

CHIPPEWAS OF

GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION

Fixed Link Project Environment Principles

**Guidance to Leadership, Staff,
Community, Advisors and Service
Providers**





First Nation Resolution

On February 16, 2021, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation resolved to build a fixed link that will connect Georgina Island to the mainland with an Impact Assessment completed by December 31, 2024 and final construction completed by December 31, 2026.

About this Document

This document is a framework for the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and is not a by-law or legislation. The principles defined are to be applied by community leadership, staff, members, advisors and service providers driving this major infrastructure development. It is understood that some adverse environmental effects may be identified throughout the evaluation, design and construction phases of the Georgina Island Fixed Link Project. This document is intended to maintain transparency, guide decisions and project evaluation activities to ensure that Mother Earth is respected at every stage of the process.

It is understood that this document is subject to change and evolve as does Mother Earth, and the intention of this document is to remain 'living' e with reviews revisions to occur when deemed appropriate by the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.



Principle Foundations

As a proud Chippewa Nation, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation's culture and traditions are set in the Seven Grandfather Teachings. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are a set of Anishinaabe guiding principles passed down from generation to generation to guide the Anishinaabe to live a good life in peace and without conflict.

Grandfathers gave seven teachings to share with the Anishinaabe people; love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility, and wisdom.

The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation have developed the following environmental principles for the Fixed Link Project to align with these teachings.

Application of the Principles

These principles are to be applied to all Fixed Link Project activities. From printing materials to geotechnical work on the lakebed of Lake Simcoe, all parties are to consider these principles in their work. As caretakers of Mother Earth, the community wishes to apply the Seven Grandfather Teachings as a core value system in the environmental framework. This will ensure that the responsibility as a caretaker is honored and the Project will be done in a respectful, sustainable manner for the next Seven Generations.

Prior to completing work on the Fixed Link Project, *any practitioner participating in Project work will be required to verify that they understand these principles through a simple introductory, web-based training activity.* This will be done at their own cost and will be considered a pre-requisite for anyone working on this Project for the First Nation.

In addition, any senior team members of a company completing a Project that will impact the natural environment within the Project Study Area will be required to, prior to Project initiation, participate in a land acknowledgement exercise with a GIFN Knowledge Holder to get a full understanding of the impacts and seriousness of the work that is to undertaken.

These services can be arranged through the Georgina Island Fixed Link Secretariat and will be scheduled and completed at the company's expense. It is believed that all workers require a prerequisite knowledge of the impact of the work they are doing will have on the lands supporting the existence of the Georgina Island community.

Georgina Island Fixed Link Environmental Principles

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Love

1. All Project processes will be examined thoroughly prior to the commencement of work to identify direct and indirect adverse impacts to all of Creation including plants, animals, water, land and air.
 - a. Examination will ensure that the integrity of the environment will be kept, and where threats are identified, will be mitigated using the most current best management practices from both Traditional and Western knowledge.

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Wisdom

2. All Project activities will be reviewed through technical and traditional expertise (Anishinaabeg/Western), respecting all opinions provided and applying the best appropriate actions that first and foremost ensure the health and safety of the community and all of Creation.
 - a. All persons engaged in the Project will be heard and documented. Opinion from technical experts and traditional knowledge keepers will be communicated effectively and understood to ensure the flow of information in a meaningful way.
 - b. Environmental wisdom will consider the impacts of development, extraction and pollution of Mother Earth's natural sources, and understand that impact will have on quality of life for future generations.

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Bravery

3. This principle requires workers and observers of this Project to have the courage to voice an opinion, and demand feedback about a Project activity that is having a negative impact, even when it might be met with negative consequences.
 - a. This principle will require all Project leaders to create a safe and ethical space for the communication of observations and potential consequences.

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Honesty

4. The honesty principle speaks to transparency about the potential impacts the Project will bring both temporarily and permanently, both positive and negative.
 - a. Allow the truth to guide decision making.
 - b. Accept and act on truths through straightforward and appropriate communication during the Project's duration and lifespan.

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Humility

5. This principle is to allow all knowledge shared for the purpose of the Project to have an equal platform and value.
 - a. All knowledge includes traditional knowledge, western science and community input. Ensuring equal value to knowledge demonstrates humility and will allow for the best possible collaboration.

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Respect

6. To all possible extents, actions taken to complete the Fixed Link Project will be done with the utmost respect to the natural environment, the community, the people, their peers and the impacts of actions.
 - a. This principle requires attention to detail before, during and after the Project completion, which may include continued dialogue, environmental surveys and monitoring, health and safety surveys and monitoring to ensure respect is being given and received to the community and all of Creation.
 - b. This principle also requires all Project employees and partners to take a step back and reflect or provide an offering to Mother Earth prior to beginning a Project activity that will alter the natural environment.

Principles Guided by The Teaching of Truth

7. This principle requires that truth be the guiding force behind this Project. Truth will result in knowing, understanding and following these guiding principles as a whole, rather than teaching by teaching.
 - a. Truth will result in open and continuous transparency about all aspects of the Project. Highlighting any and all items that may have an impact on the natural environment should be acknowledged and will hold an equal space as all other forms of Project feedback, benefits and information.

The Georgina Island Fixed Link Environmental Principles have been developed to supplement and compliment all current traditional knowledge undertakings and western science-based approaches to work on the Project. If anyone requires clarification of intent or information pertaining to the application of these principles, please contact the Georgina Island Fixed Link Secretariat.