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**Service Area:** Training, Education & Capacity Development

**Project:** Piikani Nation Social and Environmental Monitoring Certification Program

**Client:** Piikani Environmental Services Inc. and Alberta Human Resource and Employment

**Location:** Alberta, Canada

The **Human Environment Group (HEG)** was responsible for designing and implementing a nine-month social and environmental training program for the Piikani Nation. The program trains and qualifies students to become Environmental Monitoring Assistants, and will allow the Piikani Nation to directly participate in social and environmental studies undertaken on or near their land.

The program has been supported with funding from the Government of Alberta and the Piikani Nation, and was developed with the cooperation of the Lethbridge Community College. Students successfully completed the program and received course credits at the Lethbridge Community College.

**HEG** developed the training program to provide both theoretical and practical experience for the Piikani members participating in the program. Training courses include: terrestrial and aquatic ecology, water quality and water quality sampling, GIS, and map and aerial photo interpretation.

A large component of the training also focuses on spiritual and cultural issues. The Oldman River Cultural Centre is a partner in the program and will deliver courses on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural values.