



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITES MANAGEMENT

Engagement with Indigenous Partners Across the NWT

FCSAP Secretariat
April 25th, 2023



Environment and Climate Change Canada's 50th anniversary
50^e anniversaire d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Meteorological Service of Canada's 150th anniversary
150^e anniversaire du Service météorologique du Canada

Canada 

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Purpose & Objectives
- Introduction to Contaminated Sites
- Federal Contaminated Site Programs in Canada
- What is the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan?
 - Progress to date (Phases I to IV)
 - Program renewal (Phases V, VI)
 - Collaboration with partners
- Federal Sites across the NWT
- Additional information



PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT

PURPOSE:

To carry out meaningful engagement in determining how Indigenous governments can be further involved in the:

- *Management of federal contaminated sites;*
- *Federal program delivery process, and*
- *Prioritization of sites to better support their communities.*



ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To gain insight from First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples on:

- 1) *Identifying priorities & gaps related to the management of federal contaminated sites;*
- 2) *How to become further involved in the contaminated sites prioritization & delivery process;*
- 3) *Identifying information, training and tools to assist communities in actively participating in the management of federal contaminated sites; and*
- 4) *The inclusion of other voices throughout all phases of engagement.*



WHAT IS A FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITE?

According to the definition adopted by the Government of Canada, a contaminated site is defined as a site at which substances occur at concentrations:

- 1) above background levels and pose or are likely to pose an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment, or
- 2) exceeding levels specified in policies and regulations.

What are federal contaminated sites?



On lands owned or leased by the federal government

On non-federal lands for which the gov't has accepted responsibility



FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITE PROGRAMS IN CANADA

The 3 main programs that support & fund the clean-up of federal contaminated sites across Canada are:

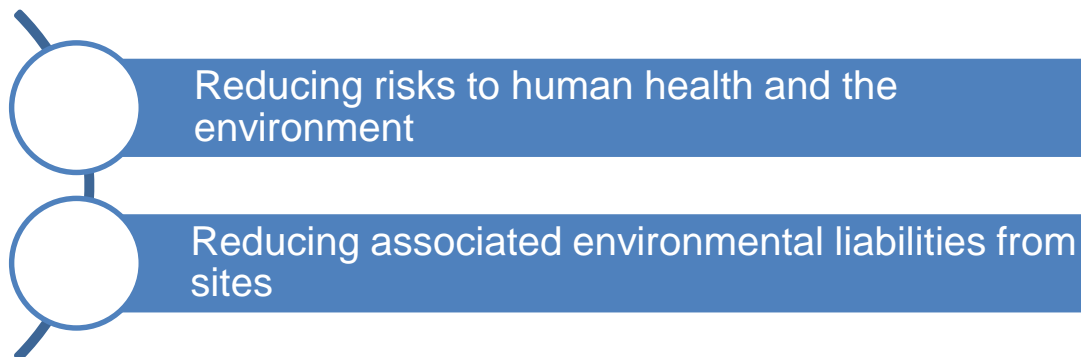
- Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (**FCSAP**)
- Northern Contaminated Sites Program (**NCSP**)
- Contaminated Sites On-Reserve Program (**CSOR**)



WHAT IS THE FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITES ACTION PLAN (FCSAP)

- Established by the Government of Canada in 2005, **FCSAP** provides funding to federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations (referred to as custodians) to manage the contaminated sites they are responsible for.

FCSAP Objectives

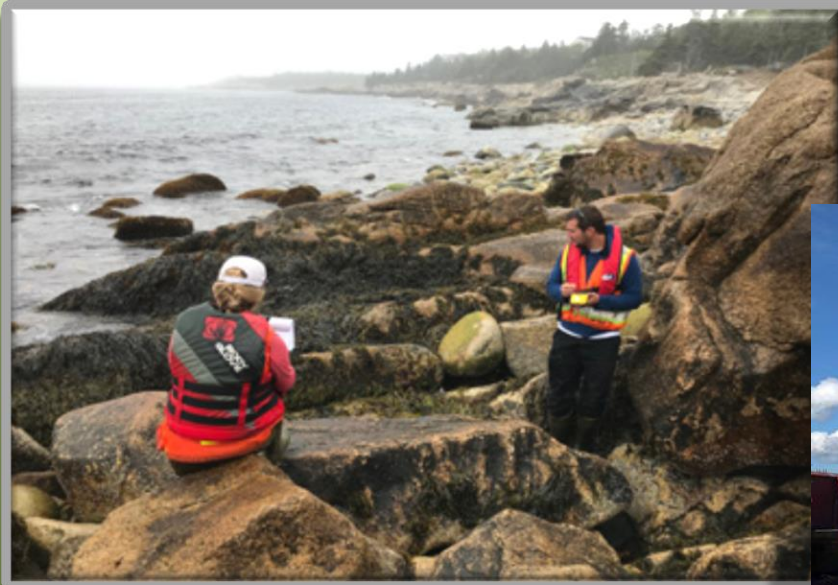


- FCSAP uses a standardized approach to examine risks to human health and the environment to prioritize sites for action
 - ❖ **Class 1 sites (high priority for action)**
 - ❖ **Class 2 sites (medium priority for action)**
 - ❖ **Class 3 sites (low priority for action)**



FCSAP PROGRAM

SITE APPROACH



FCSAP 10-STEP PROCESS

Step 1: Identify Suspect Site

Step 2: Historical Review (Phase I ESA)

Step 3: Initial Testing (Phase II ESA)

Step 4: Classify Site (Optional)

Step 5: Detailed Testing (Phase III ESA)

Step 6: Reclassify Site

Step 7: Develop Remediation/Risk Management Strategy

Step 8: Implement Remediation/Risk Management Strategy

Step 9: Confirmatory Sampling and Final Report

Step 10: Long-Term Monitoring

Assessment Phase



Remediation Phase



FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITES INVENTORY (FCSI)

The federal government keeps an inventory of federal contaminated sites; this inventory is:

- Publicly available
- Updated annually
- Accessible at: <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx>



ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

After 17 years of FCSAP (2005-2022)

\$5.0 billion investment

- World-class contaminated sites management industry in Canada

2,600 sites with remediation

- 1,800 fully remediated

Skills development and job training

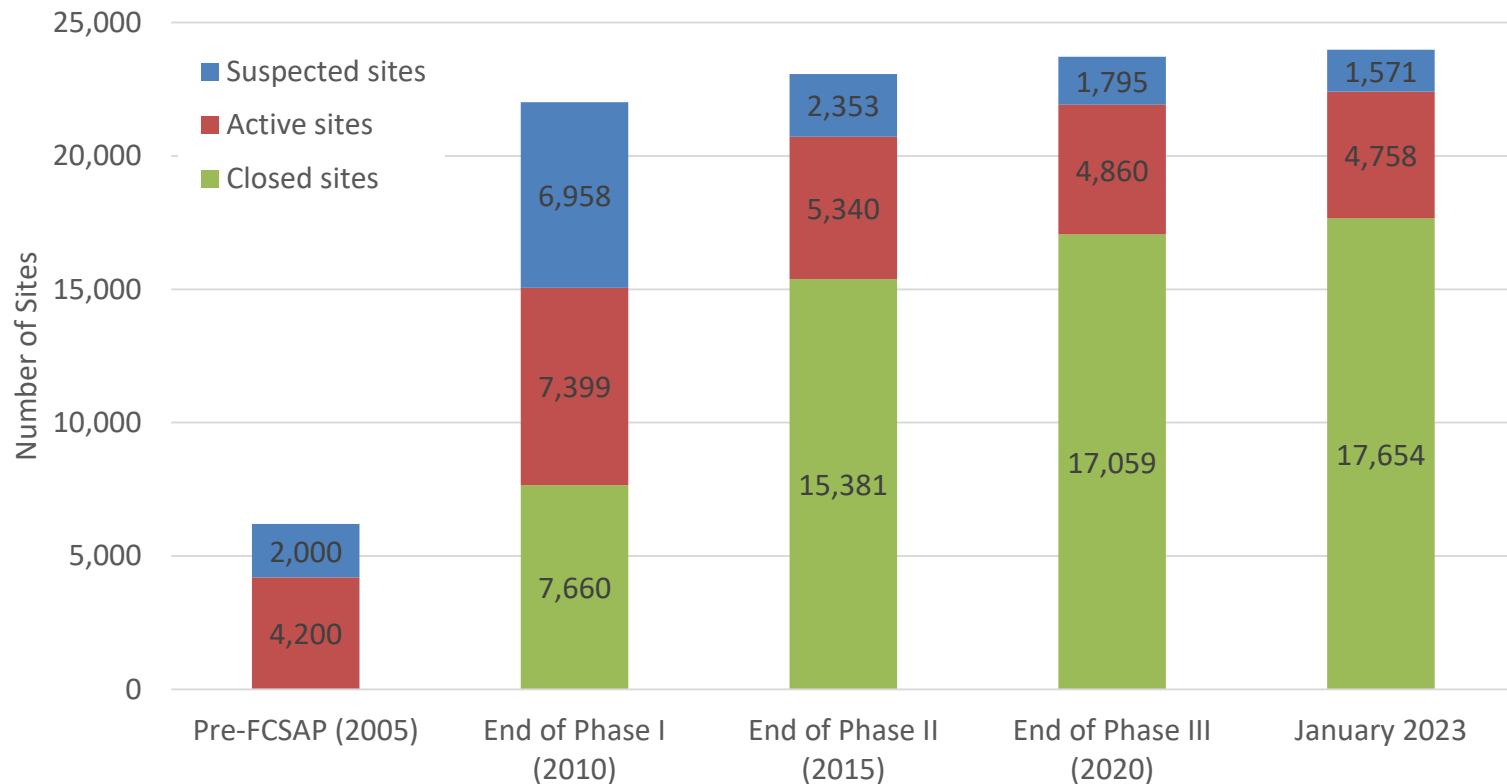
- 24,800 direct jobs; \$2.3 billion spent in Canada's North

Science development

- 88 environmental quality guidelines, technical guidance, tools



PROGRESS ON FEDERAL INVENTORY OF SITES (2005-2022)



FCSAP PROGRAM RENEWAL 15 YEARS (2020-2035)

- **Program renewed for another 15 years (2020-2035)**
- **Divided in three 5-year phases (IV, V and VI)**
- **Phase IV (2020-2025) with a Budget of \$1.16B**



FCSAP PHASE IV (2020-2025)

WHAT'S NEW?

- **Expanded Site Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Class 2 & 3 sites on reserve lands or impacting Indigenous communities in the North
- **Federal sites that have been contaminated *after 1998* are now eligible for FCSAP remediation funding if:**
 - they are located on First Nations reserves or impacting Indigenous communities in the North
 - they are being transferred by federal custodians to Indigenous Services Canada for addition to First Nations reserves
 - they have been or will be inherited by the government as the “custodian of last resort”



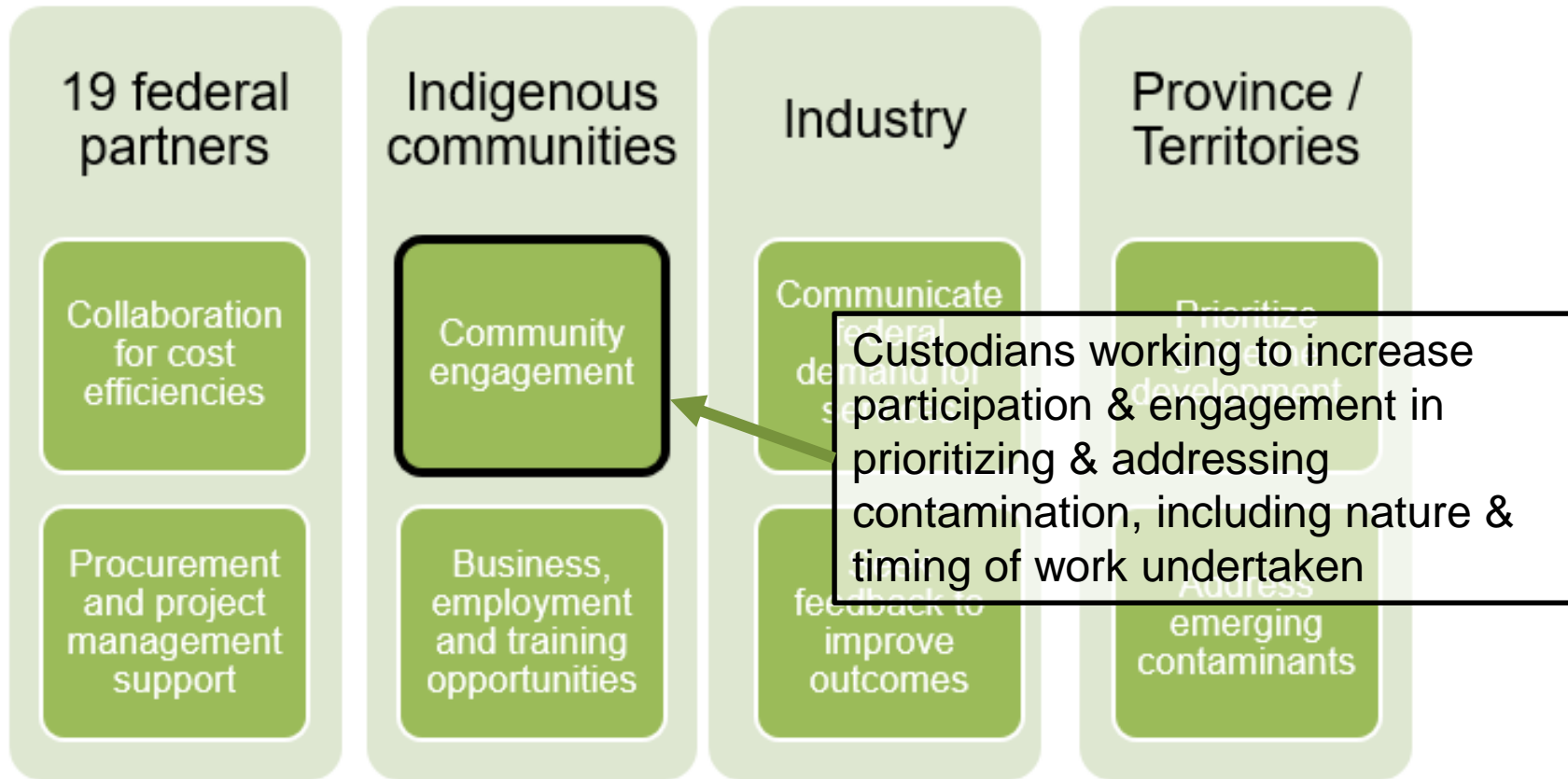
FCSAP PHASE IV (2020-2025) PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

Custodians are required to prioritize their FCSAP funding to:

- 1) **Class 1 sites & ongoing Class 2 sites** (sites with remediation expenditures prior to April 1, 2020)
- 2) **New Class 2 & Class 3 sites**, if:
 - they are located on First Nations reserves or impacting Indigenous communities in the North
 - they can be bundled with a Class 1 or ongoing Class 2 site

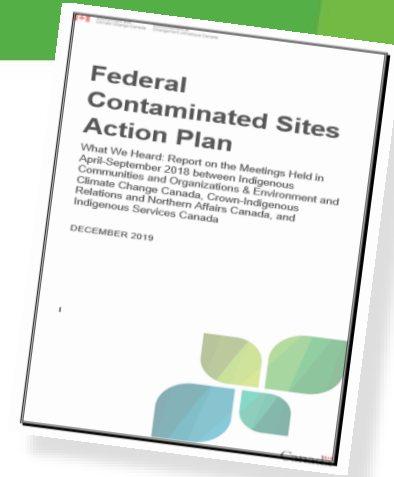


COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES & STAKEHOLDERS



FCSAP INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **2018 Engagement Sessions**
 - Preparing for Phase IV
- **2019 What We Heard Report**
 - **Recommendations**
 - Improved information sharing & regular updates
 - More direct involvement in all aspects & stages of the remediation process
 - Accelerate clean-up of sites in Indigenous communities
 - Increased socio-economic benefits and participation
 - Clarification of federal, provincial/territorial and municipal roles & coordination at non-federal sites
 - Prevent future contamination events
 - **Implementation Measures**
 - ✓ Increased local engagement with Indigenous groups in prioritizing sites on reserve lands & northern communities
 - ✓ Expansion of site eligibility & prioritization of Class 2 and 3 sites
 - ✓ Strengthen coordination efforts where federal sites intersect with those of other parties
 - ✓ On separate track, ISC & ECCC have been engaging with First Nations to identify a path forward on addressing the environmental protection gap on First Nation reserve lands
- **2020/21 & Beyond: Follow-up & Outreach Sessions, 2023 Engagement**



FCSAP INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

- **2022 FCSAP Engagement Guidance**

- Based on recommendations and lessons learned from the 2018 What We Heard Report
- Focuses on identifying priorities and bridging gaps in the management of federal contaminated sites that impact Indigenous groups in Canada

- **GOC Mandate Letter Commitment**

- *“Identify, and prioritize the clean-up of, contaminated sites in areas where Indigenous Peoples, racialized and low-income Canadians live”.*
- Improved collaboration and engagement with Indigenous partners will help shape the program to address this commitment.



NORTHERN REGION

FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITES



PAST FCSAP INVESTMENTS (2005-2022)

| | Yukon | Northwest Territories | Nunavut |
|--|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| Investments | \$700M | \$1.0B | \$588M |
| Assessment Sites (AS) | 75 | 834 | 509 |
| Remediation Sites (RS) | 40 | 98 | 96 |
| (AS) Closed or Fully Assessed | 67 | 773 | 459 |
| (RS) Closed or Fully Remediated | 24 | 70 | 87 |



FUTURE PLANNED FCSAP INVESTMENTS (2023-2025)

| | Yukon | Northwest Territories | Nunavut |
|--|-------|-----------------------|---------|
| Investments | \$16M | \$67M | \$62M |
| Assessment Sites (AS) | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Remediation Sites (RS) | 15 | 37 | 53 |
| (AS) Closed or Fully Assessed | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| (RS) Closed or Fully Remediated | 11 | 26 | 42 |



FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITES & CUSTODIANS

| Federal Contaminated Sites | Yukon | Northwest Territories | Nunavut |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Suspected | 4 | 76 | 25 |
| Active | 45 | 146 | 154 |
| Closed | 98 | 1,443 | 628 |
| Total Sites | 147 | 1,665 | 807 |

| Custodians with Sites | Yukon | Northwest Territories | Nunavut |
|--|-------|-----------------------|---------|
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), | 29 | 835 | 281 |
| Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National Defence (DND), | 0 | 0 | 70 |
| Transport Canada (TC), | 48 | 41 | 41 |
| Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), | 13 | 34 | 45 |
| Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), | 0 | 35 | 0 |
| Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), | 0 | 673 | 319 |
| Parks Canada Agency (PCA), | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Custodians | 29 | 118 | 51 |



NWT REGION

CASE STUDIES



CASE STUDY #1 - REMEDIATION AT THE FORT RELIANCE FORMER WEATHER STATION

Location: Fort Reliance, Northwest Territories

Custodian: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

- The site is approx. 270 km east of Yellowknife, within the Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.
- Since 1993, the site has been vacant, with the exception of a small automated weather station still operated by ECCC.
- In 2019-2020 ECCC implemented a 3 month remediation and risk-management plan to address contamination.
- Success of the project can be contributed to coordination, active participation and formal consultations with the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, MVLWB, consulting firm & contractors.
- During decommissioning and remediation of the site, PCA designated 5 buildings as federal heritage buildings.



Source: FCSAP Annual Report 2019 - 2020

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/eccc/En1-43-2020-eng.pdf



CASE STUDY #2 - EDÉHZHÍE DEHCHO PROTECTED AREA AND PROPOSED NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA

Location: Dehcho Region, Northwest Territories

Custodian: ECCC; co-managed with Dehcho First Nations

- The Edézhzhíe Dehcho Protected Area is located within the remote wilderness of the Dehcho Region approximately 200 km west of Yellowknife.
- The area has great ecological and cultural significance for the Dehcho & Tłı̨chǫ Dene people, and nearby communities.
- Edézhzhíe is co-managed by the Dehcho First Nations & Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) with ECCC to conserve biodiversity and wildlife habitat.
- In 2020, ECCC conducted a limited Phase I ESA with the assistance of local Indigenous community members & Edézhzhíe Guardians (as well as input from local Indigenous land users & Traditional Knowledge holders).
- The assessment process continues with site visits & further collaboration.

Source: FCSAP Annual Report 2020 – 2021

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/eccc/En1-43-2021-eng.pdf



Edézhzhíe Guardian Richard Sanguez from Tłı̨chǫ'édéłı̨ (Jean Marie River) heading out on the Edézhzhíe Dehcho Protected Area

Credit: Edézhzhíe Guardian William Alger (Dehcho First Nations)

QUESTIONS





THANK YOU!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT THE ECCCC FCSAP SECRETARIAT**

AT:

FCSAP.PASCF@EC.GC.CA



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50^e anniversaire d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Meteorological Service of Canada's 150th anniversary
150^e anniversaire du Service météorologique du Canada

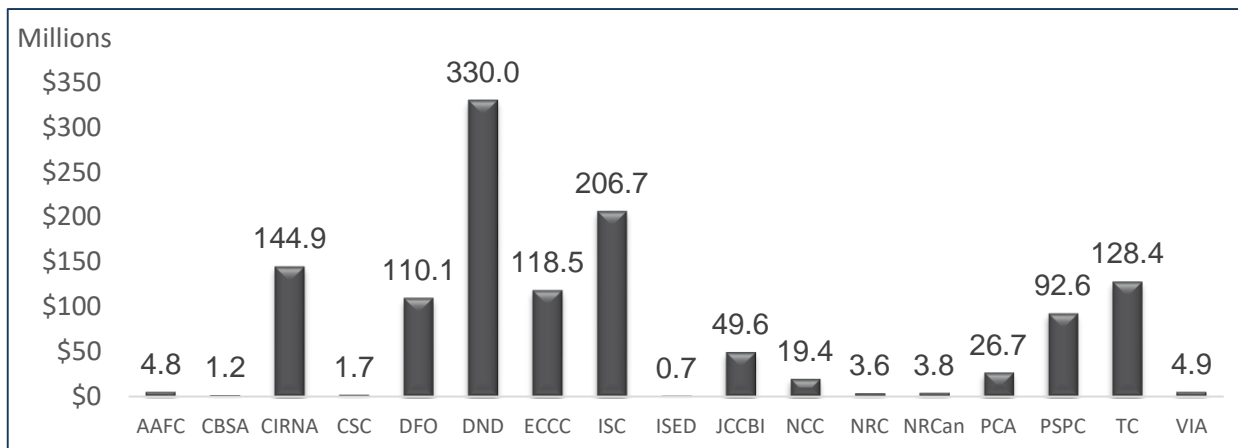
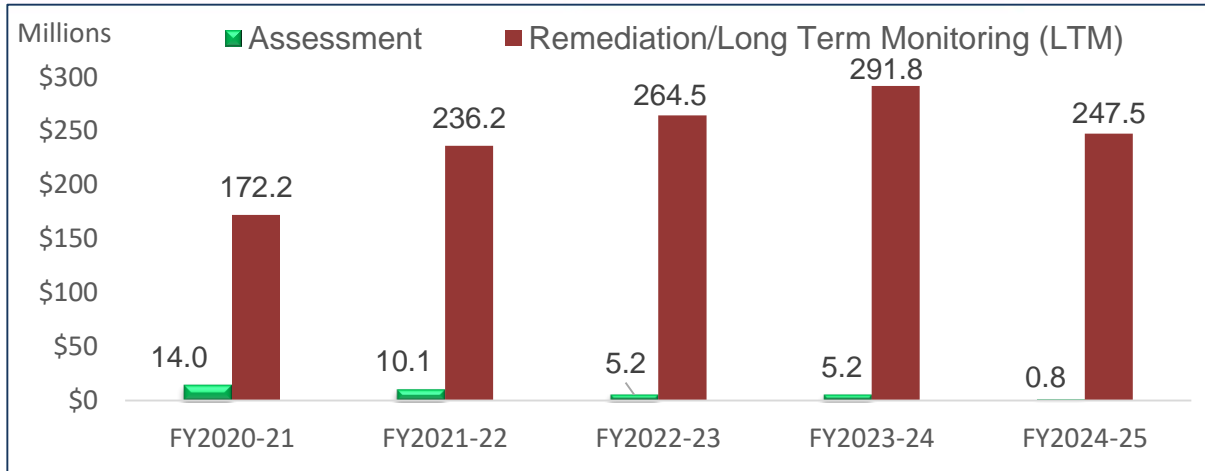
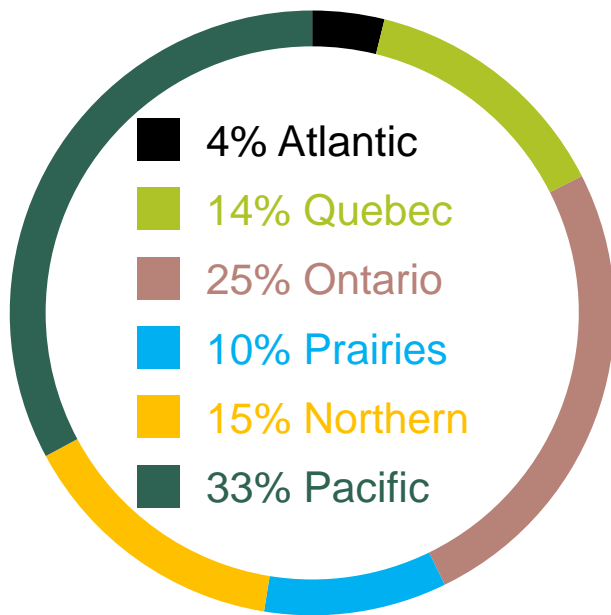
Canada 

ANNEX



NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF FCSAP PHASE IV FUNDING

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| \$1.2B | 306 | 1275 |
| Funding | Assessment Sites | Remediation & LTM Sites |



Source: FCSAP Secretariat (April 2020)



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FCSI has **23,983 sites** on it (as of January 2023). These include:

- **4,758 sites** that are being **actively** assessed or remediated;
- **1,571 sites** where contamination is only **suspected** but assessments have not begun;
- **17,654 sites** that have been **closed** after remediation was completed or after assessments found that there were no elevated risks.



FCSAP PHASE IV (2020-2025) FEDERALLY FUNDED SITES

- **Funded Sites in Phase IV:**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>

