

Terms of Reference

TEK Advisory Committee

January 29, 2008

Purpose:

The CEMA Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) Advisory Committee is established to guide the efforts of the Working Groups to integrate and use traditional knowledge in management frameworks and recommendations to government and hence to help ensure the land, forest, air, water, wildlife and biodiversity in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will be protected, sustained and re-established over the long term.

Objectives:

The CEMA TEK Advisory Committee will coordinate the process of collaborative study, assessment and communication of TEK for CEMA and its working groups through the following objectives:

- Update and maintain TEK Research Guidelines;
- Document existing TEK resources and their use (i.e. journals, papers, reports, projects);
- Develop and update the strategy to integrate TEK and western science;
- Advise CEMA Working Groups on TEK and its collection and integration;
- Develop and maintain effective relationships between CEMA and communities within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to facilitate TEK collection and integration; and
- Promote the use of TEK within the region.

Context:

Cumulative environmental effects, which generally include, but are not restricted to, industrial air emissions, pollution, wildlife loss, habitat loss, water quality and quantity, are relevant to all peoples, industry and governments within the region. There is a need for the coordination of environmental management efforts, to understand TEK and how it can be used to further understand the ecosystems and the cumulative impacts industry and related factors have had and will have on the environment.

[CEMA's Terms of Reference](#) state that it will adhere to the Principle of "Sound Science" as defined by "[the utilization] of [the] best-available western and traditional science in decision making."

A second Principle requires CEMA to "Ensure support mechanisms are in place to allow for meaningful and effective involvement of stakeholders."

Meaningful and effective involvement by Aboriginal stakeholders can only be achieved in its entirety if the best available traditional science is utilized.

Operating Guidelines:

The TEK Advisory Committee will operate in a manner that is consistent with the principles, rules, policies and procedures adopted by CEMA.

The TEK Advisory Committee will follow the CEMA decision making policy and guideline.

The TEK Advisory Committee will need to formally interface with other CEMA working groups and other regional multi-stakeholder organizations.

In order to maintain these linkages TEK Advisory Committee will need to collaborate with CEMA communications personnel.

Report to the CEMA Board:

TEK Advisory Committee will provide progress report(s) to the CEMA Board including an annual report on activities.

TEK Advisory Committee will be responsible for and report on the following deliverables that have been identified (but not limited to the following items):

- Educate and increase awareness of CEMA personnel on TEK
 - Regular coaching workshops for CEMA personnel
 - Regular educational field trips
 - Meeting up to 2 times/year with each CEMA working group to discuss integration of TEK
- TEK database maintenance
 - database & bibliography of existing TEK resources and their use (i.e. journals, papers, reports, projects)
- Review / update of the TEK Research Guidelines every 2 years.
- Annual Elder / youth workshop to review TEK Research Guidelines and to provide Elder's with an opportunity to communicate with CEMA.
- Participate in Community meetings / open houses
- A presentation on the history of Aboriginal people of Canada and specifically the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (in partnership with Aboriginal communities).

The ToR for this WG will need to be reviewed and updated every 2 years at the latest. This will allow for a review and confirmation of the WG purpose and objectives by CEMA Members in a timeframe that is consistent with the completion of the WG deliverables.

Membership:

Any member of CEMA is eligible to join the TEK Advisory Committee.

TEK Advisory Committee will seek to maintain broad stakeholder representation. The membership of the TEK Advisory Committee may be as follows:

- 1 representative from Athabasca Tribal Council
- 1 representative from each First Nation that is a member of CEMA
- 1 representative from each Metis Local that is a member of CEMA
- 1 representative from an oil sands mining company that is a member of CEMA
- 1 representative from an in-situ company that is a member of CEMA
- 1 representative from a conventional oil and gas company that is a member of CEMA
- 1 representative from a Non-Government Organization (NGO)
- 1 representative from a forest harvesting company that is a member of CEMA
- 1 representative from Provincial Government
- 1 representative from the Federal Government

Details of membership responsibilities and chair rotation can be found in CEMA's membership and chairing policies and procedures. The TEK shall elect co-chairs from amongst its members. Co-chairs will have the following requirements and responsibilities:

- 1 co-chair must be Aboriginal and a recognized representative of their organization or community.
- Possess an appreciation of the culture and socio-economic issues of aboriginal peoples and a history of the region.
- Be familiar with community issues.
- Have an understanding of environmental issues.
- Be responsible for calling and facilitating meetings.
- Be responsible for representing the views and interests of the Committee at CEMA meetings as instructed by the Committee.
- Be responsible for ensuring work done by Committee members is done on time and in the manner agreed upon.

Approval:

These Terms of Reference were approved by the CEMA Board on: February 22nd, 2008