

Reaching Horizon 2030:

An Environmental Outlook for North American Cooperation

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Defining Environmental Racism

“ The practice has been locating industrial waste sites next to African Nova Scotian, Native & poor, white communities; communities that don't have a base to fight back.

You ask if that's environmental racism?
It's environmental racism
to it's core.”

- James Desmond, Lincolnville

VISIT ENRICHPROJECT.ORG TO TAKE ACTION.

Defining Environmental Racism

Disproportionate location and greater exposure of Indigenous and racialized communities to contamination and pollution from polluting industries and other environmentally hazardous activities;

Lack of political power these communities have for resisting the placement of industrial polluters in their communities;

Implementation of policies that sanction the harmful and, in many cases, life-threatening presence of poisons in these communities;

Disproportionate negative impacts of environmental policies that result in differential rates of cleanup of environmental contaminants in these communities; and

The history of **excluding Indigenous and racialized communities from mainstream environmental groups, decision-making boards, commissions, and regulatory bodies.**

(Bullard, 2002)

Case Studies on Environmental Racism

- Pictou Landing First Nation
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation
- Africville
- Lincolnville
- Shelburne

Overcoming Systemic/Structural Factors Contributing to Environmental Racism

- The failure of environmental assessments to consider the structural determinants of health.
- The under-representation of Black and Indigenous environmental policymakers and decision makers in Canada.
- The failure to provide Black and Indigenous people with an opportunity to “have a seat at the table”.

Using an Intersectional Framework

- Understandings around environmental injustices are premised on social class as being the most important factor.
- Many environmental and climate change theorists, advocates and activist fail to use an intersectional approach to consider how race intersects with class, gender and geographical location.

Stop Environmental Violence: On the Land and our Bodies

#NoKXL

#EnvironmentalViolence



Key Lessons

- Using an intersectional framework helps us to understand the interventions that are needed to strengthen resilience.
- Building multidisciplinary and multisectoral partnerships is the key to addressing many complex issues like environmental racism and climate change inequities.
- In my work, getting people to empathize with and act on the environmental and climate injustices has involved increasing awareness about climate change inequities and environmental racism by using diverse tools and resources.

**A Question I Would like to Hear Answered by Other
Panelists**

**How have you leveraged
multidisciplinary and/or
multisectoral partnerships in your
work to address environmental
and/or climate injustices?**