

Indigenous Fund for Community-Based Environmental Monitoring

Program Overview

In December 2017, the governments of Canada and Alberta renewed their commitment to provide clear and scientifically rigorous information about the environmental impacts of oil sands development in northeastern Alberta. This commitment also called for greater collaboration with representatives from local Indigenous communities to encourage Indigenous involvement in monitoring priorities and decisions.

The Government of Canada has committed up to \$2 million annually to develop capacity for community-based environmental monitoring in the oil sands region that is designed and led by Indigenous communities. This funding opportunity will build capacity and provide an opportunity for community leadership in environmental monitoring design and implementation.

Environmental monitoring involves the systematic collection of samples and specimens from the air, water and land to determine the extent of impacts on the natural ecosystems and habitats. Project requirements are to be established by the community and based on their priorities.

While this opportunity complements the Oil Sands Monitoring (OSM) program in terms of its geographic scope and with its focus on environmental monitoring, the funding is separate from that of the OSM Program. Communities are not limited to environmental monitoring of impacts of oil sands development, but can consider environmental monitoring more generally in the oil sands region, or as it relates to ongoing or proposed resource development in the oil sands region.

Available Funding

The total amount of funding available under this program is up to \$2 million annually. Owing to currently funded projects, there is \$250,000 in funding available for new projects in 2020-2021. A project can run from one to three years and it is expected that funding will be in the range of \$150,000 per year. However, consideration will be given to projects whose costs are higher or lower than this amount.

Who can apply?

Indigenous communities are eligible to receive funding through this program if they are located within the Oil Sands Monitoring (OSM) program boundaries (defined by provincial oil sands deposits layer) or with a designated interest in the OSM area (defined by the 160-km interim buffer as per Alberta Environment and Parks' Métis Harvesting Policy 2010). This includes those First Nations, Métis Organizations and Métis Locals listed in the following table.

Indigenous communities can work with external partners, as long as their roles and responsibilities are clearly detailed in the project proposal. Examples of external partners include:

- other Indigenous communities
- federal, provincial, or regional governments
- non-governmental organizations
- academic institutions
- consultants

First Nations	Métis Organizations	Métis Nation of Alberta Locals
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement	#100 Bonnyville
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	East Prairie Métis Settlement	#116 West Parkland
Bigstone Cree Nation	Elizabeth Métis Settlement	#125 Fort Chipewyan
Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation	Fishing Lake Métis Settlement	#1886 & #2085 Edmonton
Cold Lake First Nation	Gift Lake Métis Settlement	#1909 Lakeland
Dene Tha' First Nation	Kikino Métis Settlement	#1929 Valleyview
Driftpile Cree Nation	Peavine Métis Settlement	#193 Conklin
Duncan's First Nation	MNA Region 1	#1935 Fort McMurray
Fort McKay First Nation	MNA Region 2	#1949 Owl River
Fort McMurray First Nation	MNA Region 5	#1954 Big Bay / Touchwood Lake
Frog Lake First Nation	MNA Region 6	#1990 Grande Prairie
Heart Lake First Nation		#1994 Cadotte Lake
Horse Lake First Nation		#207 Fairview
Kapawe'no First Nation		#2002 Buffalo Lake
Kehewin Cree Nation		#2010 Athabasca Landing
Little Red River Cree Nation		#2012 Lloydminster
Loon River First Nation		#2020 Fort McMurray
Lubicon First Nation		#2097 Lac la Biche
Mikisew Cree First Nation		#55 Gunn
Onion Lake Cree Nation		#78 Peace River
Peerless Trout First Nation		#780 Willow Lake (Anzac)
Saddle Lake Cree Nation		#83 Fort McKay
Sawridge First Nation		#90 Wabasca
Sucker Creek First Nation		
Swan River First Nation		
Tallcree First Nation		
Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation		
Whitefish Lake (Atikameg) First Nation		
Woodland Cree First Nation		

Project Considerations

Projects are to consider the following key components as they relate to environmental monitoring:

- Community-driven or supported initiative
- Encourage action towards the protection, conservation and positive impact on the environment
- Inclusive of relevant knowledge, which could include, but is not limited to, Indigenous Knowledge and science
- Opportunities for training and/or youth engagement
- Data management plan to collect, manage, store and share data resulting from the project

The following are examples of types of projects that may be considered eligible:

- Increase the capacity to engage effectively in environmental management, and assess results and progress, as well as undertake activities related to networking, sharing of information and outreach
- Produce scientific research and monitoring related to ecosystem status, assessment and reporting, as well as research into the development of new technologies related to those issues
- Awareness, training, outreach or behavioural change projects on a specific environmental issue
- Establish, coordinate and update local or regional action plans and strategies
- Restoration of areas of concern or of special interest

How to apply?

1. Confirmation of community support for the proposed project is required. Proposals that are submitted without this confirmation will not be considered further.
2. Complete a project proposal, which must address, at minimum, the following key components.
 - Title of the project/initiative
 - Description of responsible community, organization or individual: this should include, but not be limited to, contact, expertise, and role in the project
 - Description of partners: this should include, but not be limited to, information on all partners to the project, their expertise, and role in the project
 - Location and duration: specify the project duration and location
 - Project summary: provide a general overview of the project, including objectives and rationale, as well as alignment with this program
 - Proposed work plan: detail how the applicant will scope, implement, and manage the project's goals within the planned budget for the full duration of the project
 - Expected results: specify expected results and how achievement of these results might be measured
 - Project costs: summary of project costs, including a statement of the funds required from ECCC, and of other cash and in-kind contributions secured for the full duration of the project
3. Submit the project proposal and letter of community support by email to ec.surveillancedessablesbitumineux-oilsandsmonitoring.ec@canada.ca. **The deadline for project proposal submission is midnight Eastern Time on Tuesday, 10 March 2020.**

For more information

Inquiries can be directed to ec.surveillancedessablesbitumineux-oilsandsmonitoring.ec@canada.ca.

Next Steps

All applicants will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of their proposals. An evaluation committee will review the proposals based on the program goals and requirements. All applicants will be notified as to the outcome of this evaluation. Successful applicants will be required to provide input into the contribution agreement detailing the terms and conditions of funding.