



# Aamjiwnaang Environment

## Air Monitoring Updates

The daily business of the Aamjiwnaang environment department consists of, but is not limited too:

- Responding to inquiries from various industry professionals and proponents, government officials, community members, and staff from other departments.
- Managing a multitude of emails and flow of information for consultation, proponent notices, environmental and archaeological reports, and requests for collaboration.
- Staff attend several meetings throughout their work week that focus on varying subject matter pertaining to the environment; meeting with Aamjiwnaang consultants, government officials, and local industry officials.

**The primary Air Monitoring related projects are:**

### **Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) - Air Quality Improvement for Environmental Justice**

Status: Active

Project Duration: 24 months with a start date: January 2024

- Project Purpose - Black carbon (BC) or “soot” - a component of fine particulate matter (PM)— is an important air contaminant that not only affects public health but also our climate. Our countries’ systems for monitoring air pollution have limited coverage, with millions of people across North America living in communities that have no means of measuring local air quality conditions. This initiative aims to build collaborative partnerships that respond to community-identified poor air quality conditions from exposures to high levels of BC and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) emissions, as well as communities that potentially experience disproportionate environmental harm or risk, and/or have environmental justice concerns. This project will deploy low-cost air quality sensors to increase public access and awareness of air pollution information and supplement air quality information for national networks.

### **Errnol Gray Monitoring Station Upgrade**

Status: Active

Project Duration: Now until early 2024

- Project Update
  - The construction at the monitoring station will begin the week of November 6, 2023.
  - The contractor (Todd of K&L Construction) has completed preliminary work with utilities for the scheduled work.
  - The Errnol Gray Sr. station will be down for approximately two weeks due to the construction work and the temporary power unavailability to the monitoring station. We had previously discussed possibly setting up an Airpointer for temporary monitoring coverage, however, power will unfortunately not be available to run an Airpointer at the site during this time.
  - After two weeks (once the new concrete pad is set), the existing air monitoring station will be moved back onto the new pad and power to the station will be reconnected. All monitors inside the station will be returned to service, and there will be a temporary fenced area with a platform that will hold the samplers which are currently on the station rooftop. Fencing around the new pad will be put up once the new building is placed (sometime in the new year). The ladder will be removed from the existing air monitoring station, until the new building and fencing is set up.

### **Wilson Plain Air Pointer Station Upgrade**

Status: Active

Project Duration: Now until December 2023

- Project Update
  - Aamjiwnaang Environment is working with Bluewater Association for Safety, Environment & Sustainability (BASES) staff for the upgrades at this location. A new tower will be installed to host additional meteorological equipment that will provide additional data for windspeed and direction, barometric pressure, and humidity.
  - A benzene monitor will also be installed at this location.
  - A windsock will be installed on the new tower installation.

### **Partnership Table with Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**

Status: Active

Project Duration: Now until early 2024

- Project Background
  - The Partnership Table development project is a direct result of a joint meeting between Aamjiwnaang Leadership, the Ministry of Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and Ministry of Conservation, Parks and Conservation (MECP). The primary objective is to ensure that Aamjiwnaang has a seat at the table with an equal voice on environmental matters.

- Project Purpose
  - Develop an action plan for the Aamjiwnaang First Nation to have authority and capacity to protect and regulate all activities that have an impact on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation environment and all living things within it. This includes setting policy and developing and enforcing guidelines, standards and regulations.

### **Windsock Installation**

Status: Active

Project Duration: In Progress until completed - Early to Mid 2024

- Project Update
  - Aamjiwnaang Environment is working with Bluewater Association for Safety, Environment & Sustainability (BASES) staff to install windsocks at all public venues throughout the Aamjiwnaang community. BASES will be covering all associated cost for the windsocks and the installation.
  - Approvals for windsock installation at pre-selected location is taking long than anticipated and will continue to remain a focus for the Emergency Management Planner.

Windsock locations:

- EnjiDamnaang & The Chippadome area
- Playground area at the Tashmoo apartment complex
- Errnol Gray Air Monitoring Station
- Maawn Doosh Gumig & Bear Park area
- Wilson Plain Sr Air Pointer Station (this air pointer is located by the playground beside the daycare).
- Industrial Park

### **Air Monitoring Pilot Project**

Status: On-Going

Project Duration: Started in 2022 - Will conclude in 2024

- Project Update
  - The Aamjiwnaang Air Monitoring Pilot Project, is a partnership with the Toronto Metropolitan University, who provided twenty-three passive air monitors that were deployed at various location throughout the community, at public areas and private residences. The hand-held air monitoring units are self-contained and require installation on the south-side of a building, home, or other stationary structure where they are exposed to the sun, as they are solar powered. All data will be sent to a cloud based website where particulate matter variables can be monitored and stored for analysis by technicians at the Toronto Metropolitan University.

## **AirPointer Benzene Alerts**

Status: On-Going

Project Duration: Started in January 2023 and will have Continuous Monitoring

- Project Update
  - The Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP), Southwest Region, provides technical support for the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Environment Department.
  - Data from the AirPointer Benzene Alerts can be found on the Casa website.
  - Aamjiwnaang consultant analyze the collected data to generate the Monthly Air Monitoring reports that are posted on the Aamjiwnaang Environment FaceBook page.

## **Memorial University Air Monitoring Project**

Status: Data Analysis In-Progress

Project Duration: One-Year January 2022-2023

- Project Update:
  - Preliminary findings will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting between Aamjiwnaang and researchers from Memorial University. VOC (volatile organic compounds) data is still being processed, and will a topic to discussion with the Environment Committee. Memorial University students are also working on collecting the SVOC (semi-volatile organic compound) data and more information will be known soon.
  - VOC and SVOC samples for one year (4 time points, 3 months apart). In December 2022 the samplers were collected. At this stage of the project focus will be placed on extracting and analyzing collected samples, and findings will be presented in a report to Aamjiwnaang.

Aamjiwnaang Environment is located at 972 Tashmoo in the Annex Building (old daycare building).

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