



Sustainable Development Strategy 2004-2006 and INAC Manitoba Region

What is it? The Sustainable Development Strategy focuses on supporting community development by addressing some of the cornerstones of sustainability that First Nations have indicated they need. It also examines INAC policy and practices. The 2004-2006 SDS is INAC's third such strategy.

How is sustainable development defined? It is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (from the World Commission on Environment and Development).

What is the SDS long-term vision? That within the next two generations many First Nations will be healthy and safe models of sustainability. They will have housing, infrastructure and support services comparable to those communities of similar size and function elsewhere.

What are the five SDS themes? Consultation and joint decision making, long-term planning, water management, climate change and energy management, and integrating sustainable development into departmental policies and processes.

Why is the SDS a part of Manitoba Region's planning and priorities? The SDS commitments are in the department's Report on Plans and Priorities and included in evaluations of Manitoba Region's performance. As part of our joint planning process with First Nations, the SDS is being fully integrated into our strategic plans, which will more clearly define roles and responsibilities and increase the ability of the SDS to effect substantial change in Manitoba.

What is being done in Manitoba Region?

Water Management: Projects to provide a safe drinking supply and effective wastewater treatment for First Nations are a priority. In January 2005 INAC announced \$27 million in water and sewer infrastructure projects for Bunibonibee Cree Nation, Norway House Cree Nation and Shamattawa First Nation. The Circuit Rider program provides on-site training for First Nation water and sewer operators. Manitoba Region's environmental unit oversees remediation of contaminated sites, many of which pose an ongoing risk to First Nation drinking water. Remediation is underway at eight priority contaminated sites on First Nations in Manitoba.

Climate Change: The Aboriginal and Northern Community Action Program (ANCAP) provides funding for projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ANCAP's Pathfinder program, established in Manitoba in fall 2004, aims to establish a network of communities, government agencies and organizations in the province with a view to leverage projects that will reduce these emissions.

Comprehensive Community Planning: The goal of CCP is to address the needs of First Nation communities in a holistic way consistent with an Aboriginal world view and more likely to provide for a healthy and sustainable community. Currently efforts are focused on the development of an INAC approach to Comprehensive Community Planning.

Chiefs' Committee on Sustainable Development: Working in collaboration with First Nations on SDS goals and commitments is important to Manitoba Region. The establishment of this committee is in the preliminary stages.

Manitoba Capacity Development Initiative: Manitoba Region is working on a community-by-community basis to address capacity, and organizational and management issues, identified within the Manitoba Capacity Development Initiative.

Horizontal initiatives: Many other initiatives within Manitoba Region are cross-cutting and contribute significantly to First Nations' sustainable development. Accountability and good governance initiatives, the Treaty Land Entitlement process, and proposed Hydro projects in Manitoba's north are not targeted in the SDS, but do support its aims.

For more information, or if you have questions regarding the SDS, contact Jim Heron, Manitoba Region SDS Co-ordinator at (204) 983-5438 or visit the SDS website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/sd/index_e.html.

