

# Canada's Large Ecosystem Initiatives – Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities

- Responding to multi-partner consensus on community and ecological priorities
- Achieving results through partnerships, community and citizen participation
- Making progress on sustainability at the community and ecosystem levels



## Connecting the pieces – achieving results through integration of:

- **Environment**
  - protecting species and habitat
  - improving air and water quality
  - pollution prevention
- **Economic**
  - job creation and sustainable community development
  - sharing of technology and information
  - identifying and reducing industrial pollutants through a cooperative effort
- **Social**
  - community cohesion
  - consensus on local priorities
  - improved wellness
  - increased recreation
  - youth involvement
  - Aboriginal involvement in both planning and action
  - traditional and local ecological knowledge with science

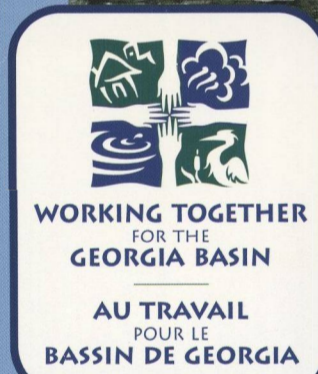
For more information visit: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecosyst/infodoc.html> on Environment Canada's Green Lane

## 1 Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative



- federal-provincial program taking action in the Georgia Basin, an international ecosystem encompassing an area of approximately 135,000 km<sup>2</sup> including the land and inland seas of the Georgia Strait, Puget Sound, and the Straits of Juan de Fuca
- goals set for the improvement of air and water quality, and protection of important habitats and species; stewardship assisted through local capacity-building and the targeted use and application of science and information

Visit [http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/GeorgiaBasin/gbi\\_eindex.htm](http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/GeorgiaBasin/gbi_eindex.htm)



## 2 Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative



- partnerships between governments, industry, universities and northern residents in the Peace, Athabasca and Slave River basins
- promoting pollution prevention by resource industries
- scientific study plays key role

Visit <http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/ecosystems/nrei-ien/index.en.html>

## 3 Northern Ecosystems Initiative



- responding to ecosystem and capacity-building needs across Canada's North
- includes the three Territories, the lowlands of Manitoba and Ontario, northern Quebec and Labrador – ecosystems sensitive to change
- focus on how contaminants, climate change and development activities are affecting northern communities and the ecosystems on which they depend

Visit <http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/nature/ecosystems/nei-ien/dh00s00.en.html>

## 4 Great Lakes Action Plan



- addressing the challenge of managing shared waters between Canada and the United States
- moving from clean up of past problems to conservation, protection and sustainability
- major reductions in target pollutants, restoration of areas of concern, recovery of fish and wildlife populations

Visit [http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/great\\_lakes/](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/great_lakes/)

## 5 St. Lawrence Action Plan Vision 2000



- now in third phase: focus on ecosystem health and community involvement by means of a Canada-Quebec Agreement
- 14 riverside (ZIP) committees along the St. Lawrence, each with an Ecological Rehabilitation Action Plan
- shift from reduction of toxic contamination and protection of wildlife and habitat to sustainable navigation, the measure of impacts of water levels variations and a new state of the St. Lawrence program

Visit <http://www.slv2000.qc.ec.gc.ca/>

## 6 Atlantic Coastal Action Program



- building sustainable communities
- over 800 community action, science, knowledge sharing and capacity-building projects to date
- pollution prevention, restored habitats, sewage treatment, artificial wetlands, increased employment

Visit [http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/community/acap/index\\_e.html](http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/community/acap/index_e.html)