



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

ONTARIO



Environmental Damages Fund

The Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) follows the **Polluter Pays Principle** to help ensure that those who cause damage to the environment take responsibility for their actions.

Created by the Government of Canada in 1995, the EDF is a specified purpose account, administered by Environment Canada to provide a mechanism for directing funds received as a result of fines, court orders and voluntary payments to priority projects that will benefit our natural environment. A specified purpose account is one maintained separately from the general revenues of the Government of Canada.

How Funds Are Directed

The majority of funds are directed to the EDF through statutory fines and court-ordered payments. A number of federal statutes authorize discretionary court orders that have been used to direct monies to the EDF, for example:

- *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*
- *Fisheries Act*
- *Species at Risk Act*

All fines collected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* must be directed to the EDF, by virtue of subsection 13(6) of the Act.

How Projects Are Funded

Environment Canada solicits project proposals from eligible groups and

ensures projects are carried out in a cost-effective, technically feasible and scientifically sound manner.

Monetary awards are used to fund projects that focus on environmental restoration and improvement, research and development, and education and awareness related to environmental restoration and compliance with regulations. All projects must meet EDF program criteria.

Funds are disbursed in the geographic region (local area, region, province or territory) where the incident occurred. Priority is given to restoration projects that address the damage caused by the original incident.

Improvements to the EDF program ensure that funds are disbursed promptly to recipients capable of delivering projects with strong environmental results.

Since 1995, the EDF has received over \$4 million and has funded 136 projects across Canada.

Eligible Recipients

- Non-governmental organizations
- Universities and academic institutions
- Aboriginal groups
- Provinces, territories and municipalities

www.ec.gc.ca/edf-fde

EDF Funded Projects

Restoration project to improve water quality

The Couchiching Conservancy received \$20,000 to improve water quality in Simcoe County by installing 1500 metres of cattle exclusion fencing, and planting 500 trees and shrubs to reduce erosion and provide habitat for sensitive grassland species. Fines were received in violation of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.

Total project value: \$40,790

Rehabilitation Project

The Niagara River Restoration Council received \$13,135 to remove three major barriers to fish migration and to rehabilitate 300 metres of habitat to stabilize stream banks and improve water quality in the Niagara River watershed. Fines were received in violation of subsection 38(4) of the *Fisheries Act, R.S.C. 1985*.

Total project value: \$98,605

Contacts:

Environment Canada Legal Services

Place Vincent Massey
351 St. Joseph Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-997-2800
or 1-800-668-6767 (toll-free)
Email: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

Environment Canada EDF Program Ontario Regional Office

4905 Dufferin Street
Downsview ON M3H 5T4
Telephone: 416-739-4734
or 1-800-661-7785 (toll-free)
Fax: 416-739-4235
Email: edf-fde.on@ec.gc.ca

Canada