

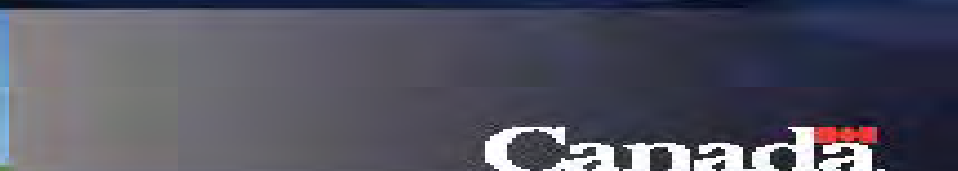
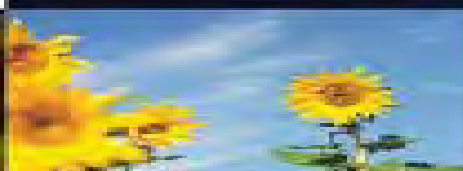
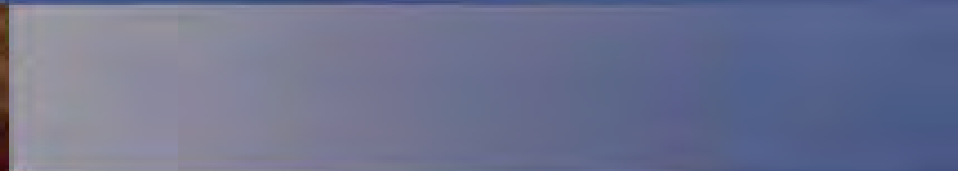
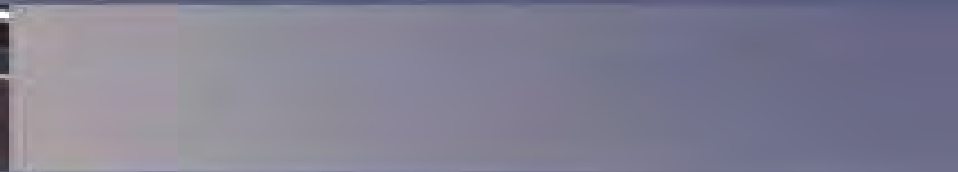


Health  
Canada

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FIRST NATIONS

# Environmental Public Health Program



Canada

# Environmental Public Health Overview

- Conditions in the environment, both natural and human-built, can affect a person's ability to achieve and maintain good health.
- An Environmental Public Health Program prevents or identifies environmental public health risks that could impact the health of community residents.
- It also includes recommending corrective action to reduce these risks.
- In support of Health Canada's mission to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health, the First Nations Environmental Public Health Program provides services to First Nations communities south of 60 degrees.



# Role of Environmental Health Officers

- EHOs provide advice, guidance, education, public health inspections and recommendations to First Nations and their leadership to help them manage public health risks associated with the environment.
- They gather data required to analyze what steps can be taken to promote public health in First Nations communities.
- Some EHOs are employed by Health Canada and some by First Nations or Tribal Councils.
- All EHOs working in First Nations communities must have a Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada).



# Ontario Organization of EPHS

## • Thunder Bay East

- 39 First Nation communities
- 1 Senior EHO – Sudbury
- 5 EHOs: Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury(2), Timmins(2)

## • Southern Ontario

- 25 First Nations
- 1 Senior EHO - Brantford
- 5 EHOs: London, Brantford, Washago, Toronto, Ottawa
- 1 transferred EHO serving Akwesasne

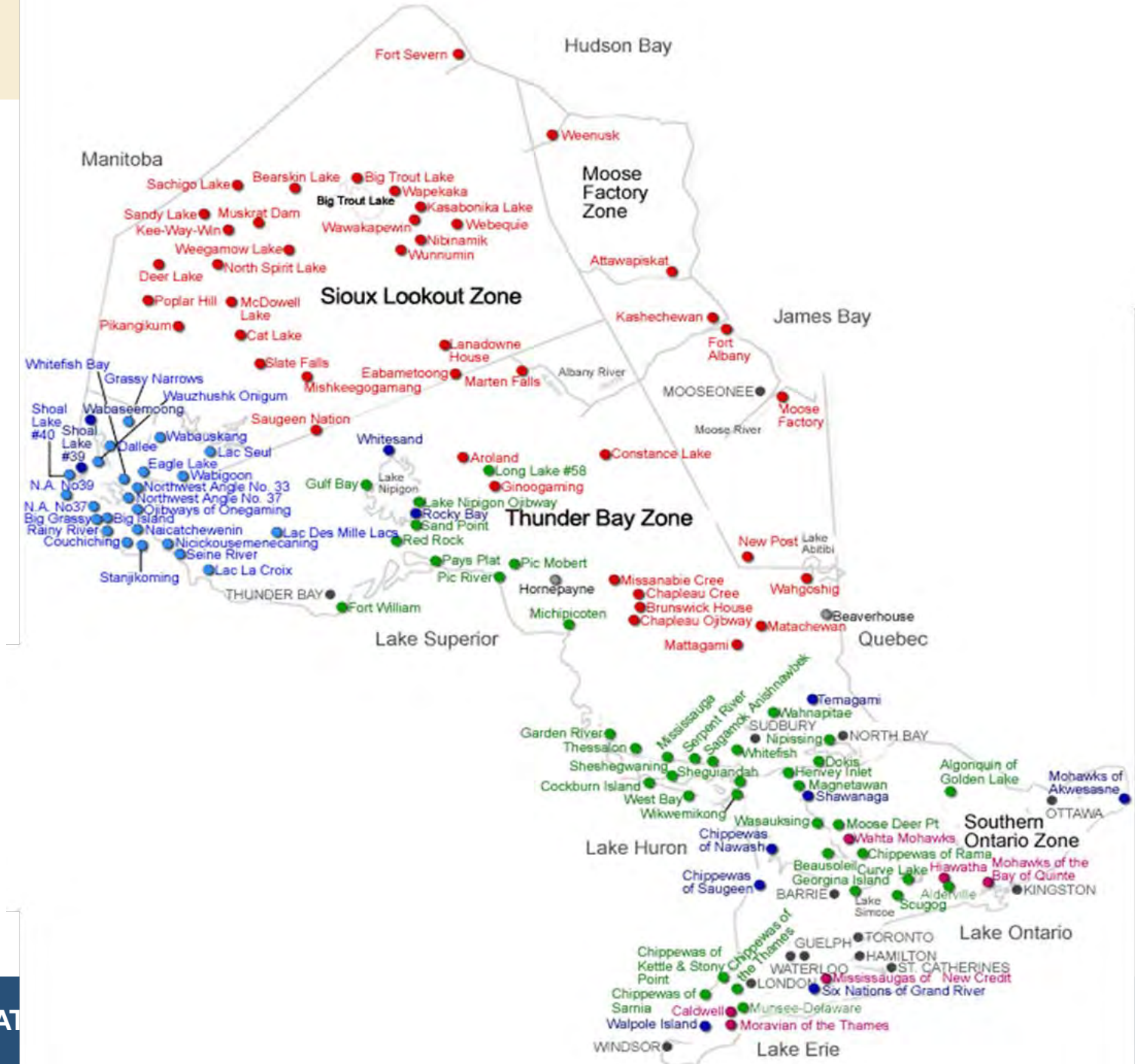
## • Thunder Bay West

- 39 First Nation communities
- 1 Senior EHO - Thunder Bay
- 4 EHOs: Kenora, Fort Frances, Thunder Bay (2)

## •Sioux Lookout

- 31 First Nations
- 1 Senior EHO - Sioux Lookout
- 4 EHOs: all in Sioux Lookout





# Commitment to First Nations

**Health Canada's Environmental Public Health Program is committed to providing First Nations with a high-quality environmental public health program through:**

- Collaboration with First Nations to formulate Environmental Public Health Program activities;
- Timely response to the environmental public health needs of communities;
- Advocacy and expertise in environmental public health;
- Support for the development of First Nations capacity in environmental public health;
- Use of culturally appropriate education and promotion techniques;
- Recognition that environmental public health is part of the holistic approach to wellness;
- Respect of First Nations cultures and their special relationships with the environment.



# Authorities

- FNIHB provides or funds environmental public health programs services to First Nations based on discretionary government policy and considerations in the absence of any statutory authority.

Policies are consistent with:

- The 1979 Indian Health Policy
- The *Department of Health Act*
- The federal jurisdiction over “Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians” under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*.



# Authorities

- The Program is funded or delivered pursuant to parameters set out in the *National Framework for the Environmental Public Health Program in First Nations Communities South of 60°*, and it is at the request and/or with the agreement of First Nations Authorities.
- The Department owes a duty of care when activities are undertaken and can be held liable in negligence if services are not performed diligently.





# Environmental Public Health Programming

- The following slides describe activities that may be undertaken based on the needs of communities.
- Not all of the activities described here are delivered in every community, and additional activities not mentioned here may be undertaken.
- Activities such as inspections, training sessions and public education are provided routinely as per the frequencies agreed upon by Environmental Health Officers in community workplans, or as required, at the request of Chiefs and Councils.



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# Drinking Water

Access to safe and reliable drinking water is essential. The Environmental Public Health Program undertakes activities related to drinking water safety in First Nations communities.

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Monitor to verify the quality of drinking water:

Sampling and testing of community distribution systems, cisterns and public- access wells is conducted by EHOs and Community Based Water Monitors, which may include Water Quality Technicians and Community Health Representatives.

- Review and interpret drinking water quality results according to the latest version of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality including bacteriological, chemical, physical and radiological parameters.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to First Nations communities about drinking water safety issues.
- Review plans for new or upgraded community water systems from a public health perspective.
- Investigate suspected problems with community drinking water supplies as required.

# Drinking Water

## Activities (continued)

### 2) Public education:

- Provide public education to Chiefs, Councils, and community residents about safe drinking water and risk prevention.

### 3) Training:

- Provide training, orientation and regular refreshers to Community Based Water Quality Monitors.



# Food Safety

Food safety includes the proper supply, storage, preparation and distribution of food. The Environmental Public Health Program works with Chiefs, Councils, food service operators, community meal programs and residents to prevent foodborne illness in First Nations communities. The Environmental Public Health Program addresses public health issues related to both traditional and conventional foods.

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Provide public health inspections of public food service facilities and community gatherings such as pow-wows, Treaty Days and sports competitions.
- Review of plans for new or upgraded food service facilities from a public health perspective.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to Chiefs, Councils, owners, operators, and First Nations residents about public health issues related to food safety.
- Notify community of food recalls.



# Food Safety

## Activities (continued)

### 2) Public education:

- Provide public education to community residents about food safety including sources, storage, preparation and distribution of both traditional and conventional foods in food service establishments and at home.

### 3) Training:

- Deliver food handler training to food service personnel and volunteers at community gatherings.



# Health and Housing

A healthy home means that residents have the physical and social conditions necessary for health, safety, hygiene and comfort. The Environmental Public Health Program works with First Nations communities and other agencies to help address public health issues in housing.

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Provide public health inspections of on-reserve public/social housing upon request. Inspections may include the evaluation of indoor air quality, contaminants, pest control, water supply, solid and liquid waste disposal, general safety, structural defects and overcrowding.
- Review plans from a public health perspective for new housing developments and renovations.
- Provide advice guidance and recommendations to Chiefs, Councils, community workers and occupants related to all stages of housing: site/design, construction, occupancy, demolition.

### 2) Public education:

- Provide public education to Chiefs, Councils, community workers and occupants about how to maintain a safe and healthy home.

### 3) Training:

- Provide training sessions upon request on public health issues related to housing.



# Wastewater

Wastewater, also known as sewage, can be harmful to humans as it is capable of spreading diseases and polluting surface and groundwater sources. The Environmental Public Health Program has a role in community wastewater treatment plants as well as on-site sewage disposal systems in order to minimize associated public health risks.

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Provide site and installation inspections for new and expanded on-site sewage (wastewater) disposal systems.
- Respond to complaints by providing public health inspections of existing on-site sewage disposal systems when appropriate.
- Review plans for new and upgraded on-site sewage disposal systems from a public health perspective.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations related to on-site sewage disposal systems, including information on appropriate decommissioning of sites.
- Inspect wastewater treatment plants if there is a public health concern.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations related to wastewater treatment plants.
- Review plans for new and upgraded wastewater treatment plants from a public health perspective.



# Wastewater

## Activities (continued)

### 2) Public education:

- Provide public education to home occupants and owners about how to properly maintain an on-site sewage disposal system and about risk prevention related to sewage discharge.





# Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste, or garbage, presents a public health hazard if it is not managed properly. For example, tires, appliances, furniture, and abandoned cars may pose health and safety risks. Waste disposal sites can attract disease-spreading pests and can leach pollutants that contaminate the air, soil and water, including drinking water supplies. The Environmental Public Health Program works with the community and other agencies to help limit public health risks posed by solid waste disposal.

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Provide public health inspections of disposal sites and transfer stations. Inspections evaluate the method of solid waste collection, site operation, containment of waste, types of waste being disposed, pest control, soil conditions, groundwater conditions, and leachate analysis.
- Review plans for new or upgraded solid waste disposal sites or practices (e.g., transfer stations) from a public health perspective.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to Chiefs, Councils, builders, owners, site operators and First Nations residents about public health issues related to solid waste disposal.
- Review plans and provide recommendations to Chiefs, Councils and site operators for safe decommissioning of disposal sites.



# Solid Waste Disposal

## Activities (continued)

### 2) Public education:

- Provide public education with respect to public health aspects of solid waste disposal.
- Provide information / referrals related to recycling programs, disposal of hazardous waste (e.g., batteries, paints), and safe collection and storage of waste, upon request.



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# Facilities Inspections

Environmental Public Health Program staff work with First Nations communities, owners, operators, employees and users of facilities to help prevent the spread of communicable disease, minimize public health risks and reduce safety hazards.

## Types of facilities:

- **Health facilities:** Health centres/clinics, nursing stations, hospitals and long-term care facilities.
- **Community care facilities:** Day-cares, group homes, Head Starts, nursing homes, schools, youth drop in centres, retirement homes, treatment centres and wellness centres.
- **Recreational facilities:** Arenas, beaches, billiard halls, bingo halls, bowling alleys, campgrounds, casinos, community centres, curling rinks, golf courses, playgrounds, parks and swimming facilities. In addition, seasonal monitoring of recreational water may be provided.
- **General facilities:** Administration offices, animal shelters, barber shops, bed and breakfasts, fire stations, funeral homes, gas stations, hair salons, hotels, industrial sites, lodges, marinas, motels, pet stores, police stations, prison/holding cells, rooming houses and tattoo parlours.
- **Temporary Special Event Facility:** Community gatherings such as pow-wows, Treaty Days and sports competitions.



# Facilities Inspections

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Provide routine inspections of facilities and additional inspections upon request. The scope of inspections includes general sanitation, safety conditions, food safety practices, water quality, sewage and solid waste disposal, crowding and air quality.
- Review plans for new or renovated facilities from a public health perspective, on request.
- Provide information on decommission/renovation hazards that could adversely impact the health of community residents, on request.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to Chiefs, Councils, owners, operators, employees and users of facilities pertaining to public health.

### 2) Public education:

- Deliver public education and awareness sessions for Chiefs, Councils, facility operators and community members regarding health and safety within facilities.



# Communicable Disease Control

The Environmental Public Health Program is responsible for the environmental public Health component of communicable disease control. All regular Program activities (e.g., public health inspections, water monitoring, food handler training) aim to prevent illness and the spread of communicable diseases. Specific surveillance, investigation and educational activities are also undertaken to address environmental health communicable diseases (i.e., those that are foodborne or waterborne (e.g., *E. coli*) or vectorborne (e.g., West Nile virus).

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Undertake surveillance activities occur as required to prevent and address cases of communicable diseases.
- Work with Chiefs, Councils and other public health staff (e.g., Community Health Nurses, the Regional Medical Officer, provincial authorities, as required) to address suspected or confirmed cases of environmental health communicable diseases. EHOs may aid in investigation, source identification, sampling and monitoring, upon request.
- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to Chiefs, Councils, owners, operators, employees and First Nations residents about environmental public health issues related to communicable disease control.



# Communicable Disease Control

## Activities (continued)

### 2) Public education:

- Provide public education to Chiefs, Councils and community residents to create awareness about environmental health communicable diseases.

### 3) Training:

- Provide training to health and First Nations workers about the environmental public health component of communicable disease control



# Emergency Preparedness and Response

First Nations communities need to prepare for and respond to emergencies such as floods, forest fires, chemical spills, storms, contamination of food or water supplies and disease outbreaks.

The Environmental Public Health Program works with partners to ensure environmental public health considerations are included in emergency planning and response activities.

## Activities

### 1) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to Chiefs, Councils and First Nations residents about environmental public health issues related to emergency preparedness and response.
- Participate in the development of First Nations' Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans.

### *In the event of an emergency:*

- Assess emergency locations and advise the Emergency Response Team of how to reduce associated environmental public health risks.
- Provide public health inspections of temporary accommodations, residential and public buildings, drinking water, food services, solid waste and wastewater disposal systems, as required.
- Provide food handler training, drinking water sampling, and other emergency environmental public health services as required.

### 2) Public education:

- Provide communities with information on environmental public health as it relates to emergency preparedness and response.



# Environmental Contaminants, Research and Risk Assessment

People may be exposed to many sources of naturally occurring and man-made environmental contaminants. At certain levels, exposure to contaminants in air, water, food and soil can cause or contribute to a variety of adverse health effects, such as cancer, gastrointestinal illnesses, respiratory diseases and birth defects. The Environmental Public Health Program undertakes activities related to environmental contaminants and supports research to identify, measure and prevent associated risks.

## Activities

### 1) Research:

- Assist Chiefs and Councils or community groups to formulate research questions in response to concerns expressed by the community.
- Assist communities to develop linkages with academic and research institutions that can be partners in developing research project proposals.
- Encourage communities to submit proposals for funding to the National or Regional First Nations Environmental Contaminants Programs.
- Provide advice concerning research projects.





# Environmental Contaminants, Research and Risk Assessment



## Activities (continued)

### 2) Environmental Public Health Assessment:

- Work with Chiefs, Councils, community health authorities and residents to address suspected or confirmed public health risks associated with environmental contaminants.
- Assist communities in interpreting research results.

### 3) Public education:

- Provide public education about environmental contaminants to Chiefs, Councils and community residents.

# Community based research project opportunities...



# The National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (NFNECP)

- a collaborative initiative that supports community-based research on environmental contaminants trends in relation to human health
- focusing on First Nations communities south of the 60th parallel
- program is designed to address issues of national impact that are common to First Nations across Canada
- projects inform communities about potential risks, enable them to make better decisions, and help initiate or influence remediation on the foundation of better knowledge





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# National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program

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## Sign Up for Program News!

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Last Name:

Community:

Email:

### The National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (NFNECP)

The *NFNECP* is a collaborative initiative that supports community-based research on environmental contaminants trends in relation to human health focusing on First Nations communities south of the 60th parallel. The program is designed to address issues of national impact that are common to First Nations across Canada. Projects inform communities about potential risks, enable them to make better decisions, and help initiate or influence remediation on the foundation of better knowledge.



### The Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP)

The *DWQP* is a sister project to the *NFNECP* that supports community-based research projects related to the human health effects of adverse drinking water quality in First Nations communities south of the 60th parallel. Projects help build drinking water monitoring and capacity within the community, identify the sources in drinking water known to have human health effects and develop source water protection in order to assess environmental threats to water sources in First Nations communities.

Research Projects for both Programs are funded through the submission and evaluation of Research Proposals from First Nations communities.

### The Call For Proposals for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

The *NFNECP* and *DWQP* Call For Proposals for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was launched on June 30th, 2012.

The call will close on November 15th, 2012 at 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time.

# The National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (NFNECP)

- Funding applications were mailed to First Nations across the country..

\*\* Call For Proposals for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was launched on June 30th, 2012.

- Program funds community-driven research and are a collaboration between Health Canada, First Nations University of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations.



HOW TO VIEW OR PRINT THE CALL FOR PROPOSAL  
POSTER. FEEL FREE TO POST AND SHARE WITH YOUR CONTACTS.

  
Submit

### *NFNECP 2013 - 2014 Funding Application Guide*

The NFNECP Funding Application Guide provides extensive information on:

- The process for applying to the Program;
- A [Proposal Template](#) to follow while drafting your proposal;
- A detailed outline of the [Mandatory Criteria](#) required for the research to receive funding; and
- The [Grading Matrix](#) that is used in the Proposal Selection Process.

### **Click on the links below to download:**

[NFNECP 2013-2014 Funding Application Guide \(English\)](#)

[NFNECP 2013-2014 Funding Application Guide \(French\)](#)

[NFNECP 2013-2014 Call for Proposals Pamphlet \(English\)](#)

[NFNECP 2013-2014 Call for Proposals Pamphlet \(French\)](#)

[NFNECP 2013-2014 Call for Proposals Poster](#)

[NFNECP 2013-2014 Proposal Template](#)

### *NFNECP 2012-2013 Funded Proposal Titles*

1. *"One River, Many Futures: Environmental and Human Health Implications of Athabasca and Mikisew Cree First Nation and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in Northern Alberta"*

# The National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (NFNECP)

- Proposals are to be received no later than **NOVEMBER 15, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. PST.**
- Please see the Funding Application Guide and/or website for further details.

<http://www.environmentalcontaminants.ca/>



# National Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP)

- National Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP) provides funding for community-based research projects on drinking water quality on First Nation communities south of the 60th parallel.
- Any First Nations community on reserve south of the 60th parallel that is interested in conducting research on drinking water issues is eligible to apply.







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**Have a Project Idea in Mind?... tell us about it!**

First Name:

Last Name:

Community Name:

Email Address:

Project Idea:

Captcha Image (Security Code):

## Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP)

The Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP) provides funding for community-based research projects on drinking water quality on First Nation communities south of the 60th parallel. Any First Nations community on reserve south of the 60th parallel that is interested in conducting research on drinking water issues is eligible to apply.

How does the application process work?

1. Your project **MUST** be submitted by November 15th, 2012
2. A *Mandatory Criteria Review* is done to make sure your proposal falls under one of the research themes
3. You **MUST** include a *Band Council Resolution*
4. A *Science Peer Review* is done to evaluate the scientific merit of your proposal
5. A *Selection Committee* composed of First Nations representatives from across Canada rate all the projects and make recommendations
6. All applicants are notified by January 2013

### DWQP 2013 - 2014 Call for Proposals

We are pleased to announce, along with our partners, Health Canada and the Assembly of First Nations, the launch of the DWQP 2013-2014 Call for Proposals and Funding Application Guides.

The DWQP is requesting proposals for research projects to be conducted by First Nations communities south of the 60th parallel. The DWQP is requesting projects conducting research related to the human health effects of adverse drinking water quality in First Nations communities.

Please note that the DWQP is neither a replacement, nor a substitute for the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP). DWQP research projects may complement, but not duplicate any work currently undertaken through FNWWAP.

# National Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP)


- Proposals are to be received no later than **NOVEMBER 15, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. PST.**
- Please see the Funding Application Guide and/or website for further details.

<http://www.environmentalcontaminants.ca/>



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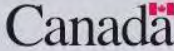
Regional First Nations  
Environmental Contaminants Program

# 2011-2012

## Funding Application Guide



Environmental Public Health Services  
First Nations and Inuit Health  
Ontario Region

Canada 

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# Regional First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program

**\*\*** Call For Proposals for the 2013-2014 fiscal year will be launched within a few weeks. The Funding Application Guide will be sent to all First Nation communities within Ontario Region.

- Proposals will be due in the spring - TBD
- Please see the Funding Application Guide and/or contact your community EHO for more information.



# guidelines for proposals

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## guidelines for proposals

### 2. Merits and Impact of the Proposal

Block	Description	Rating
2.1	Clarity of proposal: Give example: Poor, fair, good, very good, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall clarity, cohesion, readability of proposal /20</li> <li>• Clearly and adequately defined research objectives /10</li> <li>• Clearly and adequately described methodology /10</li> <li>• Clearly and adequately described activities /10</li> </ul>	
2.2	Time frame is feasible for the completion of the project	/20
2.3	Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background information/literature review is included with the proposal /15</li> <li>• Project avoids on-going monitoring, duplication or research that may have already occurred (project demonstrates novelty or how it complements existing data/information/research) /10</li> <li>• Project includes a project plan, time line, and/or project management considerations/methodologies /15</li> <li>• Sufficient detail provided in each of the proposal template sections /10</li> </ul>	
2.4	Proposal includes a post-project evaluation	/10
2.5	Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget &amp; resource requirements are realistic and appropriate for the project /25</li> <li>• In-kind contributions (funds, time, resources) from First Nation community(ies), Tribal Councils, and other First Nation groups, organizations, etc. /10</li> <li>• Co-funding from grants, contributions, foundations, charities, and other external funding sources /10</li> </ul>	
2.6	Scientific Suitability of research team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle investigator has the following qualities to successfully lead the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relevant academic credentials, /5</li> <li>• relevant experience /10</li> <li>• relevant publications /5</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other team members have sufficient knowledge and skills to contribute to the success of the project. It is favourable if training is included for team members that require specialized knowledge to enhance their contribution to the research /5</li> </ul>	
	Total	/200

21

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Thank you!

