

Program Profile

Program Name:	Aboriginal Liaison Program (ALP). Formerly referred to as the First Nation Environmental Monitor (Liaison) Program.
Program Number:	CC-2016-02
Proponent:	BC Energy Regulator / BC Government agencies (Natural Resource Sector) / Canada Energy Regulator
Funding Envelope:	Indigenous Programs
Timeframe:	April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027 (year 11)

Program Overview

The ALP provides:

- funding to First Nations to hire members as monitors to observe and report to their communities about resource development activities in their traditional territories.
- opportunities for Liaisons to develop skills, receive education and build knowledge and understanding of the resource development activities and impacts so they can inform community members with objective, reliable and sound information.
- opportunities for Natural Resource Agencies to engage with Liaisons to enhance understanding of local traditional knowledge and the impacts of resource development within their territories.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Program 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.

The Program, in addition to its objectives, promotes collaborative Indigenous participation in natural resource compliance and stewardship monitoring and emergency management within their territory. Government regulatory staff are provided opportunity to learn about First Nations community, culture, and traditional knowledge through direct interaction with Liaisons and their communities

Program Description

Under the program, First Nations member(s) from communities with oil and gas activities, carry out joint inspections on natural resource activities, conduct meetings with community members and undertake training to build knowledge and understanding of compliance, stewardship and emergency management.

The liaisons 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 play a pivotal role in communicating needs, questions, and concerns of the community to the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) and Industry. In addition, through active participation with BCER staff, participants will develop an understanding of acceptable practices as well as how their interests are protected or need to be better protected.

The liaisons are 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 is gained by participating with the BC Energy Regulator's, and BC Government's, 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 generate summaries of their observations that are shared with their communities. This includes transparent reporting of any sampling or analysis results.

Additional opportunities are explored to collaborate with other provincial agencies such as the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

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

Program Deliverables

The following will be delivered in this Program:

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