

# Overview of the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Management of Federal Contaminated Sites

FMI Professional Development Week

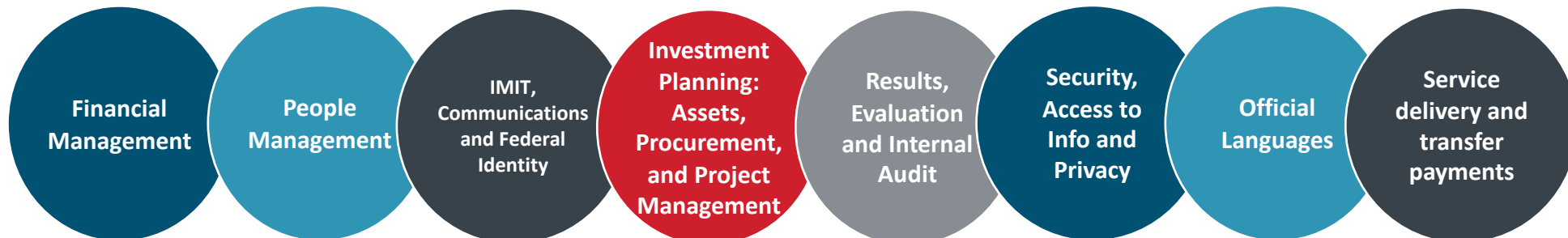
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# The Treasury Board and its Secretariat

Treasury Board of Canada (TB)	Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS)
<p><b>TB</b> is a Cabinet committee of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The TB is responsible for accountability and ethics, financial, personnel and administrative management, comptrollership, approving regulations and most Orders-in-Council.</li><li>▪ TB approves policy to set government direction</li></ul>	<p><b>TBS</b> is the Administrative arm of the Treasury Board, the Secretariat has a dual mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ to support the Treasury Board as a committee of ministers; and</li><li>▪ to fulfill the statutory responsibilities of a central government agency:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Support implementation of TB policy</li><li>▪ Monitor and report on results</li></ul></li></ul>

## Government-wide Policies



# Policy on Management of Real Property

## Context

- The policy ensures the sustainable and financially responsible management of real property, throughout its life cycle, to support the cost-effective and efficient delivery of government programs.
- Policy applies to federal departments defined in section 2 of the *Financial Administration Act*; however, reporting requirements also apply to consolidated Crown corporations.

## Environment Responsibility for Real Property

1

A contaminated site is defined as a site at which substances occur at concentrations that (1) are above background levels and pose, or are likely to pose, an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment, or (2) exceed the levels specified in policies and regulations.

2

Federal real property is managed in an **environmentally responsible manner** consistent with the principles of sustainable development and the polluter-pays-principle.

3

Known and suspected sites are **assessed** and **classified** to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective course of action for each site.

4

**Remediation** and **risk management** of sites posing the highest risk to human health and the environment are prioritized.


5

Annual reporting of progress, expenditure and liability information to the **Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory**, which supports reporting of environmental liability to the Public Accounts of Canada and performance reporting for FCSAP.

# Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI)

## What is the FCSI

- Government of Canada's central database that provides information on known or suspected federal contaminated sites to the public service, parliamentarians, the media and the general public.
- TBS administers the application and reporting process.
- Federal departments and consolidated Crown corporations are responsible for reporting and certifying their data.
- Contains information on key site characteristics, management type, site status, and financials.
- Supports reporting in the Public Accounts of Canada and to the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan.



FCSI contains over  
**24,000**  
contaminated sites;  
almost  
**7,000**  
still require  
assessment and/or  
remediation activities

## Expected Outcomes

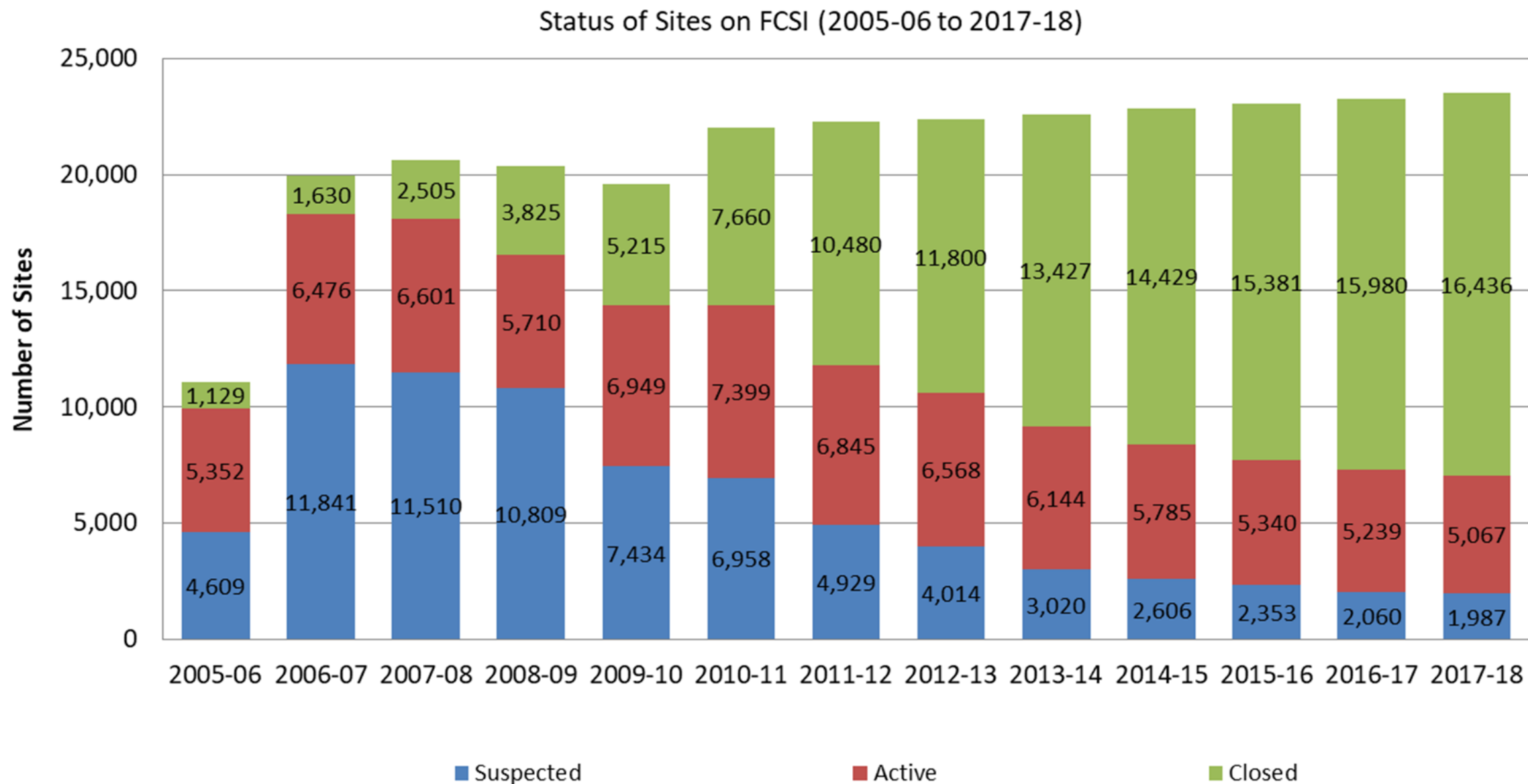
Transparency

Accountability

Stewardship

Sound Decision Making

# Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI)



# Environmental Liabilities in Public Accounts of Canada

## Definitions

- Environmental liabilities represent the amount required to remediate contaminated sites to current minimum environmental standards
  - Remediation liability of contaminated sites
  - Other environmental liabilities - UXO
  - Asset retirement obligations represent the amount required to retire tangible capital assets at the end of their useful lives.

## Public Sector Accounting Standard (PSAS)

- Though the government cannot be forced to comply with PSAS, these standards do form the generally accepted accounting principles and are widely adhered to
- Section 3260 – Liability for Contaminated Sites
  - 3260.08 - Recognition of a liability for a federal contaminated site
  - 3260.65 – Disclosure Requirements

# Remediation Liability for Contaminated Sites

(in millions of dollars)

	2019					2018				
	Total number of sites	Number of sites with a liability	Estimated liability	Estimated total undiscounted expenditures	Estimated recoveries	Total number of sites	Number of sites with a liability	Estimated liability	Estimated total undiscounted expenditures	Estimated recoveries
Former mineral exploration sites <sup>1</sup> .....	129	109	3,325	6,168	23	140	102	2,909	5,469	23
Radioactive material <sup>2</sup> .....	9	7	1,059	1,172	–	9	8	994	1,113	–
Military and former military sites <sup>3</sup> .....	449	210	437	539	–	411	211	446	533	–
Fuel related practices <sup>4</sup> .....	1,769	1,186	387	377	–	1,787	1,178	355	370	–
Marine facilities/aquatic sites <sup>5</sup> .....	2,453	1,118	525	548	–	2,730	1,565	354	353	–
Landfill/waste sites <sup>6</sup> .....	1,063	715	252	212	–	1,077	810	264	221	–
Other <sup>7</sup> .....	1,139	566	493	511	–	1,088	540	388	433	–
Total .....	7,011	3,911	6,478	9,527	23	7,242	4,414	5,710	8,492	23

**Net Remediation Liability \$ 6,455**

# Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP)

## Context

- In 2005, the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) was approved as a 15-year, \$4.5 billion cost-share program that provides funding to federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations to address federal contaminated sites.
- In 2019, Cabinet approved the renewal of FCSAP for 15 years (2020-2035) following the announcement of \$1.2B in Budget 2019 for FCSAP Phase IV (2020-21 to 2024-25).



*FCSAP Rock Bay remediation project*

## Governance and Program Design

1

**FCSAP Secretariat** led by ECCC and supported by TBS, provides program oversight, administration, coordination, progress monitoring, and program reporting.

2

**Contaminated sites custodians** receive FCSAP program resources to assess, classify and remediate/risk manage their contaminated sites on a prioritized basis.

3

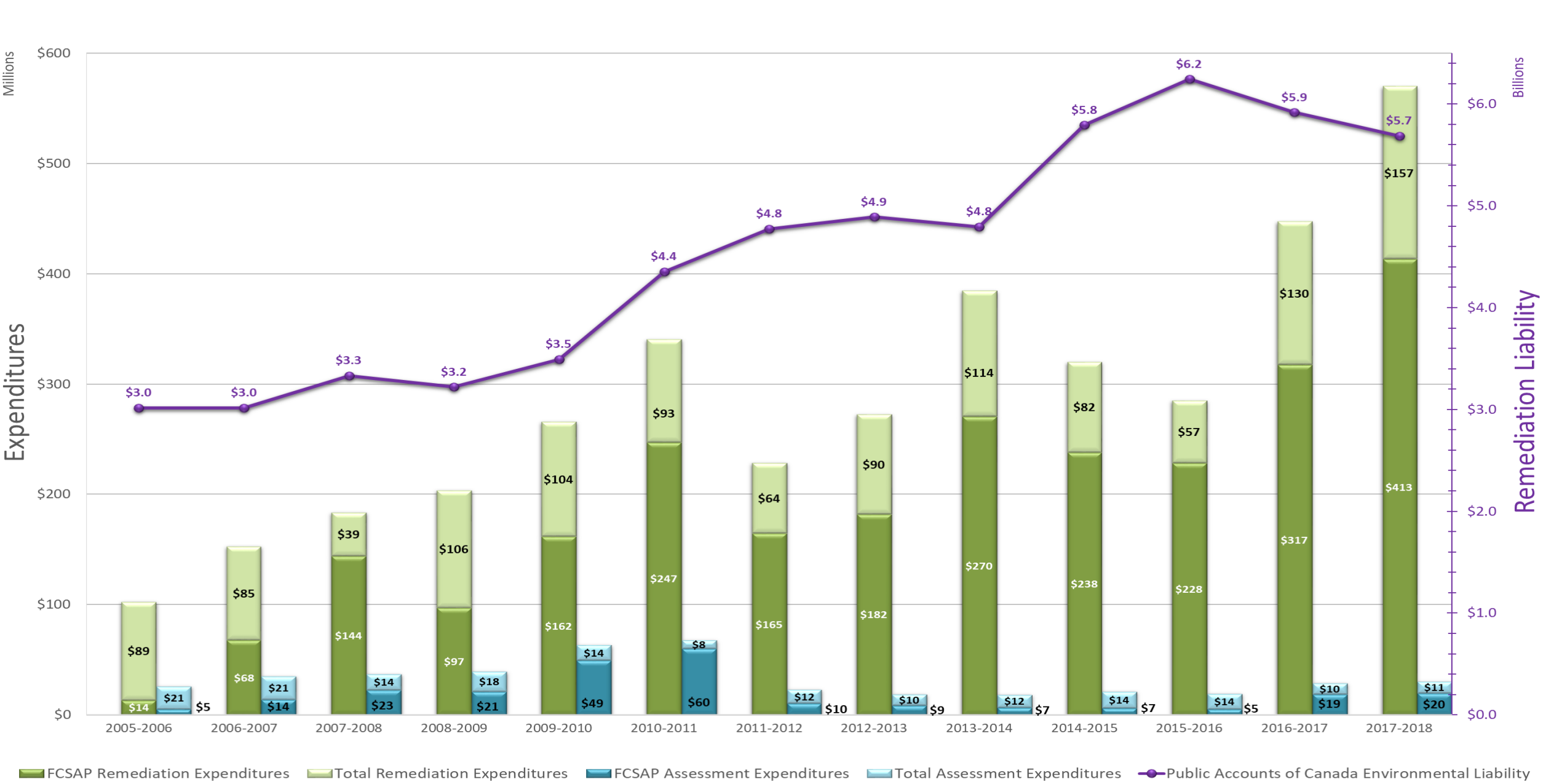
**Expert support departments** provide custodians with scientific, technical and project management expertise for informed, consistent, and effective risk-based management decisions.

4

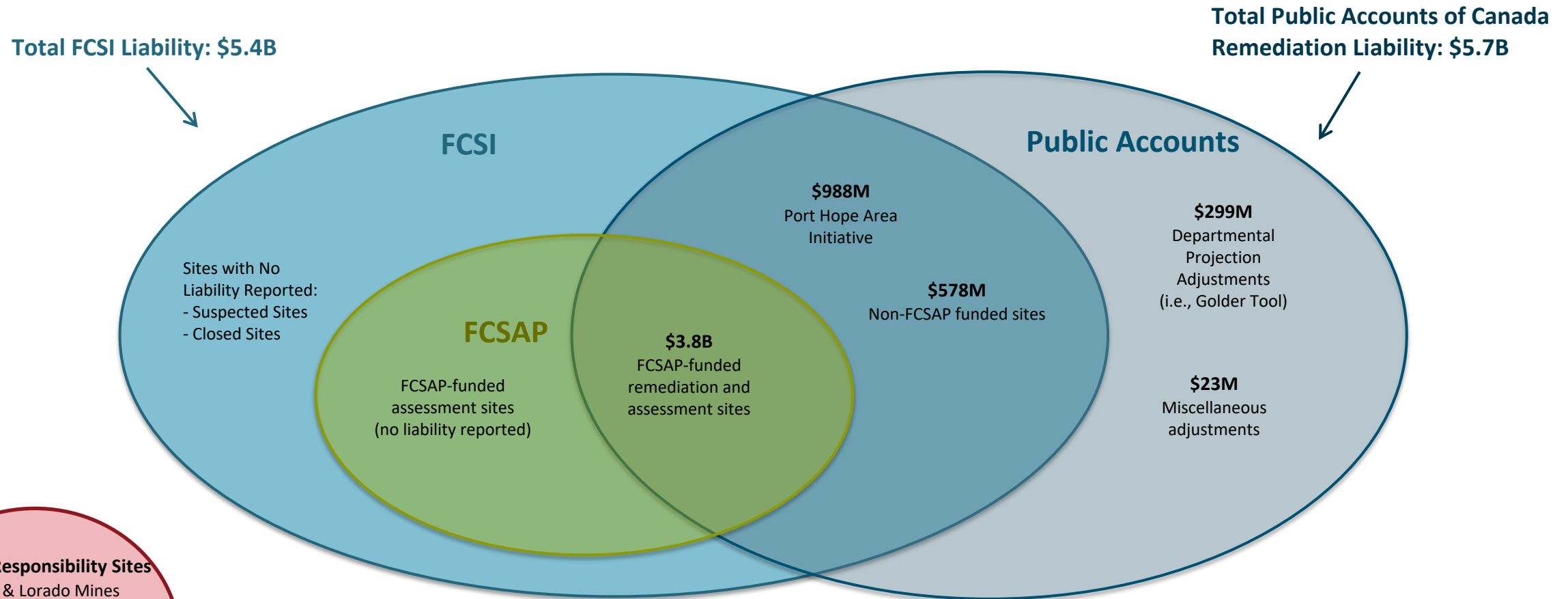
**Governance committees that support collaborative oversight and delivery:** ADM Oversight Board, DG Operations Committee, Contaminated Sites Management Working Group, and Regional Integrated Planning Boards.



# Expenditures vs. Remediation Liability



# Federal Contaminated Sites Universe



## Shared-Responsibility Sites

- Gunnar & Lorado Mines
- Mid-Canada Line
- Marwell Tar Pit
- Sydney Tar Ponds

No reported liability to the Government of Canada

- Almost **70%** of Public Accounts remediation liability is attributable to FCSAP-funded sites.
- The total liability reported to the FCSI represents **95%** of the total remediation liability in the Public Accounts of Canada.

# Case Study – Port Hope and Port Granby Remediation Projects



## Port Hope Project

- Former radium and uranium refining activities.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> highest federal remediation liability.
- 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste.
- \$4.7 million in assessment and \$285 million in remediation expenditures since 2005-06.
- Excavation and storage of contamination to a new waste management facility.

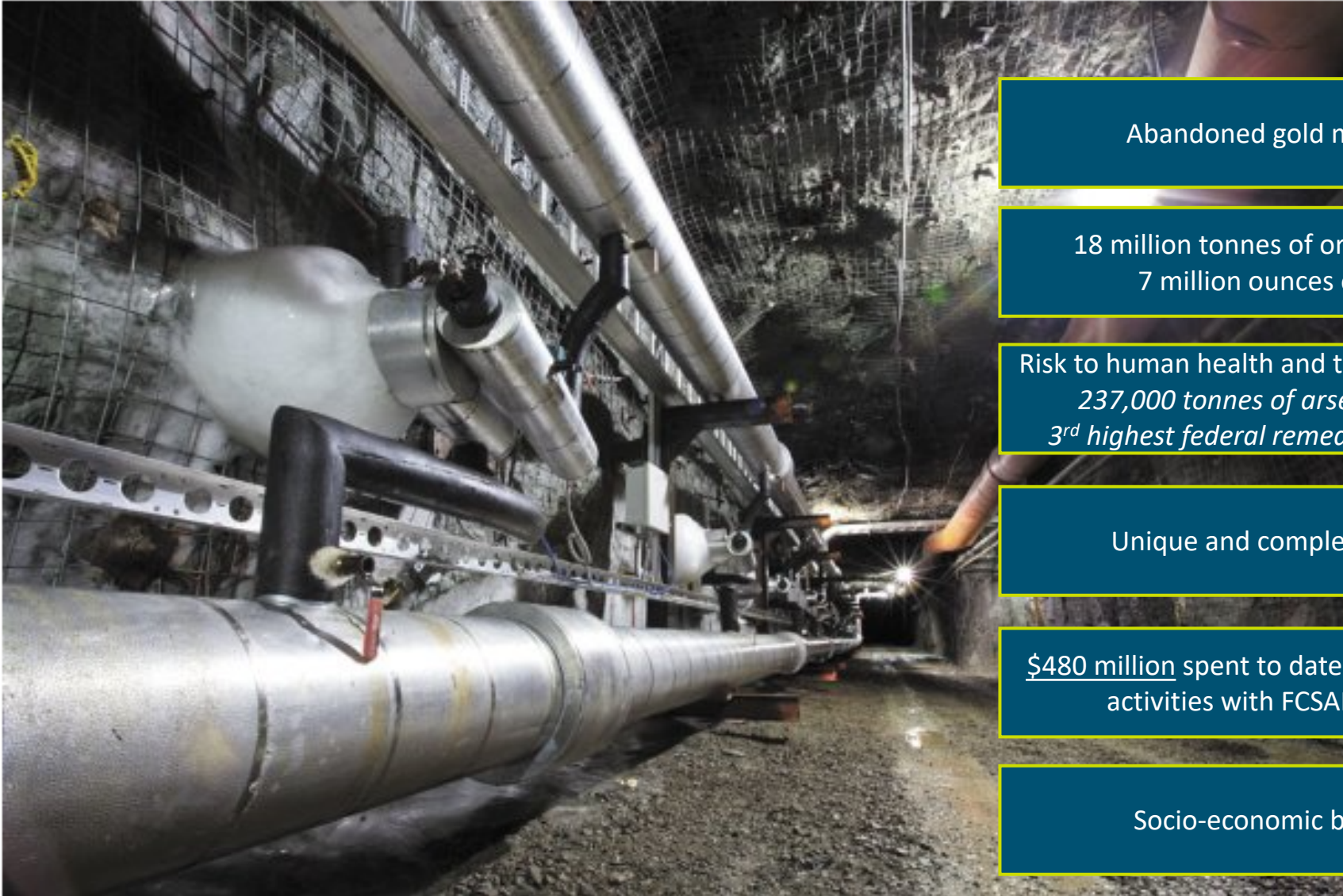


## Port Granby Project

- Port Granby Waste Management Facility, operated between 1855 and 1988, containing waste from radium and uranium refining activities.
- 8<sup>th</sup> highest federal remediation liability.
- 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste.
- \$1.87 million in remediation expenditures since 2011-12.
- Relocate existing waste to a new management facility and a dedicated waste water treatment plant.



# Case Study – Giant Mine Remediation Project



Abandoned gold mine site

18 million tonnes of ore processed  
7 million ounces of gold

Risk to human health and the environment:  
*237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> highest federal remediation liability*

Unique and complex project

\$480 million spent to date on remediation  
activities with FCSAP funding

Socio-economic benefits





# Case Study – Esquimalt Harbour Remediation Project



- Accumulation of historic contamination in harbor seabed from commercial, military and industrial use.
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest federal remediation liability.
- Over 25 substances of potential risk to human health and the environment.
- 140,000 m<sup>2</sup> of contaminated seabed.
- \$2.8 million in assessment expenditures and \$133 million in remediation expenditures since 2005-06.
- Dredging of seabed to remove, treat and dispose of contaminants.
- Reduce exposure of marine life to contaminated sediments and restore a healthy marine ecosystem.

# Contact Information

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TB Policy on Management of Real Property: <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=12042>

TB Reporting Standard on Real Property: <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=12047>

Public FCSI: <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

GCPedia: [http://www.gcpedia.gc.ca/wiki/Federal\\_Contaminated\\_Sites\\_Inventory\\_\(FCSI\)](http://www.gcpedia.gc.ca/wiki/Federal_Contaminated_Sites_Inventory_(FCSI))