



## Atlantic PIRI Annual Reporting Summary 2019

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### Forward

Atlantic PIRI (**P**artners in **R**isk Based Corrective Action Implementation) is in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of regional cooperation among the four Atlantic Provincial Departments of Environment and industry stakeholders. Atlantic PIRI continues to be recognized for this unique partnership that has harmonized risk-based approaches to managing impacted sites in the Atlantic region and created conditions for regulatory certainty related to remediation and redevelopment of sites across the four Atlantic Provinces.

The purpose of Atlantic PIRI is to facilitate the ongoing usage of a harmonized, risk-based approach for managing impacted sites in the Atlantic region using an ASTM tool known as Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA). Atlantic RBCA is specific to Atlantic Canada's needs and is equal to, or better than, Canada-Wide Standards (CWS) developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).

Atlantic PIRI continues to serve this purpose as a regional stakeholder partnership that maintains Atlantic RBCA and creates a forum for identification and discussion of issues, develops standards and processes, and provides recommendations for continued technical and regulatory harmonization across the four Atlantic Provinces.

We are grateful for continued provincial and industry support through our existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that guides how we operate. The MOU has been periodically renewed to establish PIRI's continuing mandate to support regional brownfield and impacted site management, harmonization efforts, and maintaining the Atlantic RBCA technical and scientific tools. PIRI meets the objectives set out by the MOU in accordance with its core strengths and areas of expertise, principally related to scientific, technical and related regulatory issues.

Atlantic PIRI, through our unique partnership that has harmonized risk-based approaches to managing impacted sites has been a regional success, benefitting human health, the environment, the economy, and business across Atlantic Canada.

We are pleased to provide a summary of Atlantic PIRI's 2019 activities and accomplishments.

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## Summary of 2019 Activities

In 2019, Atlantic PIRI members held three, face-to-face, two-day meetings in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and in Newfoundland and Labrador along with regular teleconferences to advance our work plan. Members also participated in issue-focused working groups.

These regional meetings assist Atlantic PIRI in fulfilling its mandate and overall objectives as set out in the MOU. Concurrent with these regional meetings, Atlantic PIRI regulator and industry co-chairs met on several occasions to discuss strategic initiatives and general administration of the committee.

The Partnership's members were asked to renew their commitment to Atlantic PIRI during the past year. A commitment form was used to emphasize the substantial involvement and active participation needed from members in upholding the ideals of Atlantic PIRI. All members unanimously signed the commitment forms which reinforced a cohesive support system for Atlantic PIRI in carrying out its regional mandate.

The year was marked by some notable milestones as the partnership continues to be guided by four core values:

- **science-based decision making**
- **continuous improvement**
- **collaboration among stakeholders**
- **regional harmonization**

### **Science-Based Decision Making:**

*Successfully closed another 342 impacted site files in our region.*

Atlantic PIRI provides regulators and business stakeholders with the harmonized science-based tools needed to address issues, navigate regulatory processes, and ultimately provide the confidence needed to make sound decisions for managing impacted sites. This has the net effect of providing social, economic and environmental value for our communities.

Since 1997, the Atlantic RBCA toolkit has been successfully used to assess or remediate petroleum impacted sites and facilitate regulatory file closures for more than **9100** sites in Atlantic Canada. The Atlantic RBCA toolkit works by preparing these properties for potential redevelopment opportunities.

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## Continuous Improvement:

*Keeping up with changes in science by improving technical guidance.*

In June 2019, Atlantic PIRI released an updated Guidance for Vapour Intrusion Assessments. Through a series of revisions, notable modifications were made to the biodegradation factor and vapour intrusion screening levels in response to changes in science.

Internal collaboration continues on updating the User Guidance to include chlorinated solvent impacted sites. The progress made in 2019 has set the stage for the release of the updated User Guidance in 2020.

## Collaboration Among Stakeholders:

*Fostering relationships to better serve Atlantic Canadians.*

Atlantic Regulators, having established a strong relationship over the years, carried on with regular monthly meetings, sharing regulatory experience, seeking jurisdictional insight and making progress on important project milestones.

Atlantic PIRI recognizes the value in meeting with various stakeholders throughout the region. This year we were pleased to host a representative from the Canadian Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (CIPMA) to address our group and discuss topics of mutual interest. Atlantic PIRI welcomes opportunities on a regular basis to learn from other associations, industry professionals, and environmental consultants.

There was agreement among Atlantic PIRI to consider a regional stakeholder event in the future building on the success of our 2017 Professional Development Seminar. In all probability, future events will be delivered differently given the potential limitations for large gatherings due to Covid-19. Our efforts will continue to give stakeholders an opportunity to engage with Atlantic PIRI following the release of new Atlantic RBCA guidelines.

## Regional Harmonization:

*Publishing a more comprehensive set of environmental standards.*

Throughout 2019, Atlantic PIRI made significant progress with a key harmonization opportunity which will drive the Atlantic RBCA Technical User Guidance to meet the needs of a wider range of stakeholders throughout the region.

The scope of the Impacted Sites Guidelines/Pathway Specific Guidelines Project is to harmonize criteria, in addition to petroleum hydrocarbons, throughout Atlantic Canada. The numerical guidelines will provide criteria for all relevant media including: soil, surface water (fresh and marine), groundwater and sediment for various contaminants, where available. Once completed, Atlantic PIRI will publish the numerical guidelines and associated rationale document on the Atlantic RBCA website.

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*Establishing a forum for discussion, collaboration and harmonization.*

The Atlantic PIRI forum enables regulators, industry and environmental consultants to work together to identify barriers and issues that arise due to jurisdictional processes.

The forum also enables provincial jurisdictions to agree on harmonized guiding principles and approaches, while policy requirements can be determined through regulatory discretion.

## The Year Ahead

In the coming year, Atlantic PIRI will continue to strive toward goal achievement in the core value areas. Some noteworthy initiatives for the coming year include:

- Publishing harmonized Tier I Impacted Sites Guidelines and Tier II Pathway Specific Guidelines for various contaminants
- Updating the Atlantic RBCA toolkit (Version 4)
- Releasing an updated User Guidance document to include chlorinated solvent contaminants
- Strategic planning for the next 5 years

## Atlantic PIRI

Atlantic PIRI wishes to thank Christa Curnew (Newfoundland and Labrador) and Mark Twist (Suncor) for their commitment to Atlantic PIRI throughout the years and welcomes its newest members, Jennifer Strickland, (Newfoundland and Labrador), Annick St-Amand (Stantec Consulting), and Holly Losignore (Suncor).

The Atlantic PIRI team:

### **Government representatives:**

- Brent Cox (Nova Scotia, Co-Chair)
- Jonathan Kay (Nova Scotia)
- Jennifer Strickland (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Barry Jackson (Prince Edward Island)
- Michel Poirier (New Brunswick)
- Rita Mroz (Environment & Climate Change Canada)

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**Industry Representatives:**

- Bill Simpkins (Canadian Fuels Association, Co- Chair)
- Justin Ly (Imperial Oil)
- Steve Little/Michelle PaulElias (Irving Oil)
- Holly Losignore (Suncor)

**Regional Consulting Representatives:**

- Kelly Johnson (CBCL)
- Jeff Earle (Dillon Consulting)
- Susan Barfoot (Wood PLC)
- Jamie O'Neill (GHD)
- Annick St-Amand (Stantec Consulting)

**Communications Consulting Representative:**

- Mary-lou Rossiter (Atlantic Resources Company Inc.)

For more information, please visit [www.atlanticrbca.com](http://www.atlanticrbca.com) or contact us:

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