



Manitoba Region Lands & Economic Development Directorate Environmental Planning and Management Unit

Northern First Nations Environment Workshop



January 4, 2025





Environment Unit - Core functions

- Lead the implementation of various environmental regulations and legislation, such as Impact Assessment Act, Species at Risk Act, etc.
- Conduct environmental site assessments for various regional project on reserve; Addition to Reserve and First Nation Land Management Initiative, etc.
- Undertake environmental reviews for capital projects, economic development projects, and reserve land transactions.
- Identify, assess and remediate contaminated sites and coordinate the regional Contaminated Sites on Reserve working group.
- Support and implement the National Solid Waste Management strategy on reserve.
- Responsible for the coordination of the regional climatic change program.
- Participate in the fuel storage tanks, water and wastewater programs.
- Conduct Environmental Awareness Sessions to First Nations to understand our collective statutory obligations; and conduct Environmental Learning Regimes for internal government staff.
- Coordinate regional response and participate in the Lake Winnipeg MOU Steering Committee.



Challenges:

- We continue to encounter contamination on Reserve lands that require assessment and remediation projects.
- Ongoing Fuel Tanks compliance issues and securing required funding to upgrade fuel tanks.
- The management of solid waste sites on reserve lands.
- Provide adequate information in the Environmental Review documents.
- First Nations capacity to address environmental issues.
- Climate change impacts – erosion, winter road closures, alternative energy, etc.
- Acquiring provincial approvals for ISC funded facilities off-reserve
- Funding pressures to address environmental issues on Reserve lands.
- Cross learning between First Nations and other aboriginal groups.
- Implementation of the New Impact Assessment Act.



Opportunities:

- Utilize local content when conducting environmental assessment and addressing contamination issues on reserve lands
- Working on addressing and removing solid waste from Reserve, along with developing Municipal Transfer Service Agreements
- Focus on Climatic Change - Isolation and remoteness of some First Nations, etc.
- Continue to conduct statutory environmental sessions to First Nations.
- Continuing to explore economic development opportunities through environmental stewardship.
- Working collaboratively with First Nations, the Province and other federal departments on environmental issues.
- Understanding and implementing the Impact Assessment Act.



The People in Your Neighborhood – Who Are We?

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ENVIRONMENT OFFICER LISTING; <https://gcdocs.intra.pri/aanc-inac/llisapi.dll/Overview/18959941>