



# THE SWEETGRASS FRAMEWORK

*Braiding Indigenous Wisdom, Modern Engineering, and Generational Stewardship*

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## A Living Pathway for Reconciliation

In many Indigenous cultures, **sweetgrass** is a sacred medicine—braided in three strands to represent healing, unity, and respect across generations.

The **Sweetgrass Framework** draws on this symbolism to guide a new way of approaching infrastructure: one that **braids Traditional Knowledge, engineering practice, and long-term stewardship** into a single living system.

This is more than inclusive design. It's a commitment to ensure that infrastructure built today **delivers lasting value for Indigenous communities**—well beyond the life of a funding cycle or project team. It is a framework for **shared understanding, capacity-building, and self-sustaining futures**, rooted in the true spirit of reconciliation.

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## The Braid: Three Interwoven Strands

### Community-Led Vision

Projects begin with Indigenous priorities—not retrofitted after the fact. Engagement is early, genuine, and enduring.

### Braided Knowledge Systems

Indigenous science, oral histories, and land-based values are woven with technical tools and engineering expertise—each strand strengthening the other.

### Stewardship for Generations

Infrastructure is designed to support culture, resilience, and community sovereignty for decades to come—supported by tools, training, and knowledge transfer.

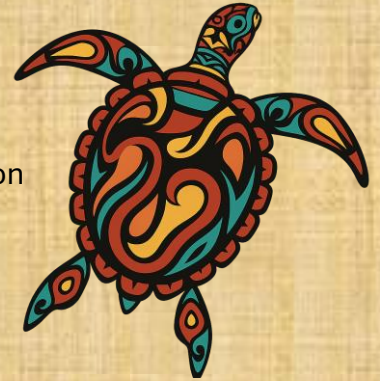
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## Embedding Reconciliation and Resilience in Infrastructure Development

- **Guidance for C-5 and other Infrastructure Development**  
Clear, actionable tools to align infrastructure development with reconciliation principles and funding requirements.
- **Templates, Governance Models & Knowledge-Sharing Tools**  
Flexible, co-created resources that support Indigenous self-determination in planning, delivery, and long-term stewardship.
- **Land-Based Design Approaches**  
Infrastructure that honors land, culture, and Indigenous governance—embedding those values into both process and form.
- **Standards to Strengthen Sovereignty**  
Support for Indigenous-led development of infrastructure standards—empowering Nations to define expectations and guide decision-making.
- **Capacity Development for a Self-Sustaining Future**  
Training, mentorship, and partnerships that build long-term knowledge and reduce reliance on external consultants



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## Why It Matters

We have a responsibility to ensure that the billions invested in infrastructure today **don't just pass through Indigenous lands—but serve Indigenous futures.**

The **Sweetgrass Framework** offers a clear, respectful, and culturally grounded way to do just that. It's not about control—it's about **collaboration, continuity, and care.**

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## Walking Together

Whether you're a Nation stewarding your land, a municipal partner seeking to do better, or a project team looking to align with reconciliation goals—**The Sweetgrass Framework** is here to support shared success.

Let's build more than infrastructure. Let's build trust, capability, and futures that flourish.

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