

## **MEA Clarification March 2023**

### **Archaeological Screening and References**

Protecting archaeological resources is often very important to Indigenous Communities. An Archaeological Screening Process (ASP) has been developed to assist proponents to identify the potential for a project to impact archaeological resources. Proponent are encouraged to consider the factors included this process while consulting on a project that requires excavation. This could identify archaeological resources early and limit risks during implementation of the project.

The archaeological screening process consists of three questions with links to various tools and criteria under the Ontario Heritage Act. Proponents must carry out the specified research and consultation to accurately respond to each question. This includes, but is not limited to, consultation with Indigenous communities, municipal governments, and the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, and may require the assistance of a licensed archaeologist. Proponents will not be able to accurately and properly answer the questions in the screening without the knowledge and assistance of other parties.

Some municipal proponents have an established relationship with Indigenous Communities and may have regular meetings to share information about upcoming projects and initiatives. It is appropriate for municipalities to use these meetings to discuss information on archaeological resources to respond to the checklists required by question 1 of the archaeological screening process. A consultation record should be maintained as part of the documentation for the undertaking/project.

For further information see the Archaeological Screening Process in Appendix 1 of the MCEA

#### **References**

Proponents wishing to find more information on Indigenous consultation requirements may find the Province's website on this topic informative:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/duty-consult-aboriginal-peoples-ontario>