

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

First Nations Perspectives on Integrated Watershed Management in Muskoka

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Chiefs of Ontario

Who We Are

- The Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat is the initial point of contact for many provincial ministries when it comes to engagement on policy, legislation, and regulatory changes
- The Secretariat does not maintain any inherent authority and is not a political body rather, it is a technical body that support First Nations leadership and relays information to them
- Requests for engagement directed to the Secretariat must be rejected as technicians cannot speak on behalf of First Nations leadership as they are not the rights holders
- The Secretariat can play a role in developing and implementing engagement strategies, but only if mandated by Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution for Leadership Council motion



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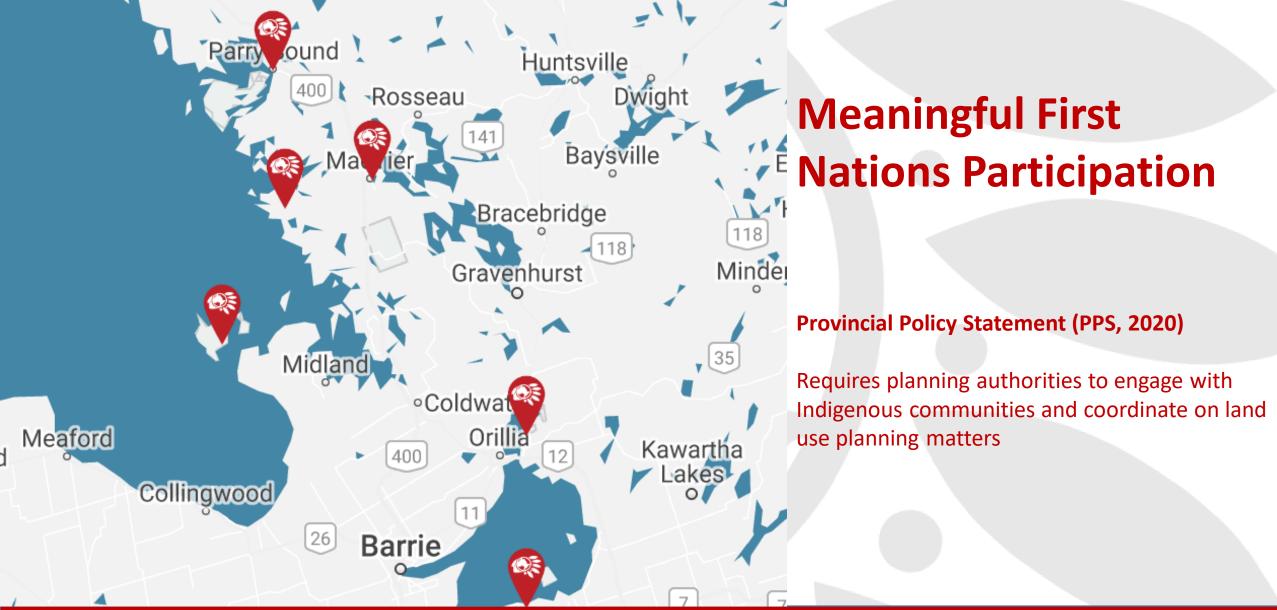
- First Nation Participation
- Watershed Planning Guide (Province)
- Best Practices for First Nations Engagement
- Collaboration and Relationship Building



The way to promote respectful and mutually beneficial relationships in the management and protection of land and water is to support the meaningful participation of **First Nations in Integrated** Watershed Management processes.









First Nations Engagement Best Practices include:

- Early engagement is vital and contact with First Nations communities should be made prior to commencement of watershed planning.
- Meaningful representation on steering committees/governance structures.
- Support and resources for participation and capacity building throughout watershed planning development and implementation.
- Discuss with each First Nation community how best to work together.
- Learn from each other and foster relationship building.





Collaboration best practices include:

- Development of stewardship programs and conservation partnerships that support Indigenous knowledge and participation.
- Develop initiatives and materials that include Indigenous perspectives in watershed awareness.
- Involvement in environmental monitoring and input into current and future watershed planning efforts.
- Collaboration to address the maintenance of water quality and quantity within watersheds.
- Promote mentorship opportunities for planning and infrastructure
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous youth to network with non-Indigenous youth in municipalities regarding watershed planning.





The Seventh Generation Principle is based on an ancient Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)* philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future.

