MANDATE LETTER COMMITMENT
OVERVIEW

• December 2021 letter from the Prime Minister to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change - Minister Guilbeault

  “Identify, and prioritize the clean-up of, contaminated sites in areas where Indigenous Peoples, racialized, and low-income Canadians live.”

• Recognize the ‘right to a healthy environment’ in federal law through changes to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act

• Every Minister has been directed to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
Mandate Commitment to: “Identify and prioritize the clean-up of contaminated sites in areas where Indigenous, racialized, and low-income Canadians live”

Sites already eligible for FCSAP funding:

- All Class 1, 2, 3 federal sites on reserve lands, federal additions to reserve lands, and in the territories, regardless of when the contamination occurred
- Assessment and clean-up of high priority (i.e. Class 1 and ongoing Class 2) legacy (i.e. pre-1998) federal contaminated sites that happen to be in a community linked to the mandate commitment
- In addition to FCSAP, CIRNAC’s Northern Abandoned Mines Program addresses the 8 largest contaminated sites in the territories
MANDATE LETTER COMMITMENT

POTENTIAL APPROACH

Focus on federal contaminated sites

- Sites meeting the Mandate Letter criteria may be eligible for FCSAP funding, however currently may not be a priority for funding or there may not be enough funding and capacity in government and partners to advance work at all of these sites

Identifying possible federal sites

- CONTINUE Sites on reserve lands, in the Territories
- NEW Use Statistics Canada data at granular level to identify places with high-prevalence (greater than 25%) of (1) Indigenous Peoples (in addition to reserves and territories), (2) visible minorities and (3) low-income Canadians

Preliminary results of possible sites for action: Indigenous 2,640; racialized 260; and low-income 960

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Canada
OPEN DISCUSSION

How would you like to be involved in the planning, identification and prioritization of sites identified in the Mandate Letter Commitment?

For non-reserve sites, has past dialogue between federal custodians and Indigenous communities resulted in sites being prioritized for clean-up, for reasons like importance for traditional resources?