

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - NEXTBRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE ABORIGINAL ADVISORY BOARD

NextBridge has formed an Aboriginal Advisory Board (AAB) to inform the company on its proposed approach to First Nation and Métis engagement. This Board meets up to four times per year, and includes Senator Gerry Bedford - retired from the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario after serving two terms, Judith Moses of Six Nations and John Beaucage, the former Grand Council Chief of the Union of Ontario Indians (Robinson Superior and Robinson Huron Treaty members). Each of the AAB members has an excellent and diverse understanding of the issues faced by First Nations and Métis communities, and is able to provide thoughtful insights to the NextBridge Aboriginal team. The role of the AAB is to act as a sounding board, however it does not purport to offer specific local knowledge of the project or the project area; this knowledge can only be gained by direct consultation with the relevant communities. Representatives from provincial government ministries may be invited to Aboriginal Advisory Board meetings to add additional perspectives to discussions, where appropriate.

**Purpose:** In general terms, the purpose of the Aboriginal Advisory Board is to provide high level advice and counsel on policies and programs to the management and staff of NextBridge in the company's broad relationships with Canadian Aboriginal communities. All local level relationships are established directly with affected communities.

Membership: As originally constituted, the AAB consisted of:

Mr. Ed Chilton, a member of the Moose Factory First Nation

Ms. Judith Moses, a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation

Mr. Gerry Bedford, retired Métis Nation of Ontario Senator

During the summer of 2013, Mr. Chilton was accorded the status of a Permanent Member of the Board.

Former Grand Chief John Beaucage was invited to join the Board in the fall of 2013 after the untimely passing of Ed Chilton.

## Meetings:

Prior to designation of NextBridge (UCT) by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) with respect to the East West Tie in August 2013, the focus of the Board's discussions were on the preparation of the Aboriginal elements to the company's application to the OEB. The AAB provided advice and counsel with respect to the company's policy, approach and commitments regarding Aboriginal engagement, consultation and accommodation.

The AAB met 4 times since formation in the fall of 2012:

- December 19, 2012
- February 22, 2013
- September 23, 2013
- November 25, 2013 (CC)



The initial meeting on December 19, 2012 was before application and the agenda was for introduction, orientation, discussion of 'terms of reference' and planning of subsequent meetings.

During the second meeting on February 22, 2013, topics included:

- First Nation economic status and needs
- Governance of First Nations Communities
- Governance of the Métis Nation of Ontario

At the second meeting in 2013, on September 23, discussion topics included:

- Strength of Claim Analysis
- Economic Participation
- Consultation update with First Nation and Métis communities
- Update on discussions with Ministry of Energy and MOU signed on November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Input on the Aboriginal Consultation and Participation plans being prepared for the OEB

The November 25, 2013 conference call meeting focused on refinements to the proposed Aboriginal Consultation Plan and the Aboriginal Economic Participation Plan prior to submission to the Ontario Government.

**The Future:** The AAB will continue as a valued advisory body for company management. Additions to its membership are likely as the company proceeds with the development of the East West Tie. The role of the AAB may also evolve as the company's business interests develop as well.