



July 5, 2011

5032-28
TOR CIDM #428381

To: All Ontario First Nations, Tribal Councils and Political Treaty Organizations

RE: **Lands Environmental Action Fund 2011-2012 Application**

The purpose of this letter is to provide First Nations and Inuit communities and institutions with the opportunity to access funding through the 2011-2012 Lands Environmental Action Fund (LEAF). This funding is available for First Nations and Inuit to undertake a variety of initiatives related to environmental stewardship.

LEAF funding is being provided to First Nations and Inuit governments, organizations, communities and appointed representatives to address environmental concerns on reserve lands and support environmental awareness and training. Funding can be used to support the following activities:

- Project designed to support participation of First Nations and Inuit in Departmentally sponsored environmental training which would not normally be eligible for support through the Post-Secondary Education Program of INAC;
- Projects designed to develop regional mechanisms to activate environmental stewardship in First Nations and Inuit communities;
- Projects designed to enhance the awareness and ability of First Nations and Inuit to address environmental and community knowledge issues;
- Projects designed to upgrade the environmental knowledge and skills of First Nations and Inuit public service staff providing services to their communities; and
- Projects designed to support First Nations and Inuit to participate in the preparatory stages of environmental assessment processes for activities off-reserve which could potentially directly affect their lands (applying the proponent pays principle is compulsory on this type of project).

Prospective applicants should review the attached LEAF Aboriginal Environmental Stewardship 2011-2012 Funding Guidelines for further information on eligibility criteria. Please note that funding for Ontario Region LEAF program is set at \$174,935.00 and we will endeavour to allocate this funding in a manner that supports First Nations throughout the Region. Proposals for projects with high costs may be considered for partial funding. Priority will be given to projects that are designed to benefit more than one First Nation community.

While all projects that meet the Proposal Evaluation Criteria will be considered, for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Department is placing an emphasis on projects that address environmental regulatory compliance issues on-reserve such as fuel storage tanks, waste sites, environmental assessment, Species at Risk or other federal and provincial environmental protection legislation.

Proposals must be prepared using the enclosed LEAF Project Proposal Application Form and received on or before **Friday, July 29, 2011**. Please forward your submission electronically or via standard mail to the attention of:


Daniel Johnson
Environment Officer
Environment Unit, Lands and Economic Development
25 St. Clair Avenue East, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2

or

daniel.johnson@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Johnson at (416) 973-5899 for further information on the LEAF program. We look forward to working with Ontario First Nations on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Kerri Hurley
A/Regional Manager, Environment
Lands and Economic Development
Ontario Region

Attachments:

1. LEAF Aboriginal Environmental Stewardship 2011-2012 Funding Guidelines & Application form
2. LEAF Aboriginal Environmental Stewardship 2011-2012 Proposal Evaluation form

cc. Max Johnson, Manager, Funding Services North, AANDC
Cheyenne Loon, A/Manager, Funding Services South, AANDC
Daniel Johnson, Environment, AANDC