At Enbridge, we see our relationships with Indigenous communities as mutually beneficial—economically, socially and culturally.

Enbridge’s Line 3 pipeline replacement project in Minnesota is not only a major private investment in the state’s essential energy infrastructure; it also marks an unprecedented level of Tribal engagement, inclusion and economic participation.

Working together
Enbridge’s Line 3 Replacement Project represents an important step forward, and a model for how resource companies and Indigenous peoples can align our interests and work together to make projects better for everyone.

We believe everyone can benefit from this project. We’re making the pipeline safer, we’re continuing to supply crude oil for Minnesotans, and we’re providing jobs and economic benefits for Native American individuals, businesses and communities—in the short term from construction, and in the longer term through increased capacity, job experience, training and sustainability initiatives.

Opportunities
As part of the Line 3 replacement, we’ve made a $100 million commitment for Tribal affiliation work opportunities. We’re conducting outreach to all 11 Minnesota Tribes to discuss business and training opportunities; we’ve identified more than 100 (and counting) Native American-owned businesses for contractors to use; and we’ve co-hosted or supported multiple training programs and job fairs for Tribal members.

Building and maintaining sustainable relationships with Indigenous nations and groups—on projects such as the Line 3 replacement, and ultimately over the lifecycle of our assets—is essential to Enbridge’s continued success as a leading North American energy delivery company.
Community support

As part of our planning work for the Line 3 replacement, Enbridge has consistently demonstrated respect for Native American Tribes in Minnesota.

From the start, we’ve respected the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe’s wishes to route the pipeline around their reservation, and we have an agreement on the deactivation and removal of Line 3 through Leech Lake land.

The Fond du Lac Tribe was willing to allow the replacement pipeline to cross their reservation. We are also working with the Band on the replacement of a segment of Line 4 across the reservation that will rectify a section of exposed pipe and allow for restoration of surface-water hydrology conditions that existed prior to the installation.

Enbridge also organized a Tribal Cultural Resources Survey for the Line 3 replacement route through Minnesota and North Dakota—the largest such survey ever attempted in the energy industry.

The L3R Tribal Cultural Resources Survey, led by the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, saw representatives of nine Tribes participate directly through survey work, and more than 30 Tribes in total involved via consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Work is now substantially complete, after beginning in late 2017.

We’re striving to create meaningful engagement and build respectful relationships before projects begin. We’re working to ensure that Native Americans have real access to jobs, as well as training and education that set up individuals and communities to realize long-term, sustainable benefits from projects like the L3RP.

Companies like Matthew’s contracting business, located on the White Earth Band of Ojibwe reservation in northern Minnesota, will benefit from work opportunities as part of Enbridge’s Line 3 Replacement Project.

Line 3 Replacement (Minnesota): Indigenous inclusion stats

We continue to pursue meaningful engagement and create economic opportunities through this project. Examples include:

- $100-million commitment for Tribal affiliation work opportunities for the project.
- 100+ Tribal-owned or Band member-owned businesses for contractors to use during the project.
- Tribal Monitors will be hired to ensure cultural resources are protected throughout the project cycle.
- Collaboration with IUOE Local 49 (heavy equipment operations) and the Tribes on a training program for Tribal members, with 8 graduates in 2017 and 5 in 2018.
- Supported large-scale training program developed by Minnesota Tribes and Minneapolis Building Trades from April to June 2018.
- Tribal Cultural Resources Survey for the full L3RP approved route, with 9 Tribes participating directly and 30+ Tribes involved via the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- 20-year renewal of easement with Fond du Lac Band, which includes L3RP.
- Line 3 deactivation and removal agreement with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.