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**LETTER OF INTEREST
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Title - Sujet Indigenous Benefits Plan RFI - JCVH	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EC015-200193/A	Date 2020-01-31
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client EC015-200193	GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG PW-\$PWB-101-4492
File No. - N° de dossier PWB-9-42011 (101)	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2020-03-03	
Time Zone Fuseau horaire Atlantic Standard Time AST	
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Lomax (PWB), Sandra	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur pwb101
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (506) 639-8503 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (506) 636-4376
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: PWGSC/TPSGC DOMINION PUBLIC BUILDING 1045 MAIN ST MONCTON New Brunswick E1C1H1 Canada	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée See Herein	Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/ de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date



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Request for Information (RFI)

Indigenous Benefit Plan JC Van Horne Bridge

1. Purpose and Nature of the Request for Information

Public Service and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is requesting Industry feedback regarding carrying out various repairs to the JC Van Horne Bridge with an Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) component to the tenders. This IBP will be looking to maximize involvement of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community's indigenous workforce and their Mi'gmaq business community in these projects for the Government of Canada.

An Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) is a bidder developed engagement plan that proposes to provide employment to indigenous resources, businesses sourced to Indigenous firms, as well as, training and skills development, amongst others. An IBP is therefore a proposal expressed in dollars and as a percentage of the total contract value proposing engagement benefits for the First Nation. IBP's are evaluated pre-award and are subsequently monitored during the project on a monthly basis with a final report upon contract completion. The assessments will compare the benefits forecast in each transaction against actual results accomplished by the Contractor or its subcontractor(s). The assessment will report on whether or not the transaction was completed and whether or not the objectives of the transaction were accomplished. A Draft IBP is attached for respondents of this RFI to review and comment.

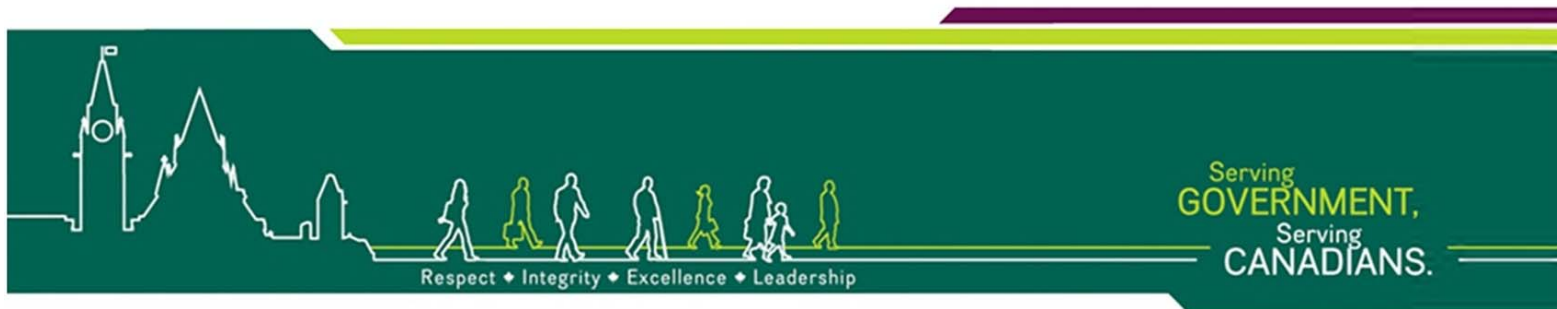
The objectives of this RFI are to:

- Assist in the development of Indigenous workers and businesses that will contribute to the economic development of First Nations communities.
- Help stimulate Indigenous employment and business development.
- Provide opportunity for Aboriginal businesses through sub-contracting and/or joint ventures with the general business community when bidding on tenders.
- Build Indigenous capacity by providing meaningful work experience, job training and mentorship.
- Make use of the existing expertise currently located in Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community.

This RFI is to request industry feedback on the attached questions in Annex "A" as a means to mutually develop the criteria of the Indigenous Benefit Plans for the eventual tender document. In reaching out to Industry through this RFI the Government of Canada is seeking proactive Indigenous engagement benefit recommendations and strategies. Additional questions may be asked of the industry through an amendment.

Participation in this RFI is encouraged, but is not mandatory. There will be no short-listing of potential suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work as a result of this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation in any potential subsequent solicitation.

Respondents will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred by participating in this RFI.



The RFI closing date published herein is not the deadline for comments or input. Comments and input will be accepted any time up to the time when/if a follow-on solicitation is published.

2. Background Information:

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the JC Van Horne Bridge linking New Brunswick (NB) and Quebec (QC) at the communities of Campbellton, NB, Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation, and Pointe-a-la-Croix, QC.

The bridge needs repairs that will be carried out through tendered contracts.

PSPC will be carrying out various repairs to the JC Van Horne Bridge and will be looking to maximize involvement of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community's indigenous workforce and their Mi'gmaq business community in these projects.

3. Potential Work Scope:

Three projects are currently being designed for tender:

1. Structural Bracing
 - a. Repair or replace various structural bracing members to the bridge steel structure.
2. Paving Rehabilitation
 - a. Removing all materials to the top of the bridge deck.
 - b. Supply and install new waterproofing to the bridge deck.
 - c. Make repairs to the expansion joints.
 - d. New asphalt layer on the bridge deck.
3. Program of work
 - a. Repairs to twelve (12) concrete piers and North and South abutments. Including repairs of bearing grout pads and associated supports.
 - b. New concrete wall cap atop existing retaining wing walls. Re-installation of safety guardrails atop wall caps.
 - c. Removal and replacement of damaged concrete pier steel corner guards.
 - d. Supply and installation of steel protective skirting at pier 5 and pier 7.
 - e. Miscellaneous repairs, including guide rail work; replacement of missing cotter pins; Vertical steel grillage and framework; removal and replacement of isolated damaged concrete.



4. Contemplated Procurement Strategy

As part of the Government of Canada's goal of modernizing procurement practices, including that of social procurement and developing initiatives to increase the diversity of bidders on government contracts, including that of Indigenous Peoples, PSPC invites input from the Indigenous business community. This feedback may also allow for consideration of potential socio-economic benefits, such as skills and economic development within the area.

This requirement will not be set-aside under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business. The contemplated procurement strategy is a competitive Request for Proposal that is open to any Indigenous and Non-Indigenous firms as well as Joint Ventures.

The evaluation strategy will include criterion focused toward an Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) related to the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community, since part of this project is taking place on Mi'gmaq lands.

5. Estimated Value of Project

The total estimated value ranges of these projects are:

Asphalt Rehabilitation \$1,000,000 - \$2,500,000

Structural Bracing \$3,000,000 - \$4,500,000

Program of Work \$3,000,000 - \$4,500,000

6. Legislation, Trade Agreements, and Government Policies:

The following is indicative of some of the legislation, trade agreements and government policies that could impact any follow-on solicitation(s):

Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)

7. Submissions

Please consider the questions in Annex "A" in your response to this RFI.

Interested Respondents may submit their responses to the PSPC Contracting Authority, identified below, preferably via email:

Name: Sandra Lomax
Title: Supply Specialist
Organization: Public Service and Procurement Canada
Acquisitions Branch
Address: 126 Prince William Street
Saint John, New Brunswick
E2L 2B9
Telephone: (506) 639-8503



Facsimile: (506) 636-4376
E-mail address: sandra.lomax@pwgsc.gc.ca

A point of contact for the Respondent should be included in the package.

Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tendering System. Canada asks Respondents to visit Buyandsell.gc.ca regularly to check for changes, if any.

8. Industry Engagement Sessions

Industry will have the opportunity to participate in a Community and Industry Engagement session held in English on February 24, 2020 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm in Listuguj. This event will provide Industry contractors and the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community the opportunity to meet and discuss partnering, sub-contracting, and skills development. This session will serve for further development of the responses to this RFI.

Participants in these sessions will have the opportunity to ask questions

Non-attendance will not preclude a supplier from bidding on this requirement should a follow-on solicitation be issued.

9. Closing date for the RFI

Responses to this RFI are to be submitted to the PSPC Contracting Authority identified above, on or before the date and time indicated on page 1 of the Request for Information.

10. Important Note to Respondent

This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or award contract(s) for the work described herein.

Although the information collected may be provided as commercial-in-confidence (and, if identified as such, will be treated accordingly by Canada), Canada may use the information to assist in drafting performance specifications (which are subject to change) and for budgetary purposes.

Respondents are encouraged to identify, in the information they share with Canada, any information that they feel is proprietary, third party or personal information. Please note that Canada may be obligated by law (e.g. in response to a request under the Access of Information and Privacy Act) to disclose proprietary or commercially-sensitive information concerning a respondent (for more information: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>).

This RFI is not intended to constitute, or be interpreted as a call for tenders or a call for proposals. Submission of a response to this RFI or participation in a meeting is not intended to, nor does it, create



any contractual or other legally binding obligation or duty, including any obligation or duty to accept or reject information, to enter into negotiations or decline to enter into or continue negotiations, or to award or decline to award a contract. Respondents are requested to provide their comments, concerns, and, where applicable, alternative recommendations regarding how the requirements or objectives described in this RFI could be satisfied. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their responses.

There is no formal structure or format that a response to this RFI should meet. The respondent should feel free to submit whatever information it feels would make a useful and relevant contribution to Canada's analysis of this project and the development of solicitation documents to procure a solution to fulfill its requirements.

Canada may, in its sole discretion, contact any respondents to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response.

All responses will be treated as confidential, subject to the provisions of the Access to Information Act (R.S. 1985, c. A-1) and the Privacy Act (R.S., 1985, c. P-21).

Canada will in no way make any direct attribution of any information obtained from respondents that has been identified by respondents as "confidential" or "proprietary" within their responses.

Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. Canada may, at its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

A review team composed of representatives of Canada will review the responses received. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant or use any resources that it considers necessary to review any response, in part or in its entirety. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses. In addition to any other expressed or implied rights, Canada reserves the right to:

1. Cancel this RFI process at any time;
2. Cancel this RFI process at any time and issue a new RFI for the same or similar information;
3. Make amendments to the timing and/or structure of this RFI process, including the closing date of the RFI, at its exclusive discretion;
4. Request additional supporting information or clarification from any or all respondents, and/or provide to respondents additional clarification and information pertinent to this RFI;
5. Contact any customer or reference provided within a respondent's submission; and
6. Not consider any response, in its entirety, containing information which Canada in its opinion, believes to contain misrepresentations or any other inaccurate, suspicious or misleading information.



Annex “A”

RFI Questions

Please consider answering the following questions in your response to this RFI.

- 1) Do you own or operate a company or Joint Venture? Please provide a brief summary and overview of your company or Joint Venture and the projects that are of interest to you.
- 2) For prime contractors interested in one or all of these tender opportunities, provide a list of the skills, trades and equipment you require for the type of work in question.
- 3) How would you propose working with and engaging labour, sub-contractors, material, and equipment available from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community? How would your company propose organizing and managing this requirement? What methods have you employed to develop collaborative work arrangements in the past?
- 4) Have you encountered incentive strategies in previous contracts to encourage First Nations engagement (i.e. skills development, industrial capacity and economic benefit to First Nations) can you share lessons learned? Do you have any recommended approaches for incorporating indigenous social procurement measures in the tender process?
- 5) Do you anticipate the inclusion of a requirement for an Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) will have an impact on your participation in this procurement?
- 6) One of the indigenous social procurement measures implemented for this procurement may be to ensure that a minimum percentage of labor or subcontracting (diverse supplier) would be focused toward the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community. What percentage of labor or subcontracting might be achievable? For example, one approach could be to target 15-20% of total project value.
- 7) To build technical and contractual capacity within the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community would you be prepared to provide meaningful non-labourer employment positions for the duration of the project? Would your company foresee any specific concerns or issues with this type of requirement? If so please identify. Please provide a list and examples of possible positions and associated responsibilities. If applicable, also identify the experience and/or education criteria that would be expected of these positions.
- 8) These projects are inter-provincial and companies should be aware that the most stringent provincial Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations apply. One of the indigenous social procurement measures to be implemented for these projects will be training of the workforce available from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community.
 - a) All required training will need to be provided by the Prime Contractor to the workforce being engaged from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community. Are there any concerns with this requirement?
 - b) Within your company what other types of training are typically required of your staff and how would you propose offering to the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community?



- c) What other training strategy (other than OHS) would you propose offering that could add meaningful skills development for the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community's workforce for these projects?
- d) Do you foresee any other opportunities for indigenous skills or capacity development on these project?

9) Attached is the draft IBP document, after reviewing do you foresee any concerns with the current content and format?

10) PSPC is considering various models to confirm that a supplier meets the definition of a diverse supplier. One option is that suppliers self-certify with an attestation, which would be verified by PSPC through audits throughout the life of the contract. Should PSPC use attestation (self-certification) followed by audits, or certification by established certification organizations to qualify diverse suppliers and social enterprises? What other methods would you propose we use to verify diverse suppliers?

A second option is to make use of third party organizations which verify that suppliers meet the diverse supplier definition and provide a certification for a fee such as:

<https://www.buysocialcanada.com/suppliers>
Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council
Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
Inclusive Workplace Supply Council of Canada
Social Purchasing Project (for social purpose enterprises)

11) Certification bodies typically charge a fee to certify a business as a diverse supplier or social enterprise. Are you willing to pay an extra fee to be certified? Would this type of fee create an impact on your organization?