

# Surveying and Geospatial Opportunities with First Nation Peoples

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## SUMMARY

The Everick Foundations Indigenous community-led cultural mapping program stands as a cutting edge initiative aimed at using modern technology to assist in preserving the rich cultural heritage of Indigenous communities. Focusing on cost effectiveness and accessibility, this program leverages iPads for data collection and review, ESRI Field Maps for data recording and ArcGIS Online for data management and visualisation. It provides simple, best in class technology in a format that is widely accessible to a broad range of community members. □The Indigenous community-led framework is a major component of this program. It prioritises community members working together to identify outcomes that are important to them. This includes making decisions about public access, sharing of data, restrictions on data (for example gendered sites or sacred sites) and the management of intellectual property. Community members are the leaders of the project, ensuring that their knowledge, perspectives, and cultural practices are represented, respected and recorded in an authentic and accurate manner. □The cultural mapping program's success has been strengthened through the training provided by Everick Foundations professional staff. Through the delivery of on ground training sessions, supported by video and written instructions loaded onto iPads, community members are being equipped with the necessary skills to effectively use field equipment and software. The training not only increases the community's technical skills but also builds confidence among participants, young and old, allowing them to independently conduct cultural mapping activities. Using GPS enabled iPads and mobile phones for data collection provides users an efficient platform for recording cultural information. Trained community members can easily capture cultural site locations, stories, and practices. The utilisation of capabilities such as photos, videos, can be utilised for interviewing knowledge holders in relation to cultural stories and practices. This digital approach ensures that the cultural information is preserved in a dynamic and interactive format, promoting future use and controlled distribution. The management component of the ArcGIS Online system also permits the sharing of selected or

specific features with individuals outside of the community in a secure manner while maintaining control over sensitive data. □ Everick's Indigenous community-led cultural mapping systems support a powerful combination of traditional knowledge with cutting-edge technology. With a focus on community lead system design, communities have developed a sense of ownership during planning, recording and data management processes, controlling access to their cultural heritage data. By leading the project, community members ensure that the cultural mapping records align with their values, priorities, and needs, while ensuring their cultural stories and practices are passed on to younger generations in a well-structured and accurate manner. □