.

A summary of the Project name, nameplate capacity, storage technology used and legal name of the Project entity have been provided below.

Project name	Steelport Battery Project
Nameplate Capacity	Up to 150 MW, 1200 MWh
Storage Technology Used	Battery Energy Storage System - Lithium-Ion Technology
Legal Name of Project Entity	Steelport Battery Project Inc.

3 Background

The Partners have the right experience and capabilities to complete the Project and have worked together to deliver energy systems in Ontario. NRStor, Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation, Mississaugas of the Credit Business Coporation, Aecon and Northland Power are currently in partnership on the Oneida Energy Storage Project (OESP), the largest of its kind in Canada and amongst the largest in the world. The Oneida Project supplies services to the Ontario electricity system through a 250 megawatt / 1,000 megawatt-hour battery energy storage system in southwestern Ontario and was completed by May 2025.

The background information for Steelport Battery Partners is provided below.

3.1 NRStor

NRStor is an industry-leading Canadian energy storage developer, owner and operator with experience deploying energy storage across the energy supply chain. NRStor’s vision is to deploy energy storage projects at scale in order to accelerate

the transition to a low-carbon energy system. NRStor has successfully deployed numerous first-of-a-kind energy storage projects and now owns and operates one of Canada's largest and most technologically diverse portfolios of energy storage assets. NRStor develops projects in partnership with Indigenous communities to maximize value creation with a triple bottom line approach. This ensures support and acceleration into Ontario's transition to clean energy and offers a pathway toward meaningful economic reconciliation.

As a project developer, NRStor partners with progressive stakeholders and leading technology providers to develop, own, and operate industry-leading energy storage projects that:

- Deploy energy storage technologies at scale in order to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon energy system;
- Commercialize new energy storage technologies;
- Promote energy reliability, flexibility, and sustainability;
- Inspire positive change on the electric grid; and
- Generate profits with a purpose.

3.2 Mississaugas of the Credit Business Limited Partnership (MCBLP)

MCBLP, along with its general partner MCBC, was founded in 2018. MCBC is the wholly owned business development corporation of MCFN. MCBC and MCBLP exist to build long-term wealth generation and develop short-term income opportunities for MCFN and its membership.

3.3 Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation (SNGRDC)

Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation (SNGRDC) was launched in May 2015 with the mission to achieve economic self-sufficiency without compromising the values of the Six Nations people. The purpose of SNGRDC is to generate income, outside of the federal funding, to tackle community priorities that affect the Six Nations Community as a whole. This includes improving social conditions, aiding in infrastructure development and creating a healthy & sustainable environment for individuals, families and businesses to thrive. SNGRDC manages Six Nations' economic interest for a number of renewable energy projects and economic development opportunities on and around the Six Nations territory.

3.4 Aecon

Aecon Group Inc. (Aecon), the ultimate parent of Aecon Concessions, is a Canadian leader in construction and infrastructure development with national and global expertise and over 150 years' experience. Aecon brings a diverse set of strengths to deliver projects both across Canada and internationally. With a historical footprint that extends from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, Aecon has and continues to play a critical role in the growth of many well-established Canadian civil, urban transportation, nuclear, utilities, and conventional projects. Aecon Concessions brings specialized capabilities and diverse strengths of Aecon to the development of domestic and international Public-Private Partnership (P3) projects as well as other infrastructure development projects requiring private finance solutions. Within these projects, Aecon plays a pivotal role as financier, investor, constructor and/or operator. Since entering the infrastructure development business in 1990, Aecon has established itself as an industry leader in the sector.

4 Engagement and Communication

When initiating the engagement process, it is of paramount importance that the Partners provide clear and accurate information on the Project. This will allow the Partners to clearly address sensitivities that stakeholders may have about the installation of battery storage. Meaningful engagement provides a great opportunity to build broad community and public support for clean energy infrastructure and support informed decision-making by political representatives and

regulatory agencies. Given the Partners' ongoing work with building a partnership, the team is well positioned to understand key community concerns and issues that may arise with this Project.

The Partners have lead the engagement on this Project with support from the consulting team, Cambium Indigenous Professional Services (CIPS). CIPS is an Indigenous owned and operated environmental organization whose team is uniquely all First Nations individuals. Formed in 2014, they have recruited experienced professional staff with expertise in all aspects of First Nation management and operations. They are solutions-based, offering integrated professional services designed to provide governments, corporations, and individuals with innovative and sustainable answers to everyday issues.

CIPS has established a good working relationship and experience with the local communities to be engaged in this Project. This, along with CIPS' expertise with Indigenous engagement, will be leveraged to ensure that community feedback is adequately incorporated into the Project plan. The Partners will be on the front lines engaging with stakeholders and communities, and decision-makers to foster meaningful relationships and ensure all parties are provided the opportunity to learn more about the Project and ensure genuine and respectful dialogue.

5 General Approach

Engagement is often viewed as a "us vs. them" initiative. This statement implies that there are sides or teams when engagement is initiated. CIPS's position on engagement differs from this significantly.

The Partners' engagement approach follows the following statements:

- We believe that there are no sides, only one project;
- We believe that the best project results occur when the most information has been gathered, processed, evaluated, and included in all decisions or plans;
- We believe information is equal, as are all stakeholders and rightsholders, and that Indigenous information holds the same value as non-Indigenous information and vice versa; and
- We believe that gathering information from different stakeholder and rightsholder groups will require more effort and a less traditional approach than others.

Based on the above belief system, the Partners feel that information from the stakeholders and communities is an asset in the Project development process. Meaningful engagement will allow the Partners to share information related to the Project in a clear and accessible way and receive feedback from the individuals local to the Project. There is no blanket or prescriptive approach to engagement and outreach. Each of the communities local to the Project are distinct and consequently need to be engaged differently. The Partners understand that effective design of engagement methodology and implementation is frequently a critical factor in successful stakeholder engagements. For that reason, The Partners will work collaboratively with communities to assure that stakeholder perspectives are continually at the forefront of the Project completion efforts.

5.1 Principles

The following principles have been identified by CIPS as fundamental for the successful development of any engagement project.

5.1.1. Respect

There must be an understanding that each individual and community have their own unique wisdom and worldviews. For Indigenous peoples, for example, traditional knowledge is based on empirical experience on the lands, traditional laws, and thanksgiving to the Creator and Spirits and must be respected as equal to Western input.

5.1.2. Protocols

With the support of CIPS, the Partners will collaborate with communities to understand and adhere to their preferred methods of engagement, respecting both written and cultural protocols when identified. Each community will have their own methods of gathering input and advice on decisions that affect the community. As such, Indigenous communities have

their own traditional, cultural and social practices, which include laws and governance protocols. Indigenous laws and protocols have been in place since time immemorial and cannot be diminished by Treaties. Governance structures must be considered as a part of Indigenous community engagement, as different members of the community may hold higher regard than what others typically would consider. These structures must be considered when working with Indigenous communities.

5.1.3. Commitment

Commitment is important for sustaining long-term and effective partnerships and relationships with communities, First Nations, and Indigenous peoples. The Partners commit to develop a plan to build on the partnerships and relationships made after engagement is completed. This includes identification of opportunities for collaboration, continued capacity building and information sharing, and inclusion in the Project beyond installation. Relationship building is a key factor in effective and productive engagement with communities.

The Partners have opportunities for engagement throughout the entire development process to ensure overall public support of the Project, which includes hosting public open house, regular updates to the Project website, and responding to any inquiries sent to the Project contact.

6 Workplan

The Partners will engage with the following municipal stakeholders and Indigenous rightsholders on this Project:

Project	Municipality	Indigenous Communities
Steelport Battery Project	City of Hamilton	Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River

The Partners have a positive working relationship with the Municipality and Indigenous partners continue to engage planning, economic development, environmental, and other related departments throughout the Project development process.

6.1 Project Website

The Project website will also be utilized to disseminate information about the Project. The following information has been made accessible on a Project-specific page, including:

- Project name;
- Nameplate Capacity;
- Storage technology used;
- Legal name and contact information of the Project entity;
- Scale maps showing the boundaries of the Project Site;
- Locations of the Connection Point and the Connection Line for the site;
- Community and Indigenous Engagement Plans;
- Descriptions of the public engagement activities on the Project including the public community meeting and mailout.

The Project website will be hosted as an additional page on the NRStor website, which will feature regular Project updates.

6.2 Consultation Tracking

Effective record-keeping of engagement correspondence is critical to the delivery of a successful Project. The Project team will develop and maintain the community and stakeholder contact list, maintain engagement logs within the database, produce a communication report of the completed engagement opportunities and facilitate quality control assessment of the engagement logs.

6.3 Stakeholder Meeting

Community Information Centres (CIC) are excellent opportunities to disseminate and share Project information and seek feedback. Engagement has occurred through the use of an open Q&A period; one-on-one discussion; a presentation; text, and graphic display boards; background materials; handouts; and comment sheets. A CIC was held on December 4, 2023 in **Hamilton, at the Sandman Hamilton Hotel 560 Centennial Parkway N. Hamilton, ON L8E 0G2**. Logistics and preparation support; technical advice and support; facilitation; and note-taking services were completed by CIPS.

6.4 Sourcing Indigenous Business

The Partners' immediate commitment to Indigenous sourcing was to engage CIPS in providing expert strategic advice, including active participation in the engagement activities associated with the Project. CIPS has many years of experience in relationship building with the local communities and will assist in securing Indigenous business as much as reasonably possible, i.e., rental of meeting rooms, local caterers, printing companies, IT, and streaming services. The Partners will continue to utilize Indigenous businesses where possible.

6.5 Social Media Support

Social media presence has become especially relevant to development projects as many engagement and consultation activities moved to an online environment during the ongoing pandemic. Having a strong presence in the forums where conversations are taking place regarding a project is especially important in the age of the internet. The key driver of engagement in this setting is media content that is shareable and accessible to the communities that are being reached. The Project Partners will develop materials for social media posts aimed at local communities and organizations to drive traffic to the Project websites. These materials and sharing schedules are expected to yield excellent results. By using social media campaigns for communities, the Partners can deliver engaging ads to the specific audiences being targeted in this engagement plan.

7 Closure

The engagement process is expected to be a transparent, respectful, two-way conversation with stakeholders, decision-makers, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous community groups. The Partners seek to bring together local parties to meet, facilitate information sharing, and secure feedback from those affected by the Project.

The CICs providing information to a broad-based community of interested parties will also serve to identify smaller interest groups or individuals that have significant concerns. Where appropriate, focus group or "kitchen table" meetings may be held with such groups to provide more targeted information and gather feedback.

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Fariha Husain by email at fhusain@nrstor.com. We look forward to connecting with you. To learn more about the Project visit, our Project website for regular updates: <http://nrstor.com/steelport-battery-project/>.

Appendix A

