



Norfolk County Office of the Mayor

MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS – KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Where We're At – Cemeteries Duty to Consult

- Norfolk County fully respects and upholds the duty to consult with Indigenous communities, particularly the two First Nations we regularly engage with on land use and cultural heritage matters.
- Consultation requirements for cemetery development and ground disturbance (e.g., digging, site preparation) have led to **significant and rising costs**.
- These requirements are important but create financial and administrative pressures for municipalities, especially for essential public services.

What Norfolk is Asking

1. Funding Support or Cost-Sharing

- Provide provincial funding or cost-sharing for municipalities that must conduct repeated consultations, particularly for essential services such as cemeteries.

2. Dedicated Regional Liaison Support

- Create a regional or shared **provincial liaison position** to:
 - Serve as a consistent point of contact between municipalities and Indigenous communities
 - Streamline communications and ensure consistent practices
 - Reduce duplication of efforts and lower costs for both municipalities and First Nations

3. Provincial Guidance and Tools

- Develop clear, standardized **protocols and templates** for fulfilling duty-to-consult requirements in municipal infrastructure and land development projects.
- Address current gaps where municipalities are asked to enter agreements with First Nations regarding archaeological work without clear understanding of implications.
- Establish and share **best practices** province-wide.
- Make subject matter experts available to provide advice and guidance to municipalities.