



Service Area: Training, Education & Capacity Development

Project: Curriculum and Training Manual Development for an Aboriginal Environmental Monitoring Program

Client: Environment Careers Organization (ECO) Canada, BEAHR Program

Location: Canada-wide

ECO Canada (Environmental Careers Organization Canada) offers a unique, environmentally focused career-training program to Aboriginal communities across the country.

The BEAHR program (Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources) provides classroom and hands-on training that pairs Aboriginal Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western scientific concepts. Those who complete the program are equipped to work as *Environmental Monitoring Assistants*. Graduates not only gain employment opportunities, they can play a direct role in the environmental protection of Aboriginal lands.

The **Human Environment Group (HEG)** and University of Saskatchewan developed the curriculum and materials for a six-week course.

The program includes both a classroom and a practical "field" component, and has been designed so students receive instruction from local technical specialists and community knowledge holders.

The program was designed to be extremely flexible so that it can be adapted to the needs of specific Aboriginal communities across the country (eg. communities along oil sands developments or coastal fishing communities). This program has been extremely well received, and is being offered in Aboriginal Communities from coast to coast.