

## **What Is an Environmental Management Plan?**

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is a statement of goals, actions, and strategies that a First Nation will pursue in meeting its obligations under the Framework Agreement and in maintaining or improving environmental quality on reserves. The Framework Agreement does not define or refer to an EMP. Rather, the need for EMPs was identified by First Nations, the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC), and federal agencies as they discussed methods of implementing the Framework Agreement. An EMP is a powerful expression of environmental governance of First Nations land, helping to fulfil the original spirit and intent of the Framework Agreement.

## **The benefits of preparing an Environmental Management Plan include:**

- Organizing environmental information from a variety of sources
- Engaging the community in discussions of environmental issues and responses
- Establishing a clear vision of a desired environmental condition, with associated plan goals and objectives
- Forming a rigorous process that will reduce the First Nation's environmental liability risk
- Creating well-defined direction for the development of environmental laws, regulations, and policies
- Communicating environmental priorities and work programs to staff, membership, and outside agencies
- Improving coordination, efficiency and cost effectiveness of environmental actions