

# Statement on Reconciliation and Commitment to Indigenous Communities and Peoples

November 25, 2021

WaterPower Canada has developed our Statement of Reconciliation and Commitment to Indigenous Communities and Peoples in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action 92 that *“call(s) upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.”* It affirms WaterPower Canada’s commitment to building new paths forward to achieve sustainable long-term relationships with national Indigenous organizations. The Statement, and the Action Plan to implement it, will evolve as we initiate new dialogues and journey along these paths forward.

## OUR COMMITMENT

WaterPower Canada (WPC) is committed to collaborating with Indigenous peoples, Communities and Governments to build long-term, mutually beneficial relationships founded upon the shared values of recognition, respect, inclusion, and openness.

## OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WPC respects the diversity and unique history of Indigenous peoples and values learning from the cultures and communities in which we operate. WPC acknowledges that Indigenous peoples are the original inhabitants of Canada. We recognize the legal and constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous peoples and the Indigenous lands and resources to which they apply.

WPC is committed to contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples in matters related to its activities. WPC is committed to advancing the path to shared prosperity through information sharing and dialogue. We will communicate and act in good faith and seek to build long-term relationships through timely and meaningful collaboration. We will conduct open two-way communication based on honesty, integrity and respect.

WPC believes that it is essential that Canadians participate in the reconciliation process that is called for in the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and is committed to facilitating communications amongst its members on how these injustices have affected the conditions and perspectives of Indigenous peoples.

## LISTEN, LEARN, SHARE, PROMOTE

WPC acknowledges that learning and understanding the Indigenous history, culture and stories of Canada is an essential element in creating the foundation for a strong working relationship with Indigenous communities.

WPC acknowledges that Indigenous approaches to healing, growth, and mutual understanding are often holistic in nature and that these approaches may differ from non-Indigenous methods. WPC is committed to learning how to listen differently and how to consider and include Indigenous communities' perspectives into the goals and operations of WPC.

## **OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Recognition - Recognize the legal and constitutional rights of Indigenous peoples and the relationship between Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.

Respect - Respect for Indigenous history, culture and knowledge.

Perspectives - Incorporate Indigenous communities' perspectives into WPC's activities and share these with our members.

Communication - Open two-way communication and collaboration based on honesty, integrity and respect.

Inclusion - Work collaboratively to support programs and initiatives such as education, mentorship, skills training, and employment; and expanding opportunities for Indigenous peoples and businesses.

Celebrate - Celebrate examples of meaningful engagement and inclusion of Indigenous employees and Indigenous businesses within our sector.

## **TOWARDS AN ACTION PLAN**

WPC commits to the development of an Action Plan to implement our Statement on Reconciliation and Commitment to Indigenous Communities and Peoples.

WPC also commits to ensuring an accountability process is established in order to measure our success in implementing this endeavor.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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