



SAUGEEN OJIBWAY NATION
ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

Media Release

15 October 2018

SON Sponsors Conference on Free, Prior & Informed Consent

October 25-26, 2018,

Blue Mountain Inn Conference Centre, Collingwood ON

<https://empoweringourfuture.ca/>

Under Saugeen's Chief Randall Kahgee and Nawash's Chief Ralph Akiwenzie, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) was among the first to push for proper consultation. Our authority comes from the land – from *aki* – and consultation helps us protect *aki*. Now we're adding 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent' to our consultation protocols. That's a phrase from the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and it's something the federal government is thinking about implementing.

But what is it? And what does it mean for First Nations, Governments and proponents wanting to develop projects in First Nations' traditional territories? Those are questions that this conference will address. Some of the speakers who will do so are:

Randall Kahgee, former Saugeen Chief, now with Pape Salter Teillet – will speak on Nuclear issues.

Kate Kempton, partner at Olthuis, Kleer & Towshend – litigation and negotiator for FNs in several areas.

Hayden King, from Beausoleil FN and ED of the new Yellowhead Institute – speaking on Indigenous nationhood.

Russel Diabo, Policy Advisor to Algonquin FNs and former candidate for Grand Chief of AFN.

Doran Ritchie, Resources Manager, SON Environment Office – SON lead on consultations with proponents.

"Free, Prior and Informed Consent is not only important to Indigenous people seeking recognition of their sovereignty in their Traditional Territories, it also has the potential to shape the future of Canada," says Michael Johnston, Manager of the SON's Environmental Office. "With this conference we are hoping to hold a frank and forward-looking conversation about how recognition of FPIC will help us care for our land and foster true reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people."

People can find more information and register online at www.EmpoweringOurFuture or phone 519-534-5507.

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Traditional Territories of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation
(Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and
Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation)