

JOB & INDUSTRY NEWS



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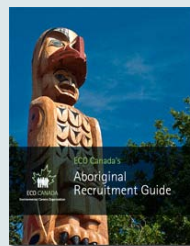
BEAHR
Training
Programs

Training Programs

The following programs are currently available for community-based delivery:

- Local Environmental Coordinator
- Solid Waste Coordinator
- Land Use Planning Coordinator
- Contaminated Sites Remediation Coordinator
- Environmental Site Assessment Assistant
- Environmental Monitor Training Program
- Certificate of Applied Environmental Techniques
- Certificate of Environmental Planning and Administration

Learn more at www.eco.ca/beahr.



[Click here](#) for your complimentary copy of **ECO Canada's Aboriginal Recruitment Guide**.

Career Interest Matching Tool

Think that making a list of your likes and dislikes, which



Celebrate Canada and National Aboriginal Day

June 21st is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere, the summer solstice, and the first day of summer. It's also the start of the 15th annual **Celebrate Canada**, an 11-day celebration of what it means to be Canadian. This nationwide event is for all to discover, appreciate, and celebrate Canada's unique culture and traditions

through activities that promote understanding and learning in communities across the nation.

The first event on the roster is **National Aboriginal Day on June 21st**, a special day in which First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada will celebrate in song, dance, and traditional performances and non-Aboriginal people will take part in and celebrate Aboriginal excellence in Canadian heritage.

National Aboriginal Day is a chance for all Canadians to experience the rich culture and deep-rooted traditions of Aboriginal Canadians. It's dedicated to showcasing Canada's best Aboriginal artists and performers, as well as to recognizing, celebrating, and creating awareness about Aboriginal Canadian culture in communities across the country. This is your chance to get involved and become better acquainted with Canada's First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Join the celebrations! Learn more about the history and culture of the people that helped shape this great nation. National Aboriginal Day events are organized locally and regionally; for more information on events happening in your community, contact the local Aboriginal committee, local municipal office, or visit the **National Aboriginal Awareness day website**.

[Click here](#) to find out more about what other events are happening during Celebrate Canada.

Inclusion Does Work!

ECO Canada's BEAHR Training Programs team took part in the 3rd annual Inclusion Works conference held in Montreal and hosted by the **Aboriginal Human Resource Council**.

The event brought together youth, industry representatives, Aboriginal inclusion leaders, and community members for three days of professional development and networking activities. It featured a variety of seminars, workshops, and keynote presentations focusing on Aboriginal inclusion in the workplace, including an introduction to the **Seven Stage Inclusion Continuum**. The event was a great way for post-secondary Aboriginal graduates to network, sharpen their interview skills, and find out about different job opportunities available in a variety of sectors.



The BEAHR Training Programs team participated in the conference tradeshow, informing delegates and conference attendees about the programs offered by ECO Canada and BEAHR for communities that want to build local environmental capacity.

BEAHR Training Programs help facilitate and strengthen relationships between communities and industry where

subjects you ace, and the skills you've gained over the years is easy? Making a list of related careers is even easier.

Let **ECO Canada's Career Interest Matching Tool** plant the seed! Create a profile of your interests, skills, and favourite subjects and find out what environmental careers you can grow into. Happy career exploring!



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work is needed. Help your company stand out—provide the opportunity to equip Aboriginal people in their communities with the skills and knowledge they need to take part in local environmental job opportunities.

These short-term, employment-focused, community-based programs are intended to prepare graduates for work in the environment industry at an assistant level, provide companies with local environmental expertise, and contribute to the development of long-term relationships with local communities. Embrace the inclusion continuum and engage with **BEAHR Training Programs!**

For more information on our program and its benefits for your company or community, visit ECO Canada's website and check out the **BEAHR Training Programs section** or contact **BEAHR@eco.ca**



[View all jobs](#) | [Post a job](#)

Here are some of the jobs posted this month:



Junior Environmental Consultant

Edmonton AB
Deadline: July 03, 2011



Field and Staff Engineer

Toronto ON
Deadline: July 08, 2011



Environmental Monitor

Kitimat BC
Deadline: July 10, 2011

A Spill on Tradition



Managing Environmental Disasters on Traditional Territory

Resource development often conflicts with traditional land use and can be a source of frustration for many Aboriginal communities focused on protecting their traditional territories. In areas where oil and gas development is taking place, oil spills are not uncommon and many companies struggle to find local capacity to assist them in establishing both preventative and reactive planning to ensure such spills are kept under control and environmental clean-up plans are in place when disaster strikes.

The recent Plains Midstream oil spill in Northern Alberta—the largest since 1975—is an example of an unfortunate environmental disaster that has been heavily impacting the region of Little Buffalo and members of the Lubicon Lake Nation. Over 4.5 million litres of oil leaked into the Peace River and surrounding areas on April 29, 2011, affecting the natural environment and health of those living in

this region. It has especially been a concern for members of the Lubicon Lake Nation, whose livelihood is interconnected with local ecology and is dependent on traditional ways of living. Traditional territory is sacred and is often used for hunting, trapping, and fishing.

Post-disaster, surveying immediate damage to a traditional territory is not the only concern for local communities—long-term effects can be detrimental to the region's natural environment and, consequently, the health of community members. Initial clean-up, including hiring contractors and **environmental professionals** is only the first step. Constant monitoring is required to ensure that the health of the environment, its local wildlife, and public health and safety are maintained for years to come.

While such a disaster is devastating, it reinforces the importance of ensuring that Aboriginal communities have capacity at the local level to establish proactive environmental monitoring strategies and emergency response plans. In addition, in the midst of a disaster, with site access limited due to safety restrictions, local communities are required to do much of the immediate work themselves. Communities affected by resource development can request companies to invest in training initiatives that will allow them to better protect their traditional territory.

The value of having local individuals with the skills and knowledge required to address these immediate needs is increasingly important in disaster situations. The community's ability to have the environmental capacity to assess a crisis situation allows



them to immediately address the situation in a way that respects and maintains the traditional integrity of the land. Local communities have an appreciation and connection to traditional land and environmental training can enhance local capacity and develop the right procedures to handle these situations when they arise.



Although devastating, the Plains Midstream oil spill serves as a reminder that it is important to be proactive in protecting the environment. Resource development will not likely slow down in the near future and communities will continually be required to balance development with environmental management on or close to their traditional territories. Training and development to build general environmental capacity will strengthen the community's voice and role in preventing and managing disasters.



Elders in the Little Buffalo region fear for the future of the land and how it will affect future generations, while youth have expressed an interest in getting involved in the clean-up efforts, as seen in a recent YouTube video by the [Lubicon Lake Youth](#). By providing training to the current and upcoming generations in environmental monitoring, site assessments, and remediation methods, it is possible to ensure the future prosperity and sustainability of the land. Furthermore, the result for each community will be a skilled, locally trained workforce.

ECO Canada (Environmental Careers Organization) offers a series of employment-focused, community-based programs known as **BEAHR Training Programs**. They are designed for Aboriginal learners and are intended to prepare graduates for employment in the environmental field. **BEAHR Training Programs** allow communities to build and strengthen their local environmental capacity by providing the tools, skills, and

resources to address environmental issues and concerns.

For more information on the programs currently offered, visit: www.eco.ca/beahr

Smokey the Bear's Message Lives On

Roasting marshmallows, and gathering around a burning blaze while exchanging ghost stories; as summer approaches, many outdoor enthusiasts will be partaking in the delight of a fire pit. However, with [uncontrolled fires in Alberta](#) last month, several Canadians may be wondering exactly what fire safety entails these days.

Back in the 40's and 50's the **Smokey the Bear campaign** promoted, "Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires." Today, the message remains the same, but equally important is learning about the environmental effects (both positive and negative), and what happens to an ecosystem post fire.

Alison Clark (**EP**), an Ecological Consultant with **Good Nature Ecological Services**, says, "Fire is a natural phenomenon required by ecosystems for renewal and maintenance; however, [too frequent fire regimes] can exhaust the resources of plant species, threaten the persistence of inhabiting wildlife, and reduce biodiversity."

She adds, "If fires are not controlled adequately, they can endanger surrounding homes and their inhabitants, and the smoke can harm those sensitive to air quality."

Alternatively, in terms of benefits, Clark explains fire helps to:

- Release nitrogen and nutrients otherwise locked up in dead plant matter
- Blacken the earth and increase the amount of solar radiation penetrating the soil surface, thus warming the soil more rapidly
- Create smoke and heat that can act as germination cues for many native fire dependent species
- Remove encroaching trees and shrubs

For Chuck Emery, Wildfire & Emergency Management contractor, mainly for the **British Columbia Ministry of Forests**, fire is best valued for, "Cleaning up forest debris, such as pine beetle kill and other bug diseases, logging slash, and fungal attacks."

Prescribed fires are occasionally lit to achieve these effects. Clark explains that the planners take the ecosystem into consideration, and monitor the weather carefully to ensure the intended area will burn effectively and efficiently, the fire will be controllable, and most importantly, human safety and well-being will be maintained.

Emery, who describes his role as the "eye in the sky", chases lightning and smoke reports from a helicopter to locate new fires and update the status on existing ones. During the off-season, he teaches fire management and flood training.

For those planning on using recreational fires this summer, Emery advises to, "Have a water supply, and a shovel to scrap fuel away from the fire, and to throw dirt on the fire should it flare up."

He adds, "Above all, make sure the fire is 100% out when leaving -about half the fires in BC are started by people, and of this, a large percentage is from abandoned camp fires."

Clark recommends to, "Take note of the current local wildfire risk assessment status that is typically posted in parks and along highways. If the wildfire risk is high, consider the wind conditions-high winds



Chuck Emery acts as an "eye in the sky", monitoring and locating fires from a helicopter.

plus low humidity and drought are a sure fire way to start a wildfire."

Ecosystem Changes After a Fire



*Photo credit to Alison Clark and Janine Mcleod

New initiative provides opportunities for Aboriginals in Canada

In a study conducted by [Statistics Canada](#), between 2008 and 2009 the average employment rate fell faster for off-reserve Aboriginal people than for non-Aboriginal people. As a result, the gap in employment rates between the two groups widened from 3.5 percentage points in 2008 to 4.8 in 2009.

In response, a number of government and private ventures have been working together to form projects that will remedy the situation. There are now 34 federal departments and agencies currently involved in Aboriginal and northern programs and services including the most recent, [Contaminates Remediation Training Organization of Canada \(CRTOC\)](#).

CRTOC first came about in 2009 when a consortium of Aboriginal organizations and businesses, Post-Secondary Institutions, private sector businesses and the environmental sector council, [ECO Canada](#), came together looking to increase employment within the Aboriginal population through environmental training. Funded in part by the [Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership program \(ASEP\)](#) and [Human Resources and Skills Development Canada \(HRSDC\)](#), CRTOC set out to promote the long-term employment of Aboriginal residents in the contaminated sites remediation sector.

With over 18,000 contaminated sites listed on the [Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory](#) and only a few training facilities with limited resources, the CRTOC was a well received resource for northern communities. Currently many remediation sites are using specialized trades people from the south to carry out a portion of the work. But with help from CRTOC the development of new courses and better training have the local population carrying out projects from start to finish.

CRTOC have now been working with training facilities across northern Canada since June 2010 to provide 50% of the funds for formal and on-the-job training. So far since the start of the program thirteen programs have received funding, including two major training facilities in Yellowknife, the [Det'on Cho Training and Conference Centre](#) and [Aboriginal Engineering Ltd.](#) Furthermore, to assist in the transition from training to employment, CRTOC has also hired Job Coach Candy Brown, who has been involved in helping people find jobs for over 30 years. "My advice to anyone who is looking for work is to take advantage, take a risk, and take a chance whenever an opportunity to enhance your skills comes along," says Brown.

"The CRTOC will encourage employers and the Aboriginal community to work together to develop a competent contaminates sites workforce for the future," says Grant Trump, President and CEO of ECO Canada. "The skills and knowledge acquired by the Aboriginal participants will be transferable to other sectors of the economy when the contaminated sites activities have been completed."

[More information on the CRTOC program >>](#)



Industry News

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[Renewable Energy Could Account For 80 Percent Of World's Needs By 2050: UN](#)

[Carbon Capture A Big Go In Saskatchewan](#)

[Greengate Picks Vestas For Largest Canadian Wind Project](#)

[UK And Canadian Marine Pioneers Sign Development Pact](#)

Mark Your Calendars . . .

The [Canadian College Environmental Network \(CCEN\)](#) is hosting its eighth annual meeting on ["Integrating Water Resource Issues into Post-secondary Environmental Education"](#) at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, **June 21-22, 2011**. Environmental educators are invited to network, address common issues, and exchange best practices through events, local tours, and breakout sessions. Visit www.eco.ca/ccen for more information.



Expo Labrador 2011: "From Opportunity to Prosperity" - an annual event that provides a venue for conference delegates to network with industry leaders and learn about the most recent resource developments in Labrador. Included is a tradeshow that provides an opportunity for exhibitors to present their businesses to the industry. The expo will be held **June 26-29, 2011**, in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador. For more information visit www.expolabrador.com.



International Indigenous Summit on Energy & Mining - focusing on sustainable and responsible resource development, current and future best practices in energy development, including green energy highlights and carbon market updates; also includes economic education related to mining and energy. This event features a sector trade show. It is being held **June 27-29, 2011** at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ontario. [Click here](#) for more information.

Celebrate June 21st - This year will commemorate the 15th anniversary of **National Aboriginal Day**. Join in the festivities held across the country to celebrate and recognize the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples of Canada. There are many activities going on in communities nation-wide so get involved and show you care. [Click here](#) for more information.

Need more information, or looking for professional development opportunities in the future?

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