

# Weekly NEWS

**esaa** Environmental Services Association of Alberta

An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## Virtual RemTech 2020 October 14 & 15, 2020

**Starts in 19 Days – Have You Registered?**

ESAA is pleased to announce that the final program for RemTech 2020 is now available. You can view the program at:

<https://www.esaa.org/remtech/agenda/>. The program features 63 presentations spread over two days. Please take a moment to check out the agenda.

### Virtual RemTech Registration Fees

ESAA has intentionally kept the registration fees low and are asking everyone to register, and to spread the word about the event and presentations. Approximately 90% of ESAA's revenues come from events, and now more than ever your Association needs your support!

	Fee	
Member	\$99 + GST	<a href="#">Register Now</a>
Non-Member	\$119 + GST	<a href="#">Register Now</a>

We look forward to your support of RemTech and ESAA.

**Thank you to all of the RemTech Sponsors and Supporters!**

### AER UPDATES REMEDIATION REGULATION INFORMATION

Today, the AER [updated information](#) regarding how it will administer the [Remediation Regulation](#).

The information includes explanations on the applicability of the Remediation Regulation, as well as the AER's expectations for remedial action plan content including how the AER's record of site condition can function as a remedial action plan.

The [Remediation Regulation](#) was introduced by the Government of Alberta on January 1, 2019. This regulation sets out requirements for reporting information and remedial measures associated with substance releases. The regulation also describes the AER's voluntary [remediation certificate program](#).

Where a company is not meeting regulatory requirements, the AER can provide direction to prevent harm through use of our [compliance and enforcement tools](#).



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## REMEDIAL MEASURES

When a person (which includes energy companies) is responsible for a substance release into the environment that may have an adverse effect, they are responsible to assess the effects of the release and to clean it up.

Under the [Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act \(EPEA\)](#) the term “adverse effect” is defined as impairment of or damage to the environment, human health or safety, or property.

As per section 112 of *EPEA*, persons responsible for a released substance must repair, remedy, and confine the effects of the released substance and prevent adverse effects. The ultimate goal of any clean up measure is to restore the environment to a satisfactory condition as per the [Alberta tier 1 and 2 soil and groundwater remediation guidelines](#). Timely remedial measures stop situations from deteriorating, preventing increases in risk and liability.

The steps taken as part of the assessment and clean up of a released substance are collectively called remedial measures. As per the Government of Alberta’s [Contaminated Sites Policy Framework](#), remedial measures include source control, environmental site assessments, risk assessment, and contamination management, including remediation. Under *EPEA*, persons responsible are required to take remedial measures as soon as they become aware of the substance release.

A substance release that requires remedial measures can arise in various ways. These include

- A loss of containment, such as a tank leak or failure
- A cumulative release that developed over a period of time, such as slow leaks
- A previous accepted and compliant practice that now requires remedial measures, such as the use of a drilling waste sump or a flare pit

Assessment for adverse effect is an ongoing process of diligence that can and should occur throughout the life cycle. There are various ways that a company can become aware of a substance release, including the following:

- Physically observing a substance release, such as oil on the ground
- A laboratory test that shows an [Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guideline](#) exceedance, such as benzene concentrations in soil that may cause adverse effect
- A guideline change, such as a new or more stringent *Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guideline* value, causes a need to re-evaluate existing information for evidence of potential adverse effect (does not apply to sites that have received a remediation certificate)

Where tier 1 guideline concentrations in soil or groundwater are exceeded, there is potential for adverse effects. This potential exists until a company either completes remediation or proves there are no adverse effects by carrying out additional assessment of risk using the [tier 2 guidelines](#).

Remedial measures include assessment of risk and contamination management. As such, a plan to further assess and, if necessary, manage the risk posed by tier 1 guideline exceedances would form part of a [remedial action plan](#) (RAP), as required under the *Remediation Regulation*.

## RELEASE REPORTING

In addition to taking immediate remedial measures under the *Remediation Regulation*, companies must also report the release as soon as they discover it as per the [release reporting requirements](#).

## REMEDIATION REGULATION

In order to comply with the [Remediation Regulation](#), a company must complete remediation or assess the substance release and confirm that it is not causing an adverse effect by using the tier 1 or [tier 2 process to assess risk](#).

This requires a remediation report or an environmental site assessment detailing the current state of a site to be submitted to the AER, accompanied by a properly completed [Record of Site Condition form](#), as per the requirements of the [Alberta Environmental Site Assessment Standard](#).

When it becomes clear to the company that the site cannot be remediated within a two-year period from becoming aware of the release, the *Remediation Regulation* requires a remedial action plan to be immediately submitted to the AER. This plan will identify how the company will manage risk and when they expect remedial measures will no longer be required. Depending on the nature of a substance release, more plans may be developed over time. Remedial action plans can be revised and submitted to the AER at any time.

The *Remediation Regulation* does not give timelines for completion of remediation. Provided risk is adequately managed, it may be reasonable to remediate some substance releases as part of the efficient coordination and execution of other end-of-life activities (such as decommissioning, abandonment, and reclamation).

However, companies must submit to the AER any *new information* about the impact of a released substance at the time of discovery. This would include a new environmental site assessment or a remediation report and an updated Record of Site Condition form.

Duties under the *Remediation Regulation* apply until it is proven that remedial measures are no longer necessary.

#### **AER EXPECTATIONS FOR REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN CONTENT**

The effort required to assess and manage a substance release may vary with the complexity and risk of the situation. Remedial action plans for lower risk, straightforward situations should be similarly straightforward and simple to complete and submit to the AER. A remedial action plan contains the following information:

- What substances are present?
- Where are the substances located?
  - A conceptual site model (as per the *Environmental Site Assessment Standard*)
- How will the substance releases be managed?
  - Further environmental site assessment – delineation, conceptual site model development, assessment of risk, etc.
  - Exposure control
  - Remediation
- When? Timelines for actions and milestones to assess progress.
  - Next steps
  - Anticipated date for completion of remediation (which may coincide with the anticipated end of life of the facility)

As per the *Environmental Site Assessment Standard*, an AER [Record of Site Condition form](#) must be included with all contamination management report submissions.

The component pieces of a remedial action plan are contained within the AER form. This level of information should qualify as a sufficient remedial action plan in most cases, though we may request additional information at any time. The form can include multiple substance releases that are being managed as part of one contaminated site.

This form may be updated over time, so be sure to download the most current version from our website with each submission.

Companies can submit contamination management reports and AER Record of Site Condition forms to the AER via [csusubmissions@aer.ca](mailto:csusubmissions@aer.ca) or [EPEA.Reports@aer.ca](mailto:EPEA.Reports@aer.ca)

#### **FURTHER REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN OR STATUS UPDATE SUBMISSIONS**

Additional reports summarizing the current known status of the site, and an AER Record of Site Condition form, are to be submitted when

- remedial measures are taken in the two-year period following the person responsible becoming aware of the substance release,
- actions described in the previous remedial action plan are completed,
- new information arises,
- a file is selected for a compliance audit, or
- we request it.

## APPLICABILITY OF THE REMEDIATION REGULATION

The requirements of the *Remediation Regulation* apply for all substance releases where the person responsible became aware of the release after the *Remediation Regulation* came into effect on January 1, 2019.

- If a release was reported before January 1, 2019 (it has an AER incident or file number), the *Remediation Regulation* does not require a remedial action plan to be submitted, unless required by the AER.
- Responsible persons may have become aware of a substance release before January 1, 2019, and determined that the release did not trigger release reporting requirements. If the person responsible has subsequently determined that the release has caused, is causing or may cause an adverse effect (for example, tier 1 or 2 guideline concentrations in soil and groundwater are exceeded), the *Remediation Regulation* requires remedial action plans to be submitted for these previously unreported, pre-2019 substance releases.

This requirement has led to some concern among regulated parties about their ability to comply with the two-year remedial action plan submission timeline for previously unreported, pre-2019 substance releases. We are working to build an efficient process to address this backlog. Further details are forthcoming. Regardless of the timeline for remedial action plan submission, parties must ensure public and environmental safety at all times.

Further, if the previously unreported release has already been properly assessed and remediated, companies may defer submitting contamination management information until they submit a closure application (e.g., reclamation certificate application). However, companies may be requested to submit professional reports and a record of site condition if a site is selected for audit. And if new information arises (e.g., the state of the release site changes), companies must submit an appropriate report and a record of site condition immediately.

### WHY INDUSTRY NEEDS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON REMEDIAL MEASURES:

- To ensure risk is adequately characterised and managed such that public and environmental safety are ensured.
- Provide transparency and assurance to Albertans that companies are meeting their obligations to take remedial measures under *EPEA*.
- To enable the efficient delivery of risk-based regulatory oversight using the [IDA approach](#).
- To support alignment and efficiency of contamination management with closure and liability reduction programs.

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## CAPITALIZING ON ALBERTA'S MINERAL POTENTIAL

Alberta's government has struck an expert panel to help the province diversify its economy and become a world leader in mineral resource production.

The five-member Mineral Advisory Council will help government unlock Alberta's vast, untapped geological potential for various minerals that are in increasing global demand. These minerals include lithium, vanadium, uranium, rare earth elements, diamonds, and potash – many of which are used to manufacture batteries, cell phones, energy storage cells, and other modern products. This potential, along with the province's reputation as a leader in responsible resource development, puts Alberta in a good position to become a preferred international producer and supplier of minerals and mineral products.

"A successful post-pandemic recovery requires a strong and diversified economy. Guided by the experience of our advisory council, we are designing a new mineral strategy that will place Alberta at the cutting edge of critical mineral exploration and development. Doing so will encourage investment and create jobs for Albertans, supporting our long-term economic recovery." - *Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy*

"Economic recovery requires that we consider a wider spectrum of solutions. This is great for Alberta because we have an abundance of diversification opportunities that build upon our strengths while also preparing us for the future economy. For example, we are well-positioned to develop new mineral opportunities, such as lithium and vanadium, and we can do this because of the skills and assets of our energy industry." - *Alison Cretney, managing director, Energy Futures Lab*

"As corporate leaders dedicated to the safe and responsible development of Alberta's natural resources, the Alberta Chamber of Resources and the Construction Owners Association of Alberta look forward to working with the council and the government on this ambitious and important strategy for Alberta's future. We have second-to-none technical, innovation, environmental, and regulatory expertise in this province that will provide the strong foundation for success.

This is a positive step forward for Alberta.” - *Nadine Barber, interim executive director, Alberta Chamber of Resources and the Construction Owners Association of Alberta*

“E3 Metals is on the forefront of lithium development in Alberta, a critical mineral that can be produced on the backbone of the oil industry. Alberta has a skilled energy labour force already in place that is well-positioned to support an emerging minerals sector. As E3 Metals works to commercialize lithium production in Alberta, we are excited to participate in this broader effort to position Alberta as an international player in a world increasingly focused on battery materials.” - *Chris Doornbos, president, CEO and director, E3 Metals Corp*

Along with the work of the council – composed of experts in geology, resource development, Indigenous relations, regulatory and environmental affairs, and investor and industry perspectives – the government will engage key stakeholders to gather input on the elements of a successful mineral strategy. These elements include improving public access to quality data about mineral occurrences in Alberta, having a streamlined regulatory environment in place that assures environmentally responsible development, enhancing opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, promoting innovation and attracting investment.

Engagement participants will include Indigenous, exploration and development, environmental and conservation, and research and innovation groups, as well as farming, landowner, and municipal organizations. Following this engagement, the government plans to release its complete strategy and action plan in spring 2021.

Alberta’s Recovery Plan is a bold, ambitious long-term strategy to build, diversify, and create tens of thousands of jobs now. By building schools, roads and other core infrastructure we are benefiting our communities. By diversifying our economy and attracting investment with Canada’s most competitive tax environment, we are putting Alberta on a path for a generation of growth. Alberta came together to save lives by flattening the curve and now we must do the same to save livelihoods, grow and thrive.

### **Members of the Mineral Advisory Council**

- **Stephanie Autut** – Currently the executive director of the Nunavut Water Board, Autut has more than 23 years of experience in environmental and land use planning and sustainable resource development legislation and regulation. She spent 11 years as executive director of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and was an active participant in the legislative working group that developed the unique legislative framework that governs responsible resource development, environmental impact assessment and land use planning in Nunavut.
- **Bob McLeod** – McLeod served two terms as premier of the Northwest Territories, retiring in 2019. His 12-year political career followed 30 years in the public service focusing on intergovernmental and Indigenous affairs, resource development, mining, and regulatory reform. A graduate of NAIT and the University of Alberta, McLeod wrote his thesis on Aboriginal self-government. With his strong background in mineral development, economic diversification and regulatory affairs, he brings a legislative and policy lens to the panel.
- **Allison Rippin Armstrong** – With more than 25 years’ experience in regulatory processes and environmental compliance, Rippin Armstrong has worked with government, Indigenous organizations, regulatory agencies and resource companies through her work with the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chambers of Mines, and the Yukon Women in Mining board.
- **Gordon Stothart** – The president and CEO of IAMGOLD, and current chairman of the Mining Association of Canada, Stothart has more than 30 years’ experience in the international mining industry in operational, project and business development management roles. He brings an industry perspective to the panel with his extensive knowledge of effective mineral policy frameworks across the world.
- **Eira Thomas** – The president, CEO, and co-founder of Lucara Diamond Corporation, and a current director of Suncor Energy, Thomas is a Canadian geologist with more than 25 years of experience in the Canadian mining industry. She has worked and invested millions of dollars in mineral projects across Canada and the globe and brings the perspective of both the entrepreneur and the geologist to the panel.

### **Quick facts**

- Alberta’s mineral strategy will build on the province’s involvement with the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan.
- Alberta has geological potential across the province for non-energy minerals, many of which have been identified as critical and strategic minerals – such as lithium in formation waters in south-central and west-central Alberta; vanadium, rare earth elements and titanium in oil sands waste streams; potash in eastern Alberta; and uranium in southern and northeastern Alberta.
- Companies in Alberta are already working to develop innovative processes to extract minerals from oilfield brine and oil sands waste streams, including froth treatment tailings.
- In 2019, Canada’s total mineral production value reached \$48 billion.

- Alberta's current non-energy mineral production comes primarily from 20 active quarries producing salt, silica sand, limestone and other industrial minerals. There is a small amount of gold production reported as a byproduct of sand and gravel operations.

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## ***UPDATE ON SITE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SASKATCHEWAN***

Written by Anna Fitz and JoAnn Jamieson, [McLennan Ross LLP](#)

On April 17, 2020, the federal government announced \$1.7 billion in funding to clean up oil and gas sites in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. The goal of the federal funding was to create immediate jobs in the three provinces while helping companies avoid bankruptcy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All three provinces were quick to announce programs in the hopes of creating jobs and getting people back to work. This article provides an update on the programs in each province.

### ***Alberta***

Alberta received \$1.2 billion, the bulk of the federal funding. On April 24, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced its "Site Rehabilitation Program," which provides up to \$1 billion in grants to oil field service contractors to perform well, pipeline, and oil and gas site closure and reclamation work.

The goals of the program are to:

- immediately get Alberta's specialized oil field workforce back to work,
- accelerate site abandonment and closure efforts, and
- quickly complete a high volume of environmentally-significant work.

Inactive oil and gas sites may be nominated by landowners and Indigenous communities. Landowners can nominate inactive sites by emailing the required information (including the legal description of the land, landowners on the land title, and contact information) to the government. Indigenous communities can also nominate inactive sites by email; required information includes the name of the First Nation or Métis settlement, the legal description of the site, and the licensee information sign at the site. A detailed overview of the nomination process can be found [here](#).

In order to be eligible for funding to do the work, service contractors must be located in Alberta and must offer jobs to Albertans. Eligible work includes closure on inactive wells and pipelines, Phases 1 and 2 environmental Site Assessments, remediation, and reclamation. Interested parties can apply on the [Site Rehabilitation Program website](#).

The Alberta government will provide funding for the Site Rehabilitation Program in multiple increments. The first increment, which has now ended, reportedly received significant interest. The second increment is currently on-going, and will close for applications on June 18, 2020. Third and later increments will also become available.

In addition to the Site Rehabilitation Program, the government of Canada has extended a \$200 million repayable loan to the existing Orphan Well Association ("**OWA**"). Under the OWA, an orphan site is "a well, pipeline, facility or associated site that does not have a legally responsible and/or financially viable party to deal with its decommissioning and reclamation responsibilities."

The OWA has a procurement process through which it selects from a list of prime contractors, who are then normally responsible for choosing their own subcontractors. However, with the new federal funding, the OWA is planning to collaborate with its prime contractors to select subcontractors (interested parties will be able to apply) for the additional work. The OWA anticipates allocating the new funding through a "staged process." After further planning, OWA will be providing information about the process on its website.

### ***British Columbia***

On May 13, 2020, the Government of British Columbia ("BC") announced its "Dormant Sites Reclamation Program" with which it is channeling its \$100 million in federal funding toward cleaning up dormant sites. In BC, well sites are deemed "dormant" if they do not reach a threshold of activity for five years consecutively, or if they have failed to produce for at least 720 hours yearly.

The program is specifically for B.C. companies and contractors with experience in environmental contracting and/or oil and gas infrastructure abandonment. Applicants must have a valid contract with a BC-based oil and gas activity permit holder for a dormant site.

Eligible applicants can [apply online](#), where the information they will need to provide includes the company details, permit holder name, well authorization number, and estimated cost of each work component.

The B.C. government will provide its funding in two increments, the first from May 25, 2020 to October 31, 2020. Funding for this first increment is up to \$50 million. The second increment will commence on November 1, 2020 and run to May 31, 2021.

In both funding increments, the B.C. government will provide financial contribution up to 50% of the total estimated or actual costs (whichever is less), up to a total of \$100,000 per application and per closure activity. The program has already received significant interest; in a [news release](#), the province noted it received over 1,100 applications on the first day, which means the program was nearly fully subscribed.

B.C. landowners, local governments, and Indigenous communities can nominate dormant oil or gas sites on their land through an online process beginning June 15, 2020. The BC government noted that such nominations will be a priority in the second increment of funding.

### **Saskatchewan**

On May 22, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan initiated the “Accelerated Site Closure Program” (“**ASCP**”). Through this program, the Ministry of Energy and Resources will manage \$400 million from the federal government for the abandonment and reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities.

The ASCP involves multiple phases, the first for up to \$100 million (the future funding and applicable phases have not yet been announced). In order to be eligible, licensees must be in good standing regarding debts owed to the Crown as of March 1, 2020 (e.g. the Oil and Gas Administrative Levy, the Orphan Well Levy, etc.). Eligible licensees will receive a minimum of \$50,000 toward their abandonment and reclamation projects.

The program provides that licensees nominate their wells and facilities through the IRIS system (Integrated Resource Information System). Service companies, interested in performing the work, must apply through SaskTenders beginning in the first week of June 2020. Further details on the application process, and who to contact with questions, can be found in the [following bulletin](#).

The Saskatchewan government anticipates that up to 8,000 wells and facilities will be abandoned and reclaimed through the ASCP, which in turn will support approximately 2,100 full-time jobs. Saskatchewan plans to develop an Indigenous procurement strategy further into the program.

The first phase of the ASCP is now complete, and eligible licensees have received notice of their allocation.

### **Moving Forward**

The federal funding is a welcome boost to cleaning up inactive oil and gas sites in Western Canada. This is a significant step to subsidize old, inactive sites and lower the associated environmental risks. As the three programs also create jobs and contracting opportunities for local parties, the federal funding appears to be a big win for both the energy industry and the environment in all three provinces during these difficult times.

*The content of this article is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter. Specialist advice should be sought about your specific circumstances.*

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

[JoAnn P. Jamieson](#)'s practice is dedicated to environmental, regulatory and Aboriginal law matters. With over 20 years of experience, she has worked on major resource development throughout western and northern Canada including oil sands, oil and gas, coalbed methane, pipelines, co-generation, hydro, petrochemical, diamond and uranium mining, in situ coal gasification, power, renewables and clean energy technology. JoAnn has extensive experience in environmental impact assessment, land and water regulation, municipal planning, climate change, species at risk, corporate social responsibility and regulatory compliance issues.

[Anna Fitz](#) is a student-at-law in the Edmonton office of McLennan Ross LLP. Anna completed her Juris Doctor at the University of Ottawa, where she graduated cum laude. She also received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature at McGill University and graduated with distinction.

## ***EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN STEM***

Alberta's government is introducing the Women in STEM Award Program to help young women reach their career goals in science, technology, engineering and math.

These 50 awards, each worth \$2,500, will be made available to women pursuing studies in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) while working to advance equity in their field.

"While women make up half of Alberta's population, they only represent a third of enrolments and graduates in STEM programs, and only about a quarter of employees in STEM fields. The Women in STEM Award Program is one way we can help pave a path forward for more women to pursue STEM careers. Women are shattering glass ceilings in STEM, and it is so important that we keep encouraging the momentum in these fields." - *Leela Sharon Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women*

"Cultivating strong skills for jobs is a central part of Alberta's Recovery Plan. This new scholarship will empower young women to pursue studies that are in high demand in STEM fields and graduate job-ready." - *Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education*

The program will open later this year, once details are finalized.

### **Quick facts**

- \$2,500 will be allocated per award for up to 50 recipients, for a total of \$125,000.
- Awards will be granted based on two letters of recommendation and a personal essay outlining the contributions the applicant is making to advance equality in their chosen STEM field.
- Women make up about half of the population in Alberta but only represent about a third of enrolments and graduates in STEM programs, and only about a quarter of employees in STEM fields.
- 60 per cent of minimum wage earners in Alberta are women. Women are clustered in lower-paying occupations.
- Almost 90 per cent of women aged 15 and older in Alberta are employed in the services-producing sector such as retail and hospitality services.

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## ***NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR COMPANY FINED \$25,000 FOR AN OFFENCE UNDER THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999***

### **September 23, 2020 – Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador**

The transportation sector is a major source of air pollution in many communities across Canada. Reducing pollution is good for Canada's economy, our health and our wellbeing. Environment and Climate Change Canada enforces laws that protect Canada's air, water, and natural environment, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

On September 21, 2020, Budgell's Sports & Marine Limited was ordered to pay a fine of \$25,000 in the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, after pleading guilty to violating Section 153 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999. In addition to the monetary penalty, the Court ordered that five engines imported without the appropriate documentation be destroyed.

Between February 8, 2018, and November 18, 2018, Budgell's Sports & Marine Limited imported several pieces of heavy equipment but were unable to provide "evidence of conformity" documentation to verify that the engines within the equipment conform to the appropriate emission standards for importation into Canada. This is a contravention of subsection 153(1) of the Act, and is thereby an offence contrary to subsection 272(1).

In September 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada's enforcement officers conducted an inspection at Budgell's Sports & Marine Limited in Triton, Newfoundland and Labrador. After reviewing reports, photographs and videos taken during the inspection, enforcement officers initiated an investigation and subsequently determined that the company had imported a number of pieces of heavy equipment, including wheel loaders, excavators and backhoes, for which the necessary documentation for the engines could not be provided. Analysis of the engines confirmed that the heavy



equipment contained engines which are not compliant with the emissions standards under the *Off-Road Compression-Ignition Engine Emission Regulations*, enacted under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.

The total fine will be directed to the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund.

As a result of this conviction, the company's name will be added to the Environmental Offenders Registry.

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## **TOWN OF BAIE VERTE, IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, FINED \$50,000 FOR TWO OFFENCES UNDER THE FISHERIES ACT**

### **September 23, 2020 – Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador**

Strong and effective enforcement of Canada's environmental and wildlife protection laws is one of the concrete ways we are delivering on our commitment to providing clean air and water and conserving wildlife species and their habitat.

On September 22, 2020, the Town of Baie Verte pleaded guilty to two offences under the *Fisheries Act* in the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador in Grand Falls-Windsor, and was ordered to pay a total fine of \$50,000. The fine will be directed to the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund.

The offences relate to the discharge of water containing elevated levels of chlorine from the town's potable-water system into the Baie Verte River. The first offence relates to the release of a deleterious substance into water frequented by fish; the second, to a failure to comply with a Fisheries Act direction that ordered the town to take action to remedy the situation or prevent future occurrences.

In August 2017, following a report that chlorinated water was being discharged from the town's potable-water system into the Baie Verte River, Environment and Climate Change Canada enforcement officers conducted an onsite inspection and took field measurements, which confirmed that the chlorinated water was deposited into the river. On September 5, 2017, officers collected water samples for laboratory analysis. The analysis confirmed that the chlorinated water was a deleterious substance, as defined by the *Fisheries Act*. Consequently, enforcement officers initiated a formal investigation.

In September 2017, officers issued a *Fisheries Act* direction, which required the Town of Baie Verte to take all reasonable measures to prevent the deposit or to counteract, mitigate, or remedy any adverse effects that result from the deposit of the deleterious substance into the Baie Verte River. The town was also required to provide a written report documenting the measures taken to comply with the direction.

Between November 8, 2017, and May 23, 2018, enforcement officers conducted field measurements and collected additional water samples for analysis. Each time, the chlorine concentration detected in the samples was in the range of 120 to 6000 times higher than the recommended limits under the guidelines established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

The Town of Baie Verte failed to comply with the direction and was consequently charged with committing an offence under paragraph 40(3)(g) of the *Fisheries Act*. In addition, the town was charged for contravening subsection 36(3) by depositing a deleterious substance into the Baie Verte River.

As a result of this conviction, the Town of Baie Verte will be added to the Environmental Offenders Registry.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **ESAA Webinar Series Returns Two (2) Upcoming Webinars**

The ESAA Webinar series is returning. Our free webinars will begin mid-September and run through mid-November. ESAA has listened to your feedback and we will continue to offer the webinars at no-charge. If you have suggestions for a presentation, contact Joe at the ESAA Office.

If you are interested in becoming the title sponsor for the entire fall webinar series, visit → [details](#)

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## ***Indigenous Relations & COVID-19: Adapting Protocol during a Pandemic***

**1 pm - 3pm**  
**September 30th, 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to become more considerate towards protecting the health of the communities we work with. Within Indigenous Relations, so many of the traditional protocols and ceremonies are affected by social distances that First Nations and the Industry alike have had to work at adapting processes to make the engagement possible and meaningful at the same time.

Join our panel to discuss how to maintain protocol and elevate respect and relationship, without compromising the health of the community or the integrity of the needed outcomes. The traditional test of marrying traditional knowledge with science finds new challenges amid circumstances such as COVID-19. This discussion aims at finding new, innovative ways to approach engagement and protocol through adaptability and collaboration.

**Registration is Free.** [Register Now](#)

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## ***Stormwater Re-Use in Prairie Watersheds***

**11 am - 12 pm**  
**October 7th, 2020**

Stormwater reuse is becoming increasingly important as climate change and natural variability affects the availability of water throughout Prairie watersheds. Stormwater quality from agricultural landscapes can be affected by nutrient, bacteria, sediment and biomass loading. Similarly, stormwater quality from urban landscapes is further affected by winter road servicing (traction aids and deicing) and occasional sewer overflows. Bill will share the findings for recent applied research on stormwater reuse within southern Alberta and its implications for the design of stormwater retention facilities and treatment options for stormwater reuse.

**Registration is Free.** [Register Now](#)

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## ***Wetlands Knowledge Exchange October Webinar***

*Taylor North and the McMaster Ecohydrology Lab will be presenting on iWETLAND: Managing Species at Risk Habitat through Wetland Water Level Citizen Science.*

Registration for this free webinar can be found at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/october-2020-wetland-knowledge-exchange-webinar-tickets-120575319025?aff=erelpanelorg>

This event is part of the [Wetland Knowledge Exchange's](#) monthly webinar series.

The Knowledge Exchange provides a forum for sharing and exchanging boreal wetland BMP information with a network of industry, government, academic, consulting, not-for-profit, and other interested contacts from across the country. The Knowledge Exchange was developed to address a need for increased information transfer and collaboration identified by participants of the Wetlands Best Management Practices Workshop hosted by Ducks Unlimited Canada in January of 2016.

The Knowledge Exchange is supported and administered by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). Membership is free and open to anyone who wishes to join, so please consider sharing this invitation with anyone you think might be interested in participating. You can subscribe to the Knowledge Exchange's newsletter [here](#) to receive a monthly electronic newsletter covering wetland BMP events, studies, demonstrations, products, news, and other related information.

## Industry Positions Openings



**As a benefit of ESAA Membership**, ESAA Members can now post position openings on our website at no charge. Position opening ads also will appear in the newsletter at no charge. For full details visit: <https://www.esaa.org/news/job-board/>

**Note:** You must still complete the advertising form. After completing the order form, you will receive an email with a link to post your position.

**Non-Members** are welcome to advertise as well for a nominal charge. Visit [advertising form](#) to place your order.

Job Title	Organization	Application Deadline	Term	Details
Intermediate Environmental Consultant	North Shore Environmental Consultants	2020-10-25	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Intermediate Environmental Consultant	North Shore Environmental	2020-10-25	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Project Manager	H3M Environmental Ltd.	2020-10-18	Contract	<a href="#">more</a>

### **Government of Canada job opportunities**

As you may know, the next census will take place in May 2021. With census data, Canadian associations make complex decisions and customize programs to their members and constituents, thereby allowing for service delivery to be adjusted to local needs. Statistics Canada needs your support and collaboration now more than ever to provide the foundation of methodologically sound, high-quality data to respond to the needs of the nation.

To assist in the collection of the census, Statistics Canada is hiring approximately 1,000 people across the country. If you know of anyone who may be interested in gaining professional, marketable experience working for the Government of Canada, please help us spread the word about these opportunities.

The Census Program has adapted to the COVID-19 situation to ensure that the 2021 Census of Population is conducted throughout the country in the best possible way, using a safe and secure approach.

Immediate staffing opportunities:

- **Field operations supervisors** train, supervise and coordinate the work of teams of employees conducting field work. Salary range: \$61,558 to \$66,324.
- **Recruitment clerks** promote 2021 Census jobs and facilitate the hiring process of candidates for field collection positions. Salary range: \$47,729 to \$51,518.

To view the full list of positions available, and to apply, please visit [www.census.gc.ca/jobs](http://www.census.gc.ca/jobs).

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**Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA)  
102, 2528 Ellwood Drive SW  
Edmonton, AB T6X 0A9  
(P) 780.429.6363**

[info@esaa.org](mailto:info@esaa.org)  
[www.esaa.org](http://www.esaa.org)

**Comments & submissions are welcome!**

Please submit your announcement via e-mail to: [weeklynews@esaa.org](mailto:weeklynews@esaa.org)