
Press Release



August 18, 2010

CEMA Hosts Elders Workshop

Fort McMurray, Alberta – The Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) is sponsoring its annual Elders Workshop at Maqua Lake. Over 90 First Nations and Métis individuals from all the communities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, including Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, Anzac, Conklin, Chard and Janvier will congregate today.

This year's Elders Workshop will include presentations about the new CEMA structure, Aboriginal Elder speakers on traditional practices, discussions on biodiversity, youth question sessions, and local prayers. Educational exhibits will showcase the Aboriginal history, culture and traditions.

"For 72 years I have called this region my home. To have an opportunity to see fellow Elders on a regular basis and share local traditional knowledge about our land is very important to our way of life." stated Fred "Jumbo" Fraser, Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee Co-Chair and Elder. "The oral knowledge shared and learned is very important to the next generation of Aboriginal leaders."

"CEMA's Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee is committed to uniting Elders and youth in a positive, educational and traditional setting," added Glen Semenchuk CEMA Executive Director. "CEMA is committed to supporting Aboriginal communities via its ongoing programs and working groups."

Traditional environmental knowledge is a body of local environmental knowledge and beliefs transmitted through oral tradition and first hand observation, based on living in close contact with nature. It includes a system of classification, a set of empirical observations about the local environment, a system of self management that governs sustainable resource base, and an understanding of the relationships of living beings (including humans) with one another and their environment.

CEMA is a multi-stakeholder society that is a key advisor to the provincial and federal governments committed to respectful, inclusive dialogue to make recommendations to manage the cumulative environmental effects of regional development on air, land, water and biodiversity.

For more information please visit www.cemaonline.ca or contact:

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Corey Hobbs
Communications Director
Cumulative Environmental Management Association
780-881-4943
Corey.hobbs@cemaonline.ca