

National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program

NFNECP/DWQP Program Overview

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Outline



- What is National First Nation Environmental Contaminants Program(NFNECP)?
- NFNECP Brief History
- Structure
- Proposal overview
- Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP)
- Capacity Building
- Elders and Youth Role in the program

What is NFNECP?

TECP

The National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program

- Collaborative program between First Nations University, Assembly of First Nations and Health Canada
- It supports community based, and Innovative research projects
- It provides a process so FN communities can receive one year funding for proposals who are successful recipients.
- Resource provider for FN communities looking to address health issues resulting from Environmental Contaminants
- May assist FN communities to gather information/data that may build up to another proposal/research idea for a larger funding agency (i.e. NSERC, CIHR. Etc.)

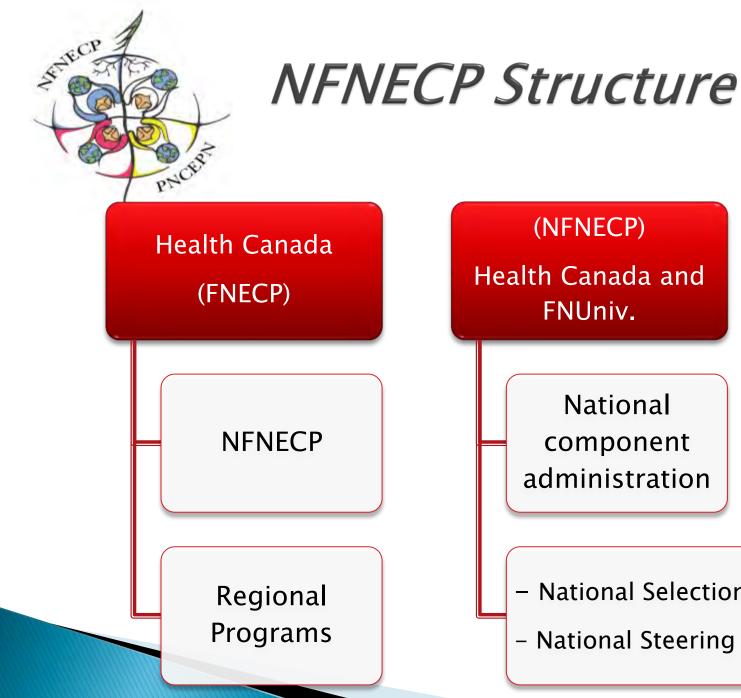
First Nations peoples have a special relationship/connection with the land



ST.ECP



- First Nations recognized as keepers of the land
 - Canada–Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable, 2004
 - First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord, 2005
- Traditional & local knowledge contributing to western & conventional scientific knowledge pools
- Federal policy renewal to incorporate TK for more comprehensive, holistic policy development
 - Canadian Environmental Protection Act – CEPA
 - Fisheries Act



(NFNECP) Health Canada and FNUniv. National component administration

- National Selection committee

- National Steering Committee



Regional

Regional Environmental Health Managers (REHM)

Administration of Regional Components

Project selection methodology varies across regions

National – NFNECP

Call for Proposals

(June (Launch)- Nov/Call closes)

Announced through www.environmentalcontaminants.ca

and other channels

Funding on a year to year basis through a competitive process

Brief Background of the Program



ATTECP

(Effects on Aboriginals from the Great Lakes Environment) Project

(1990's – 2000)

FNECP (NFNECP & RFNECP)

Both funded by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (Health Canada)



Health Canada

NFNECP Est. in1999

13th year of program and looking into the future

Brief Background of the Program

2005/06 was a transition year for administration of the Program:

AFN

Wanted to pass on the program to another FN org and become an observer Sought for orgs. to partner with Health Canada 2005 transfer from AFN to FNUniv in 2006

Brief Background of the Program

In 2006 the First Nations University of Canada emerged as a new partner and administrator of the Program.

 In 2012 the First Nations University of Canada has successfully administered the program for six years.

First Nations University of Canada Health

Canada

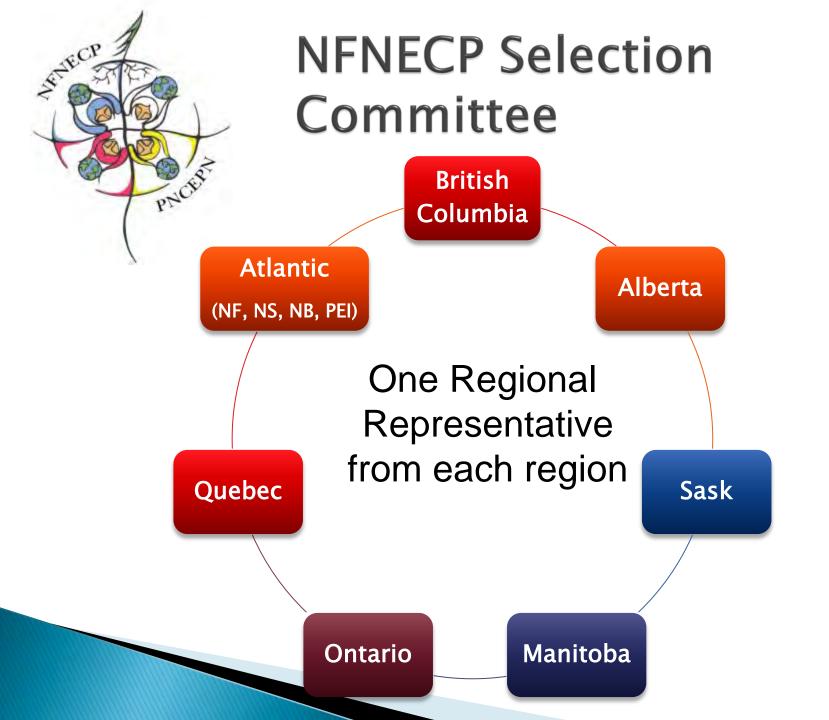
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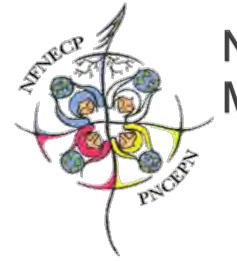
Assembly of First Nations

NFNECP Steering Commitee



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NFNECP Selection Committee Members

2009-2010





2010-2011



Call for Proposals

Call is Launched in June Communities have at least 3 months to prepare proposals First Nations/Bands across Canada

Chiefs, councillors, tribal leaders.

FN Health Representatives

www.environmentalcontaminants.ca

For more information & resources

NFNECP – Research Priority Areas

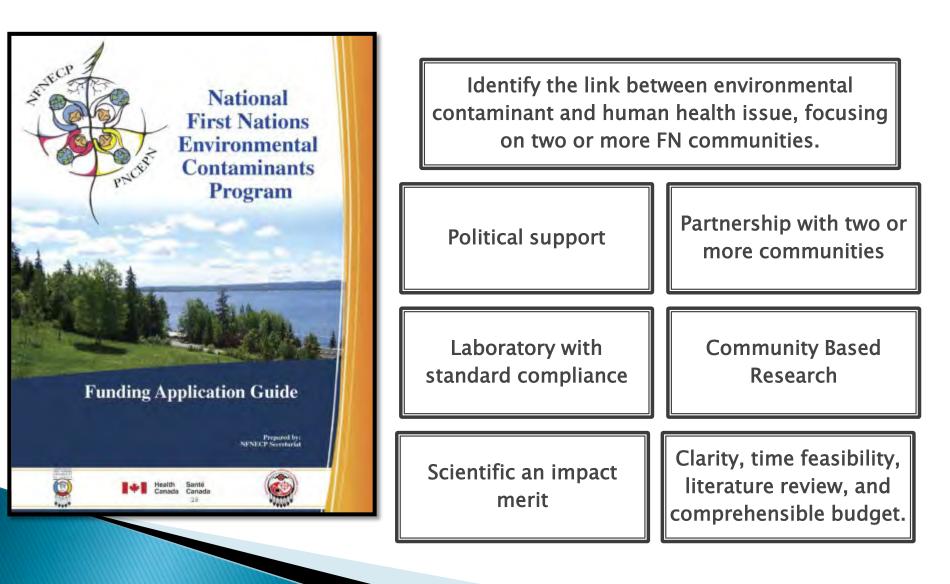
To address high priority issues in First Nations communities where people are concerned about environmental contaminants (emphasis on human health):

Human Exposure to contaminants through traditional food sources

ATTECH

Communications about contaminants and potential human health risks Developing baseline human bio-monitoring data on First Nations exposure to persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals

A successful proposal:

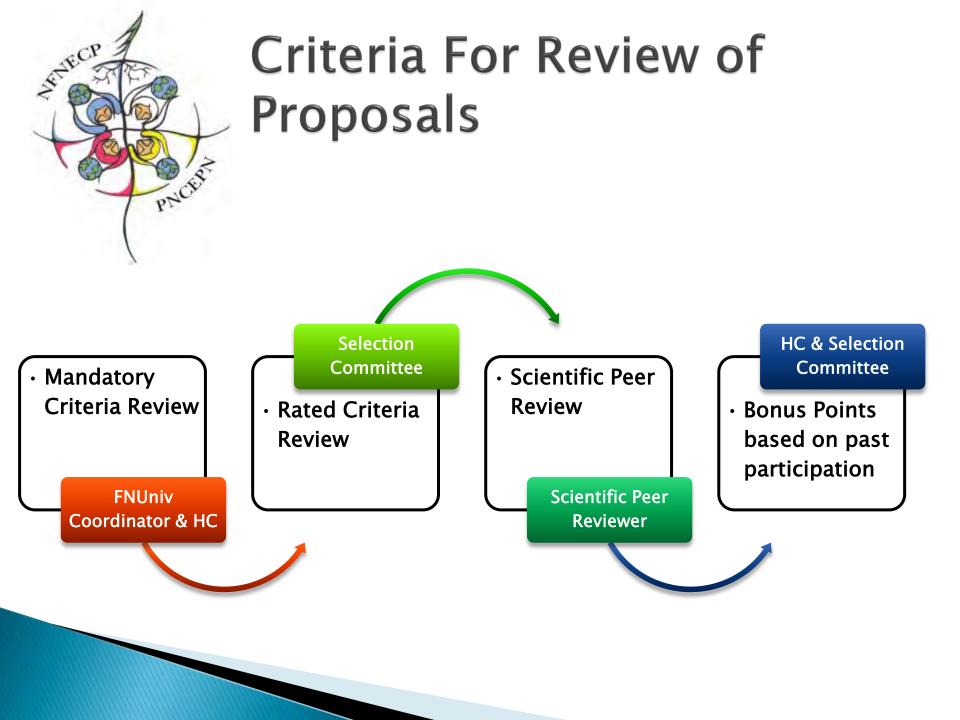




NFNECP Research Topics

Human Health issues Research Projects Must identify The LINK

Environmental Contaminants



NFNECP – Examples of Environmental Concerns (General)

Traditional way of living is being affected by environmental contamination

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Lack of information flow from environmental safety authorities Less animals, medicinal plants on traditional territories

Clearcutting

contributing to

environmental

contamination

Industrial operations are major sources of environmental contamination:

- Landfill practices

- Fish farming and released toxins

- Mining activities

- Oil and gas activities Source: FNIHB Environmental Research Division 2006

ST. ECP Proposals that have received NFNECP funding (Provincial Representation) PNCE From 2007–2008 to 2011–2012 Fiscal Years 10 7 5 4 NB SK QC AB ON BC



Examples of Proposals that have received funding by the NFNECP 2007-08 to 2011-2012

- An Investigation of Landfill Emissions in Assessing the potential for health impacts on communities within the Nlaka'pamux (BC, 2007-08)
- "Weaving together our commitments for a healthy future: studying the effects of Electro-Magnetic Fields on the health and well-being of Sto:lo individuals, families and communities." (BC, 2009-10)

 "Study on the Human Exposure to Fish Contaminants and Direct Impacts on Human Health and Fish Consumption in the Peace Region of Northeastern BC" (BC 2011-2012)



Examples of Proposals that have received funding by the NFNECP 2007-08 to 2011-2012

- Traditional Environmental monitoring and risk communication project (AB, 2007-08)
- Risk-benefit analysis of contaminants in First Nations Communities of Sachigo Lake & Slate Falls (ON, 2007-08)
- Develop a model using biological, physical and chemical water parameters to predict recreational water illnesses in the Calling Lakes area (SK, 2008-09)
- Mapping of the contaminants affecting the health of the First Nations in New-Dranswick (NB, 2008-09)



Examples of Proposals that have received funding by the NFNECP 2007-08 to 2011-2012

- The use of traditional knowledge to identify key cultural resources to be tested for contamination and the link to human health (AB, 2009–10)
- Environmental contaminants and its impacts on wild Atlantic salmon in relations to Mi'gmaq communities (QC, 2009–10)
 - Western James Bay watershed contamination and human health (ON. 2010-2011)
- Environmental Contaminant Exposure Risks in Aboriginal Territories (QC, 2011–2012)



 Spring 2009 at the annual NFNECP Steering Committee meeting, the FNUniv NFNECP Program Coordinator developed another partnership, along with the NFNECP Steering Committee members to administer the Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP).



- Research Themes: The research topic chosen MUST fall under one of the following three themes:
 - Develop a tool or project to build monitoring capacity; increased monitoring capacity will encourage communities to better protect their health and initiatives to help build monitoring capacity, expertise, and community involvement.



2. Identifying the sources of pollutants or microorganisms in drinking water that are known to have human health effects. Research areas could include:

Bacteria, viruses and parasites: Projects could identify the source of microorganisms. Blue-green algae blooms: Monitoring blooms for toxicity Disinfectant by-products. Radionuclides: Identification of radionuclide sources if data levels indicate this should be a concern

Develop project on source 3. water protection in order to assess potential environmental threats (pollution, algal blooms, watershed degradation, etc.), that may pose a public health risk to water sources in First Nations communities



- Funding available up to \$50,000.00
- Can a community apply to the NFNECP and the DWQP?
 - Yes, but the work in one program must not be duplicated in the other program.
- Mandatory Criteria similar to NFNECP – EXCEPT DWQP one FN community can apply.
 Please refer to the DWQP Funding application guide.

Capacity Building



Provincial Capacity Building Workshop – Saskatchewan 2008

PNCER

 There has been limited participation in the Program from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

Fall 2008 the NFNECP hosted a workshop at the FNUniv for Saskatchewan First Nations



Taking Care of Mother Earth, September 2008





FNUniv Laboratory – Youth Capacity Building







Traditional Plants and Medicines





National Capacity Building Workshop in March, 2009

- Spring 2009, the NFNECP invited those that had previously applied to the Program and had not received funding to attend a Proposal Writing Workshop.
- Hosted at the FNUniv.
- The NFNECP Steering Committee attended and provided feedback to those First Nations communities who attended the workshop

Mother Earth Matters –Building Capacity Within Our First Nations Communities in Canada

Vancouver, September 2009

 Tools and tips for the development of proposals to apply for NFNECP/DWQP funding

Day 1:

- Importance of Traditional knowledge and scientific/western knowledge
- Importance of capacity building

Day 2

- Discussion groups & networking
- Hands on learning

Role of Elders with NFNECP



- Observers in the selection process of Proposals
- Wisdom, guidance, knowledge and Leadership
- Help build consensus and set the "tone" for activities within the program
- Encourage positive and productive dialogue

Role of NFNECP Youth Representative

The Youth Representative role includes:

Brings concerns of FN Youth to Steering committee

ATTECP

Observer in Selection and Steering committees

Discussion of ideas with other youth Develops groups interested in environmental contaminants

NFNECP Youth Representative

- Fields of academic focus for youth representatives:
- Environmental Health and Sciences (ENHS)
- Indigenous Health Studies
- Any other areas within the Sciences
- First Nations University of Canada offers science programs and holistic support systems based on Indigenous knowledge, natural laws, philosophies, practices and contemporary needs.



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