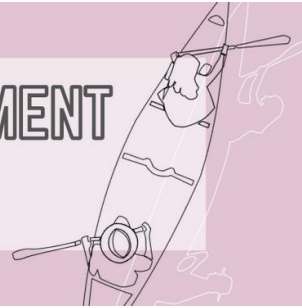


# NAVIGATING THE LAW TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM AND THE LAW: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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**Introduction:** The following questions and sample answers have been provided to help facilitate discussions about environmental racism in Canada and the need for environmental justice advocacy promoting the development of more inclusive laws and policies.

**1) What is environmental racism?**

- Environmental racism occurs when a law, policy or practice differently affects or disadvantages (whether intended or unintended) individuals, groups or communities based on race or colour, often resulting in a lower quality of life.

**2) Who has experienced environmental racism in Canada?**

- A broad range of Indigenous and minority communities (ex. Africville, NS) have experienced and continue to experience environmental racism in all Canadian jurisdictions.
- These communities have been forced to relocate to undesirable lands and face the most serious environmental consequences of resource development, while often lacking access to the basic amenities most Canadians take for granted such as clean water, electricity, and waste management services.

**3) Why is environmental racism something all Manitobans should be concerned about?**

- In Canada, environmental racism has been a part of our history from the moment European colonizers entered the lands already occupied by Indigenous peoples.
- Recognizing the negative impacts Indigenous peoples in Canada continue to face because of natural resource development and public utility use is an important part of the Reconciliation process.
- Environmental racism has occurred and continues to occur in Manitoba. Some examples include: Shoal Lake, Manitoba as Winnipeg's drinking water source and the Hydro-impacted First Nations communities in Northern Manitoba.

**4) How has environmental racism affected the relationship between Indigenous communities and the Canadian government?**

- The environmental racism experienced by Indigenous communities has resulted in a lack of trust in the Canadian government.
- Indigenous communities do not feel their concerns have been properly listened to or best interests taken into consideration when government decisions are made, especially when natural resource development is involved.

**5) What can you do to help stop environmental racism and support impacted communities?**

- Support communities experiencing environmental racism.
- Learn more about environmental racism and share your knowledge.
- Advocate for environmental justice and more inclusive laws and policies in Canada.

For more information see:

- [Environmental Racism and the Law](#) (webinar)
- [Environmental Racism and the Law: Additional Resources](#)
- [Environmental Racism and the Law: Additional Questions](#)



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