Indigenous Services Canada | Services aux Autochtones Canada

Canada

Indigenous Services Canada
Services aux Autochtones Canada

First Nations Waste Management Initiative

PROGRAM OVERVIEW, NATIONL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and INITIATIVE RENEWAL

Beyond on the Bin
November 3rd and 4th, 2026

Purpose and Outline



This presentation will provide:

- an overview of the First Nations Waste Management Initiative and the National Advisory Committee
- an update on how the program is preparing for renewal

1. Background
2. Current Funding
3. Program Delivery
4. Renewal

Background: First Nations Waste Management Initiative

"Many First Nation communities face challenges in adequately managing garbage and waste on reserve, which can contaminate the environment and pose health and safety risks to people."
-Budget 2016

Background:

- Budget 2016: $409 million for the **First Nations Solid Waste Management Initiative** for five years starting in 2016-17.
- Support to First Nations to develop sustainable waste management systems through infrastructure, operations, training and partnerships.
- Proposal-based approach for activities and projects; objective of improving the management of solid waste in First Nation communities.

Project Categories:



Background: First Nations Waste Management Initiative

Objective: Enable First Nation communities to access environmentally sustainable solid waste management systems that are comparable to what is available in neighboring municipalities and improve capacity to manage waste in First Nations communities

Approach	Waste Diversion Out Of Communities	Infrastructure	Prevention & Support
	• Municipal Type Service Agreements (MTSAs) • Stewardship programs • Diversion programming	• Properly engineered infrastructure • Training • Operations & Maintenance	• Reduce environmental and human health and safety risks • Promote education and awareness • Increase capacity
	❖ Negotiate / develop MTSAs with municipalities ❖ Move waste off-reserve - waste transfer stations and MTSAs ❖ Disposal in existing municipal facilities ❖ Reduce waste: prevention, diversion and expanded education	❖ Improve planning for waste assets on reserve to maximize efficiency in the management of waste and waste assets ❖ Support training of community solid waste operators ❖ Provide Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding to support proper operation and maintenance of facilities	❖ Decreasing risk through diversion strategies ❖ Clean-up and decommissioning of existing waste sites ❖ Provide funding for post-closure monitoring where required ❖ Support training of community solid waste coordinators

Background: 2021 Initiative Renewal

In 2021 The Initiative secured funding to continue implementing **waste projects over 7 years**.

Operations and maintenance funding was secured to support the ongoing costs associated with new infrastructure and waste services.



FNWMI Project Funding

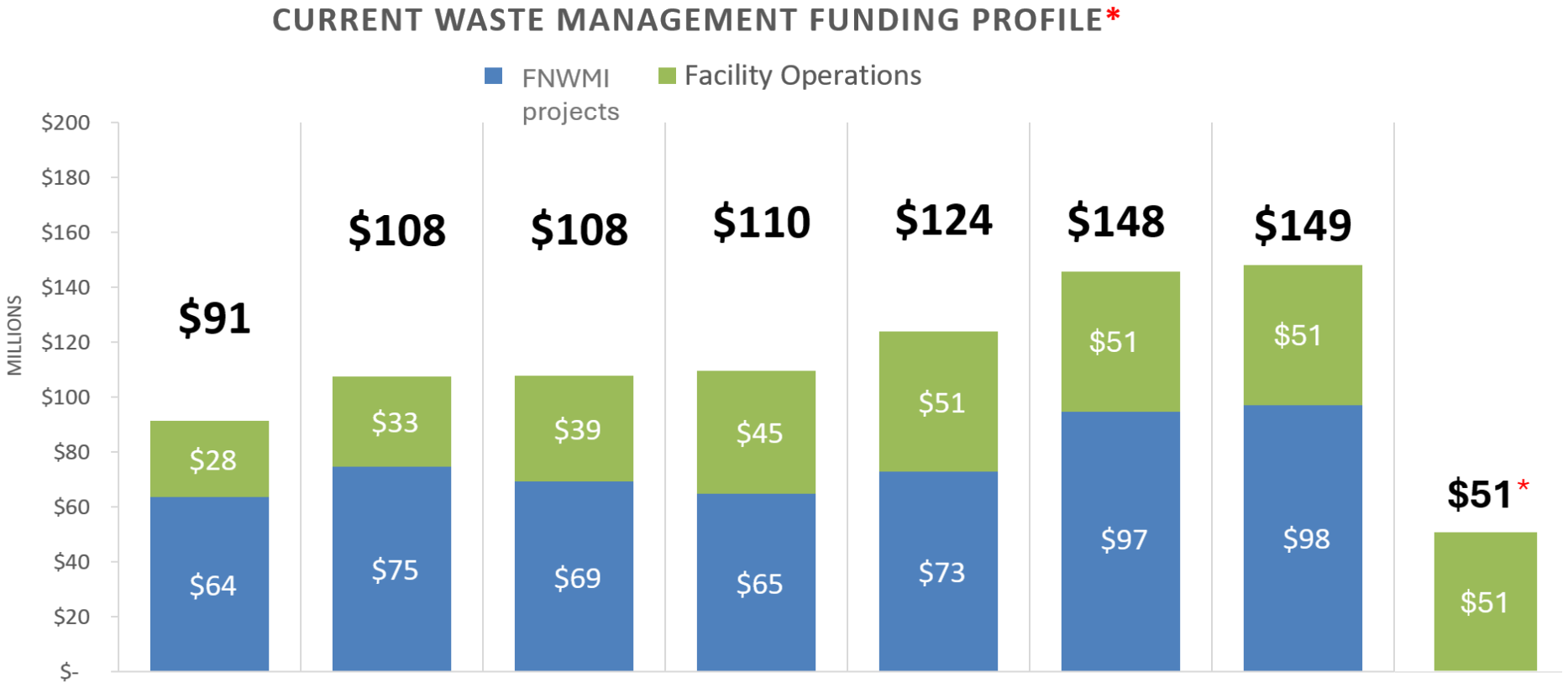
- The Initiative secured $566M over 7 years (until 2027-28) to continue implementing solid waste projects in communities
- Supports new/updated infrastructure, training, planning, diversion, clean-up, capacity building & education.



Operations Funding

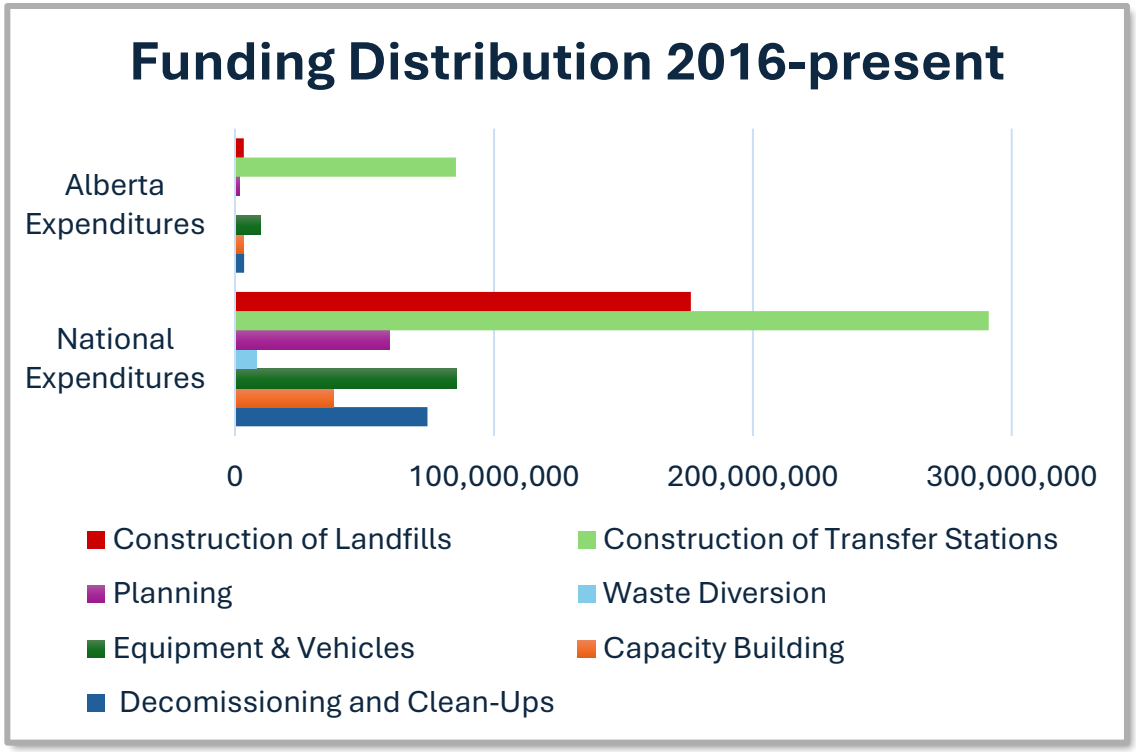
- Budget 2021 allocated $195M over five years (until 2025-2026) with **$51.6M ongoing**, thereafter.
- Additional to the O&M funding that has historically been provided to support infrastructure
- Supports ongoing costs for infrastructure and services

Current Waste Initiative Funding



6

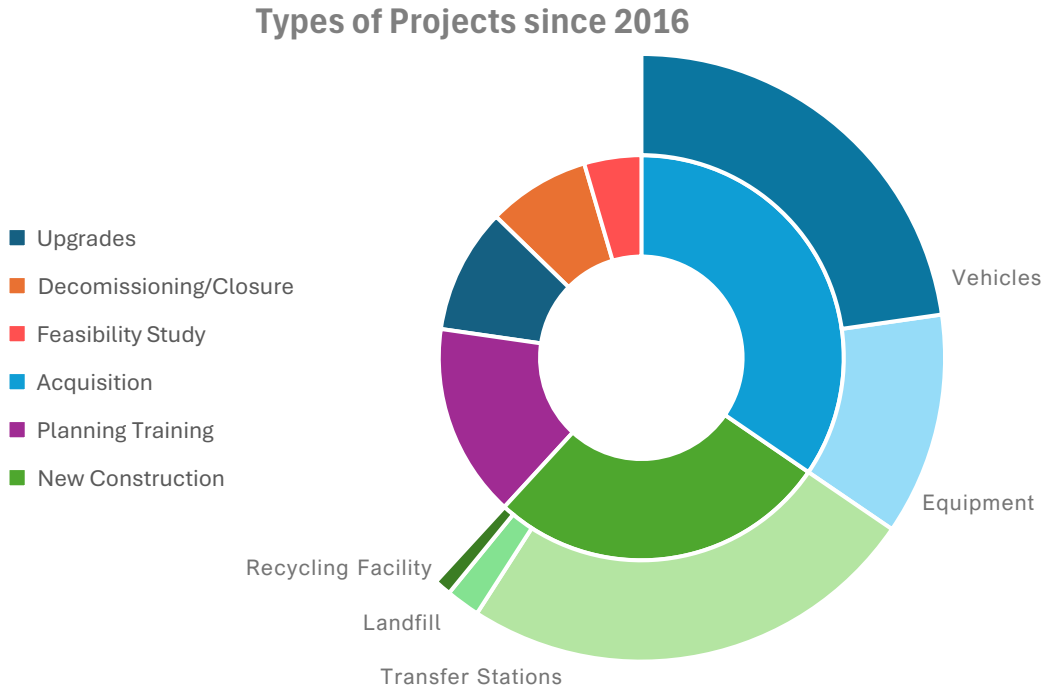
Program Delivery: Distribution of Funding



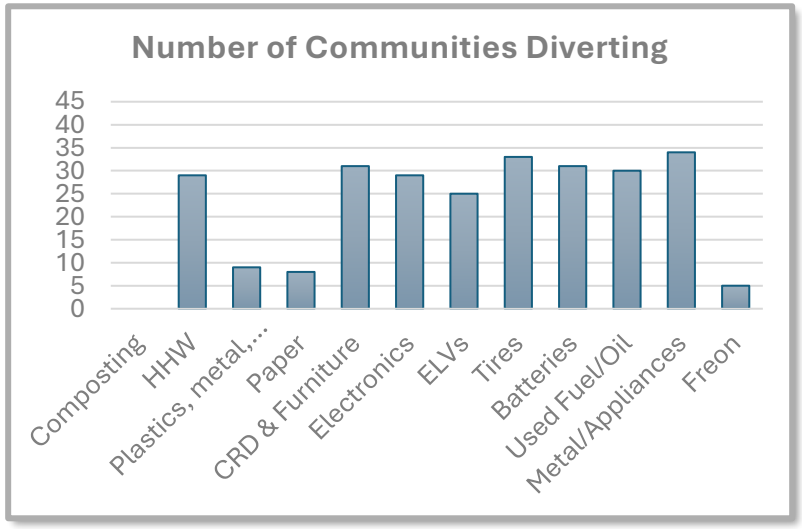
Funding has supported:

- Development of education and training material
- Diversion practices
- Purchase of waste vehicles
- Infrastructure construction

Program Delivery: Alberta at a Glance



Alberta has 47 First Nation Communities
75K residents
51M Est. Waste (kg)



Program Renewal: Needs Assessment

Context:

- **595 First Nations communities – 99 remote (zone 4) communities**
- **~482,000 residents**
- **~335 million kg of estimated waste generated**

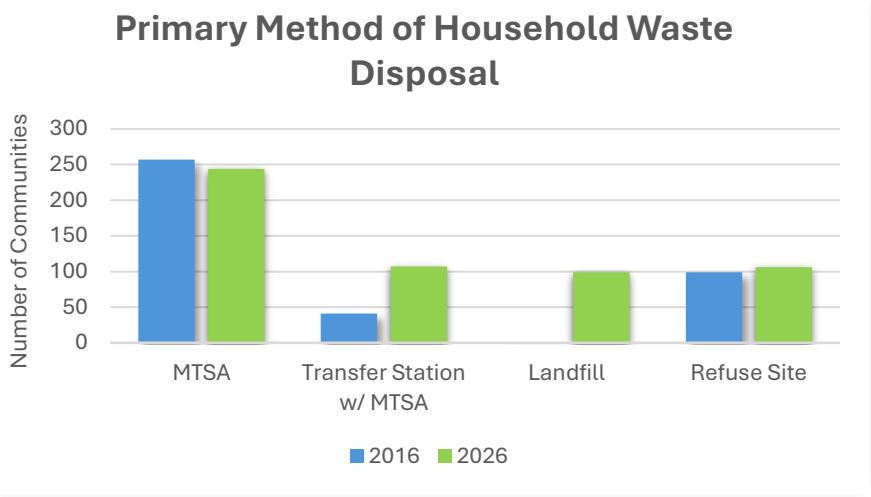
Purpose:

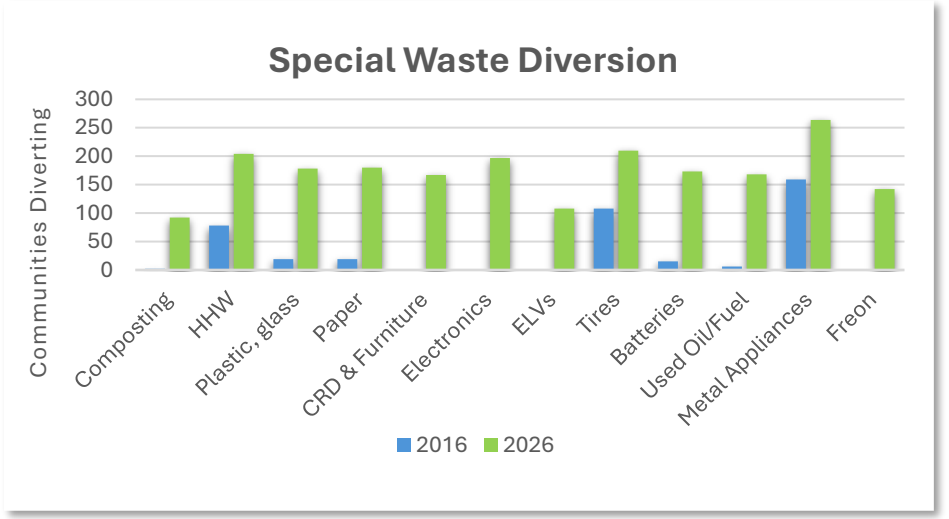
- **Provide a national overview of current waste** management services and infrastructure in First Nations communities
- Identify system-level **gaps, trends, and priority needs** across regions and remoteness zones
- Establish a **credible baseline** to support strategic planning, investment decisions, and future costing
- **Inform long-term policy direction** and NAC advice on achieving equitable, sustainable service levels

Methodology:

- Information gathered from ISC Regional Offices
- Assessment covers waste services, diversion, infrastructure, and operations
- Analysis looks at broad patterns, community differences, and trends over time
- Findings reflect current best data and will improve with regional review
- Work supports national planning, not detailed engineering or project design

Program Renewal: Key Findings





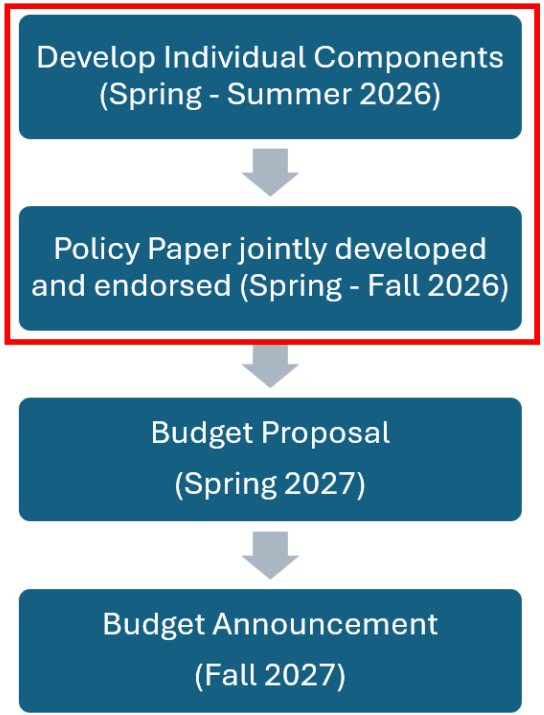
- 59 of 99 landfills have indicated dedicated waste operators
- 89 of 107 transfer stations have indicated dedicated waste operators
- Communities need dedicated personnel to coordinate waste diversion and organize community education and outreach

- Needs exceed current funding and capacity levels; 581 capital investments identified over the next 5–10 years
- Past investments have not fully addressed service inequities
- Many communities still lack access to diversion programs; composting remains under-supported despite high waste potential

Renewal: The National Advisory Committee

ISC is building the case for renewal, and the **NAC is advising** on how to build the **strongest renewal proposal**

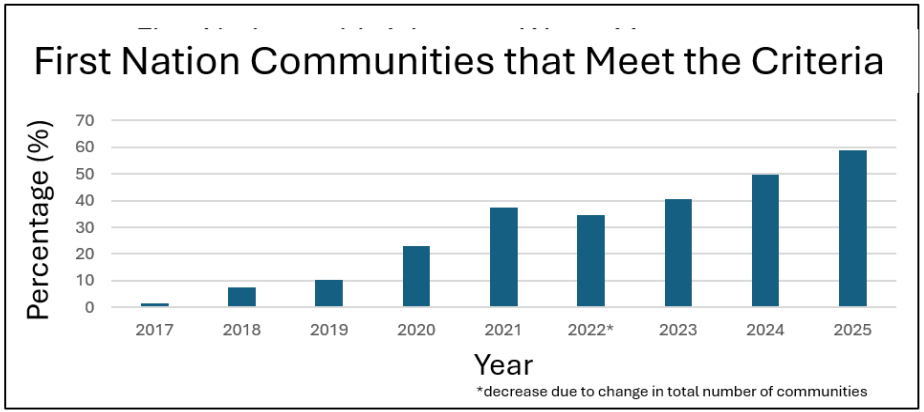
- ISC is working with the NAC on a **policy paper** that will inform the future direction of the program
- Policy paper will include:
  - Current State of Waste Management
    - Identify needs and challenges; illustrate positive impacts and the risk of not funding
  - The Future of Waste Management
    - Identify gaps and opportunities for program improvements and enhanced programming including equitable service standards
  - Rationale for Funding
    - Identify what drives costs and how to best estimate costs
  - Measuring Success
    - Identify how success should be measured



Renewal: Past Successes and Future Improvements

2016 - Present

- Since 2016 the program has made **significant progress**
  - In 2016, only **2%** of communities:
    - diverted household hazardous waste,
    - diverted at least one other waste stream (e.g. plastics) and
    - sent all residual waste to a properly constructed and maintained waste facility
  - In 2026, **58.9%** of First Nation communities do.



2028 Onward

- Room for improvement remains
- Renewal is an opportunity to **address gaps** and identify how **changes to the waste management landscape** since 2016 can be addressed through **enhanced programming**:
  - Identify gaps
    - Currently completing a community-level Needs Assessment
  - Enhanced programming could include:
    - Comparable Service Standards
    - First Nations-led Operator Training and Certification
    - Supporting Extended Producer Responsibility more strategically

Renewal: Summary



- Waste Management is **a core public service that is essential** to preserve the integrity of First Nations lands and waters, as well as to protect the health and safety of communities.
- Current project funding ends in 2027-2028, while operations and maintenance funding is ongoing.
- ISC along with the NAC are building a strong, First Nations informed **proposal for the renewal of the FNWMI** that:
  - helps ensure that the **program reflects waste management needs in communities**
  - grounds decisions in **data from Nations** and information on the importance of waste management
  - outlines potential **program enhancements** and options for funding models
  - reflects **community needs and realities**
  - supports **capacity development and self-determination**

?



QUESTIONS ?







COMMENTS?