

# **Six Nations Community Engagement Report**

## **NRWC Project**

Prepared by: Amy Lickers – Director of Planning

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## **Executive Summary**

The Niagara Region Wind Project is a renewable energy project located in the Township of West Lincoln, Town of Lincoln (Niagara Region), Wainfleet and Haldimand County. The project is comprised of 77 turbines which will generate 230MW of renewable energy which will be sold to the Ontario Power Authority under the FIT1.3 program.

The Six Nations CAP Team and the Niagara Region Wind Corporation began meeting in 2011. Recently Enercon Canada Inc and Boralex Inc acquired the project from Niagara Region Wind Corporation, all studies and permits for the project had been granted prior to the acquisition and will be commencing construction in the fall of 2015.

The process ran for 30 days, and there was only one comment card submitted, no online submissions and two attendees at the community meetings. We have had 10 wind projects run through the community engagement process that have returned favorable results. Even though there was negligible attendance and comments submitted, previous experience in this area could prove that community members are comfortable with renewable energy as an economic opportunity.

## **Community Engagement Team**

### *Six Nations CAP Team:*

Matt Jamieson – Director Economic Development

Lonny Bomberry – Director Lands and Resources

Phil Monture – Land Rights Consultant

Paul General – Eco- Centre Manager

Joanne Thomas – Consultation Point Person

Caron Smith – Land Use Officer

Dawn LaForme – Secretary

Nicole Kohoko – Departmental Assistant

Amy Lickers – Community Planner-Engagement Lead

### *NRWC Team:*

Adam Rosso (Boralex Inc) -Project Manager

Shiloh Berriman (Enercon) – Project Coordinator

Grace Pasceri (Boralex Inc.) – Manager, Project Development

## **Impact on Rights**

The 1701 Fort Albany (NANFAN) Treaty are constitutionally protected (*Section 35(1) of Canada's Constitution Act, 1982*) treaty rights between the Imperial Crown and The Five Nations, which would become Six Nations, upon acceptance of the Tuscarora nation into the confederacy. The Treaty was to ensure the right for Six Nations to freely pursue their economic livelihood utilizing the natural resources within lands that extend throughout central and southwestern Ontario.

Six Nations maintains that rights extend beyond hunting, fishing and gathering for subsistence, as these activities were traditionally a means of economic livelihood as well as community subsistence.

These projects utilize land and natural resources that Six Nations has a treaty entitlement to therefore the economic impact should be shared with the rights holders of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

## **Methodology**

### Comment Cards

The comment cards provided a brief summary of each of the projects, the potential community benefits for Six Nations community, a listing of the community engagement sessions, and contact information. The comment cards were created to assist the project team, Six Nations Elected Council and community advocates in creating awareness of engagement process and providing opportunity to capture comments.

1 comment card was filled in and returned.

1 – Support Project

### Website – [www.sixnationsfuture.com](http://www.sixnationsfuture.com)

The website was designed to provide all members of Six Nations the opportunity to become educated about the project and involved in the decision making process. The website contained the project information, meeting dates, a link to the projects webpage with the project studies, contact information for the engagement lead and a comment section.

There were no comments received through the snfuture website.

### Meetings

NRWC staff were in attendance at two scheduled community meetings, held on June 25 2015 and July 16, 2015.

The two engagement sessions were “Town Hall” style, with an opening presentation and questions/comments to follow.

***Thursday June 25, 2015 6pm-8pm***

Six Nations Tourism

Attendance: 0

General Attitude: Despite having had advertisements in the paper and on social media there was no participation at this meeting.

***Thursday July 16, 2015 6pm-8pm***

Six Nations Tourism

Attendance: 1 plus 2 media

General Attitude: There were a number of questions based on the project details and environmental impacts.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

The community engagement session and meetings were poorly attended. Although there has been numerous major community engagement process held, people are still becoming acquainted with the process and what the individual impact is on them.

Based on other community engagement projects that we have done in the past, community members have chosen to participate in initiatives that are of interest to them. There are assumptions that could be made as to why participation is low. People are generally in agreement which is why they do not participate. This theory can be supported by the fact that the one engagement process that had an increased turnout was related to a project that did not have community support.

While the participation was low, we do know from previous projects, and from community outreach that solar and wind energy projects are generally supported by the community. It is upon this knowledge that it is being recommended that an agreement be pursued.

## Appendix A – comments