

WHY FNEHIN? \fin-eh-in\

For First Nations, the health of the environment and the health of the individual are intimately connected. First Nations have identified the need for an ecosystem health approach to research, data collection and interpretation.

Environmental threats such as exposure to biological or chemical contaminants, climate change, and pollution associated with industrial development pose significant challenges to the health of First Nations communities as a result of their connection to the land and diet that includes traditional foods.

Although the environment is an important determinant of health, there is not enough integration and synthesis of environmental health research across government, the private sector, and academia. As a result, evidence is not effectively incorporated into policy-making, education, and intervention. More importantly, First Nations communities often do not have the opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and interpretation of environment health research.

Obtaining and using data in an appropriate manner with respect for the rights, priorities and needs of First Nations communities is of paramount importance – especially when it comes to making informed, pro-active decisions about improving the environmental health of First Nations.

Mandate

The First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network (FNEHIN) assists First Nations in identifying, researching and solving environmental health problems by providing relevant information and supporting partnerships in a network approach that builds capacity, strengthens institutions and promotes self-reliance.

Objectives

- Encourage the growth of First Nations knowledge initiatives related to the human health impacts of environmental conditions.
- Actively communicate and provide access to relevant information and tools that will assist First Nation communities in making informed decisions.
- Provide a platform to foster information exchange and facilitate collaboration between First Nations, researchers and other environmental health stakeholders.
- Promote the use of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in environmental health research.
- Communicate, build linkages, and identify opportunities for partnerships with First Nations' organizations and communities, academic and research departments, federal and provincial governmental organizations, the corporate sector, and non-governmental organizations.

Secretariat

Assembly of First Nations
Environmental Stewardship Unit
473 Albert St. 9th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5B4
Toll-free: 1866-869-6789
Phone: 613 241-6789
Fax: 613-241-5808
E-mail: dsharp@afn.ca
www.afn.ca



First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network



Réseau d'Innovation en Santé Environnementale des Premières Nations

This section provides research protocols, codes of ethics and other guidelines to support your potential research initiative.

Find a list of funding opportunities for organizations and students working on environmental health initiatives here.

This news section features international and national environmental health news of interest.

This section provides up-to-date information on opportunities, events, new resources and what's new on the FNEHIN website.

Please contact us if you have content to add to the website, feedback or suggestions. We'd love to hear from you!

The screenshot shows the FNEHIN website interface. At the top left is the logo with a bird and sun, and the text 'FNEHIN FIRST NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INNOVATION NETWORK'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'About Us', 'Research Guidelines', 'Funding Sources', and 'Resources & Publications'. A 'Keyword Search' box is in the top right. A sidebar on the right lists 'Publications 2010', 'Publications 2009', 'Publications 2008 and earlier', 'Additional Information', 'Fact Sheets', 'Training and Education Programs', and 'Videos'. The main content area has a 'Welcome to FNEHIN' section, a 'NEWS' section with a 'NEWS' button, and a 'WHAT'S NEW / EVENTS' section. A 'BUILD A RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP' banner is also present. At the bottom, there is a 'SUBSCRIBE to our e-NEWS' form and contact information.

Search the site for information on pollutants such as mercury, or pesticides; issues like climate change; health effects such as diabetes or cancer; or words like tar sands or children.

This section compiles documents relevant to First Nations and environmental health such as study results or reference guides.

Input your email to receive monthly updates on environmental health news, events, funding opportunities, etc.

FNEHIN will be developing the website to provide more opportunities for networking and sharing. An updated database of researchers whose First Nations experience has been verified will be up soon.