



THE RIGHT TO FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT

THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (UNDRIP) RECOGNIZES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE RIGHT TO

## FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC).

What exactly does the right to free, prior, and informed consent entail?

FREE: Consent is freely granted, without pressure, intimidation, or manipulation.

PRIOR: Consent is obtained far in advance of any authorization or start of activity.

**INFORMED:** The engagement and details of what should be disclosed before asking for consent as well as during the ongoing consent procedure.

**CONSENT:** A decision taken collectively by the rights holders and reached through a traditional community decision-making procedure.

**The right** to free, prior, and informed consent is specific to Indigenous People. It enables them to approve or reject activity that may impact them or their territory. Furthermore, **FPIC** allows Indigenous People to negotiate the terms under which projects and activities will be created, implemented, monitored, and evaluated.

**The right** to self-determination is closely related to the right to free, prior, and informed consent because it grants individuals control over their future economic, social, and cultural development.

**FPIC** changes the way non-Indigenous governments treat Indigenous Peoples' rights when obtaining their consent. FPIC means much more than consulting Indigenous People and then ignoring their concerns.

**FPIC** is the legal means through which Indigenous communities may voice their opinions and hold government accountable.

Before passing any laws or taking any measures that may impact Indigenous People, governments must seek their free, prior, and informed consent.

**NWAC** is working to make sure Canada honours its commitment to reconcile with Indigenous People by advancing Indigenous women's right to free, prior, and informed consent.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a non-profit organization working to help Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse (WG2STGD) People claim their rights as Indigenous people in their communities and Canadian societies.

