Contaminated land is an important societal and environmental reality in Canada and around the globe and is deserving of responsible management. Responsible contaminated land management achieves protection of human health and the environment. Effective contaminated land management achieves such responsible endpoints by proactive stakeholders equipped with smart, risk-based, timely and sustainable alternatives. The challenge is approaching contaminated land management in a way that encourages proactive and voluntary stakeholder engagement, achieves or safeguards protection of human health and the environment, and promotes active and productive use of those contaminated lands.

For decades Shell has responsibly managed contaminated lands around the globe, but often without opportunity to use more sustainable approaches and the effort expended exceeded derived risk reduction benefits. As regulatory programs developed, environmental expertise improved, and business necessity dictated, various innovative contaminated land management frameworks to balance societal, economic and environmental benefit and sustainability have emerged globally. The industry contributed to their development and has managed contaminated land under such frameworks. This industry perspective is presented to highlight and discuss some of these efforts to encourage broad stakeholder support, eliminate redundancy and focus limited resources on situations posing greatest risk, provide options for long-term liability management, and to collaborate (regulatory, stakeholder, industry) on regulatory development or reform that encourages productive use of contaminated lands.

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