

## Project Profile

<b>Project Name:</b>	First Nation Environmental Monitor (Liaison) Program
<b>Project Number:</b>	CC-2016-02
<b>Proponent:</b>	BC Oil and Gas Commission / Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
<b>Funding Envelope:</b>	Communication and Collaboration
<b>Timeframe:</b>	February 26, 2016 to March 31, 2019

## Project Objectives

The objectives of the Project are as follows:

- Provide First Nations with a trained and trusted resource for monitoring of disturbances associated with oil and gas development;
- Enhance the First Nations community's knowledge and understanding of oil and gas development and the regulatory framework under which it is managed; and
- Assist the First Nations community in understanding how the health and well-being of land, water, wildlife and air values are protected.

## Project Description

Under the project, a First Nations member(s) from communities with oil and gas activities, will be selected and provided with training on disturbance monitoring with a focus on oil and gas developments.

The liaison will work with community members, Chief and Council, and lands office personnel in the assessment of impacts that may be associated with oil and gas development. They will play a pivotal role in communicating needs, questions, and concerns of the community to the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) and Industry. In addition, through active participation with Commission staff, participants will develop an understanding of acceptable practices as well as how their interests are protected or need to be better protected.

The Environmental Monitor will be provided training similar to that required by oil and gas inspectors, including, but not limited to:

- Safety (field);
- Principles of natural resource activity construction;
- Regulatory requirements (Provincial and Federal);
- Environmental monitoring, sampling and inspecting methods; and

- Emergency management.

Experience will be gained by participating with Commission Compliance and Enforcement personnel on inspection, incident and complaint response opportunities. Environmental monitors may be assigned local monitoring and inspection tasks as appropriate and (when available) may accompany Provincial or Federal inspection staff in the field within their traditional territories. In the course of their duties, they will generate summaries of their observations that would be shared with their communities. This will include transparent reporting of any sampling or analysis results. Additional opportunities will be explored to collaborate with the National Energy Board (NEB), and other provincial agencies such as the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR), Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOE).

During community emergencies their training will allow them to plug into the response command structure and provide a valuable link back to the community. If it were an environmental emergency, they would have the skills and training necessary to be the regulatory agencies first on scene responder and would play an invaluable role in ensuring environmental, community and possibly public safety.

## **Project Deliverables**

The following will be delivered in this Project:

1. Final Report—describing the activities of the monitor(s).