

*Sc'ianew First Nation*  
Environmental Management Plan

***Final draft***

# *Sc'ianew First Nation*

## *Environmental Management Plan*

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### *Acknowledgements*

As with Land Use Plans, Environmental Management Plans cannot be done by a single person. So many of our community Members provided feedback, ideas and advice related to our lands and environment, what we might do in the short term, and especially in the longer term. Environmental issues and concerns, in this case, have expanded into other related areas such as culture, land use and housing, among other concerns and priorities. With many detours along the way, we have tried to capture everyone's thoughts as we developed this Environmental Management Plan. We here acknowledge the many Members who participated in its development.

*Our Elders,  
Our Council,  
Our Youth at our community meetings,  
Our Land Management Advisory Committee,  
Our Cooks and Organizers,  
The many community Members who answered our survey,  
The many community Members at our meetings, and,  
Other community Members who gave individual comments and suggestions.*

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# *Sc'ianew First Nation*

## *Environmental Management Plan*

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### *1. Introduction – Renewing our Environmental Management Commitments*

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that has clear objectives, a list of environmental issues and concerns, and a corresponding set of responses to the same issues and concerns, is much needed for our community. We need it to guide the continued development of our set of land-management tools. Given our pristine lands, unique culture, ideal Island location and potential economic development opportunities, an EMP is extremely important to us. As highlighted in our Land Use Plan (LUP), ours is a community operating under the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (FAFNLN) with our lands fully governed and planned internally by the community. This means that we intend to govern over our lands, resources and environment with as many management tools in place as necessary.

In 2012, we undertook the development of an initial EMP. Given that our development plans were in their very early stages, the EMP was relatively general. It is now outdated and in need of complete revision. The present EMP aims to renew the environmental focus provided in the 2012 EMP, at the same time gathering more current information in terms of environmental issues and concerns and provide corresponding strategies. Our EMP aims to conform to the requirements of our Land Code, the FAFNLN and our Individual Agreement with Canada.

At the same time, we need to complete the EMP to the level of detail that will enable us to make better cultural protection decisions, develop *Sc'ianew*-specific land management mechanisms, and ultimately, choose the most appropriate environmental protection and economic development options.

The development of this plan has involved considerable community input, including discussions with the community, Council Members, the Lands Management Advisory Committee and Individual Elders. Together they provided key input as we completed the plan.

Some environmental planning activities took place in the past, including a handful of community engagement activities in 2012 as well as limited engagement related to projects with third party developers. Other engagement activities have taken place within broad studies looking at coastal shipping traffic, for example. We have possessed our lands, lived on our lands, and managed our lands for generations, so we have a great deal of knowledge on the way our environment should be managed and protected. We certainly have knowledge of what (and where) environmental issues and concerns might be.

This document is our final EMP. It includes an Implementation Plan that will look to the future, with a set of environmental governance tools and actions suggested as next steps.

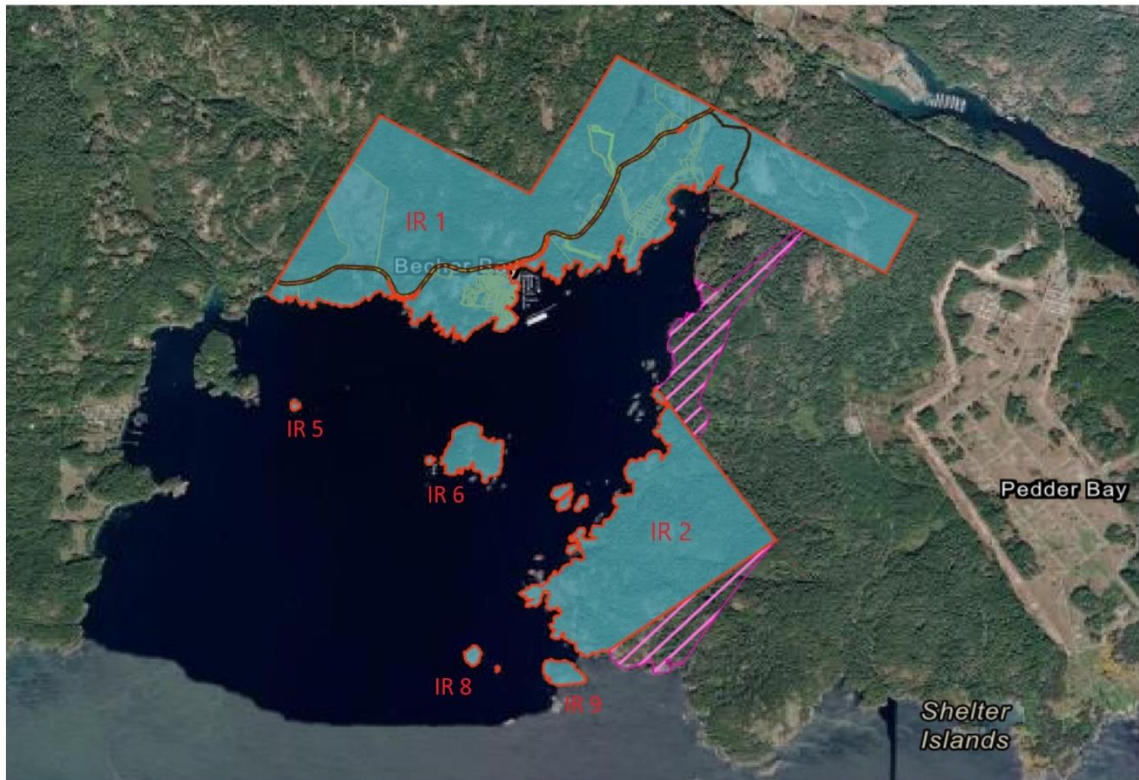
## *2. Our community<sup>1</sup>*

As outlined in our LUP, our community is located approximately 30 kilometres from what is now called Victoria, British Columbia. In all, we today hold 8 reserves, totaling approximately 308 hectares (map 1). These consist of Beecher Bay #1 (203 Ha), on the north shore of Beecher Bay, Beecher Bay #2, (95 Ha), on the east shore of Beecher Bay, Lamb Island #5, another island within Beecher Bay (0.2 Ha), Fraser Island #6, also located within Beecher Bay (6 Ha), Village Island #7 (1 Ha), which is a set of 3 islands located in Beecher Bay, Whale Island #8 (1 Ha), also referred to as West Bedford Island situated at the entrance to Beecher Bay, Long Neck Island #9, which is on Lamb Island, also in Beecher

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<sup>1</sup> This Environmental Management Plan is closely linked to our Land Use Plan; Section 2 of this plan therefore echoes our LUP.





Map 1 – Sc'ianew First Nation Reserve Locations

source: Google Earth

Bay (2 Ha), and, and Twin Island #10, an island located at the north entrance to Parry Bay along the south coast of Vancouver Island (0.4 Ha). Our lands consist of forest cover, rocky shorelines, and rich ecosystems.

Our community Members mostly live on our what Canada refers to as “IR 1” (map 2); much of our traditional areas are on “IR 2” (map 3).

We are sited within our Traditional Territory that provides food and medicines, as well as sacred sites for traditional activity. We have a rich heritage that includes resources and their uses from the sea, foreshore, forests and the many ecosystems and habitats that make up our lands. In addition to the lands directly surrounding our community, our territory includes what are now referred to as Fraser Island, Lamb Island, Long-neck



Map 2 – Sc'ianew First Nation "IR 1" Lands

source: Google Earth



Map 3 – Sc'ianew First Nation "IR 2" Lands

source: Google Earth

Island, Twin Island, Village Island, and Whale Island. Very much reflecting our location, “*Sc’ianew*” translates from the *Klallam* language as “the place of the big fish”.

Our community is quite stable, both in terms of Council and Membership. Council includes experienced leadership that looks to our community Members and Elders for advice. We therefore include our Membership when key decisions are being made, such as the ratification of our Land Code, the development of our LUP, and the development of this EMP. Many of our traditions continue within our longhouse and within our families.

## 2.1 Our Land Code

In 1996, 14 First Nations signed the FAFNLM. The FAFNLM is a government-to-government agreement that outlines a land management strategy and sets out the guidelines that enables First Nations to opt out of the land related provisions of the *Indian Act*. This means that signatory First Nations with an enacted Land Code have authority over their reserve lands, environment, and natural resources, as well as revenues generated on their reserve lands. Through the FAFNLM, we have the authority to develop and enact our own environmental laws, including an environmental assessment law and an environmental protection law.

These events became a key development for our community as the FAFNLM enables any First Nation, including ours, to become a signatory. Our community became a signatory in 2000. As a signatory, we were required to draft and adopt a Land Code, all following the guidelines in the FAFNLM. We did this relatively quickly and once our community enacted our Land Code in 2003, the Land Code replaced the land management provisions of the *Indian Act* that had previously applied to our community<sup>2</sup>. This immediately enabled us to have greater decision-making authority about how we manage and use our lands. We were finally able to govern over our lands without interference!

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<sup>2</sup> Our Land Code (2003) was amended August 1, 2014.



It is as a result of our Land Code's enactment and the related commitments with Canada that we are developing this EMP. Our LUP was also developed out of the same commitments. Our intent is to manage our lands, resources and environment in a sustainable way that either meets or beats the existing related laws of British Columbia and Canada. We intend for our environmental standards to have the same effects as British Columbia's. And we intend for this EMP to be our main tool in identifying environmental issues and concerns on our lands and subsequently address the same issues and concerns by developing ways of dealing with them. This document lists relevant laws and other policies and regulations – be it Canada's, the province's or even municipal ones, that might be modeled for our lands. It is possible that we will want to exceed some of these laws, regulations and policies; we therefore include laws, regulations or policies that we intend to develop.

## 2.2 Our Ongoing Treaty Involvement

Our community is party to the Douglas Treaties.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, we are in the process of negotiating a modern treaty as a member of the *Te'mexw* Treaty Association,<sup>4</sup> through the British Columbia Treaty Process (BC Treaty Process).

We entered into the BC Treaty Process in 1994 and are presently in stage five of the six-stage negotiating process. We signed an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) in 2015 and finalizing our treaty is now our goal. The treaty's Final Agreement will codify and ensure

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<sup>3</sup> During colonial times, Britain wanted to extinguish the proprietary rights of Indigenous people before granting land title to the new settlers. On Vancouver Island, this was administered by the Hudson's Bay Company's Chief staff, James Douglas. Between 1850 and 1854, Douglas negotiated 14 treaties with many First Nations on Vancouver Island. These are what are today known as the "Douglas Treaties". The same treaties include approximately 927 square kilometers of land around Victoria, Saanich, Sooke, Nanaimo and Port Hardy. The signatories of these treaties are the ancestors of our people as well as those of the communities of Esquimalt, *Songhees*, *T'sou-ke*, *Tsawout*, *Tsartlip*, *Pauqhachin*, *Snuneymuxw*, *Kwakiutl*, *Malahat*, *Nanoose*, *Namgis*, *K'omoks* and *Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw*.

<sup>4</sup> The *Te'mexw* Treaty Association is negotiating with Canada and British Columbia in the BC Treaty Process on behalf of its five (5) member First Nations: *Malahat*, *Sc'ianew*, *Songhees*, *Snaw-aw-as* and *T'sou-ke* First Nations.

our rights on self-government, as well as, among several other areas of jurisdiction, lands, environment and resources. The negotiations are therefore aimed at securing governance over our lands and resources, protecting our culture and traditions, deliver much needed education to our youth and young adults, provide healthcare and services, as well as installing the many processes required for the further development of our community.

### *2.3 Our Unique Environmental Planning Conditions*

Our community is in a unique situation; its location along a pristine shoreline and its forested areas and other natural resources, its unspoiled landscape, and our culture itself are advantages existing in few places. We are a relatively short distance from several neighboring municipalities and this too can be an important advantage.

At the same time, we have over recent years created an economic development reality that should benefit us in the long term by providing stable revenue: This is our development at Spirit Bay where houses and infrastructure continue to be completed all-the-while creating revenues for us. The idea is to create a “neighborhood” within our broader community, complete with services for its inhabitants. The sale of the homes generates revenues and the services offered will ideally provide jobs for our Members (Figure 1).

By providing defined spaces for development(s), we have been able to respect the wishes of Members who were hesitant about more outsiders living within our community, given especially our difficult servicing issues. The establishment of an environmental regime, complete with the eventual development of an environmental assessment law and an environmental protection law, will greatly help in preserving our lands, environment and resources. Our unique geography is enabling correspondingly unique opportunities. For example, our recent negotiations with the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC), the marine spill response organization for the West Coast, has resulted in the establishment of a base here in our community (Figures 2 and 3). Rather than the 72 hours



Figure 1 – Partial View – Our Marina and Spirit Bay Development



Figure 2 – Western Canada Marine Response Corporation Offices





*Figure 3 – Western Canada Marine Response Corporation Vessel*

it would have previously taken to respond to a spill in our area, the response is now considerably less for the South Island. The arrangement is significant and a great example of the environmental emphasis and priorities that we have as a community. This is supplemented by related economic benefits, training opportunities and careers for our community Members.

Managing our environment is in many ways not a new thing for our people. While we do not use the same words that Canada uses in its environmental documents and laws, we have over millennia practiced traditions, such as replanting decreasing species, re-introducing depleted species, controlling invasive plant and animal species, and selectively harvesting, among many other strategies. We continue to consider the environment as paramount. We are very much aware of human induced environmental

changes and impacts. Finally, we are acutely aware of the fact that a key challenge for our community is that many environmental impacts on our community are from outside the community.

### *3. Purpose of this Document*

In many ways, this EMP is a renewed emphasis on an environmental management approach to managing and governing over our lands. We want to develop an environmental regulatory framework and this is the start of the process. We will eventually be developing an environmental protection law as well as an environmental assessment law, among other related laws and policies. Our community needs solid environmental tools, including laws to better manage and ensure protection of our lands, resources and environment. And we will also develop permitting processes to, for example more closely manage development activities and more closely manage resource uses such as timber cutting. These activities could affect, for example, traditional harvesting, and so we want any activity on our lands to have minimal impacts on the environment in general, but also on our traditional activities and traditions in particular. While we have an “Interim Environmental Assessment Process” in place, we intend to replace it with a more permanent process that meets or exceeds Canada’s regulations.

This plan is also, in several ways, an extension of our sacred and unbroken relationship to our land, resources and environment. The plan (and the plan’s development) strives to identify environmental issues that may be affecting our community, while setting out how we plan to address the same issues. We also intend on developing remediation strategies for damage from past activities, as well as monitoring programs for species, for example, that we deem at risk. And finally, through our implementation plan, we identify ways of implementing identified governmental management actions.



#### *4. Authorities*

For us, authority to govern over our lands, resources and environment comes from the Creator. This has been part of our culture and traditions since time immemorial. Our community and our leadership reflect this. Under our Land Code we assumed responsibility for assuring that our environment is protected, repaired and enhanced. Under our Land Code (and the FAFNLM), we have the governance authority to develop and enact environmental laws such as an environmental assessment law and an environmental protection law.

Within the Individual Agreement that we have with Canada, we have a commitment to follow an Interim Environmental Assessment process, with it being consistent with either CEAA 1992 or CEAA 2012.<sup>5</sup> We are committed to conduct environmental assessments as stipulated in the FAFNLM, in our Land Code, and in our Individual Agreement. And we have also committed to making sure that environmental assessments take place when we undertake projects on our lands, including assessing, approving, regulating, and funding the projects. We intend for such processes to take place before projects begin.

#### *5. Our Community Vision and Environmental Mission*

We have a community Vision and we want it to take precedence and therefore apply to the development of this plan. We also have an “Environmental Mission Statement”, developed as part of the 2012 EMP. Both are included on the following pages. We do not want to create confusion by developing new Vision or Mission statements.

#### *6. Strategy for the development of our EMP*

Developing our EMP has been undertaken within a relatively straight-forward process that includes the following overlapping steps:

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<sup>5</sup> Note that references to the Minister in both documents are replaced by our Council.



## *SC'IANEW COMMUNITY VISION FOR LANDS, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT*

*"As Coast Salish x<sup>w</sup>čiyánəx<sup>w</sup> (Scianew) People of nəx<sup>w</sup>słə'y'am' (klallam) and SENĆOŦEN c'əxtan (heritage), we see our future as a prosperous and independent First Nation that aims at achieving the highest standard of living for its Members.*

*We stand with nácu? (one) yánəwas (heart) and sx<sup>w</sup>q<sup>w</sup>a'yək<sup>w</sup>ən (mind) respecting the Wisdom of our Elders, the Strength of our Leaders and the Vision of our Youth.*

*We are a First Nation grounded in traditional knowledge, customs and 'ways of knowing'. With this, we intend on engaging other governing jurisdictions and third parties as equal partners.*

*We also intend on turning to our traditional values to safeguard our lands, environment and resources. And we intend on creating opportunities for each of our Members throughout their life paths, including access to traditional and contemporary health, education, economic, social and spiritual avenues."*



### **ENVIRONMENTAL MISSION STATEMENT**

*We, the Sc'ianew First Nation (Beecher Bay), are a proud people whose purpose is to ensure a future that will provide a better quality of life while living in harmony with our environment. With direction from our Elders, we are committed to managing our lands under their guiding principle of respecting the environment. We strive to move ahead as an organized, highly motivated, determined and self-reliant people. Our traditions and cultural beliefs are the driving force of our success and destiny.*

*The Sc'ianew First Nation's (SFN) environmental mission is to promote development of the lands and resources while protecting traditional practices of responsible stewardship of the resources on the land, in the rivers, and in the sea, while strengthening our cultural and spiritual heritage. We view the environment as a provider that must be respected and protected. The natural environment on our lands provide for continued traditional practices of fishing, trapping, food gathering, shelter and sustenance and also contain many sites viewed by the Sc'ianew First Nation as being of cultural significance.*

*We will seek to identify environmental aspects related to our current and future activities on our lands to work towards reducing or eliminating environmental impacts on air, water, soil, and ecosystems that depend on them; as well as any impacts on areas of cultural significance to our community. Through the implementation of an Environmental Management Framework and Environmental Management Plan, we have created the required steps toward combining both community and economic development on Sc'ianew First Nation lands while protecting our natural resources and heritage for today's and the future generations.*

"Original Signed"

March 31, 2012

Chief Russell Chipps

- i.      Develop a list of preliminary environmental Issues and Concerns:

A list of preliminary environmental issues and concerns was developed with the Lands Manager and the community's Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) at the onset of our project. The list served as a way to begin the process of engaging our community.
- ii.     Engage our Lands Management Advisory Committee:

Together with the community's Lands Manager, the Lands Management Advisory Committee steered the project and provided continuous feedback as the plan developed.
- iii.    Engage the Community:

We held 3 community meetings, with the first having taken place on November 1, 2024 and a second on January 21, 2025 and a third meeting on March 19, 2025. A detailed engagement plan is included in section 8 below.
- iv.     Survey the community:

We surveyed community Members with a detailed questionnaire that served to determine priorities and establish initial lists of environmental issues and concerns.
- v.      Site visits:

Specific areas were visited, elaborating on and confirming environmental issues and concerns.
- vi.     Review previous environmental related work:

We undertook a review of previous work such as the 2012 EMP, Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), our 2024 LUP, our 2003 Land Code

as well as other documents such as the “Beecher Bay First Nation: Traditional Marine and Land Use Baseline Documentation” study.

- vii. Identify the community’s environmental threats:  
From the community feedback, site visits and reviewing previous related work, we identified environmental issues and concerns.
- viii. Develop a list of the management mechanisms required to deal with the issues and concerns outlined in “vii”.
- ix. Compile useful references, list key regulations and / or laws, and specify the type of community communication (if necessary) that might be useful.
- x. Develop an Implementation Plan.

## *7. Prior Environmental Work and other Documents*

### *7.1 Introduction*

Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) are studies that examine the environmental conditions of, in this case, our lands at a particular moment in time. They are used to determine whether contamination exists on land parcels. Each phase has a different purpose, eventually leading to the solving of environmental issues. These are important because they set a record of baseline information on the condition of our lands at a certain point in time, and of course, they ideally address any environmental issues and concerns. For communities such as ours, the idea was to have ESAs carried out at the time of our taking over the direct management of our lands, as our Land Code took effect. Other documents can also set baselines for environmental conditions. The following documents were therefore reviewed during the development of the EMP:

- *Sc'ianew* First Nation Land Code (2003, revised in 2012);
- Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of Closed Refuse Landfill Site on IR 1 – Beecher Bay First Nation Final Report (2004);<sup>6</sup>
- *Sc'ianew First Nation* Land Use Plan (2024);
- *Sc'ianew* First Nation Environmental Management Plan (2012); and,
- Beecher Bay First Nation: Traditional Marine and Land Use Baseline Documentation study (2015).

## *7.2 Prior Environmental Work - Conclusion*

The past studies related to our community's environmental issues and concerns are relevant to this EMP. This includes the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of our now decommissioned community landfill site and the Traditional Marine and Land Use Baseline documentation study, among others. The first focused on our older landfill site, now zoned "industrial", while the second examined our traditional marine use in detail and highlighted some of our important concerns related to increased shipping activity along our waters and corresponding shorelines. No remediation was recommended for the old landfill site, other than the removal of exposed material. The study also recommended a locked gate, although refuse seems to be dumped (by outside individuals) just outside the gate. Potential leaching at the landfill site and potential oil spills and tanker bilge increases were just some of the concerns outlined by our community Members.<sup>7</sup>

ESAs, including Phases I, II and III must be undertaken if they have not been carried out as part of the community's Land Code implementation. This must be done to identify any

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<sup>6</sup> At the time of the development of this EMP, no Phase I ESA for the landfill site was available for review.

<sup>7</sup> The environmental issues and concerns outlined in the "Beecher Bay First Nation: Traditional Marine and Land Use Baseline Documentation" study are included in the summary tables below. Similarly, key recommendations of the "Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of the Closed Refuse Landfill Site on IR 1" also form part of the summary tables below.

environmental issues and concerns that the community may have, and in turn develop solutions (and resolve) the same issues and concerns. At the time of the development of this EMP, no record was made available regarding Phases I, II and III ESAs conducted as part of the community's Land Code development. The Implementation section of this plan provides for the follow-up of ESA actions.

## 8. Community Engagement

### *8.1 Introduction*

The key to a successful land-related plan such as this EMP is community engagement. Simply put, the more engagement, the better. We therefore aimed, from the beginning, to have as many community Members participate as we could, leaving the opportunity open for their thoughts on any issues and concerns. Part of the reason for engagement was also to aim to as best as we can, to make sure that our Members are aware of the development of this EMP, and what the EMP is all about. For this reason, Lands Management Advisory Committee meetings, community meetings, discussions with community Members when requested, conducting a detailed community survey and site visits all aimed to communicate to our Members the intent of the EMP, while gathering as much related information as possible. Table 1 summarizes our primary community engagement activities.

Beginning in May, 2024, we developed a preliminary set of environmental issues and concerns, serving as a starting point for discussion with our Lands Management Advisory Committee and community in general. Table 2 summarizes the preliminary environmental issues and concerns; it is included here for completeness, with its items carried into the broader list at the end of this Community Engagement section. Similarly, we have also chosen to include the environmental issues and concerns gathered from the

Date	Meeting	Location	Attendees	Meeting Purpose
May 16, 2024	Project start-up	Zoom Meeting	Lands Manager	Project start-up; work planning
Sept. 17, 2024	Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting	Zoom meeting	Lands Manager, Lands Management Advisory Committee	Initial Issues Discussion; survey design considerations
October 11, 2024	Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting	Lands Manager, Lands Management Advisory Committee	Issues and Concerns Discussions
Oct. / Nov., 2024	Community Survey	<i>Sc'ianew Community Survey</i>	Community Members	Survey on Environmental Issues and Concerns
October 31, 2024	Community Site Visits	<i>Sc'ianew Community</i>	Planner	APECs siting, with other sites checked
November 1, 2024	Community Meeting	<i>Sc'ianew Community</i>	Community Members	Report on EMP Progress; solicit further APECS
December 16, 2024	Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting	Zoom meeting	Lands Manager, Lands Management Advisory Committee	Progress report on community survey
January 21, 2025	Community Meeting	<i>Sc'ianew Community</i>	Lands Manager, Community Members	Progress Report to the Community and Identification of further Issues and Concerns; Mapping
January 22, 2025	Community Site Visits	<i>Sc'ianew Community</i>	Planner	APECs siting with other sites checked
March 19, 2025	Community Meeting	<i>Sc'ianew Community</i>	Lands Manager, Community Members	EMP Final report Presentation
March 20, 2025	Community Site Visits	<i>Sc'ianew Community</i>	Planner	APEC siting

*Table 1 – Community Engagement and Visits*



1	<b>Abandoned cars, recreational vehicles and boats</b>	We have abandoned cars, recreational vehicles and boats in various places on our lands. Some may be leaking fuel, although this has not been confirmed.
2	<b>Paint, wiring and insulation in homes</b>	Some of our homes are old and require inspection for contaminants and hazardous substances such as paint (lead), wiring (aluminum) and insulation (various types).
3	<b>Solid Waste – potential leaching</b>	In several areas (including along trails), solid waste has been dumped. This needs to be removed. Where there is suspected leaking of oil or fuel, soil testing may be required.
4	<b>Solid Waste – food waste</b>	In at least one area, food waste is being dumped.
5	<b>Hunting debris</b>	There are spent bullets on our trails
6	<b>Cooking (and other) Oil Disposal</b>	We need to develop a strategy for the disposal of cooking (and other) spent oil.
7	<b>Potential Forest fires</b>	Our community is surrounded by forest lands. There is a relatively high risk of forest fires. We need a strategy or plan to deal with any fire.
8	<b>Septic systems</b>	There may be faulty septic systems, although this is not clear. We need to develop a strategy to have septic systems inspected and remediated if needed.
9	<b>Pollution along foreshore</b>	Many people (in addition to our Members) use our waters for navigation, mooring and fishing. There is a risk of oil spills, illegal dumping and accidents. We need closely for contaminants that may be affecting the water.
10	<b>Climate Change</b>	Climate Change is, and will affect our community in many ways. We need to assess these effects as best we can – species at risk, invasive species, fire risks and so on.
11	<b>Old oil tanks and oil spills(?)</b>	There may remain abandoned oil tanks (from home heating) on some of our lands. These require inspection (for potential leaks) and removal.

*Table 2 – Preliminary List of Environmental Issues and Concerns*

community survey (Tables 3, 4 and 5), and community meetings (Table 6) separately in order to track the origin of the comments; they are in turn summarized in Section 9.

### *8.2 Meetings with Lands Management Advisory Committee*

Several meetings were held with the Lands Management Advisory Committee by “Zoom call” over the course of the development of the EMP. In addition to operating as a Steering Committee for the project, committee Members provided input throughout, including the development of the community survey.

### *8.3 Community Survey on Environmental Concerns*

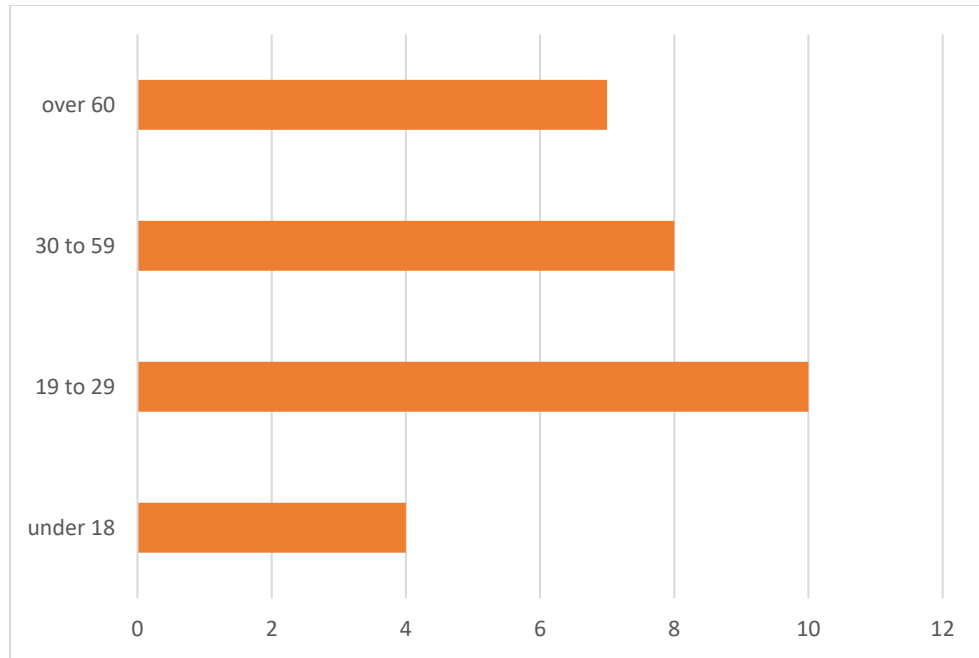
In September, 2024, we developed a community survey with LMAC input.<sup>8</sup> The survey was subsequently undertaken during the months of October and November, 2024, with 28 participants. As with our LUP survey developed in 2023, in addition to gathering the community’s environmental issues and concerns, the survey was intended to also communicate our activities related to environmental matters. The idea was to ask specific questions to get our Members to think about and voice any issues and concerns they might have, all related to the many aspects of the environment. In addition to using the survey responses in the development of this EMP, we also plan on using the information to eventually develop related policies; some of these will be listed in our Implementation Plan. The results of the survey together form an important list of environmental issues and concerns and are included in the following discussion.

#### *8.3.1 Community Survey - Results*

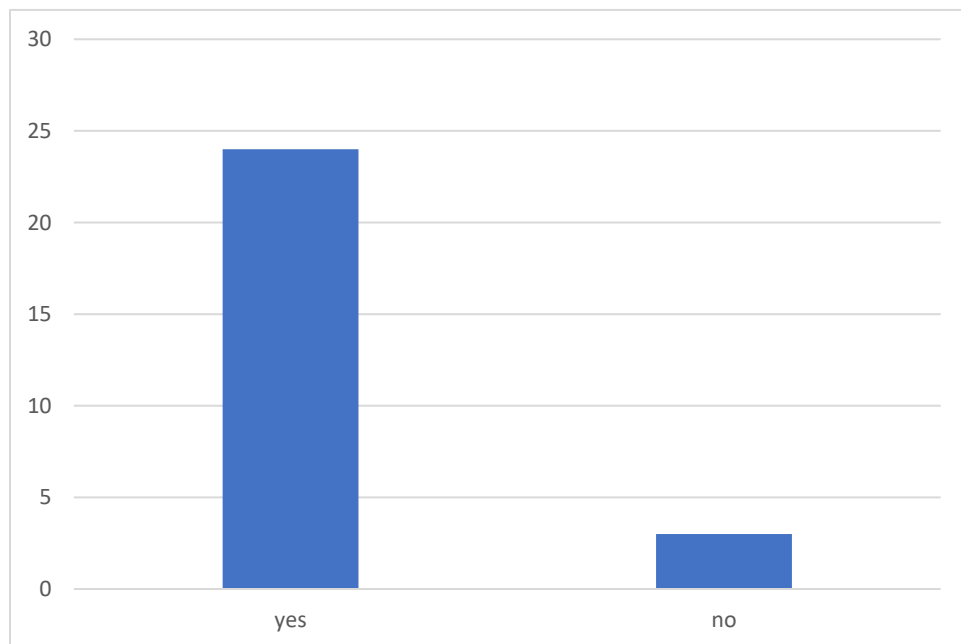
Of the 28 survey participants, 24 were Sc’ianew First Nation Members, while 4 were non-Members living in our community. Respondent ages ranged from youth, under 18, to

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<sup>8</sup> See Appendix ‘A’ for the survey template.



Graph 1 - Survey Respondent Age Distribution



Graph 2 - Members in Favor of Enforcing Environmental Laws

Elders, over 60 (Graph 1). Not many youths participated, with only 4 filling out the survey. The majority of participants live in the community; five do not. In terms of having read our Land Code and Housing Policy, several people have, although more did not. Most respondents indicated that they are in favor of the community enforcing environmental laws that we may put in place (Graph 2); this will be important as we begin implementing this EMP with the development of environmental related policies and laws.

When asked to identify specific challenges regarding our environment, solid waste (garbage) left by outsiders leads the list with several participants identifying this is a key challenge (Table 3). Invasive species, both plants and animals, is also a key challenge. Too many trees being cut down is an important issue. And old, abandoned cars seem to persist as a concern. The challenges and concerns connect very closely to our traditional practices. That is to say that our traditional practices (on the land) can be seen as threatened by some of the environmental challenges. For example, while respondents list the use of plants as medicines, such as cedar [in ceremonies] and cultural events, they also suggest a reduction in species (Table 4).

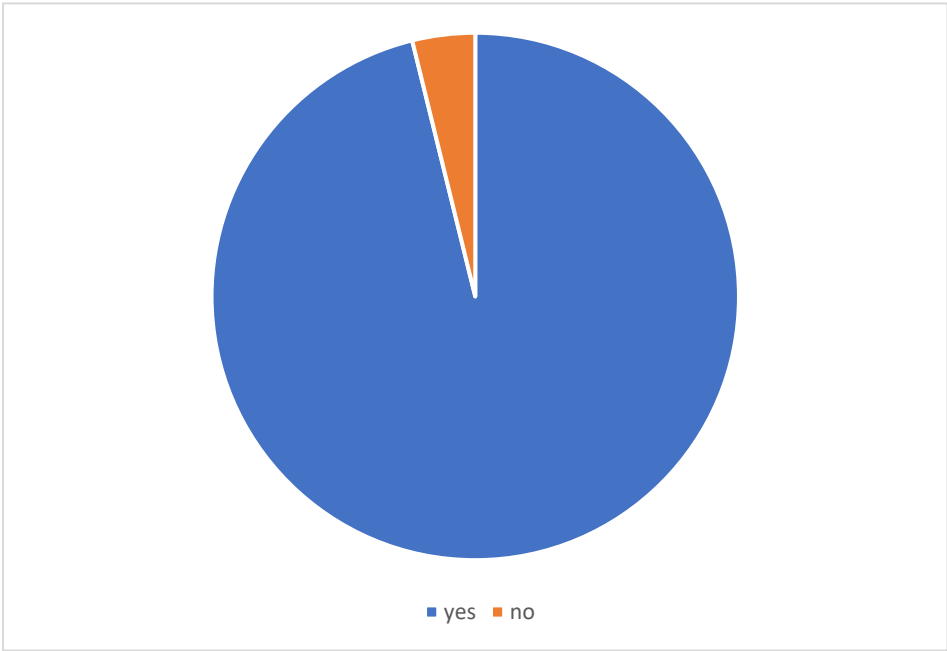
When asked if specific areas should remain untouched, the majority of respondents said 'yes' (Graph 3). Specific areas identified include heritage sites, "IR 2", Charles / *Sutiicum* Road, Mary Hill, hunting areas, cemetery, long house and Quarantine Lake. Closely related to areas that are identified as having to remain untouched is the next survey question asking respondents if there are harvesting areas that we need to better protect. The majority of respondents agreed, although several people did not (Graph 4). Specific harvesting areas that people feel should be better protected include "IR 2", islands in our bay, beeches, Mary Hill, Marina Bay, Caroline's orchards, salal groves, fish, including salmon, trees and "the whole reserve". In terms of key priorities for this EMP to focus on, when given a choice of issues, the majority of respondents selected all issues as priority focus areas (Graph 5); clearly, respondents want action on environmental matters.

Need to protect cultural sites	Junk all over
Dumping from outsiders (8)	Need to protect harvesting areas
No protection for our scared lands	Too many trees cut down (3)
Broom brush (2)	Not talking to Elders
Oil spillage in water (2)	Air quality in homes / during burns
Invasive plants / animal species (4)	Old / buried vehicles , (3)
Forgotten / abandoned fuel tanks (2)	Protecting our cultural foods (2)
Protecting natural resources	Keeping our Cultural Lands
Keeping beaches clean	Hunting / fishing
[Lack of] housing for families	Not close to groceries
Poor balance of control	Non-Member use of lands
Loss of biodiversity	Loss of traditions
Air and Water quality (2)	Wood use / deforestation
Power Outages	Disappearance of trad. practices
Over developing certain areas	Buried cars
Climate change effects	Depleted (sea) resources
Health concerns related to trad. foods	Reduction of traditional plants
Not able to hunt for trad. foods	Need better communications
Need cultural teachings”	Home contaminants - mold
Resources sold to outsiders	Waterfront pollution
Waste mgt. challenges	

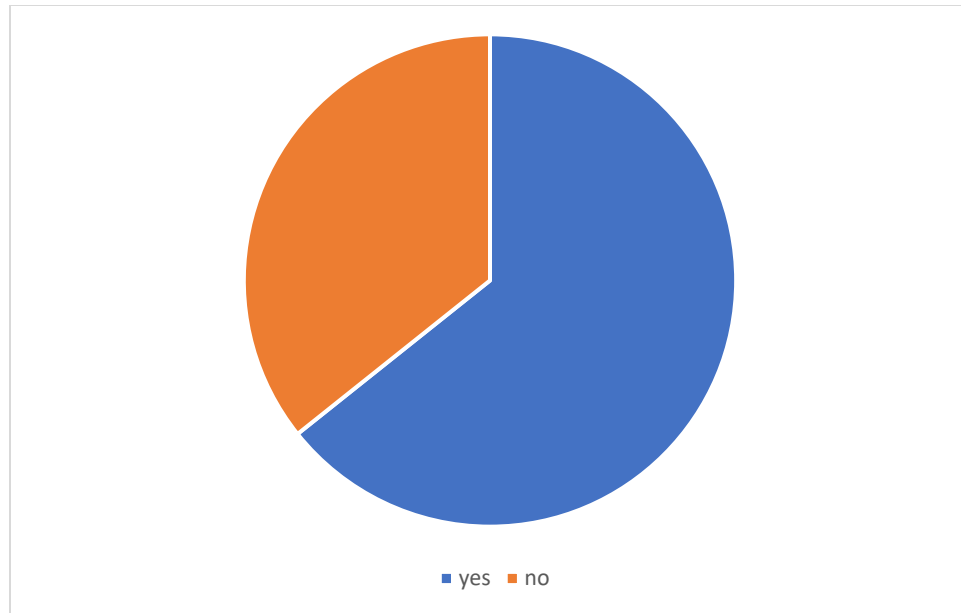
*Table 3 – Key Env. Challenges from Community Survey*

Use plants as medicines	Seek advice from Elders
Use of cedar [in ceremonies]	Language (2)
Take only what is needed	Controlled burns
Assigning each person a job to care to different resources	
Replanting what we take (3)	Protect trees for medicines
Community mtgs / gatherings	Bathing holes [pools]
Plants (for ex.: frog leaf, devil's club, sage, cedar)	Drumming
Should have ceremonies for new developments	Getting along (2)

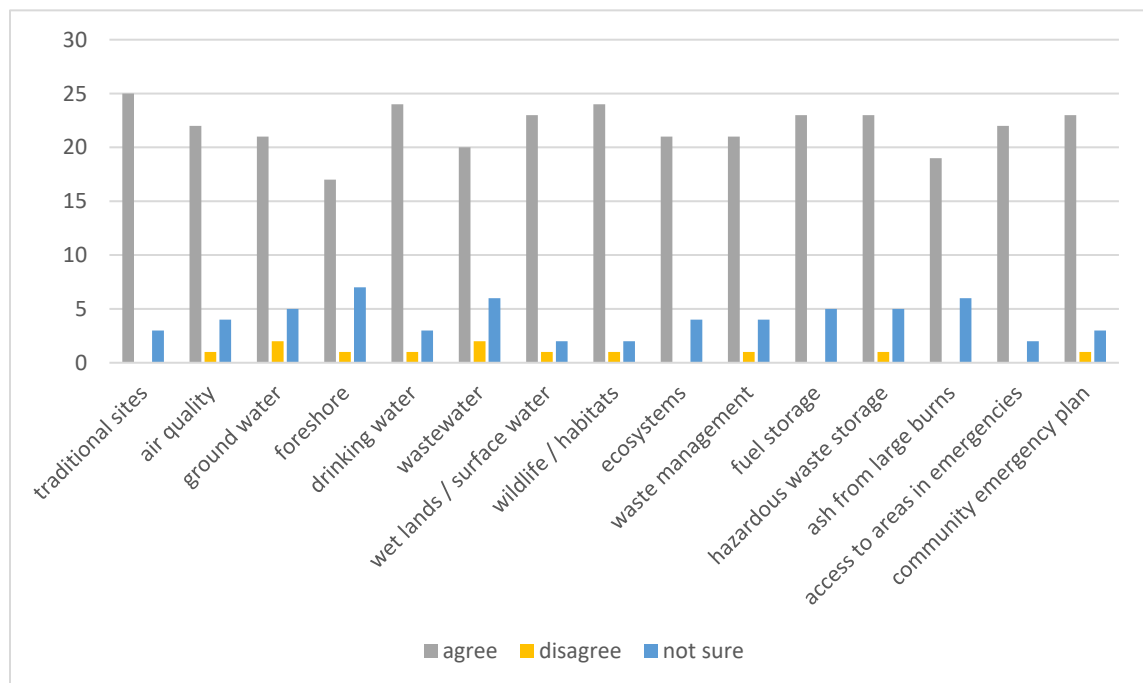
Table 4 – Threatened Traditional Practices



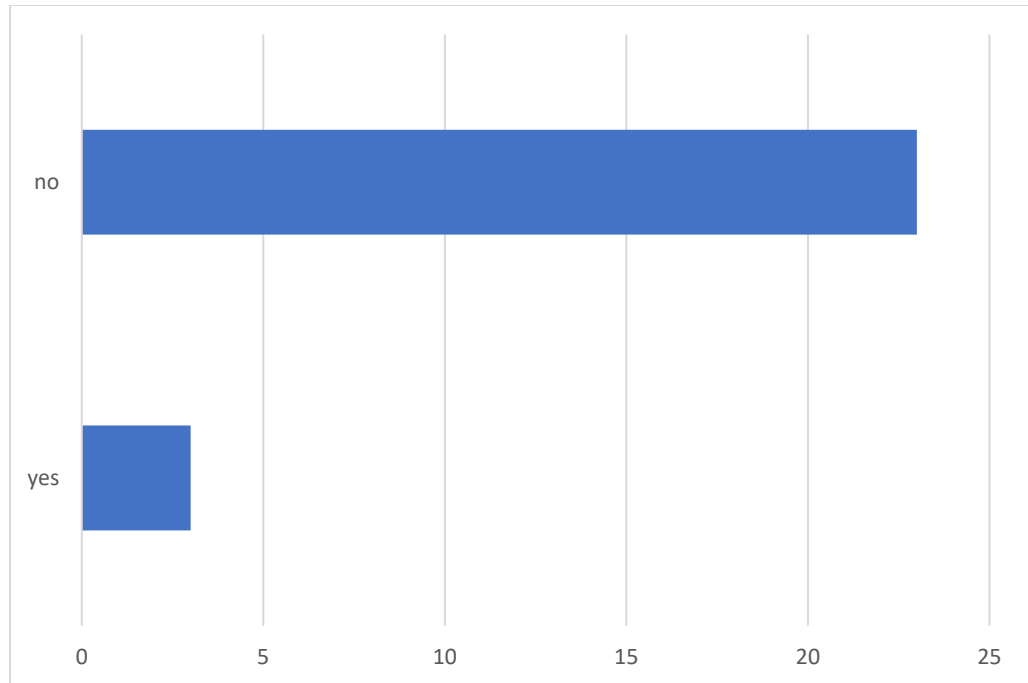
Graph 3 – Leaving Areas Untouched



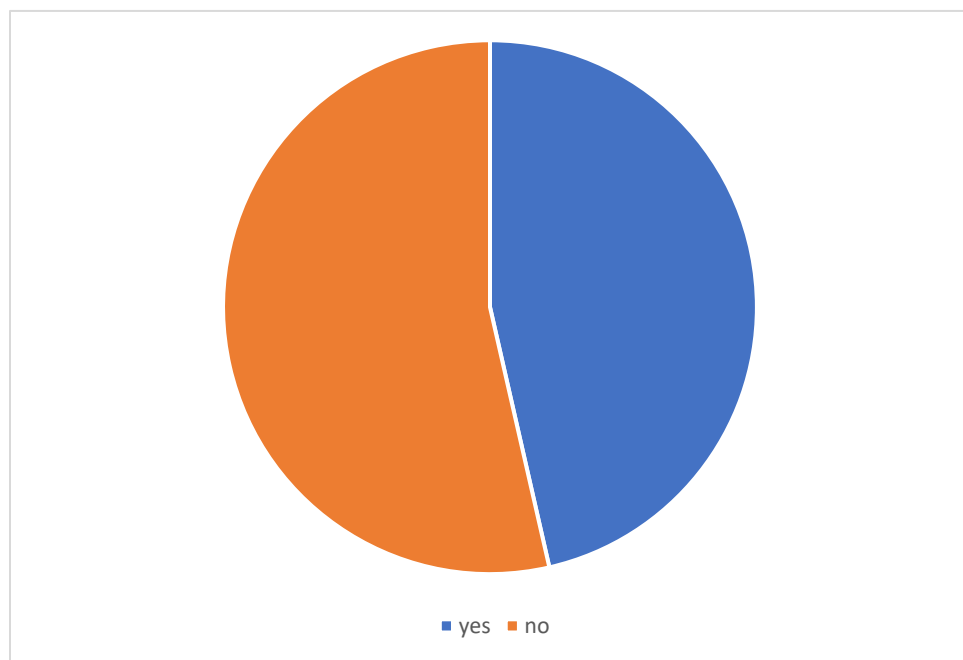
Graph 4 – Better Protect Harvesting Grounds



Graph 5 – Priorities for our Environmental Management Plan



Graph 6 - Concerned about Fish Affecting our Health



Graph 7 - Traditional Sea Resources Being Depleted



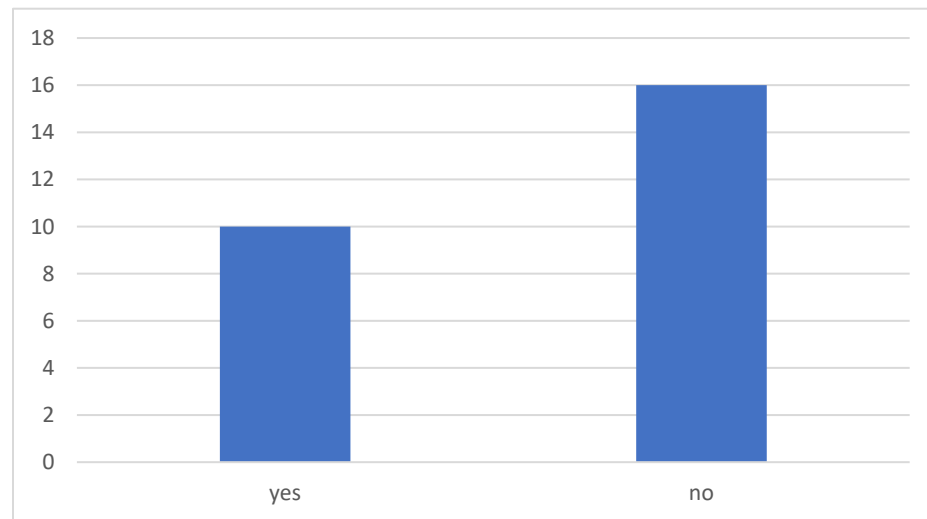
On health concerns regarding the waterfront, respondents indicated that there are too many ships, too much pollution and garbage, and that the foreshore is not [easily] accessible. Regarding fish affecting their health, most indicated that they are not worried; this may reflect the fact that participants may not be fishers (Graph 6). Finally, in terms of traditional sea resources, many felt these had been depleted, although almost the same amount of people felt that these had not been depleted; again, not all participants may have detailed knowledge of fish quantities (Graph 7). Depleted species include otters, salmon, crab and shellfish, whales, birds and oysters. With medicinal or culturally significant plants, over half of the respondents indicated that they do harvest plants, and that there has been a reduction in salmon berries, salal, winter berries and ferns.

Still concerning food, while most survey respondents indicated that they do consume berries from community lands, almost all indicated that they are not concerned about this affecting their health, with 1 person indicating that they are concerned. Similarly, while the majority of respondents noted that they consume wildlife from our lands, only 2 people noted that they are worried about this affecting their health. “Fish” and “not being able to hunt for traditional foods” were mentioned as a concern.

On waste and dumping on our lands, when asked if they felt that waste is being properly handled in the community, the response was mixed, with several respondents indicating that they are not satisfied; others indicated that they are indeed satisfied (Graph 8). This may be related to where people live within the community. When asked how we could make things better, in term of waste handling, suggestions included: “get rid of old vehicles”, “improve waste management”, “better recycling”, “add large disposal bins”, “have regular pick-up”, “more regulations” and “assign Members to clean up yards of Elders”.

Related to general waste on our lands, over half of respondents indicated that they know of illegal waste being dumped on our lands. Locations vary; see Table 5 and Map 3.

In terms of community Members interested in recycling, almost all said yes, with 3 people saying no. Recycling of cardboard, plastics, bottles, boats, furniture and cars were singled out. Composting and upcycling (creative reuse of otherwise unwanted items) were also mentioned as possibilities.



. Graph 8 – Waste Properly Handled in our Community

Several people signaled that they are worried about old, abandoned oil or fuel tanks. One person noted that they are worried about leaching at the old campsite. Similarly, several respondents indicated that they know of potentially contaminated sites on our lands. They identified Speyside Road, the road across from the graveyard – *Sutiacum* Road, areas of the foreshore, the old campsite and Charles Road (see Map 3). One person indicated that they are worried about the air during large burns. Some respondents indicated that they are worried about the air inside homes. Mold inside homes is a concern.

As we continue with the development of our land governance tools, the survey asked for the best ways of enforcing any new environmental policies or laws (Graph 9). “Education and Communications” was the preferred option, with the possibility of an “Enforcement Officer”, “Traditional Options” and “Fines” following. “We should go back to the old

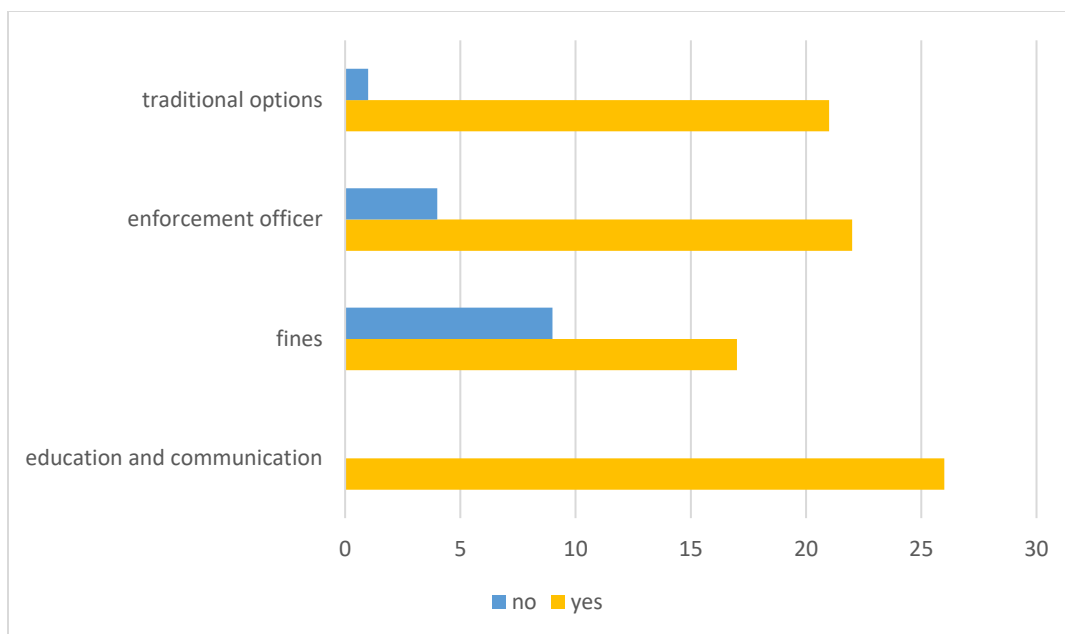
Near the industrial site (2)
At the dump road
At the old dump
At the gun range road (2)
At Speyside Lane (2)
At the graveyard (3)
At Charles Road below the bus stop
East Sooke Road
At the cribbing, just passed the spill response bldg.
Traditional use areas

*Table 5 – Locations of Illegal Dumping (from Surveys)*

ways”, “nothing changes”, several people included comments with their replies. These echoed the results outlined in the graph, suggesting: “cultural teachings”, “house inspections for contaminants / mold”, “tree removal should be communicated to everyone”, “our resources are being sold to other communities”, need more accountability for garbage”, “everyone should be on board to deal with invasive species” and “[we should have] special days to get rid of garbage”.

### *8.3.2 Survey Summary - Issues and Concerns*

The survey sample (28) is not high; however, it does represent an important segment of the community. Most are in favor of establishing environmental laws. Table 3 lists the related issues and concerns, in no specific order. Invasive species, both plants and



*Graph 9 – Encouraging Environmental Policy and Laws*

animals were highlighted as concerns, as was solid waste in its various forms. Several important environmental issues and concerns therefore emerged from the community survey, especially within specific comments made by the respondents. These include the need to better protect traditional foods and resources, illegal dumping (by outsiders) at different areas and abandoned cars on our lands. Other important concerns include “No protection for our scared lands”, too many trees being harvested, oil spillage in our waters, air quality, forgotten fuel tanks, loss of biodiversity, and over developing certain areas. We have substantial traditional practices taking place on our lands, highlighting the sensitivity to protecting the environment; this includes threatened plant and animal species, habitats and ecosystems, biodiversity and maintaining the environmental integrity of our lands.

We will include the issues and concerns flagged throughout the survey comments in Section 9 below.

#### *8.4 Community Meetings and Site Visits*

Community meetings were held, primarily to outline, as clearly as possible, what the EMP aims to do, as well as solicit environmental issues and concerns that community Members might have. A first community meeting was held on November 1, 2024, with a second meeting held on January 21, 2025 and a third meeting held on March 19, 2025. Sixteen community Members attended the first meeting, twelve people attended the second meeting. Twenty-two participants attended the third meeting. Site visits took place on October 31, 2024, January 22, 2025 and March 20, 2025. The primary purpose of the site visits was to visually identify as many as possible the environmental issues and concerns identified in our community survey, our LMAC meetings and the community meetings.

At the first community meeting, we identified a detailed list of environmental issues and concerns; the second community meeting confirmed these and added to the list. The issues and concerns for both meetings, confirmed at our third meeting, are summarized, in no order of priority, in Table 6. Key points include: Additional sites of illegal dumping were identified, including “the Field” and the land around and underneath 5039 Charles Road. Further, the disappearance of traditional knowledge (and use) was voiced. Finally, the potential existence of unexploded ordinances at IR2 as well as the disturbance of cairns, both on IR2 was identified. Map 4 identifies approximate locations of areas of environmental issues and concerns discussed at our meetings.

Three additional specific areas of particular concern were identified at our second meeting. These include an area to the east of IR1 (Map 5 and #5 on Map 4), an area to the northeast of IR1 (Map 6 and #6 on Map 4) and the old landfill site. For the first two, the primary issue is the storage of old vehicles, potential leaching, and other unknown (industrial?) activities; the primary concern with the old landfill site was the presence of old vehicles (primarily boats) and the potential leaching of oils and fuels. Existing monitoring wells at the old landfill site were discussed, although there seems to be no knowledge of current monitoring.

The site visits confirmed many of the concerns voiced at the meetings. At the old landfill site, debris is being continually dumped in front of the gate (Figure 4), vehicles – boats especially, remain on the ground surface (Figure 5), and household (?) refuse has also

- *Loss of Traditional Knowledge, Resources & Practices*
- *Loss of collective memory*
- *Loss of traditional plants*
- *Loss of traditional sites*
- *Traditional areas should be protected*
  
- *Three specific areas of environmental concern: unknown industrial uses*
  
- *Foreshore areas: pollution in general, possible historic oil spills*
  
- *Decline in fish species (salmon, for example)*
- *Decline in plant species*
- *Decline in animal species*
  
- *Booming grounds: nothing grows along water's edge*
- *Booming grounds: old oil cans along the shore*
- *Booming grounds: cedar mulch – up to 18' deep*
  
- *Dumping by outsiders*
- *Dumping by Members*
- *Dumped cars and boats*
- *Dumping in "the Field"*
- *Cars buried*
- *Waste around and beneath 5039 Charles Road*
- *Waste not always picked up*
- *Waste in general*

Table 6 - Environmental Issues and Concerns identified at Community Meetings

- *Homes may have contaminants (lead, aluminum, etc.)*
- *Home air quality potentially contaminated*
- *Homes are not necessarily “fire smart”*
  
- *Septic system potentially malfunctioning*
- *Potential overflows at septic plant*
  
- *Potential unexploded ordinances (IR 2)*
- *Potential damage / disturbance to cairns (IR 2)*
  
- *Potential PCBs in different places (electrical transformers)*
  
- *Climate change effects*
- *Potential forest fires*
  
- *Old offices (lands offices) to be demolished*
  
- *Need permitting process for wood cutting*
- *Need permitting process for land / earth works*
- *Need monitoring strategies for resources*
  
- *ESA recommendations may not have been implemented*
  
- *No emergency plan*
- *No evacuation plan*
  
- *Housing shortages / overcrowding (?)*
- *Communications challenges*
  
- *Communications challenges*

Table 6 - Environmental Issues and Concerns identified at Community Meetings (continued)



Map 4 – General Areas of Environmental Issues and Concerns

source: Google Earth

### Key

1. Abandoned vehicles
2. Abandoned / buried vehicles and other debris (5039 Charles Road)
3. Abandoned appliances and household debris
4. Construction debris / abandoned oil (?) tanks
5. Automotive debris
6. Unknown industrial activity / old vehicles (see map 4)
7. Invasive species (broom)
8. Abandoned trailers
9. Abandoned vehicles / boats - old landfill / industrial site (see map 5)
10. Construction debris
11. Abandoned oil (?) bins / abandoned garbage bins; cairns to be protected
12. Abandoned vehicles and construction debris
13. Cedar mulch – up to 18 feet deep





Map 5 - Special Area of Environmental Concern: Unauthorized Industrial Area #1

source: Google Earth



Map 6 - Special Area of Environmental Concern: Unauthorized Industrial Area #2

source: Google Earth





Figure 4 – Construction Debris at road entrance to “old landfill” site



Figure 5 – Boats at “old landfill” site





**Figure 6 – Household Waste – “old landfill” site**



**Figure 7 – Decommissioned Lands Department Offices**



been dumped within the gated area (Figure 6). The old learning centre (and land offices) stands abandoned, scheduled for demolition and removal (Figure 7).

### *8.5 Community Meetings and Site Visits – Conclusion*

Our community meetings and site visits reflect and add to the initial list of environmental issues and concerns flagged within the community survey. Table 6 and photos 4 – 7 list and show the primary challenges. Three areas of specific concern were also identified, where unauthorized industrial activity may be taking place; these are located on Maps 3 to 6. In the following section, we re-group the issues and concerns into thematic lists and corresponding options for dealing with them.



**Figure 8 – Community Meeting – January 21, 2025**

In addition to waste – illegally dumped by outsiders or by community Members continues to be an ongoing issue. Wastewater (septic and / or leaching) is also a concern. Also, community Members often voiced their concern for the loss of traditional knowledge or for access Elder knowledge. There were many references to concerns over invasive and / or depleting species, and traditional plants and wildlife that are becoming difficult to access.

The effects of climate change were noted, with potential forest fires discussed throughout the climate change conversations.

Throughout the meetings, the existence and location(s) of waste, including vehicles, household waste, and unknown industrial activities were highlighted. Approximate locations of main areas of concern are shown on map 4.

The following section summarizes the lists of issues and concerns (from Tables 2 to 6), offering possible strategies to deal with them.

## *9. Environmental Issues and Concerns - Summary*

### *9.1 Introduction*

From our summary tables (2 to 6), we have a relatively clear picture of the community's environmental issues and concerns. Site visits confirmed most of the same issues and concerns. The following section groups the same environmental issues and concerns into broad categories. From these, we can identify strategies to deal with them.

## *9.2 Sc'ianew First Nation Environmental Issues and Concerns*

### *9.2.1 Cultural Resources*

- No strategy to collect and document more traditional knowledge;
- No clear policy for Elder inclusion in community decision-making;
- No strategy to inventory and protect traditional sites;
- No strategy to inventory and protect traditional and esp. medicinal plants and foods;
- No clear strategy for protecting cairns, especially at IR 2; and,
- No permitting process for resource removal, including wood cutting.

### *9.2.2 Solid Waste*

- Abandoned cars and boats / Buried cars;
- Unauthorized disposal of waste by outsiders and by Members;
- Construction debris at our old landfill site;
- Unauthorized fill deposits (at “the Field”, for example);
- Waste not always picked up;
- Waste around and beneath 5039 Charles Road;
- Waste along old landfill road;
- Potential leaching due to abandoned cars / oil tanks;
- No clear recycling / repurposing programs;
- No apparent monitoring program for old landfill site;
- Foreshore pollution;

- Abandoned oil (?) tanks;
- Two special areas of environmental (industrial) concern;
- No policy and / or law dealing with dumping and fill deposits; and,
- No policy for engaging neighbors on waste dumped on our lands.

*9.2.3 Wastewater*      • Some septic fields may be failing.

*9.2.4 Soil Quality*      • No policy for dealing with contaminated sites;

- No testing / monitoring for contaminants near car dumps / industrial sites;
- No clear monitoring strategy for potential leaching at old dump site; and,
- No permitting process for land / earth works.

*9.2.5 Surface Water*      • No clear testing / monitoring for contaminants near car dumps;

- No clear testing / monitoring strategy for potential leaching at old dump site; and,
- No strategy for cleaning / monitoring foreshore area, including mulch at booming grounds.

*9.2.6 Plants, Wildlife and Ecosystems*

- No strategy regarding decreasing plants, animals or fish species, and their corresponding ecosystems and habitats; and,
- No monitoring program to track traditional plant and wildlife species.



### *9.2.7 Climate Change and Forest Fires*

- No strategy to mitigate forest fires;
- No strategy for climate changes on wildlife and plants; and,
- No emergency plan / evacuation plan.

### *9.2.8 Housing*

- No strategy for testing of presence of contaminants in homes (lead, aluminum, etc.) or air quality (mold, for ex.);
- No plan for rendering homes “fire smart”; and,
- No medium or long strategy to address overcrowding.

### *9.2.9 Special Circumstances*

- Potential unexploded ordinances (IR 2);
- Potential PCBs in different places (electrical transformers);
- Old offices (lands offices) to be demolished;
- ESA recommendations may not all have been implemented; and,
- No communications strategy on environmental issues and concerns.

## *9.3 Options in Dealing with our Issues and Concerns*

### *9.3.1 Introduction*

We have several options in terms of how we decide to manage our environmental issues and concerns. This includes developing new, or revised policies, drafting guidelines for specific uses and areas, preparing communications and education programs for

community Members and our neighbours, developing monitoring strategies, and enacting laws and regulations. With the latter, some relevant federal laws apply to our lands. Further, there are provincial laws and regulations that are in effect regarding the lands that border ours; we can use these as a guide in developing a set of laws and regulations that could potentially meet or beat the province's. As a signatory to the Framework Agreement, we did agree to make certain that our environmental protection standards must have at least the same effect as those in the laws of the province and we intend to do this.

### *9.3.2 Options*

Each of the options listed above have pros and cons: It all depends on the circumstances, the severity of the issue, and the will of the community. Policies, for example, can be readily developed, but they are not enforceable, in a legal sense. Similarly, guidelines can serve as instructions for best practices, yet because they are easy to develop, there is always a risk that too many are in place at the same time; they are also not legally enforceable. Communications with our Members and also with our neighbours can help deliver specific environmental information, and education programs can similarly explain best practices on the land and water, for example; again, these are not legally enforceable mechanisms. Developing monitoring strategies in specific areas and on specific issues can provide us with better information to steer policy making and eventual law development; this can be expensive and requires serious commitment from our administration and leadership. Laws and regulations can be legally enforceable and can provide compliance expectations for all of our Members. However, these can be expensive to develop, rigid, and negatively received by our Members. Each option is worth consideration, all depending on specific issues and concerns.

## *9.4 Responses to our Issues and Concerns*

### **9.4.1 Cultural Resources**

As noted in the introduction to this EMP, our community is in a unique situation: Its location along a pristine shoreline and its forested areas and other natural resources, its unspoiled landscape, and our culture itself are advantages existing in few places. We are sited within our Traditional Territory that provides food, materials and medicines for our Members. And we have a rich heritage that includes resources and their uses from the sea, foreshore, forests and the many ecosystems and habitats that make up our lands. In short, we are completely linked to the environment within which we live. Adding to the environmental links with our culture, we have hundreds of cultural sites covering our Traditional Territory, including traditional use sites, burials, cairns, bathing pools, and medicinal and ceremonial plant areas, among other cultural sites of significance. The links between people, culture, environment and tradition are inextricable.

#### *9.4.1.1 Threats to our Cultural Resources*

There have been important historical events that have affected our cultural and traditional lives; these continue to threaten the way we live. Settler and colonial mechanisms have been and continue to be a threat to our way of life. At first, this was about gaining control over our lands and resources, and then, through the *Indian Act*, making it such that many of our cultural ways were made illegal to practice all-the-while installing controls over much of our lives. At the same time, missions and missionaries worked in parallel with the colonial administration, all aiming to make our culture “disappear”. During this century, Canada built an extensive installation for its military / navy needs on what is now known as “IR 2”, significantly altering our access and use of an extensive part of our traditional lands. Unexploded ordinances may be located within the area, rendering future uses problematic, at best. Extraction of our resources (timber, for example) has gone for the most part unchecked, stressing availability for our Members. Finally, a key impact of the historical imposition has been that much of our collective memory on traditions has been lost.

All of these activities have maintained constant pressures on our culture and the practices shaping the way we live. With each of these actions, human induced negative environmental change has resulted. Forest cutting and over-fishing, for example, followed the colonizing imposition. This has continued to impact our primary cultural activities, damaging and obliterating sites while restraining our access to resources.

Gradually, and very precariously, we have been making efforts to locate and collectively recall our cultural sites of significance; this continues with the help of our Elders and historical research. Our main cultural resources fall into the following broad categories:

- Our cemetery and ancestral burials;
- Our historical Cairns
- Our Elders and the community's collective memory;
- Traditional use sites
- Traditional gathering (plants and medicines) sites;
- Traditional hunting grounds and fishing areas;
- Ceremonial springs / pools,
- Archaeological Sites on our lands; and,
- Our longhouse.

As key to our community's survival and health, we plan on protecting these cultural resources as much as possible. This includes protecting them from environmental impacts, as well as using them to protect our environment. If we were to suddenly face major forest fires, for example, many traditional sites would be at risk. And with climate change, many of our traditional activities such as gathering, would be in jeopardy. Other events such as foreshore pollution and / or contamination pose threats to our cultural practices.

More specifically, threats to our cultural resources include the following:

- Disappearance of our collective memory;
- No processes to retrieve, gather and document more of our traditional knowledge;
- No policy to include our Elders in environmental decision-making;

- Potential damage from development activity to specific sites of cultural significance such as our cairns and medicinal plant stands;
- Potential damage to cultural resources from illegal dumping, spills and trespasses (see Solid Waste section below);
- No policy to protect cultural sites of significance;
- No meaningful mechanism for Canada and other jurisdictions to include traditional knowledge in environmental decisions; and,
- No permitting process for resource gathering (such as wood cutting) to protect cultural resources.

#### *9.4.1.2 Goals to Deal with the Threats*

- Document traditional knowledge and sites with an updated “Traditional Use Study” or other similar study;
- Develop a policy to include Elders in our environmental decision making;
- Develop a policy to protect our sites of cultural significance, including archaeological sites of significance (Heritage and Archaeology Policy);
- Develop a strategy to address illegal dumping on our lands (see Solid Waste section below);
- Develop a strategy to communicate to Canada and other jurisdictions on the value of traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making; and,
- Develop a permitting policy for resource extraction by Members and / or outsiders.

#### *9.4.1.3 Some Relevant Laws and Regulations*

##### ***i. Canada’s Laws and Regulations (among others)***

- Impact Assessment Act (2019)
  - o Section 2(1), provides for consideration for the potential environmental effects of a project and that the project consider any effects on physical and cultural heritage;
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999).

##### ***ii. British Columbia’s Laws and Regulations, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia’s)***

- Heritage Conservation Act (Government of BC 1996a)

o Protection for archaeological sites clauses for consideration in the development of a *Sc'ianew* First Nation policy on Heritage and Archaeology.

- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, (BC, 2019)
  - o The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) is the province's mechanism to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), aiming at affirming our rights.

### **iii. Sc'ianew *First Nation* Laws and Policies**

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;
- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law
  - Environmental Protection law
  - Heritage and Archaeology policy
  - Elder and Traditional Knowledge Inclusion policy
  - Resource Extraction, including Timber Cutting policy

#### ***9.4.1.4 Sc'ianew First Nation Guidelines, Actions and Studies***

- To be developed:
  - Updated Traditional Use Study

#### ***9.4.1.5 Education and Communications***

- To be developed:
  - Communications tools such as pamphlets, 'fast fact' sheets, and signage in our language and in English, identifying selected broad areas of cultural significance and ecological areas to be protected;
  - Communications tools such as a detailed part of our website detailing our history on the land; and,
  - Organizing Member workshops on cultural resource management

### 9.4.2 Solid Waste

The recommendations of the Environmental Site Assessments conducted as a result of our Land Code's implementation were not all confirmed as "completed". Our solid waste is presently trucked to the neighbouring community's landfill site. Our old landfill site has been decommissioned, although it is not clear if related groundwater and leaching is being monitored and reported on. We do not have a Solid Waste Management Plan or a recycling / repurposing / diversion strategy. We do not have a waste transfer station. Unauthorized disposal of waste is taking place on our lands, mostly by outsiders. There is a significant amount of old / abandoned vehicles in several areas. Old discarded oil (?) tanks may be leaking. Our booming areas require cleaning, with pollution and deep cedar mulch deposits along the foreshore. We also need to demolish old training / land offices. Other challenges remain, particularly at three unauthorized industrial (?) areas.

#### 9.4.2.1 Threats due to Solid Waste

- We have no Environmental Assessment law and no Environmental Protection law;
- Prior related study recommendations (ESAs) may not have been implemented;
- Unauthorized disposal of solid waste by outsiders and Members;
- Unauthorized debris at the entrance and road to old landfill site;
- Old landfill site monitoring program may not be in place;
- Abandoned vehicles (cars and boats) at different areas on our lands, including at our old landfill site;
- Adverse impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and ecosystems that are exposed to solid waste;
- Fire risks due to solid waste;
- Leaching risks due to solid waste and especially abandoned oil (?) tanks;
- Pollution and cedar mulch along foreshore (at booming grounds);
- Potential community health risks due to lack of community communications / education strategies regarding solid waste related practices;
- Lack of community recycling / repurposing / diversion strategies;
- We need to demolish our old training / office building;
- Two special areas of environmental concern at unauthorized industrial (?) sites;

- Potential unexploded ordinances at IR 2;
- No policy and / or law dealing with dumping and fill deposits; and,
- No strategy for engaging neighbors on waste dumped on our lands.

#### *9.4.2.2 Goals to Deal with the Threats*

- Develop Environmental Assessment law and Environmental Protection law;
- Develop strategy to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been implemented;
- Develop strategy to deal with unauthorized disposal of solid waste;
- Develop plan to clean up waste deposits and abandoned vehicles at various areas;
- Develop / reconfirm monitoring program at old landfill site;
- Develop monitoring program to identify adverse impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and ecosystems that are exposed to solid waste;
- Reduce possible fire risks and leaching at solid waste deposition sites, including especially vehicles, boats and old oil (?) tanks;
- Develop strategy to clean foreshore, including cedar mulch deposits at old booming grounds;
- Reduce community health risks by developing community communications / education strategies regarding solid waste related practices;
- Develop strategy for waste reduction, including reuse / repurpose and diversion options;
- Demolish old training / office building;
- Develop strategy to investigate the 6.3 Birds

BIRD

our name

key to us

(yes / no)

endangered (province)

endangered (us)

|



two special areas of environmental concern;

- Develop strategy to deal with potential unexploded ordinances at IR 2;
- Develop policy on dumping and fill deposition; and,
- Develop strategy to communicate / educate neighbours on dumping implications.

#### *9.4.2.3 Some Relevant Laws and Regulations*

##### ***i. Canada's Laws and Regulations (among others)***

- Impact Assessment Act (2019);
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999);
- *Indian Act* (1985);
  - Indian Reserve Waste Disposal Regulation
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (1992);
- Fisheries Act (Government of Canada 1985);
- Hazardous Products Act (1985); and,
- Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994).

##### ***ii. British Columbia's Laws and Regulations***, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia's)

- Public Health Act (Government of BC 2008);
- Environmental Management Act (Government of BC 2003);
  - o Hazardous Waste Regulation (Government of BC 1988)
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (Government of BC 1996); and,
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation (Government of BC 1985).

##### ***iii. Sc'ianew First Nation Laws and Policies***

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;

- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law;
  - Environmental Protection law;
  - Law on dumping, burying and storing waste, including open-burning of waste; and,
  - Policy on storage and removal of derelict vehicles.

#### *9.4.2.4 Sc'ianew First Nation Guidelines, Actions and Studies*

- Remove derelict / abandoned vehicles from various areas;
- Acquire, install and maintain large bins at regular intervals near residential areas;
- Undertake study to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been actioned;
- Seek advice from our Members on waste diversion strategies; and,
- Seek advice from Members on waste / dumping prevention and repurposing.

#### *9.4.2.5 Education and Communications*

- Develop educational and communications tools (such as info graphics and community website page section) focusing on waste prevention, waste diversion and the impacts of dumping;
- Develop communications tools on “burning” and “hazardous waste”; and,
- Provide, at strategic locations, “anti-dumping” signage, in our language and in English.

#### *9.4.2.6 Monitoring and Reporting*

- Investigate possibility of installing surveillance cameras in strategic locations, complete with corresponding signage, in our language and in English; and,
- Conduct waste audits to assess illegal or storage of solid waste within the community.

### **9.4.3 Wastewater**

We have made the point that it remains unclear if Environmental Site Assessments (Phases I, II and III) have been undertaken in recent years, since the enactment of our Land Code. Issues are listed below.

#### *9.4.3.1 Threats due to Wastewater*

- We have no Environmental Assessment law and no Environmental Protection law;
- Prior related ESA recommendations may not have been implemented;
- Some septic systems may not be operating properly; and,
- No strategy to monitor / remediate booming grounds pollution (including cedar mulch deposits).

#### *9.4.3.2 Goals to deal with the Threats*

- Develop Environmental Assessment law and Environmental Protection law;
- Develop strategy to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been implemented;
- Ensure septic systems are installed and maintained according to Canada's and our standards; and,
- Devise strategy to clean booming grounds area and remove cedar mulch.

#### *9.4.3.3 Some Relevant Laws and Regulations*

##### ***i. Canada's Laws and Regulations (among others)***

- Impact Assessment Act (2019);
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999);
- *Indian Act* (1985);
- Fisheries Act (Government of Canada 1985);
- Hazardous Products Act (1985);
- *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (2013)*  
(Regulations under this Act are in development through consultation with First Nations)
  - o *Protocol for Decentralised Water and Wastewater Systems in First Nations Communities* (April 2010) provides requirements for ISC-funded, First Nation managed septic systems. (Decentralized wastewater systems must conform to CSA B65 – National Installation Standard for Decentralised Wastewater Systems.

***ii. British Columbia's Laws and Regulations***, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia's)

- Public Health Act (Government of BC 2008);
  - o Sewerage System Regulation (Government of BC 2004);
- Environmental Management Act (Government of BC 2003);
  - o Hazardous Waste Regulation (Government of BC 1988);
  - o Municipal Wastewater Regulation (Government of BC 2012); and,
  - o Waste Discharge Regulation (Government of BC 2004).

### ***iii. Sc'ianew First Nation Laws and Policies***

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;
- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law;
  - Environmental Protection law;
  - Law on dumping, burying and storing waste, including open-burning of waste; and,
  - Policy on storage and removal of derelict vehicles.

#### ***9.4.3.4 Sc'ianew First Nation Guidelines, Actions and Studies***

- Develop strategy to “check” ESA recommendations implementation;
- Establish schedule for inspecting septic fields; and,
- Develop strategy to inspect, monitor and clean booming grounds.

#### ***9.4.3.5 Education and Communications***

- Develop communications tools (such as pamphlets and website information page) focusing on septic field maintenance and wastewater reduction.

#### ***9.4.3.6 Monitoring and Reporting***

- Develop a monitoring and reporting strategy for septic systems operations and maintenance.

### **9.4.4 Soil Quality**

Our meetings and research led us to a set of issues and concerns regarding soil quality. Generally, the main ones are related to the old landfill site, old / abandoned / buried cars, and the two special areas of environmental concern listed in section 8.4 and maps 5 and 6.

#### *9.4.4.1 Threats due to Soil Contamination*

- We have no Environmental Assessment law and no Environmental Protection law;
- Prior related ESA recommendations may not have been implemented;
- We have no policy for dealing with contaminated sites;
- We have no policy or law to deal with or control contaminated fill dumped on our lands, as well as contamination from the same dumping and contamination due to related spills;
- We have no testing / monitoring for soil contaminants near car dumps / industrial sites, including the three unauthorized industrial (?) sites of concern;
- We have no clear monitoring strategy for potential leaching at the old dump site; and,
- We have no permitting process for land / earth works.

#### *9.4.4.2 Goals to Deal with the Threats*

- Develop Environmental Assessment law and Environmental Protection law;
- Develop strategy to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been implemented;
- *Develop a "Soil Deposit and Removal" law;*
- Develop strategy to test / monitor soil near contaminated sites, including abandoned cars and the three unauthorized industrial (?) sites;
- Develop strategy to ensure that any testing / monitoring of soil near the old landfill site is re-established; and,
- Develop permitting process for land / earth works.

#### *9.4.4.3 Some Related Laws and Regulations*

##### ***i. Canada's Laws and Regulations (among others)***

- Impact Assessment Act (2019);
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999);
- *Indian Act* (1985);
- Hazardous Products Act (1985);
  - o CCME Canadian Soil Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Environment and Human Health — Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
  - o Federal Interim Groundwater Quality Guidelines for Federal Contaminated Sites –  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2014/ec/En14-91-2013-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2014/ec/En14-91-2013-eng.pdf)
- o Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (for identifying known federal contaminated sites).

***ii. British Columbia's Laws and Regulations***, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia's)

- Public Health Act (Government of BC 2008);
- Environmental Management Act (Government of BC 2003); and,
  - o Hazardous Waste Regulation (Government of BC 1988).

***iii. Sc'ianew First Nation Laws and Policies***

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;
- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law;
  - Environmental Protection law;
  - Policy of contaminated sites, including possible contaminated fill; and,
  - Law on dumping, burying and storing waste, including burning of waste.

***9.4.4.4 Sc'ianew First Nation Guidelines, Actions and Studies***

- Develop:
  - Strategy to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been implemented;
  - Strategy to test / monitor soil near contaminated sites, including abandoned cars and the three unauthorized industrial (?) sites;

Strategy to ensure that any testing / monitoring of soil near the old landfill site is re-established; and,

Permitting process for land / earth works.

Schedule for inspecting septic fields; and,

Strategy to inspect, monitor and clean booming grounds.

#### *9.4.4.5 Education and Communications*

- Develop communications tools (such as pamphlets and website information page) focusing on soil contamination, soil quality and reporting potential contaminants.

#### *9.4.4.6 Monitoring and Reporting*

- Develop strategy for monitoring and surveillance at known dumping sites.

### **9.4.5 Surface Water**

It remains unclear if the recommendations of our ESAs have been implemented. In addition, there are several issues and concerns that have to do with our surface water; these are as follows.

#### *9.4.5.1 Threats to surface waters*

- We have no Environmental Assessment law and no Environmental Protection law;
- Prior related ESA recommendations may not have been implemented;
- We have no testing / monitoring for contaminants near industrial sites and abandoned / dumped / buried cars;
- We have no clear testing / monitoring strategy for potential leaching at old dump site; and,

- We have no strategy for cleaning / monitoring foreshore areas.

#### *9.4.5.2 Goals to deal with the Threats*

- Develop Environmental Assessment law and Environmental Protection law;
- Develop strategy to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been implemented;
- Develop strategy to test / monitor soil near contaminated sites, including abandoned / dumped / buried cars and the three industrial (?) sites;
- Develop strategy to ensure that any testing / monitoring of water near the old landfill site is re-established; and,
- Develop strategy to clean / monitor foreshore areas.

#### *9.4.5.3 Related Laws and Regulations*

##### *i. Canada's Laws and Regulations (among others)*

- *Indian Act (1985)*
- *Impact Assessment Act (2019)*
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999)*
- *Fisheries Act (1985)*
- *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (2013)*  
(Regulations under this Act are in development through consultation with First Nations)
  - o Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities
  - o Federal Interim Groundwater Quality Guidelines for Federal Contaminated Sites  
—  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2014/ec/En14-91-2013-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2014/ec/En14-91-2013-eng.pdf)

##### *ii. British Columbia's Laws and Regulations, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia's)*

- Public Health Act (Government of BC 2008);
- Environmental Management Act (Government of BC 2003);
  - o Hazardous Waste Regulation (Government of BC 1988);



- Water Sustainability Act (Government of BC 2014a);
  - o Water Sustainability Regulation (Government of BC 2016a); and,
  - o Groundwater Protection Regulation (Government of BC 2016b)

### ***iii. Sc'ianew First Nation*** Laws and Policies

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;
- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law;
  - Environmental Protection law;
  - Policy on Septic field inspection and standards compliance; and,
  - Policy on surface water monitoring and protection.

#### ***9.4.5.4 Guidelines and Best Management Practices***

- Solicit advice from our Members on developing better surface water monitoring in general.

#### ***9.4.4.5 Education and Communications***

- Develop communications tools (such as pamphlets and website information page) focusing on surface water contaminant reduction.

#### ***9.4.5.6 Monitoring and Reporting***

- Develop a monitoring and reporting strategy for groundwater quality.

## **9.4.6 Plants, Wildlife, Habitats and Ecosystems**

There are many issues and concerns that have to do with our plants, wildlife, wildlife habitats and ecosystems. These include species at risk, invasive species, the disappearance of traditional plants, and the destruction of species habitats. One example of an important invasive species identified by our Members is scotch broom, brought to our lands 150 years ago by outsiders. The plant grows very fast and has spread in many areas of our lands, especially along roads, hydro corridors, and clearings. The plant is

overbearing for other plants and installs itself quickly, pushing other plants out while at the same time making it more difficult for birds and wildlife to nest and live within. It also increases the threat of wildfires.

At the same time, the protection of plants – especially our medicinal plants, is important for making sure that we can continue practicing our traditions. Similarly, the animals we harvest are important in terms of our culture's continuity; we aim to protect their health and habitats. Finally, there are invasive species that threaten existing species and corresponding ecosystems, as well as species at risk, stressed by climate change and invasive species.

#### *9.4.6.1 Threats*

- We have no Environmental Assessment law and no Environmental Protection law;
- We have no strategy regarding decreasing plants, animals or fish species, and their corresponding ecosystems and habitats;
- We have no monitoring program to track traditional plant and wildlife species.

#### *9.4.6.2 Goals to Deal with the Threats*

- Develop an Environmental Assessment law;
- Develop an Environmental Protection law;
- Apply *Species at Risk Act*;
- Develop an updated Traditional Use Study;
- Develop a strategy to inventory and monitoring decreasing plants, animals and fish species, and their corresponding ecosystems and habitats;
- Control importation and spread of invasive species; and,
- Develop related communications and education strategy for our Members and visitors.

#### *9.4.6.3 Related Laws and Regulations*

##### ***i. Canada's Laws and Regulations (among others)***

- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999)*
- *Impact Assessment Act (2019)*

- *Species at Risk Act* (2002)
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (1994)
- *Wildlife Act* (1985)
- *Migratory Birds Convention* (1994)
- *Fisheries Act* (1985)
- *Environmental Quality Guidelines* (CCME 2021)

#### Environmental Standards

- *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES 1973)

**ii. British Columbia's Laws and Regulations**, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia's)

- *Public Health Act* (2008);
- *Environmental Management Act* (2003);
- *Water Sustainability Act* (2014);
- *Riparian Areas Protection Act and Riparian Areas Protection Regulation* (1997);
- *Wildlife Act* (1996);
- *Forest and Range Practices Act* (2002);
- *Weed Control Act* (1996);
  - o *Weed Control Regulation* (1985);
- *Forest and Range Practices Act – Invasive Plant Regulation* (2002);
  - o *Invasive Plants Regulation* (2004); and,
- *Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation* (2004).

#### **iii. Sc'ianew First Nation Laws and Policies**

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;
- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law;
  - Environmental Protection law;
  - Policy on protection of traditional plants, animals, fish, and their habitats and ecosystems;
  - Policy to monitor for potential contamination of plants, wildlife and habitats.

#### *9.4.6.4 Guidelines and Best Management Practices*

- Solicit advice from our Members on developing better plant, wildlife, Invasive Species, Species at Risk and habitat monitoring.

#### *9.4.6.5 Education and Communications*

- Update our community's Traditional Use Study
- Develop a communications strategy on responsible harvesting of traditional plants and, fish and animals;
- Develop an education strategy for Members on medicinal plants and traditional foods; and,
- Develop communications strategy for Members on Invasive Species, Species at Risk and protecting habitats and ecosystems.

#### *9.4.6.6 Monitoring and Reporting*

- Develop an Environmental Monitoring program to monitor our plants, wildlife and fish; and,
- Develop mapping for traditional use plants, fish and animals.

### **9.4.7 Climate Change, including Forest Fires and Emergencies**

We will soon be facing increased effects of Climate Change. Water levels are projected to rise, and forest fires, for example, are increasing in frequency and intensity. A primary and immediate result of Climate Change is an increase in invasive species which in turn are impacting our traditional food sources and medicinal plants, among many other impacts.

#### *9.4.7.1 Threats*

- There are changes in climate and weather patterns;
- There are increased risks of forest fires;
- There is a reduction of traditional plants, fish and wildlife resources; we have no related strategy;
- We have no emergency plan to protect the community, our lands, and related infrastructure; and

- There is only limited Member knowledge of the effects and risks associated with Climate Change.

#### *9.4.7.2 Goals to Deal with the Threats*

- Develop an Environmental Assessment law;
- Develop an Environmental Protection law;
- Develop a Community / Infrastructure Protection Plan;
- Develop an Emergency Plan; and,
- Develop related communications and education strategy for our Members and visitors.

#### *9.4.7.3 Related Laws and Regulations*

##### ***i. Canada's Laws and Regulations*** (among others)

- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999)*
- *Impact Assessment Act (2019)*

##### ***ii. British Columbia's Laws and Regulations***, among others (for reference, should we choose to harmonize our laws with British Columbia's)

- Climate Change Accountability Act (2007); and,
- Environmental Management Act (2003).

##### ***iii. Sc'ianew First Nation*** Laws and Policies

- Our Land Code
- Our Land Use Plan
- Our Interim Environmental Assessment process from our Individual Agreement with Canada;
- To be developed:
  - Environmental Assessment law;
  - Environmental Protection law;
  - Policy on Climate Change;
  - Emergency Plan; and,
  - Strategy on protecting the community and our assets.

#### *9.4.7.4 Guidelines and Best Management Practices*

- Solicit advice from our Members on developing a Climate Change strategy.

#### *9.4.7.5 Education and Communications*

- Develop a communications strategy on Climate Change effects; and,
- Develop an education strategy for Members on mitigation measures and Emergency Response (through community-led Emergency Planning).

#### *9.4.7.6 Monitoring and Reporting*

- Develop an Environmental Monitoring program.

## **10. Implementation Plan**

### **10.1 Strategy**

The environmental protection and environmental assessment laws of Canada, among others, still apply on our lands. We intend to abide by these. Other environmental laws of Canada will also continue to apply on our reserve lands; the Species at Risk Act, Fisheries Act, among many others will continue to apply. With a ratified Land Code and operating under the FAFNLM, we will develop our own environmental protection and assessment laws to meet or beat Canada's laws. Our intent is also to make sure that any of our related laws act in harmony with the province's. At the same time, we also aim to close the gaps between Canada's regulations and the province's.

This Implementation section outlines the several actions we intend to take as we move forward in establishing a set of environmental laws, policies and regulations. It will take time and we want to do things right. We want as much community input as possible as we develop these, and we want complete transparency. We also want this Implementation section to be flexible. That is to

say that as we develop laws, policies and regulations, we want to be able to go back and adjust things as our community's land and environmental management tools are developed.

The main actions to implement our EMP are contained in the following tables. There is a great deal of overlap between these actions and they are not necessarily listed in any order of priority. We will follow the community's wishes in a step-by-step fashion, all according to their instructions.

## 10.2 Implementation Actions

The following tables with their individual actions will guide our progress. The first category - Main Environmental Laws, Policies and Plans, is common to all the other categories and will be key to our community's wellbeing in the long run. The other key categories include: Cultural Resources, Solid Waste, Wastewater, Soil Quality, Surface Water, Plants, Wildlife, Habitats and Ecosystems, and Climate Change, including Forest Fires, Emergencies.

**Table 7 – Main Environmental Laws, Policies and Plans**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
<i>Develop Environmental Protection law</i>	MP / CE / Law	Draft EP Law	med	LM, Council and Legal Advisor	med	year 3
<i>Develop Environmental Assessment law</i>	MP / CE / Law	Draft EA Law	med	LM, Council and Legal Advisor	med	year 3
<i>Develop an Updated Traditional Use Study</i>	MP/ LM / Study	Updated Traditional Use Study	med	LM, Advisor	high	year 1
<i>Develop Resource Monitoring Program</i>	MP / PR	Monitoring Program for our Resources, incl.: Cultural/Natural	med	LM, Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop strategy to ensure prior ESA recommendations have been implemented</i>	MP / CE	Ensure prior ESA recommendations are implemented	med	LM, Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop Community Emergency Plan</i>	MP / PO	Emergency Plan	low	LM, Advisor	high	year 2

**Table 8 – Cultural Resources**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
<i>Develop an Updated Traditional Use Study (Main Project; see Table 7)</i>	MP / CE	Document cultural knowledge	med	LM and Advisor	high	year 1
<i>Develop Policy on protecting sites of cultural significance</i>	PO CE	Policy to protect sites of cultural significance	low	LM and Advisor	high	year 1 (LUP)
<i>Develop Policy to include Elders in Environmental decision making</i>	PO CE	Policy to include Elders in Environmental decision making	low	LM and Advisor	med	year 1
<i>Develop Strategy to communicate to Canada and other jurisdictions on the value of traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making</i>	PO CE	Strategy to communicate to jurisdictions the value of trad knowledge in environmental decision-making	low	LM and Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop a Policy on (traditional) resource gathering and extraction</i>	PO CE	Policy on resource gathering and extraction	low	LD, Advisor	med	year 1

#### Abbreviations

CE – Community Engagement

LM – Lands Manager

ST – Strategy

PO – Policy

Law – Law Development

Council – Chief and Council

PR – Program

MP – Main Project

#### Table 9 – Solid Waste

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
<i>Develop Strategy to deal with Unauthorized waste deposition</i>	ST	Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor	high	year 2
<i>Develop Strategy to remove existing solid waste deposits, including abandoned / buried vehicles</i>	ST / PR	Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor	high	year 1
<i>Reinitiate monitoring program at old landfill site</i>	ST / PR / CE	Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor and Env. Specialist	high	year 2
<i>Develop Strategy to investigate two areas of special environmental concern (unauthorized industrial sites?)</i>	ST / CE	Risk Management	Low	LM, Advisor and Env. Specialist	high	year 2
<i>Develop Monitoring Program to identify adverse effects on wildlife, habitats and eco-systems, as well as fire hazards and leaching (due to solid waste deposits)</i>	ST / PR / CE	Risk Management	med	LM, Advisor and Env. Specialist	med	year 3
<i>Develop Strategy to clean and protect foreshore areas, including cedar mulch deposits at booming grounds</i>	ST / PR	Strategy and Risk Management	med	LM, Advisor and Env. Specialist	med	year 3
<i>Develop Plan for waste reduction options</i>	PR	Plan and Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Demolish old training / office building</i>	ST	Risk Management	low	LM	low	year 1
<i>Develop strategy to deal with unexploded ordinances</i>	ST	Plan and Risk management	med	LM, Advisor	med	Year 2
<i>Develop communications Strategy to improve community involvement in solid</i>	PR	Strategy / Program	low	LM, Advisor	med	year 2



<i>waste reduction and related harmful effects</i>						
<i>Develop Strategy to communicate / educate neighbours on illegal dumping implications</i>	PR	Strategy / Risk Management / Program	low	LM, Advisor	Med	year 2

**Table 10 – Wastewater**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
<i>Develop Strategy to ensure that all septic systems are maintained according to Canada's and our standards</i>	ST	Risk Management	low	LM	med	year 2

**Abbreviations**

CE – Community Engagement  
LM – Lands Manager  
ST – Strategy  
PO – Policy

Law – Law Development  
Council – Chief and Council  
PR – Program  
MP – Main Project

**Table 11 – Soil Quality**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
<i>Develop a "Soil Deposit and Removal" law</i>	Law / CE	Risk Management / Law on Soil Deposit, Removal and Mitigation	med	LM, Advisor, Legal Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop Policy on contaminated sites</i>	PO	Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor	med	year 3
<i>Develop Policy to test / monitor soil near contaminated sites, including abandoned cars and the three unauthorized industrial (?) sites</i>	PO	Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor	med	year 3
<i>Develop strategy to ensure that any testing / monitoring of soil near the old landfill site is re-established</i>	PO	Risk management	low	LM, Advisor	med	year 3
<i>Develop Permitting Process for land / earth works</i>	PO	Risk Management	low	LM, Advisor	med	year 1

**Table 12 – Surface Water**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
Develop strategy to test / monitor soil near contaminated sites, including abandoned / dumped / buried cars and the three industrial (?) sites	ST / PR	Risk Management / Monitoring / Baseline data	low	LM, Advisor, and Env. Specialist	med	year 3
Develop strategy to ensure that any testing / monitoring of water near the old landfill site is re-established	ST / PR	Risk Management / Monitoring	low	LM. Advisor, and Env. Advisor	med	year 3
Develop a monitoring program for surface water	PR	Risk Management / Monitoring	low	LM, Advisor, Env. Advisor	med	year 3
Develop strategy to clean / monitor foreshore areas	PR	Risk management / Monitoring	Low	LM, Advisor and Env. Advisor	med	year 2

#### Abbreviations

CE – Community Engagement  
LM – Lands Manager  
ST – Strategy  
PO – Policy

Law – Law Development  
Council – Chief and Council  
PR – Program  
MP – Main Project

**Table 13 – Plants, Wildlife, Habitats and Ecosystems**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
<i>Develop Policy to apply Species at Risk Act</i>	PO	Risk management	Low	LM and Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop Strategy to inventory and monitor plants, animals and fish species, incl habitats and ecosystems</i>	ST / PR	Baseline data / monitoring	med	LM and Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop Strategy to control invasive species</i>	ST / PR	Risk Management	med	LM and Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop wildlife protection measures</i>	ST / PR	Risk Management / Mitigation	low	LM and Advisor	med	year 2
<i>Develop related communications and education Strategy for our Members and visitors</i>	ST / CE	Education / Mitigation	low	LM, Advisor and Env. Advisor	med	year 2

**Table 14 – Climate Change, including Forest Fires and Emergencies**

Action	Type	Result	Cost	Lead	Priority	Timeline
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<b><i>Develop Community Infrastructure Protection Plan</i></b>	Plan	Risk Management / Mitigation	med	LM and Advisor	high	year 2
<b><i>Develop Community Emergency Plan</i></b>	Plan	Risk Management / Mitigation	med	LM and Advisor	high	year 2
<b><i>Develop related communications and education Strategy for our Members and visitors</i></b>	ST / CE	Mitigation	med	LM and Advisor	high	year 2

#### **Abbreviations**

CE – Community Engagement  
LM – Lands Manager  
ST – Strategy  
PO – Policy

Law – Law Development  
Council – Chief and Council  
PR – Program  
MP – Main Project

## **11. Conclusion**

After several drafts, this the final draft of our community's Environmental Management Plan. The drafts have been cumulative, leading to this one, each time adding community thoughts on environmental issues and concerns, all-the-while site field checking as many as possible. While this is our final plan, we nonetheless consider this EMP as a dynamic plan and we plan on adjusting it as we move forward, setting laws, policies and regulations in place, and adjusting these in time. Each of the EMP's sections lists our issues and concerns; the Implementation section outlines the actions that we intend to use to address the same environmental threats. We most certainly do not intend on developing a complex set of laws, policies and regulations; we intend on "keeping it straight-forward", meeting or beating Canada's and the province's regulations, and using language that is accessible for our Members and neighbours.

**APPENDIX 'A'**  
**Sc'ianew First Nation**

**Community Survey on our Environmental Management Plan**

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**Our Lands Department is developing an Environmental Management Plan and we need your input!**

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is a plan that lists our issues and concerns about our environment. It also outlines strategies to deal with the same issues and concerns as we aim to maintain and improve the environmental quality on our lands and in our homes. An EMP can be a powerful expression of environmental governance and we intend to have one that reflects our culture, our community and our ways.

1. Are you a Member of Sc'ianew First Nation? Yes / No
2. Age group? Under 18 19 – 29 30 – 59 60 +
3. Do you currently live here in the community? Yes / No
4. If not, have you lived here before? Yes / No
5. Have you read our Land Code? Yes / No
6. Have you read our Housing Policy? Yes / No
7. Do you want to enforce our laws and protect our lands? Yes / No
8. To you, what are the 3 key environmental challenges we face as a community?

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9. What are some of our traditional practices on taking care of our lands, resources and environment?

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10. Are there any areas on our lands that you feel should remain untouched (no development)?

Yes / No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Are there any harvesting grounds that you are aware of that we need to better protect?

Yes / No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Our Environmental Management Plan will include several key priorities. Do you agree, disagree, or have no opinion on the following priorities?

	agree	disagree	no opinion
Traditional Sites (such as Cairns)			
Air Quality (such as in your home)			
Groundwater (such as in your yard)			
Foreshore (such as at Blackies')			
Drinking Water (such as at home)			
Wastewater (such as in your yard)			
Wetlands and Surface Water			
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat			
Ecosystems			
Waste Management (such as on your street)			
Fuel Storage (such as around our buildings)			
Hazardous Waste Storage (such as in your yard)			
Air Quality (such as in our homes)			
Ash from large burns			
Access to specific areas in Emergencies			
Community Emergency Plan			

Other priorities we should look at:

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13. Are you worried about our drinking water; is there a color or smell? Yes / No
14. Do you use a private well for your drinking water? Yes / No
15. Are you worried about the use of septic systems? Yes / No
16. Do you use our waterfront for recreation? Yes / No
17. Are you worried about waterfront affecting your health? Yes / No
- If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Are you worried about the fish affecting your health? Yes / No
- If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Have you noticed a reduction in fish or other marine species? Yes / No
- If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Do you harvest medicinal or culturally significant plants from our lands? Yes / No
21. Have you noticed a reduction of the same plants over recent years? Yes / No
- If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Do you consume berries or other plants from our lands? Yes / No
23. Are you worried about the berries affecting your health in a negative way? Yes / No
- If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_
24. Do you consume wildlife (birds, animals, waterfowl) from our lands? Yes / No
25. Are you worried about the wildlife affecting your health in a negative way? Yes / No

If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Do you feel our waste is properly handled in the community? Yes / No

How might we do better? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Would you participate in waste reduction strategies such as composting or recycling

Yes / No

28. Are you aware of illegal dumping on our lands?

Yes / No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

29. Are you interested in recycling the way we do it now through the CRD? Yes / No

30. Are you interested in other types of recycling?

Yes / No

If yes, what type? \_\_\_\_\_

31. Are you worried about buried or forgotten fuel tanks?

Yes / No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

32. Are you aware of potentially contaminated sites on your lands?

Yes / No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

33. Are you worried about the air that we breathe in the community?

Yes / No

34. Are you worried about the air that you breathe inside your home?

Yes / No

If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_

35. How should we encourage our Members to follow env. policies and laws?

Education and Communication

Yes / No

Fines

Yes / No

Enforcement Officer

Yes / No

Traditional Options

Yes / No

Other environmental issues or concerns you might have:

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**Draw**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your age: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_