

# The Northern Contaminated Sites Program



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Canada 

# Northern Contaminated Sites Program

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# Introduction: Overview

- INAC is the custodian of federal lands in the North and is the department responsible for the remediation of contaminated sites:
  - includes the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut
- The Yukon Government is now responsible for smaller sites (Type I) while larger sites (Type II) are managed jointly.
- The portfolio of contaminated sites under the Northern Affairs Organization originate from private sector mining and oil and gas activities as well as government military activity.
- Contaminated sites in the south are managed by a separate program.



# Introduction: History

- The mining industry is an important economic driver in Canada's North.
- Mines were developed within existing historical legal frameworks when many environmental protection measures were non-existent or inadequate.
- Legislation was developed in 1993 to require a mine owner to submit, and implement, a closure plan:
- In 1999, the price of commodities dropped considerably and many mining companies filed for bankruptcy.
- These abandoned mine sites became the responsibility of INAC leaving the federal government with a significant liability to manage.
- Mine site reclamation policy has been developed to limit any future legacy of new and existing mines.



# Introduction: Funding

- \$475M over 5 years was announced in 2003 to address contaminated sites:
  - known as the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP).
- In 2004 the Program was enhanced with the announcement of \$3.5 billion in funding over 15 years:
  - also included \$500M for shared responsibility sites.
- Additional funding, and an extension of the program until the end of fiscal year 2010-11, was announced in Budget 2009 (Canada's Economic Action Plan).
- FCSAP adopted a scientific risk-based evaluation and rating system to prioritize remediation projects across the country.



# Program Overview: Mandate

- The Policy of the Northern Contaminated Sites Program, adopted in 2002, is:

**“to manage contaminated sites in a cost-effective and consistent manner, to reduce and eliminate, where possible, risk to human and environmental health and liability associated with contaminated sites.”**

# Program Overview: Objective

- The Program objectives are:
  - To meet federal and departmental policy requirements and legal obligations;
  - To require that suspected contaminated sites be assessed in a timely and cost-effective manner;
  - To provide a scientifically-valid, risk management based framework for guiding planning and activities;
  - To remediate all National Classification System (NCS) Class 1 contaminated sites in the North;
  - To promote social and economic benefits that may accrue to First Nations, Inuit and Northerners; and
  - To promote the federal "polluter pay" principle.



# Program Overview: Management System

- Corporate Procedures

- Planning

- Governance
    - Contaminated Sites Management Plan
    - Project Initiation
    - Preparing the Detailed Work Plan
    - Project Planning Support and Project Review

- Implementation

- Risk Management
    - Training
    - Communications
    - Consultation
    - Financial Management
    - Information Management

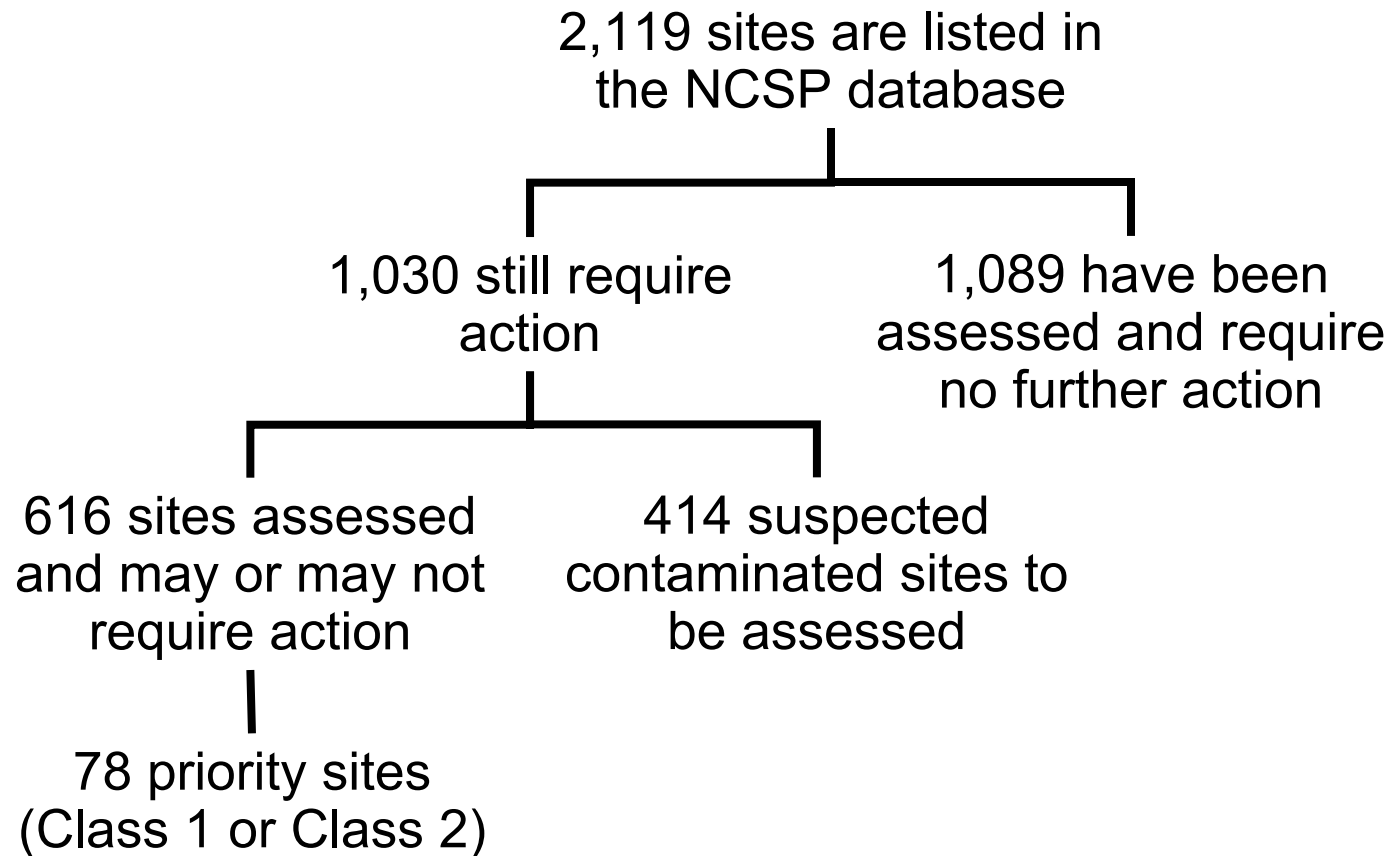


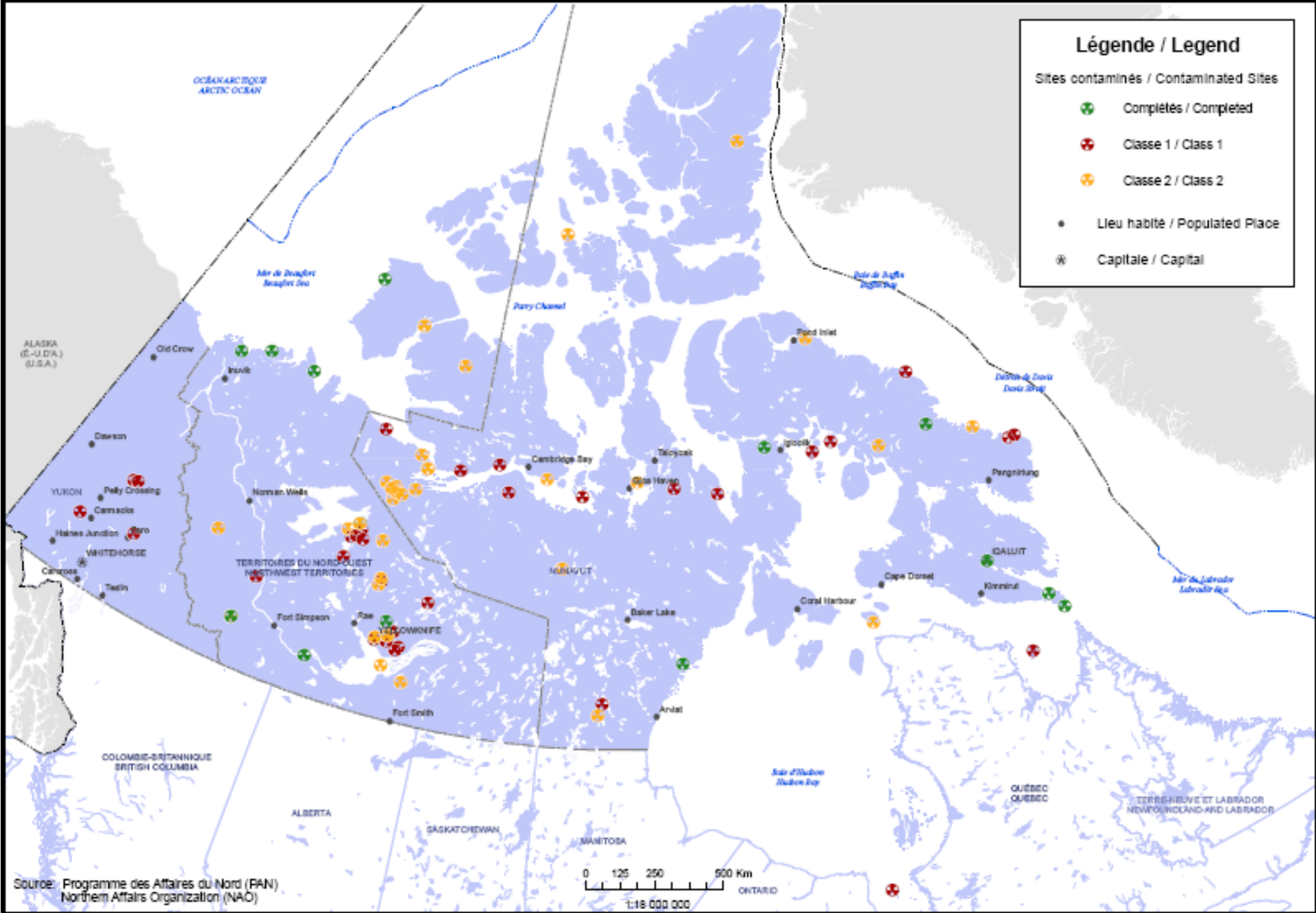


# Program Overview: Management System

- Corporate Procedures
  - Implementation (continued)
    - Treasury Board Download
    - Procurement
    - Abandoned Military Sites Protocol
    - Analysis and Selection of Closure Methods
  - Monitoring
    - Quarterly Reporting
    - Annual Reporting
    - FCSAP Reporting
    - Accounting for Costs and Liabilities
    - Audit and Evaluation

# Program Overview: Description of Sites





# Program Progress: Challenges

- Remoteness
  - Mobilization challenges (winter road, sealift and air access)
  - Health & safety concerns
- Short field season
- Complexity and size of sites
- Permafrost
  - Climate change adaptation
- Wildlife
  - Sites in sensitive areas
  - Traditional land use implications
- Internal and external capacity
  - Competing with public/private sector
  - Human resource capacity



# Program Progress: 2009-10 Activity

- The Northern Contaminated Sites Program works in partnership with Public Works and Government Services Canada to undertake our activities.
- Budget of approximately \$120M.
  - Step 1: Identify Suspected Site (as necessary)
  - Step 2: Historical Review (292 sites)
  - Step 3: Initial Testing Program (41 sites)
  - Step 4: Classify Site (41 sites)
  - Step 5: Detailed Testing Program (15 sites)
  - Step 6: Reclassify Site (15 sites)
  - Step 7: Develop Remediation Plan (14 sites)
  - Step 8: Implement Remediation Plan (9 site)
  - Step 9: Confirmatory Sampling (2 sites)
  - Step 10: Long Term Monitoring (9 sites)



# Program Progress: Project Results

- Thirteen Sites completed to-date (five in 2008-09), including:

## NWT

- BAR-D Atkinson Point
- BAR-E Horton River
- PIN-A Pearce Point
- Axe Point
- Kittigazuit
- Discovery Mine
- Port Radium

## Nunavut

- Upper Base
- Resolution Island
- North Rankin Mine
- FOX-C Ekalugad Fjord
- CAM-F Sarcpa Lake
- Radio Island

- The Program is planning the completion of 2 additional sites in 2009-10 (Johnson Point and North Inca).



# Program Progress: Socio-Economic Results

- NCSP's procurement approach promotes benefits for Aboriginal peoples and northerners, while maximizing value for money.
- Training (in 3 yrs):
  - delivered over 40,000 hours of training to over 2,000 employees
- Socio-economic (in 3 yrs):
  - provided over 140,000 person-hrs of employment:
    - ▶ includes approximately 73,000 person-hrs of Northern employment (incl Aboriginal).
  - entered into over \$300M in contracts:
    - ▶ Includes approximately \$250M in contracts with Northern (incl Aboriginal) companies.
- Consultations (in 3 yrs):
  - over 3,500 people have attended 230 community consultation sessions, workshops and site tours organized by the Program.

