

The Resource Centre (RC) is committed to assisting developmental and operational communities in improving environmental governance on reserve. The RC continues to provide training, technical assistance, and in some cases, financial support for environment and solid waste activities and issues.



Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) – A Phase I ESA reviews the historic activities that occurred on a First Nation’s reserve lands prior to the transfer of land management jurisdiction from Canada to the First Nation and identifies areas where contamination may be present. Phase II and III ESAs, which involve sampling, are used to determine whether contamination actually exists, its extent, and options for remediation. The RC’s Environment & Enforcement Specialist continues to provide support to First Nations during the various phases of the ESA process by:

Technical
assistance during
the ESA process

- Reviewing and commenting on the Statement of Work
- Reviewing proposals and recommending a consultant to complete the study
- Reviewing and commenting on the draft and final reports
- Ensuring Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) fulfils their Framework Agreement responsibilities with respect to environmental issues on reserve lands

Phase I ESA
Guidance
Document

- Co-developed with ISC to ensure all RC and regional staff have a clear understanding of the Phase I ESA process
- To clearly establish the purpose, study area, tasks, and roles for Phase I ESAs
- To provide a dispute resolution process so any issues or concerns can be resolved in a timely manner



Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) – An EMP looks at the environmental issues on an Operational First Nation’s reserve lands and proposes strategies to manage or address those issues. In 2018, under the RC’s Collaborative EMP Development Funding, \$60,000 was provided to 6 Operational First Nations working in collaborative groups to complete their individual EMPs. Following EMP completion, in early 2019, a needs assessment was conducted to determine if EMP development funding was sufficient and if First Nations required additional supports for EMP. As a result, the RC was able to secure an additional \$20,000 in funding per First Nation for EMP development, as well as \$120,000 in funding per First Nation to support them during their first year of EMP implementation. In 2019, 12 additional Operational First Nations were approved to receive \$80,000 each for EMP development and are currently working on their plans. 10 additional Operational First Nations were approved for EMP development funding beginning in 2020, and all First Nations who have completed an EMP under the Collaborative EMP Development fund will be eligible for \$120,000 in funding to support their first year of EMP implementation.

Environment and Solid Waste Support

 **Environmental Laws** – The RC has Environment & Enforcement Specialists on staff to provide assistance with environmental law development and implementation, including:



* RC support for environmental laws does not replace the need for a First Nation to retain independent legal advice, but can help reduce legal costs for environmental law development and adjudication

 **Solid Waste Management** – Solid Waste is one of the top environmental concerns for First Nation communities. It is a growing and unavoidable issue that requires strategic management to ensure environmental protection and the safety of communities. The RC has a Solid Waste Specialist to assist with:



There are online courses on Solid Waste Management available through the RC website and a funding program available for Operational and Developmental community projects. 16 Projects were funded in the 2019/2020 funding cycle, ranging from \$15,000 to \$78,000 with a total of \$750,000 going directly to Framework Agreement signatory communities.

 **Direct Community Support (1:1)** – The RC staff are available to assist communities directly with environment and solid waste issues and initiatives. If you are interested in this service, we encourage you to contact us and we can set a time to discuss your needs and the support we can provide.

 **For more information please contact us along with your RC First Nation Support Services Technician or Manager:**

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