

ENVIRONMENT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB/MARCH 2022



Chiefs of Ontario

468 Queen St. E., Suite 400

Phone: 1-(416)-597-1266

Fax: 1-(416)-597-8365

Toll-free: 1-877-517-6527



Kathleen Padulo
Director of Environment
Email: Kathleen.Padulo@coo.org
www.chiefs-of.ontario.org

MEET THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR



**Welcome to this edition of the
Environment Quarterly
Newsletter!**

Foreword – Environment Director

Sheko:lih and welcome to the winter edition of the Chiefs of Ontario's Environment Newsletter.

Our ceremonies follow the cycle of the seasons and are determined by careful observance of the land, moon, and seasons' cycle. Midwinter (Tshatek'chelha) is a time of renewing our responsibilities for the coming year and to give thanks to all things on earth. In this quarterly newsletter, the Environment team will provide several key updates on files that continue to move forward and reflect upon successes. We continue to provide updates on a number of key areas such as climate change, the great lakes (largest eco-system), safe drinking water, and environmental protection activities. We hope you enjoy the Good News Stories that continue to provide us with motivational projects in First Nation Communities breaking barriers for everyone.

We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every one of us, and now more than ever, it is important to show kindness and compassion to each other. I look forward to meeting everyone in person again soon at one of the Chiefs of Ontario's meetings.

Once again, I want to thank the front-line workers for their continued dedication to ensuring we are all safe and healthy during the pandemic. Thank you to the Chiefs Committee on the Environment, who have incredible demands on their time as leaders during this global pandemic, and yet continue to find time to support and guide the advocacy efforts of the Environment team during these very challenging times.

I hope you enjoy the winter edition of the newsletter, and in closing, I want to acknowledge the Environment team at the Chiefs of Ontario; their dedication and resilience during these unprecedented times bring a strong message of hope and strength.

The Environment Newsletter can be viewed online by desktop, tablet, or smartphone. If you have any feedback, please contact Kathleen Padulo at Kathleen.Padulo@coo.org.

Kathleen Padulo
Chiefs of Ontario, Director of Environment

Environment Team at Chiefs of Ontario:



WELCOME TO

Ryan Bowie, Policy Analyst

Ryan Bowie joined the Chiefs of Ontario Environment Sector this past June. His work is focused on the Great Lakes region and the policies and agreements that manage Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health. You can reach Ryan at

Ryan.Bowie@coo.org



Stephanie Allen, Environment Program Manager

Stephanie Allen is an Environment Program Manager for the Chiefs of Ontario. Since starting in May 2021, she has been working on two key unit projects: a revised First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit and the Environmental Capacity and Regulatory Gap project. You can reach Stephanie at

Stephanie.Allen@coo.org.



Lillian Trapper, Ontario Regional Climate Change Coordinator

Lillian Trapper is the Regional Climate Change Coordinator for the Chiefs of Ontario. Lillian works closely with the Assembly of First Nations on a myriad of Climate and Environment files. You can reach Lillian at

Lillian.Trapper@coo.org.



Sally Gaikezheyongai, Environment Coordinator

Sally Gaikezheyongai is the Environment Coordinator for the Chiefs of Ontario's Environment Sector. Since 2010, Sally has worked to assist the team with their meetings.

You can reach Sally at Sally.Gaikezheyongai@coo.org.

GOOD OLD NEWS

MFFN Community Access Road: Four Educational Videos

The Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road Team has launched our latest educational video on Vegetation. In this video, you will learn about:

- The importance of Indigenous Knowledge combined with western science
- What vegetation is and why we are studying it
- What we've already learned about vegetation and
- How you can be involved

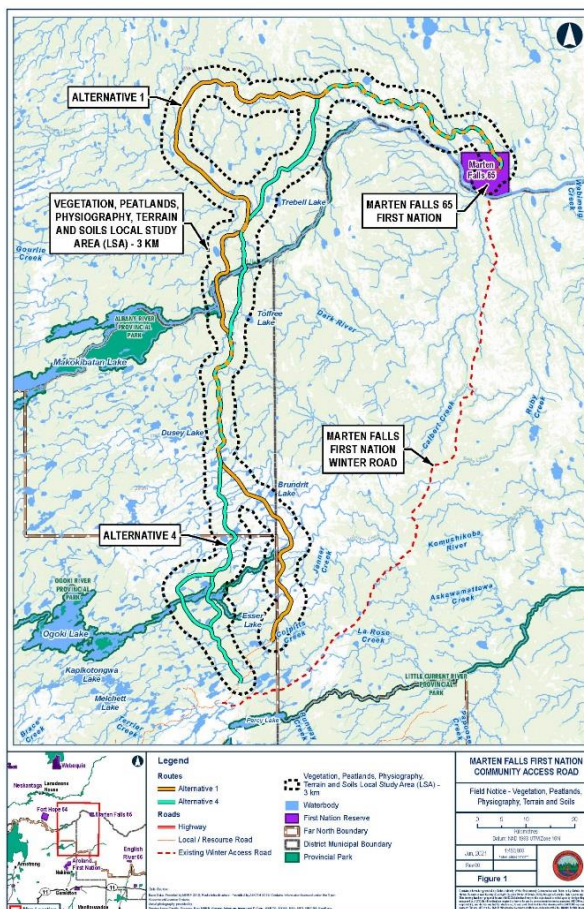
You can view the video by [clicking here](http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/vegetation/) or by visiting <http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/vegetation/>. When you are on the site, you can also view the videos for Groundwater, Surface Water, Fish and Fish Habitat by selecting the icons at the bottom of each page.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email, or contact us at 1-800-764-9114.

The Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road Team

The Vegetation Field Program—to document and understand vegetation in the study area—is continuing for the federal Impact Assessment (IA) for Marten Falls First Nation's proposed All-Season Community Access Road. The Terms of Reference (ToR), a framework to guide the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA), is currently with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for review and decision. If the ToR is approved, this field program will also inform the provincial EA. The Vegetation Field Program for 2021 ran from September 18 to October 1.

<http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/vegetation/>



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation water operator wins national leadership award

Jonathan Riberdy praised by chief for going 'above and beyond'

[Renée Lilley](#) · CBC News · Posted: Dec 11, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: December 11, 2021



Jonathan Riberdy is the 2021 winner of the National First Nations Water Leadership Award given by Indigenous Services Canada. (Submitted by Jonathan Riberdy)

A water operator in an Ontario First Nation is being nationally recognized for his hard work and dedication to his community.

Jonathan Riberdy has been awarded the 2021 National First Nations Water Leadership Award for his work to make safe and clean drinking water a reality for Zhiibaahaasing First Nation in Ontario. The water leadership award was created in 2018 by Indigenous Services Canada.

Originally from Temagami First Nation, Riberdy, who is Algonquin, has lived and worked in Zhiibaahaasing for about 12 years. The community has been under a boil water advisory since 1992 and is currently using a temporary water plant in a sea can after damage to its water plant last year.

Riberdy is nearly finished his training as the water plant supervisor after being asked by the community to take the job six years ago. Along with his training as a water operator, Riberdy also has training to drive heavy machinery and has a transportation licence. He is also the project manager for Swim Drink Fish Canada, and a director for the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario.

He said he is honoured for the recognition of his work. "I'm really humbled, to be honest," said Riberdy. "I follow the seven grandfather teachings. I have a lot of humility. I am very excited, and very happy that someone recognized the work that I'm doing."

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation has been granted \$2.9 million from the Green Infrastructure stream, a part of the joint federal and provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to help cost-share with the government for a new system and to lift the boil water advisory, Riberdy said.

"That's something we're fighting to get off of right now, so that we can get a proper water treatment plant and distribution system. We're moving in the right direction with ISC right now," he said.

"I have high hopes that we're going to get the money that we deserve, and build the system that we need. If we work as a team, we'll be good."

Praise from the community

Members of Riberdy's community say their water is in good hands.

"We're super proud of him," said band manager Bobbi-Sue Kells-Riberdy. "We're glad that he's our water operator, because he's taken his own time to ensure we do have clean drinking water. He's put in countless hours of overtime that he's never been compensated for."

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation chief Chief Irene Kells said Riberdy is a hard worker.

"I work closely with him, and I've seen where he's gone above and beyond," she said.

Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hadju spoke with Riberdy last week to deliver the news of the award. In a news release, she said, "The expertise and commitment of water operators like Mr. Riberdy are vital in achieving our shared goal — ensuring that all First Nations communities have access to clean drinking water and maintaining strong water and wastewater infrastructure."

As part of the award, Riberdy will have a bursary in his name for \$10,000 for First Nations individuals who are pursuing or continuing their career in the water and wastewater industry.



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Padulo.

LEGISLATION AND LEGAL CHALLENGES

2021 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario: MZOs and Species at Risk

In December, the Auditor General of Ontario released the 2021 Report. The report includes an audit of Land-Use Planning in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the use of Ministers' Zoning Orders. Also in November 2021 the Annual Report of Environment Audits was released which included an audit of Species At Risk protection by the Ontario government.

The audit of Land-Use Planning in the Greater Golden Horseshoe found that unprecedented use of Ministers' Zoning Orders (MZOs) compounded with numerous changes to Growth Plan policies have created instability in the planning process. The lack of transparency in issuing MZOs opens the process to criticisms of conflict of interest and unfairness. There is no formal process that interested parties are required to follow to request an MZO, and there are no established criteria against which the Minister assesses requests for MZOs.

The full 2021 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario is available at: <https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arbyyear/ar2021.html>

For Species at Risk specific significant findings included:

1. The Environment Ministry does not have a long-term strategic plan to improve the status of species at risk. Other jurisdictions identify priority species, habitats and threats in their strategic plans, with associated actions and timelines. The Ministry also has not established a performance measurement framework to evaluate whether its species at risk program is making species better off.
2. The AG also found that the current process for appointments to the Environment Minister's species at risk advisory committee is not transparent.
3. The AG also found that approvals are not assessed for how they cumulatively affect species at risk and their habitats. The Environment Ministry does not assess the total impact of all agreements, permits and conditional exemptions over time on regulated species. Instead, approvals are considered in isolation. Yet the cumulative effects of multiple stressors—particularly those involving habitat loss—pose a significant threat to species.

First Nations Environmental Regulatory and Capacity Gap Project: We Need Your Input!

The First Nations Environmental Regulatory and Capacity Gap project at Chiefs of Ontario is currently seeking input from technicians, leadership, and anyone working in this field within their First Nation, Tribal Council or PTO.

A survey and briefing note has been sent out. If you have not received it and would like a copy sent to you please contact Stephanie Allen, Environment Program Manager by email: Stephanie.allen@coo.org or by cell: 519-717-1937.

And, we have PRIZES! At the end of the survey, we will have a draw for five \$100 Visa Gift Cards.

If you would prefer to discuss the project directly, please contact Stephanie. If you are in agreement, your input will be recorded and your name included in the draw.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has limited our ability to meet and discuss initiatives like the Environmental Regulatory and Capacity Gap Project we are planning to continue the conversation on this project next fiscal year including hosting a number of focus group sessions to discuss this project in greater detail.

First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit Update

Currently, the COO Environment Unit is working on an updated Ontario First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit. Our aim is to have the Toolkit and associated factsheets ready for March 31, 2022.

We are also planning a number of workshops starting the last two weeks of March 2022 to introduce the Toolkit including specific sessions on Indigenous Knowledge and other key topics.

Dates have not yet been set so keep an eye out for email and notices that will be going out in the near future.

If you have questions about the Toolkit and Workshops please contact Stephanie Allen, Environment Program Manager, COO by email at: Stephanie.allen@coo.org or cell at: 519-717-1937.

WATER HIGHLIGHTS

First Nations Priority Setting for the 2021 Canada Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health

The ninth Canada Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA) came into force on June 1, 2021, and is in effect until May 31, 2026. This agreement supports the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem by outlining how the governments of Canada and Ontario will cooperate and coordinate their efforts. First Nations participation in this agreement is largely guided through Annex 13 that outlines a number of commitments for the federal and provincial governments.

Work is underway to ensure the 2021 COA lives up to its commitments to First Nations and the health of the Great Lakes region. The Environment Team at COO held two First Nations priority setting meetings – the first on November 10, 2021, and the second on January 13, 2022 – to provide an overview of the new COA and to discuss preliminary priorities for its implementation. Some attention was also given to Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, which is in the beginning stages of a review.

On February 2, 2022, representatives from First Nations communities and organizations will meet with the COA Executive Committee in the annual meeting, hosted by the Chiefs of Ontario. A report of the two priority setting meetings along with a priority list for future action in the Great Lakes will be prepared, as well as a summary report from the annual meeting. For more information, please contact Ryan.Bowie@coo.org.



Photo courtesy of Sally
Gaikezheyongai

COO Pre-engagement on the Canada Water Agency Workshop Series

Background

The Canada Water Agency (CWA) is a proposal from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), with support from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, intended to improve freshwater management practices and coordination across Canada. The federal government is currently in the process of soliciting feedback on objectives and issues to be considered. The scope of the Agency is potentially very large, as it could include watershed management, research, freshwater data, infrastructure, restoration and protection, as well as any other aspect that is relevant to the management of freshwater in Canada. The proposal for the CWA advocates for a 'whole of government' approach given the number of departments and activities that affect freshwater management.

Objectives

These workshops will provide an opportunity for information exchange between First Nations' leadership, technicians and guests to ensure First Nations are prepared to make informed decisions related to the establishment of a potential Canada Water Agency. The focus will be on First Nations' vision, realities, capacities and goals for water in order to put forth ideas on how First Nations envision optimal water management.

Workshop Schedule:

Workshop 1 – *First Nations' Relationships, Knowledge, and Vision for Protecting Water*
January 26, 2022 (10:30-2:00 EST)

Workshop2 – *Major Watersheds in Ontario: Issues, Capacities and Goals for Watershed Governance and Management*
January 27, 2022 (10:30-2:00 EST)

Workshop 3 – *Watershed Management: Different Models for First Nations' Roles*
February 8, 2022 (10:30-2:00 EST)

Workshop 4 – *Capacity Needs and Knowledge Gaps: What are the Tools Needed for First Nations to Fulfill Responsibilities to Water?*
February 11, 2022 (10:30-2:00 EST)

Workshop 5 – *Sustainability and Indigenous Rights: International Instruments to Support Local Actions*
February 22, 2022 (10:30-2:00 EST)

Workshop 6 – *First Nations Goals for the Stewardship and Protection of Water*
February 23, 2022 (10:30-2:00 EST)

TO REGISTER for one or more workshops: Contact Sally.Gaikezheyongai@coo.org

Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) Meeting December 1-2, 2021

The following is a brief summary of issues discussed or information provided at the last GLEC meeting this past December:

Annex 1 – Areas of Concern:

- The Ashtabula River on the U.S. side of Lake Erie was successfully delisted as an Area of Concern (AOC) in August of 2021.
- A presentation was given by Robert Burns discussing habitat restoration efforts on the U.S. side of the Detroit River Area of Concern. The project entails constructing shoals to allow restoration of shoreline wetlands.

Annex 2 – Lakewide Management:

- Janette Anderson gave a presentation identifying areas of high Stress and high ecological value in Canadian nearshore waters.

Annex 3 – Chemicals of Mutual Concern:

- Provided an update on Binational Strategies, including finalization of the Binational Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs), which can be found here: <https://binational.net/2021/12/01/great-lakes-binational-strategy-for-short-chain-chlorinated-paraffins-sccps-risk-management/>
- Canada's Strategy for PFOS, PFOA and LC-PFCA (a large group of chemicals widely used in numerous applications) is working through final approvals and should be available in early 2022.

Annex 4 – Nutrients:

- The 2021 Lake Erie cyanobacterial bloom had a severity index (SI) of 6.0 which is considered moderately severe. The bloom was slow to develop (late July), and reached a peak from late August to early September, mostly in U.S. waters. At its peak, the bloom covered 530 square miles.

Annex 5 – Vessel Discharges:

- Did not present at GLEC

Annex 6 – Aquatic Invasive Species:

- A presentation was given by Jeff Zuercher providing an update about the Brandon Road barrier development on the Chicago Area Waterway System.

Annex 7 – Habitat and Species:

- Greg Mayne (ECCC) discussed an integrated climate change vulnerability study and the development of adaptation options to build coastal wetland resilience.
- The federal and provincial task team comprised of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNDMNR) are continuing to work to complete a Canadian Great Lakes Baseline Coastal Habitat Survey to measure conservation success.

Annex 8 – Groundwater:

- Provided an overview and highlights of a draft 2022 Report on Relevant and Available Groundwater Science that updates the 2016 study.

Annex 9 – Climate Change Impacts:

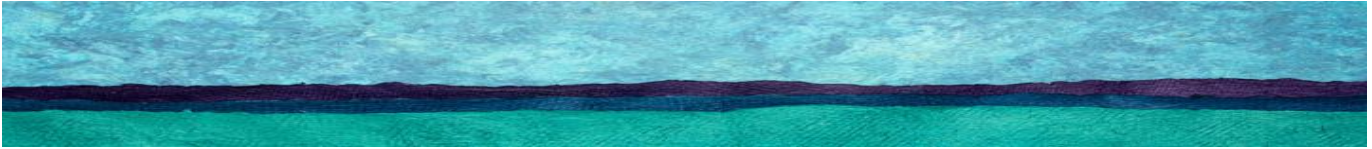
- Provided updates and key findings of the 2021 Great Lakes Climate Modelling Experts Workshop, and the report can be found here: <https://glisa.umich.edu/publication/2021-great-lakes-climate-modeling-workshop/>
- Discussed a current project that summarizes the climate of the Great Lakes in the past 50 and future 50 years in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Annex 10: Science:

- Presented on the draft State of the Great Lakes (SOGL) assessments for 2022, highlighting key messages, and identifying improvements from the 2022 reporting cycle.



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Padulo.



CLIMATE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Carbon

Carbon is in our atmosphere, hydrosphere (e.g. all surface and subsurface waters) and biosphere (e.g. natural resources throughout Turtle Island) and in the Earth's upper crust and rocky layer called the lithosphere. Carbon moved either fast or very slowly in balance within the Earth's system from different spheres.

However, human activities like burning fossil fuels changed the carbon cycle balance by increasing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere; hence, climate change. The climate change problem is viewed as an economic problem where the costs on human welfare was a major concern and countries having different financial capacities to fighting climate change. The idea of commodifying carbon led to carbon trading and carbon markets.

Sources:

<http://globecarboncycle.unh.edu/CarbonCycleBackground.pdf>

<https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/carbon-cycle-poster>

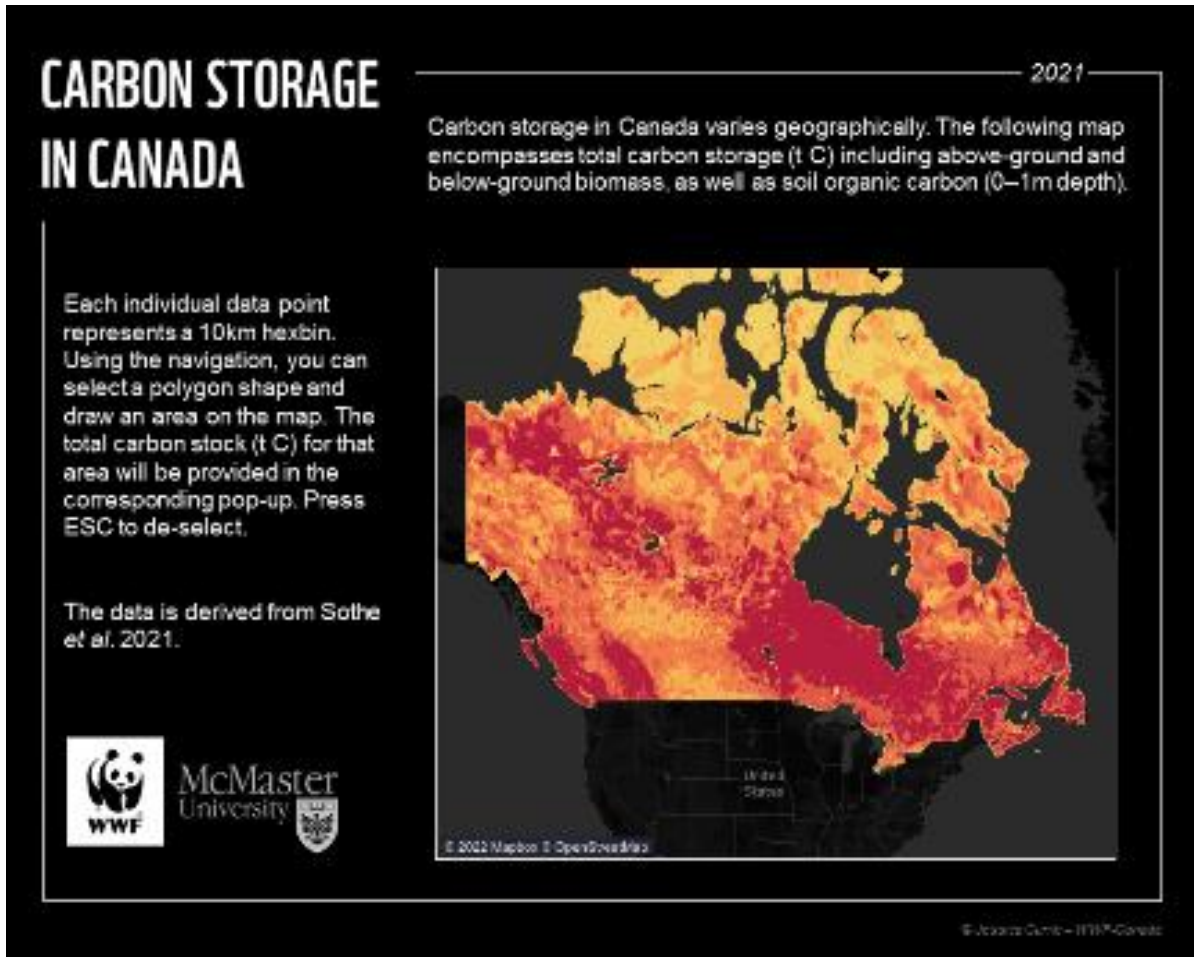
<https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/brief-history-canadas-climate-change-agreements>

Carbon Rights - First Nations Rights – Carbon Markets:

Natural resources are carbon landscapes throughout First Nation territories where First Nations exercise their Inherent, Treaty and Aboriginal rights. “For indigenous peoples to fully participate in carbon markets, (First Nations) rights to land and the carbon must be secured and legally upheld. Carbon rights for Indigenous peoples are not commonly recognized by governments, nor are they extensively discussed at global climate conferences...Indigenous rights to the carbon sequestered (stored) within traditional territories need to be recognized and protected in the face of emerging climate change policies and laws that may limit, suspend or extinguish native title.”

First Nations knowledge's can help with solutions to addressing climate change such as nature-based solutions of conservation and protection initiatives (i.e. carbon offset programs). “The emergence of carbon markets has created a unique opportunity for governments to support sustainable economic development within indigenous communities that is compatible with their needs, interests and aspirations.” Some carbon offset regimes on land-based initiatives such as Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas and Indigenous Guardian programs may evolve to include First Nations participation in carbon markets as one avenue to meaningful reconciliation with governments. And, addressing intergenerational negative effects of colonialism and climate change impacts.

According to the WWF Carbon Storage in Canada interactive map on average breakdown of carbon in Canada, Ontario is calculated as having 77.07 petagrams of carbon contained in biomass and soil, which is the largest amount across the country. (1 petagram = 1 billion metric tonnes = 1 gigatonne)



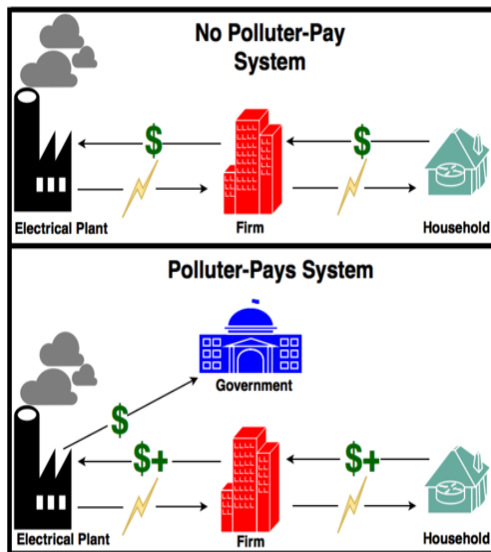
The James Bay Lowlands is where the largest landscape of peatlands is identified in Canada, and it is home of the Omushkegowuk. The Mushkegowuk Council is involved with the WWF partnership on a carbon mapping and conservation project with conducting its initial peat sampling fieldwork.

When greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere costs money (economic problem), less emissions are released. Economists presented a market-based approach of carbon pricing to be the most effective way to reduce global emissions. “Polluter pays is a crucial part of the carbon pricing strategy” (Polluter Pays Principle = PPP).

Therefore, to combat climate change, the Federal government bought into force the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA)* that comprised of two pricing parts. One is called the output-based pricing system (OBPS) that puts a price on pollution by industries to reduce emissions (hence, save on costs), encourage innovation, and assist Canadian companies to compete in the emerging clean economy globally. In general, the OBPS has

a complicated emissions calculating mechanism to quantify the financial costs of pollution emitter by an industry/company.

See following flow chart of PPP system.



The flow chart shows how the cost of a PPP system can affect consumers and producers. Without a PPP system, the household buys electricity from a firm who is supplied by a generation firm (often the firm that generates electricity also sells it). Under the PPP system, the cost of generation is higher because the generation method has to take into account the effects of its generation in terms of pollution.

Because the firms have to keep costs low, they pass the cost of the PPP system onto the consumer. In the bottom half, the household pays more to the generation firm which remits the money to the government to account for the environmental impact they have.

Source:

https://energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Polluter_pays_principle

An example of the PPP by the Federal government in its carbon charge on fossil fuels, such as natural gas, is provided on the Enbridge website. The charge will increase every April and this charge is included in its customers' bills. Some customer facilities are eligible for a partial or full exemption from this charge and may apply to an incentive fund as well. In Ontario, it is unknown if First Nations customers facilities are eligible.

First Nations that are being directly impacted by climate change in their communities and territories are further experiencing the rising costs of energy, transportation, and food from the government carbon pricing regimes. Although, the Federal government states it will provide incentives payments on individual income tax returns, the additional amount will still not address the impacts of climate change upon First Nations. If one would look at First Nations realities regarding a status quo housing in a First Nations community, it is more than likely that the house is built to a substandard with heating, mold, drinking water and electrical issues to mention a few. With the income tax return, a single adult will receive \$300 or a family of four will receive \$600 for the rising costs associated with the carbon-pricing regime. These amounts will not provide to obtaining for a net zero house with a substandard house. The governments clearly need to improve their Treaty relationships with First Nations.

Sources:

https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/fncc_bibliography.pdf

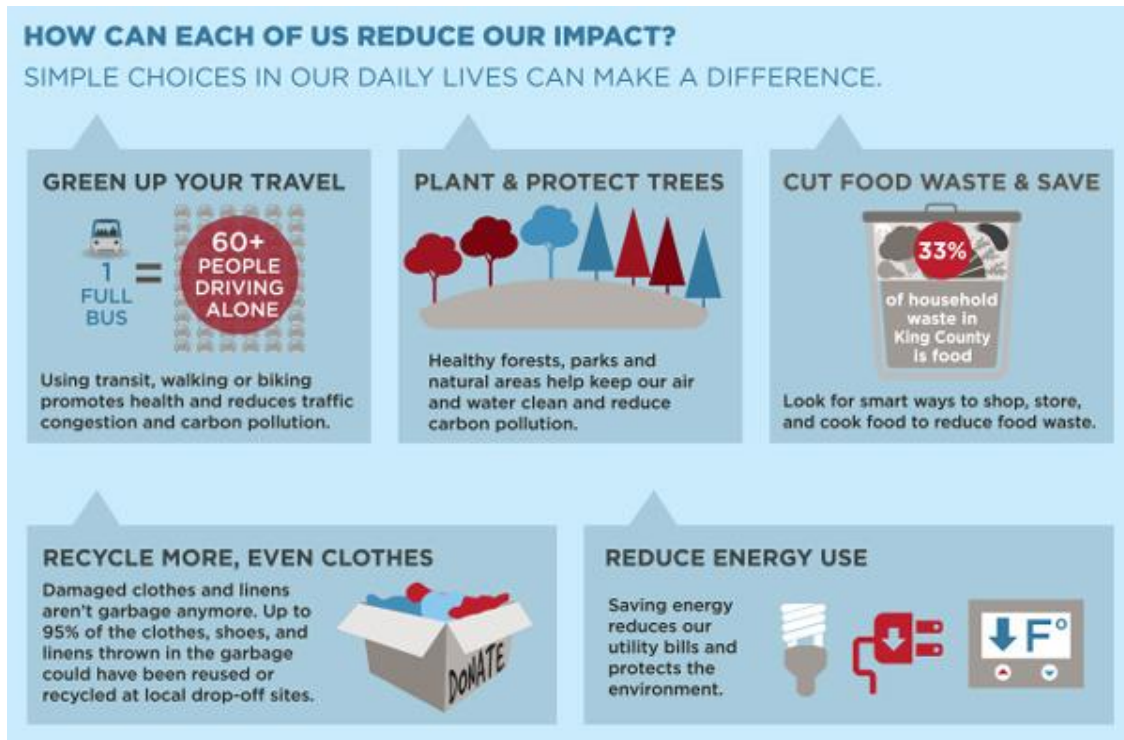
<https://wwf.ca/carbonmap/>

<https://environmentjournal.ca/carbon-pricing-vs-carbon-tax-understanding-the-difference/>

https://energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Polluter_pays_principle

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/putting-price-on-carbon-pollution.html>

<https://www.enbridgegas.com/business-industrial/commercial-industrial/large-volume-services-rates/federal-carbon-pricing>



ECCC Climate Change Assessment Survey

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is conducting an annual assessment exercise to evaluate how it engages Indigenous peoples on conservation issues. We are seeking your thoughts on ECCC's approach to engagement related to nature conservation between March 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Your feedback will help us improve our engagement efforts, decision-making and conservation outcomes.

Please click [here](https://eccc.sondage-survey.ca/f/s.aspx?s=22015ccb-b4d7-4d19-8d14-45ae8a591ff3&lang=EN) to take our short survey OR visit <https://eccc.sondage-survey.ca/f/s.aspx?s=22015ccb-b4d7-4d19-8d14-45ae8a591ff3&lang=EN> which will take less than 10 minutes to complete. If possible, we ask that you please complete the survey by February 28, 2022. Please return the completed survey by email (SondageMobilisation-EngagementSurvey@ec.gc.ca) or by mail to:

Kristin Helias
Environment and Climate Change Canada
351 Boulevard Saint Joseph, Bureau 16087
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

If you would prefer to speak about your experience with ECCC, please call Kai Mountfort at 819-805-5330.

Additional climate change information:

The Carbon Map

This website uses an animated, distorted, shaded, interactive map to help convey how different countries fit into the climate change picture – both the causes and the risks. It was originally created as an entry for the World Bank’s **Apps for Climate competition**, though was recently updated for the Guardian. It provides visual data on topics of area, population, wealth, extraction, emissions, consumption, historical, reserves, people at risk, sea level and poverty. Visit the Carbon Map online here: <https://www.carbonmap.org>

The Climate Atlas Version 2

The Climate Atlas of Canada combines climate science, mapping and storytelling to bring the global issue of climate change closer to home for Canadians. It is designed to inspire local, regional and national action that will let us move from risk to resilience. Visit Climate Atlas online here: <https://climateatlas.ca>

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Mandate Letter

Read the mandate letter to Minister Guilbeault, Environment and Climate Change, dated December 16, 2021 here: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2021/12/16/minister-environment-and-climate-change-mandate-letter>

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS



Nuclear Waste On-line is a series of on-line presentations about nuclear waste in Canada presented by NorthWatch

Week One

Wednesday February 2, 7 pm EST

Canada Update 2022: Nuclear Waste & the NWMO

An overview and update on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's efforts to site a deep geological repository for high-level nuclear fuel waste. The webinar will update on the NWMO program and activities as the company zeros in on the two municipalities - South Bruce and Ignace - that remain engaged in the NWMO's siting process. The focus will be on the NWMO's program and associated developments in Canada's radioactive waste policy, regulation and nuclear expansions. [REGISTER](#)

Week Two

Wednesday February 9, 7 pm EST

Informed and Unwilling: Close Up on NWMO Candidate Sites

A closer look at the two areas still under investigation by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's as potential burial sites for all of Canada's high level waste. Panelists will discuss community views and experience. [REGISTER](#)

Week Three

Wednesday, February 16, 7 pm EST

Radioactive Waste: The Next Generation

This webinar will look ahead to potential new challenges in radioactive waste management, including the prospect of new waste types from reprocessing and from so-called "Small Modular Reactors", and related proliferation risks. [REGISTER](#)

Week Four

Wednesday, February 23, 7 pm EST

Hot Potatoes: Repackaging Radioactive Wastes

The NWMO's plan to bury all of Canada's high level radioactive waste in a central location will require that the wastes be transferred at least twice: once at the reactor station and then again when it reaches the (still hypothetical) location of the deep geological repository. [REGISTER](#)

For more information, please visit KnowNuclearWaste.ca or Northwatch.org.

Species at Risk Update

The ongoing *SARA Consultation, Cooperation and Accommodation Project*, which is a partnership between Environment Climate Change Canada and the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is continuing.

Currently there is additional funding available through this project for the following work:

- Funding to support participation in species-specific workshops and/or meetings organized by CIER/ECCC.
- Capacity funding to support information sharing for federal terrestrial species at risk listing and recovery planning.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) for targeted projects that support SARA listing and recovery planning and to address immediate threats to species and their habitats. EOI deadline is **March 11, 2022**.

On Feb. 9/22 CIER will also be hosting an information session to provide an overview of the project and the funding available to support involvement in the different project components. There are additional workshops being held, please see schedule below.

For more information contact: Alexia Goodswimmer by email: agoodswimmer@yourcier.org or calling her at: 204-956-0660 ext. 14 or visit the CIER website at: <https://yourcier.org/sara/>

Workshop	Date/Time	Description
Introduction to the Species at Risk Act	Feb 3, 2022; 9am-12pm EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to the Species At Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project and priority species for Ontario Region • An overview of the Species at Risk Act Click the link below to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodeyrrTMpGdZB1qdLVAT0p5HdDwYiJBqj
Information session on the EOI call for proposals and Consultation on amending the list of species under the Species at Risk Act	Feb 9, 2022; 12:30-1:30pm (30 min break) 2-4pm EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Question & Answer session on funding available to directly support Indigenous peoples and organizations' meaningful participation in listing consultations and recovery planning for terrestrial species at risk. • Present species included in the 2022 proposed listing consultations and information that ECCC is seeking in order to inform listing decisions (Aweme Borer, Barn Swallow, Canada Warbler, Davis's Shieldback, Lakeside Daisy, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot, Short-eared Owl) Click the link below to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodOmqpiwtGNJZoqq6x0qDw4JQ4Im0hh_Y

Consultation on the addition of Black Ash to Schedule 1 of SARA	Feb 17, 2022; 2-4pm EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on Black Ash characteristics, threats and reasons for COSEWIC designation • Discussion with participants on the potential impacts of listing and future recovery planning. We invite communities to share their knowledge and activities related to this species in your territories <p>Click the link below to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkc-GhrDqsE9P06ULAL96clOeyhv98nCeF</p>
Early engagement on the development of a recovery strategy for Monarch	Mar 9, 2022; 9am-12pm EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present current information on Monarch and current implementation of recovery actions by ECCC and partners • Discussion with participants on current recovery work and what they would like to see in a future recovery strategy if the species is uplisted. We invite communities to share their knowledge and activities related to this species in your territories <p>Click the link below to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsceqtrjMtGdAyz7lkWq9fu6RVSS7I7V_y</p>
Overview of the current Recovery Document consultations for various species	Tentative date: Mar 17, 2022; 9am-11pm EST – to be confirmed at a later date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This workshop will focus on presenting general species information and threats as well as a brief overview of the contents of draft recovery documents that are currently in development and for which ECCC is seeking feedback on (species TBD) • If there are specific species of interest for your community/organization, please identify those to ECCC for inclusion in this workshop
An introduction to the Land Relationship Visioning Tool	Mar 23, 2022; 9am-12pm EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Land Relationship Visioning tool is a community driven digital resource for First Nation Land Management Practitioners to help identify priority spaces and species within their territories. This includes tools to guide community-based development decisions and processes to map natural heritage features • This 3rd session builds upon the previous ones held in November 2021 and is for participants to bring their learnings back and discuss/evaluate utility of tool and progress to date <p>Click the link below to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcuqrqD0tGN2sHOdWLbbuJbcgFhwszO6T</p>

**Important note – ECCC and CIER want to ensure that the information participants choose to share with us in all workshops is treated respectfully. As such, by registering in a workshop; participants are consenting to sharing their stories, knowledge, and or information with CIER and ECCC for*

inclusion in a workshop specific report. The contents of these reports will be validated with the participants and Knowledge Holders before any information is included in species recovery plans or a listing impact analysis. If required, a data sharing agreement can be developed to manage and protect data contributed through this project.

If you have any questions, or are having any issues please feel free to contact CIER, by contacting Alexia Goodswimmer by email: agoodswimmer@yourcier.org or calling her at: 204-956-0660 ext. 14.

Aquaculture Virtual Workshop Series

Hosted by the Assembly of First Nations. [Register online](#) or complete or contact aquaculture@afn.ca for a registration form.

Learn more about this workshop series and view the Save the Date for this event at: <https://www.afn.ca/aquaculture-act/>. Should you have any questions, please email inquiries to aquaculture@afn.ca or phone 1-866-869-6789.

- Jan. 24, 2022 – Session #1: *What is Aquaculture and the Aquaculture Act?*
- Feb. 11, 2022– Session #2: *Indigenous Knowledge in the Aquaculture Act*
- Mar. 1, 2022 – Session #3: *Enforcement, Regulations and Public Reporting*
- Mar. 9, 2022 – Session #4: *Let’s Talk Aquaculture: A Focus Group Session*
- Mar. 23, 2022 – Session #5: *Indigenous Reconciliation: UNDRIP*
- Apr. 6, 2022 – Session #6: *Topic TBD*
- Apr. 20, 2022 – Session #7: *“What-We-Heard” Wrap-Up Session*



This picture is the open water at the mouth of the river, steaming at sunrise. Photo courtesy of Lillian Trapper.

Webinar: Environmental Rights and Participation

Feb 4, 2022, 6:30 – 7:30 PM (EST)
Register by [clicking here](#)

Environmental assessment is a crucial “look before you leap” tool, allowing us to study and understand the human, social and environmental impacts of a project before development begins. In this webinar, we invite you to learn about the federal environmental assessment process and how it can be used to advance environmental justice in your community.

Drawing on the upcoming public hearing for a [palladium mining project](#), proposed for Northern Ontario in the Lake Superior watershed, we will review the EA process and how individuals and community groups can participate.

In this workshop, we will review:

- What is an EA?
- How is this different from an impact assessment under Canada’s current Impact Assessment Act?
- What is environmental justice, and what does it teach us about participating in environmental decision-making?
- How can I participate in an EA hearing?
- What concerns are relevant and what do I say in a written comment?

This is a 1-hour presentation including Q&A.

Presenters:

Kerrie Blaise and Krystal-Anne Roussel, Legal Counsel, CELA



Interesting Environmental Information Online:

The Air That Trees Breathe: Translating climate science into Ojibwe

Over the past three years, our freshwater scientists at the IISD Experimental Lakes Area, located on Treaty 3 land, have been working with a group of Elders, language experts, and youth to translate research on mercury contamination and climate change into Ojibwe. By [Dilber Yunus](#) on September 28, 2021. Available online here: <https://www.iisd.org/articles/air-trees-breathe-translating-climate-science-ojibwe>.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Read the Preliminary Transportation Plan, January 2022, online here: <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2021/12/13/17/51/The-NWMO-releases-Transportation-Planning-Framework-and-Preliminary-Transportation-Plan>

Food, Environment, Health and Nutrition of First Nations Children and Youth

Read a national study on the health of First Nations children and youth online here: <http://www.fehncy.ca>

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Mandate Letter

Read the mandate letter to Minister Guilbeault, Environment and Climate Change, dated December 16, 2021 here: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2021/12/16/minister-environment-and-climate-change-mandate-letter>

Canadian Environmental Law Association

CELA works toward protecting public health and the environment by seeking justice for those harmed by pollution or poor decision-making and by changing policies to prevent problems in the first place. Since 1970, CELA has used legal tools, conducted public legal education, undertaken groundbreaking research, and advocated for increased environmental protection and to safeguard communities. As a specialty clinic funded by [Legal Aid Ontario](#), our primary focus is on assisting and empowering low-income people and disadvantaged communities. Visit CELA online here: <https://cela.ca>

Justice Canada - Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada

Next steps to implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* with consultation and engagement with First Nations partners. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/engagement/index.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Great Lakes Public Forum 2022

Planning for the Great Lakes Public Forum as mandated by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is underway for the fall of 2022. The event will mark the 50th anniversary since the signing of the Agreement.

It is currently anticipated that the Forum will be held in Windsor, Ontario, over three days. The hope is that this event will be in person with online access as well. The Chiefs of Ontario is reaching out to other First Nations organizations and community members, and working with the Chiefs Committee on Environment to explore opportunities for First Nations-led activities at the Forum.

If you wish to be involved with the Public Forum or need any information, please contact Ryan Bowie at Ryan.Bowie@coo.org

February 2022

- **FEB 16-17, 5TH Annual Water Symposium** – Virtual, hosted by AFN, 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM Eastern (ET). Special Topics Sessions – Feb 15 include: Women and Water Stewardship, Technicians & Operators. Please check the AFN website for more information and a registration form: water-eau@afn.ca

March 2022

- COO Environment is planning a number of workshops starting the last two weeks of March 2022 to introduce the First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit including specific sessions on Indigenous Knowledge and other key topics. Dates have not yet been set so keep an eye out for email and notices that will be going out in the near future.

Chiefs of Ontario: 48th All Ontario Chiefs Conference 2022 (AOCC)

The Chiefs of Ontario and Independent First Nations will be hosting the 48th Annual All Ontario Chiefs Conference on June 14-16, 2022.

Date: June 14-16, 2022

Location: TBC

Hosted by: Independent First Nations (IFN)

More information will be shared via www.ChiefsMeeting.com in the coming weeks. For all

inquiries, please contact meetingsupport@coo.org.