

Environmental Management Plan Development Initiative: 2026-27 Program Overview

The purpose of this initiative is to provide funding and assistance to up to ten Operational First Nations for the development of their individual Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The overall intent of the EMP Funding Initiative is to assist First Nations in identifying their environmental goals and priorities, in consultation with their membership, and to develop strategies to achieve those goals. EMPs also provide direction to a First Nation's Lands Department through the development of a detailed EMP implementation plan that can become the basis for work planning.

- **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)** - An EMP defines a First Nation's approach to important environmental issues and organizes actions to achieve their specified environmental goals. The development of practical and effective EMPs requires extensive community consultation and will help improve environmental management by guiding First Nations in the preparation of environmental laws, policies, and other environmental management tools and actions. For more information on EMP development, see the Resource Centre's "A Guide to Preparing Environmental Management Plans for Operational First Nations".
- **Funding for Participating First Nations** – Contingent upon the receipt of funding from Canada, the Resource Centre will provide **\$80,000** in funding to participating First Nations, based on the completion of project milestones for eligible project costs. Once the EMP is complete, participating First Nations will also be eligible for an additional **\$120,000** in funding to support their first year of EMP implementation.
- **Scheduling** – EMPs take approximately 1 to 2 years to complete. All milestones and reporting requirements for the 2026-27 EMP Development Funding Initiative must be fulfilled before **July 29, 2028**.

Eligible First Nations

To be eligible for this funding initiative, First Nations must:

- Be an Operational First Nation;
 - Not have an EMP in place or have an outdated EMP that requires significant revisions (i.e., EMP older than 5 years); and
 - Not already be receiving EMP development funding from another source.
- **RC Contacts** – For more information about this special funding initiative, please contact the Resource Centre's Environment & Enforcement Advisors, Cory Kozmik at Cory.Kozmik@labrc.com or Matthew Charles at Matthew.Charles@labrc.com