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# Press Release

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November 16, 2010

## **CEMA Holds Biodiversity Traditional Knowledge Workshop**

**Fort McMurray, Alberta** – The Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) will be hosting a two day regional workshop on Biodiversity Traditional Knowledge (TK) in Fort McMurray on November 16 – 17. The aim of the workshop is to provide attendees with a chance to share their ideas on biodiversity in the oil sands region, including results of the two year Biodiversity TK Study completed this year. A second key focus will be on development of a Two Roads approach to research with Aboriginal communities in the oil sands region. Delegates attending will be from the local Aboriginal communities, as well as representatives from CEMA's Reclamation Working Group and Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee.

Over the past three years, a CEMA study was completed with Métis Communities and the Fort McKay First Nation in the oil sands region about Aboriginal visions for a healthy environment and ideas on traditional knowledge about what scientists call "biodiversity." The aim was to provide input into a work plan for reclaiming land in developed areas. In working with the communities, the research team began developing a "Two Roads" approach that balances scientific and Aboriginal ways of knowing.

"This unique gathering of local Aboriginals to share their perspectives on biodiversity and Aboriginal ways of knowing will help to strengthen the role of traditional knowledge in decisions about the land" stated Bill Loutitt, President, Métis Nation of Alberta Region 1. "Aboriginal people are increasingly leading their own research, and this project is helping to define how Aboriginal ways of knowing can be supported."

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](http://www.cemaonline.ca):

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Corey Hobbs  
Communications Director  
Cumulative Environmental Management Association  
780-881-4943  
[Corey.hobbs@cemaonline.ca](mailto:Corey.hobbs@cemaonline.ca)