



Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP)

Canada

What are federal contaminated sites?

Federal contaminated sites are located on land owned or leased by the federal government, or on land where the federal government has accepted full or partial responsibility for the contamination. The land contains chemical substances that may be hazardous to human health or the environment. The size and scope of federal contaminated sites vary greatly and include, for example, abandoned mines on Crown land in the North, airports, lighthouse stations, and military bases. Contamination is most often a result of past activities with environmental consequences that were not understood at the time.

What is the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP)?

Our natural environment is one of our country's greatest assets, and the Government of Canada is committed to protecting it. The FCSAP helps custodians (the responsible federal departments, agencies or consolidated Crown corporations) determine if sites are contaminated and, if so, to what extent. It also provides financial assistance to clean up or otherwise manage the site to reduce its risk to human health and the environment.

The FCSAP was established in 2005 as a 15-year program with a commitment of \$3.5 billion from the Government of Canada. Since it was established, thousands of sites across Canada have been evaluated, and contamination on several hundred sites has been addressed.

How are federal contaminated sites managed?

Contaminated sites are assessed to determine whether human health and ecological risks exist and whether further action is required to manage these risks. If action is required, examples of approaches used by custodians include:

- Fully or partially remediating the site (removing contaminated materials to a safe level)
- Containing the contamination
- Restricting access
- Erecting barrier walls
- Monitoring the site

FCSAP at work

Every year, custodians identify federal contaminated sites according to the risks they may pose to human health and the environment. To do this, they consider factors such as the nature and degree of contamination and the sensitivity of the surrounding area. Through the FCSAP, funding is provided to the highest priority projects.

As of March 31, 2009:

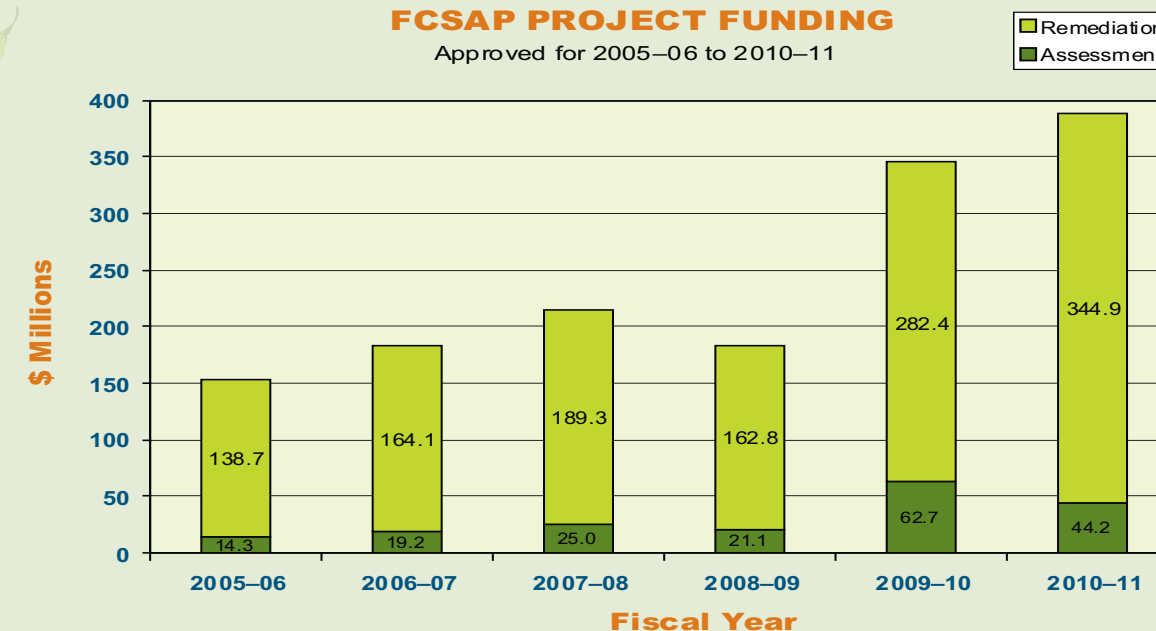
- Site assessment activities were completed on **3492 sites**;
- Contamination was addressed on **472 priority sites**.

As of March 31, 2010:

- Work to assess **over 2700 sites** and manage contamination on **640 priority sites** was underway;
- **Over \$1 billion** in Government of Canada funding was provided to custodians for site assessments, management of priority sites and program delivery.

FCSAP PROJECT FUNDING

Approved for 2005–06 to 2010–11



Benefits of the FCSAP

All Canadians benefit from the protection of soil and bodies of water. By investing in programs like this, the Government of Canada is ensuring that the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, the health of our ecosystems and the wildlife they support will be maintained for future generations.

Through the FCSAP program the Canadian scientific community continuously improves its expertise in the environmental management field. Technological advancements are shared with the private sector engaged in its own contaminated site management projects. Communities also benefit economically through the creation of new jobs and opportunities for skills development.

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For more information:

The FCSAP Portal

www.federalcontaminatedsites.gc.ca is the primary source for information about the FCSAP. This site also includes news releases and examples of completed projects.

The Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory

www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf contains information on all known federal contaminated sites and federal sites being assessed.

The Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan Secretariat may be contacted at:

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