Recognize the past. Question the existing. Create the enduring.
“We value the many strong relationships we’ve been fortunate to develop with Indigenous peoples and communities across Canada – projects that have mutually improved economic opportunity, enhanced education and training and brought lasting improvement to quality of life.”

Douglas Yahn
WSP Indigenous Relations Lead

A Unique Partnership

Every Indigenous community is unique – with different experiences, histories, social customs, traditions, governance and social circumstances. What they share is an interest in making decisions that bring sustainable benefits, both now and in the future.

WSP recognizes that success depends on building long-term partnerships and reinforcing a culture of sharing alongside Indigenous people – Inuit, Métis and First Nations. As a company with deep roots coast-to-coast, we understand the challenges these communities face and recognize the need for frequent, open and honest communication.

Responsibly delivering on a variety of projects, we are proud to support the growth and strengthen the communities we work in, while fostering opportunities for training and local initiatives that create a future for Indigenous youth.

WHY WSP?

We Have the Local Expertise
With over 8,000+ readily available and qualified field resources and office support staff across Canada, including specialists such as anthropologists, archaeologists, sociologists, socio-economists, geographers, GIS experts, community planners, and engineers from multiple disciplines, we have the knowledge and experience where and when you need it. We form strategic partnerships with local Indigenous experts to enhance our capabilities on projects and to understand the needs, expectations, concerns and beliefs of these communities. WSP has also cultivated multiple joint venture agreements and key community partnerships throughout Canada to maximize the benefits to the local community through training and employment of qualified band members and the participation of Indigenous businesses.

We Understand and Respect Indigenous Culture and Traditions
We have an Indigenous Relations policy within our organization to provide a framework for the way we initiate, maintain and manage our relationships with Canada’s Indigenous people. We respect the legal rights of Canada’s Indigenous communities, along with their cultural traditions, economies, beliefs, knowledge and use of lands and resources.

We Are Responsible Custodians of a Shared Landscape
Responsible to our people and our projects, we use built-in quality assurance and control procedures coupled with a clearly defined safety program. Sustainability is embedded in all that we do, influencing our use of resources, designing solutions that are future-ready and engaging in activities that support local communities.

We Believe in Open Communication
We strive to build strong relationships with Indigenous leaders and their communities through ongoing, transparent and effective communication. It’s very important that we ensure our clients have the right information to inform and shape their decision-making processes.

We Value Indigenous Relationships
In addition to designing essential buildings, roadways and vital infrastructure, we apply our expertise in protecting cultural resources by using traditional knowledge and conducting social impact assessments and follow-up monitoring. We ensure that cultural specialists are on site or involved to preserve cultural heritage.
WSP works with Indigenous communities across Canada – advancing projects that create opportunity and enhance quality of life. WSP is proud to collaborate with Indspire’s Building Brighter Futures program and create a new series of educational awards that will further the pathways and possibilities for Indigenous youth.

WSP’s new series of educational awards will be distributed annually to Indigenous student(s) who are attending post-secondary institutions, which include college, university, technical school or apprenticeship programs, and who have a demonstrated financial need for support for their education costs. WSP’s student awards will be of particular interest to students pursuing educational programs in Buildings, Transportation, Infrastructure, Oil & Gas, Environment, Geomatics, Mining, Power and Industrial-related subject areas. The new awards are available for the 2017/2018 academic year.
“They have put the Nation’s interests first and have provided the highest level of engineering service for our Road and Housing project.”

Chief Hector Shorting, Little Saskatchewan First Nation
Our strength is our ability to adapt to our client culture and local markets. We provide our clients with the same personalized services as a specialist firm while at the same time leveraging our worldwide expertise to undertake the most complex projects and assist our clients to realize their ambitions. We achieve this by remaining agile, with a common sense approach, and by keeping our structure and business model simple and lean. Our focus on growth also allows us to better serve our clients by expanding our offering, expertise and geographical reach.
As one of the world’s leading professional services firms, WSP provides technical expertise and strategic advice to clients in the Transportation & Infrastructure, Property & Buildings, Environment, Industry, Resources (including Mining and Oil & Gas) and Energy sectors, as well as offering project and program delivery and advisory services. Our experts include engineers, advisors, technicians, scientists, architects, planners and environmental specialists, as well as other design, program and construction management professionals. With approximately 48,000 talented people in 550 offices across 40 countries—more than 8,000 in Canada and 9,500 in the U.S.—we are uniquely positioned to deliver successful and sustainable projects, wherever our clients need us.