

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### ***OGC Environmental Stewardship***

The Oil and Gas Commission’s stated vision is *“To be the innovative regulatory leader, respected by stakeholders, First Nations and clients.”* As part of that vision, the OGC employs its responsibility in ensuring environmental issues are fully considered and potential impacts mitigated in regulating oil and gas industry activities in B.C.

The OGC administers regulations and policies under a wide range of Acts dealing with land access, water management, forest and range use, wildlife and habitat management, heritage and archaeological resource management, visual and air quality.

As such, it plays a significant stewardship role in maintaining the health and well-being of ecosystems in BC where oil and gas exploration and development is occurring.



### ***Role of the OGC***

The OGC has expert staff in a wide range of disciplines that are responsible for working with applicants to ensure projects are compliant with the regulations and meet B.C.’s stringent environmental standards. OGC staff can apply conditions to approvals to meet specific environmental objectives. Industry is encouraged to adopt **best practices** when planning, scheduling and carrying out its operations.

The OGC also has a strong compliance and enforcement program to ensure proponents meet approval conditions and follow through on their commitments.

### ***Science and Community Environmental Knowledge (SCEK)***

The Science and Community Environmental Knowledge (SCEK) Fund engages and supports individuals and organizations in practical, credible and relevant applied research to manage environmental and social matters related to oil and gas exploration and development in British Columbia. The SCEK Fund is managed by the Oil and Gas Commission.

The Fund operates to support research in existing knowledge and to serve as a mechanism to share research findings with the oil and gas industry, regulators, First Nations, land and resource users, communities, and the public. The Fund is results-based and generates improvements in conducting efficient, effective and transparent regulation of oil and gas activities in British Columbia.

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The Fund has three objectives:

1. to address priority scientific and community issues directly relevant to management of oil and gas activities in British Columbia;
2. to implement the results from focused scientific and knowledge research through appropriate industry, government and stakeholder pathways; and
3. to communicate findings to industry, regulators, First Nations, land and resource owners and the public.

This fund does not replicate research that is the responsibility of government. Study findings are incorporated, where appropriate, into operating practices and regulations. The Fund is supported by monies of up to \$1 million per year obtained through a levy on the application fee for wells and on oil and gas production. Funds are allocated to priority projects in five SCEK program areas:

1. Health and Safety
2. Environmental Impacts
3. Community Environmental Knowledge
4. Cumulative Impacts Management
5. Collaboration and Communication



The Environmental Impacts Envelope supports projects that demonstrate methods to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts of oil and gas activities on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The following is an example of priorities for funding in 2006/07.

Themes	Topics
Measuring, monitoring, and mitigating impacts of oil and gas activities on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems	Best management practices for site selection for water withdrawal
Measuring, monitoring, and mitigating impacts of oil and gas activities on wildlife	Design and test a monitoring program that uses animal organs and tissues to determine wildlife health
Rehabilitating terrestrial and aquatic sites disturbed by oil and gas activities	Vegetation (e.g., native and agricultural grasses, forbs, shrubs) suited to reclamation

### Information

Oil and Gas Commission – Science and Community Knowledge Fund (SCEK) Backgrounder  
<https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/scek/default.asp>