

Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities, and Community Health Project

The ENRICH Project

Environmental racism is:

- 1) The implementation of environmental policies that sanction the harmful and, in many cases, life-threatening presence of polluting industries and hazardous environmental activities in Indigenous communities and communities of colour.*
 - 2) The disproportionate location of toxic industries and activities in these communities.*
 - 3) The lack of political power and resources these communities have for advocating against hazardous activities.*
 - 4) The history of excluding Indigenous communities and communities of colour from “mainstream” environmental groups, organizations, decision-making boards, commissions, and regulatory bodies.*
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ENRICH formed in 2012 to support Mi’kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities in addressing the socio-economic effects and health risks associated with environmental racism in their communities.

About Us

We use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary, community-based research approach. Our team is comprised of faculty/researchers in diverse disciplines, Mi’kmaq and African Nova Scotian community members, health professionals, students, activists, and non-profit organizations.



ENRICH team members are involved in activities such as:

- participatory action research and publications
- multi-disciplinary partnerships
- community mobilizing and capacity-building
- community engagement and advocacy
- policy analysis and development
- geographic information systems and mapping
- water sampling and monitoring
- government consultations
- public education and workshops
- student training
- multi-media production
- art creation and curation

Working Groups:

Policy/Legislation: brings environmental racism to the attention of politicians

Water Monitoring: develops and implements water sampling and monitoring projects in affected communities

Public Education and Workshops: plans educational activities in affected communities on topics related to water contamination, conducting research, communicating with government, etc.

Communications: develops creative strategies and tools to share information and mobilize communities

Event Planning: plans workshops, discussions, and public engagement events

Grants and Research: writes grants and conducts research on the impacts of environmental racism

Contact Us

Website: enrichproject.org

Twitter: [@inwhosebackyard](https://twitter.com/inwhosebackyard)

Facebook: [TheENRICHProject](https://www.facebook.com/TheENRICHProject)

Mail: The ENRICH Project c/o

School of Nursing

Dalhousie University

5869 University Avenue

Forrest Building P.O. Box 15000

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2

Key Projects Since 2012

Community-based Research

ENRICH conducts community-based research in affected communities. We collect data on community members' experiences living near waste dumps or other environmental hazards, as well as their perceptions of the health risks associated with these sites.

Nova Scotia Environmental Bill of Rights

Between 2015 and 2017, ENRICH collaborated with the East Coast Environmental Law Association to develop Nova Scotia's first Environmental Bill of Rights, launched April 21, 2017. The Bill's purpose is to protect Nova Scotians from environmental hazards and guarantee our right to live and thrive in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment.

Bill 111: An Act to Address Environmental Racism in Nova Scotia

ENRICH collaborated with Lenore Zann (MLA for Truro – Millbrook – Salmon River) to develop the first private members bill to address environmental racism in Canada. *Bill 111: An Act to Address Environmental Racism in Nova Scotia* was introduced at the Legislature on April 29, 2015 and debated at the Nova Scotia House of Assembly on November 25, 2015.



Water Monitoring Projects

In response to water pollution levels in the Shelburne and Lincolntonville communities, scientists, researchers, and students have undertaken community-based water sampling and monitoring to collect and report data on levels of water contaminants, as well as to empower communities to monitor their own water contamination levels. These projects are ongoing.

In Whose Backyard? Community Workshops

ENRICH hosted a series of workshops in 2013 and 2014 entitled "In Whose Backyard? – Exploring Toxic Legacies in Mi'kmaw & African Nova Scotian Communities" to hear community members' concerns about the socio-economic and health effects of industrial polluters near their communities. We compiled what we learned from these workshops into a report and a documentary. Both were shared locally and nationally with government, media, health and community-based agencies, high schools, universities, churches, and the public.

Time to Clear the Air

"Time to Clear the Air: Art on Environmental Racism by Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian Youth" was an educational art program and exhibit launched in 2015. It engaged Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian youth to create and showcase art that communicated examples of environmental racism in their communities and initiated a dialogue about these issues.