First Nation Solid Waste Management Initiative
Community Successes, Improvements & Lessons Learned

MARR Forum 2022

Sustainable Waste Management in First Nation & Indigenous Communities

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Canada

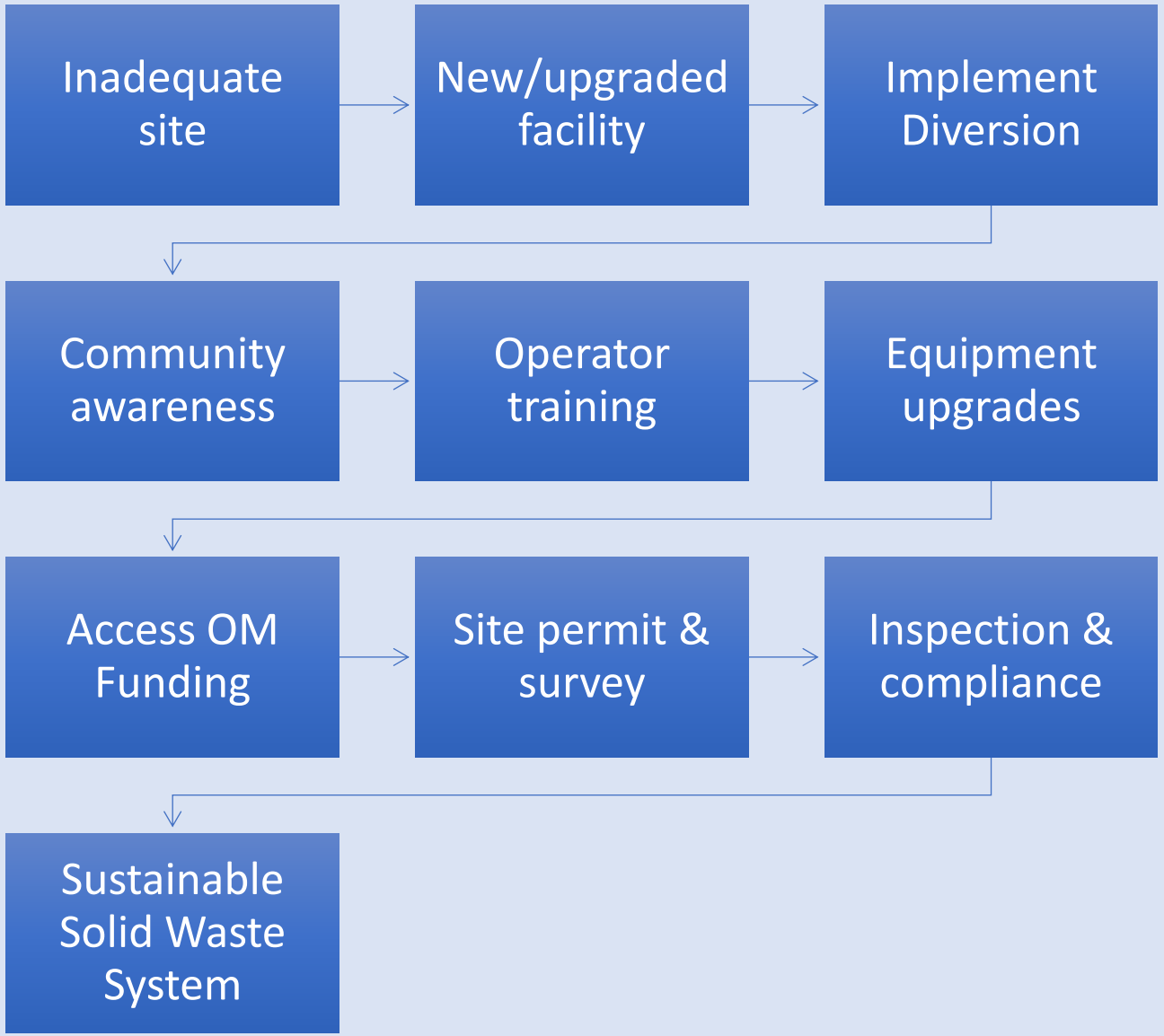
Program Background:

- **In Budget 2016 the federal government recognized the challenges faced by many First Nations in managing solid waste on reserve and the environmental, health, and safety risks of inadequate waste systems.**
- **The FNSWMI is the first program dedicated to solid waste management within the department.**
- **Launched in 2016-17 with a $409 million, five (5) year funding commitment.**

Program Objective:

- To provide investments in proper waste management which will result in healthier and safer communities and will protect the environment.
- To support First Nations in developing sustainable waste management systems.
- To provide funding supports for planning, infrastructure, training/capacity building, programs & partnerships, and operation & maintenance.

To move along a continuum toward a modern, sustainable waste management system



1. Use existing landfill site for a new transfer station

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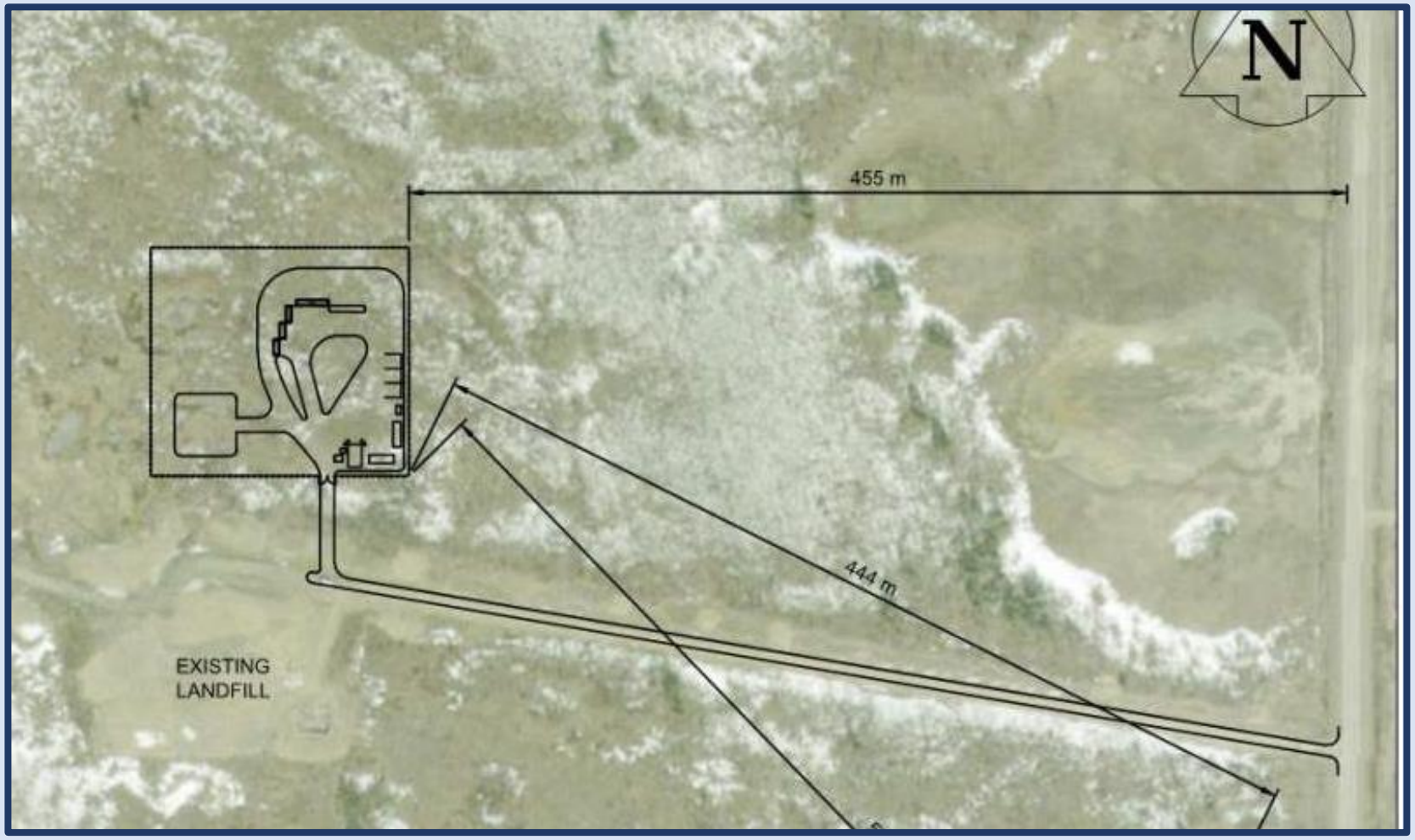
Benefits:

Saves landbase

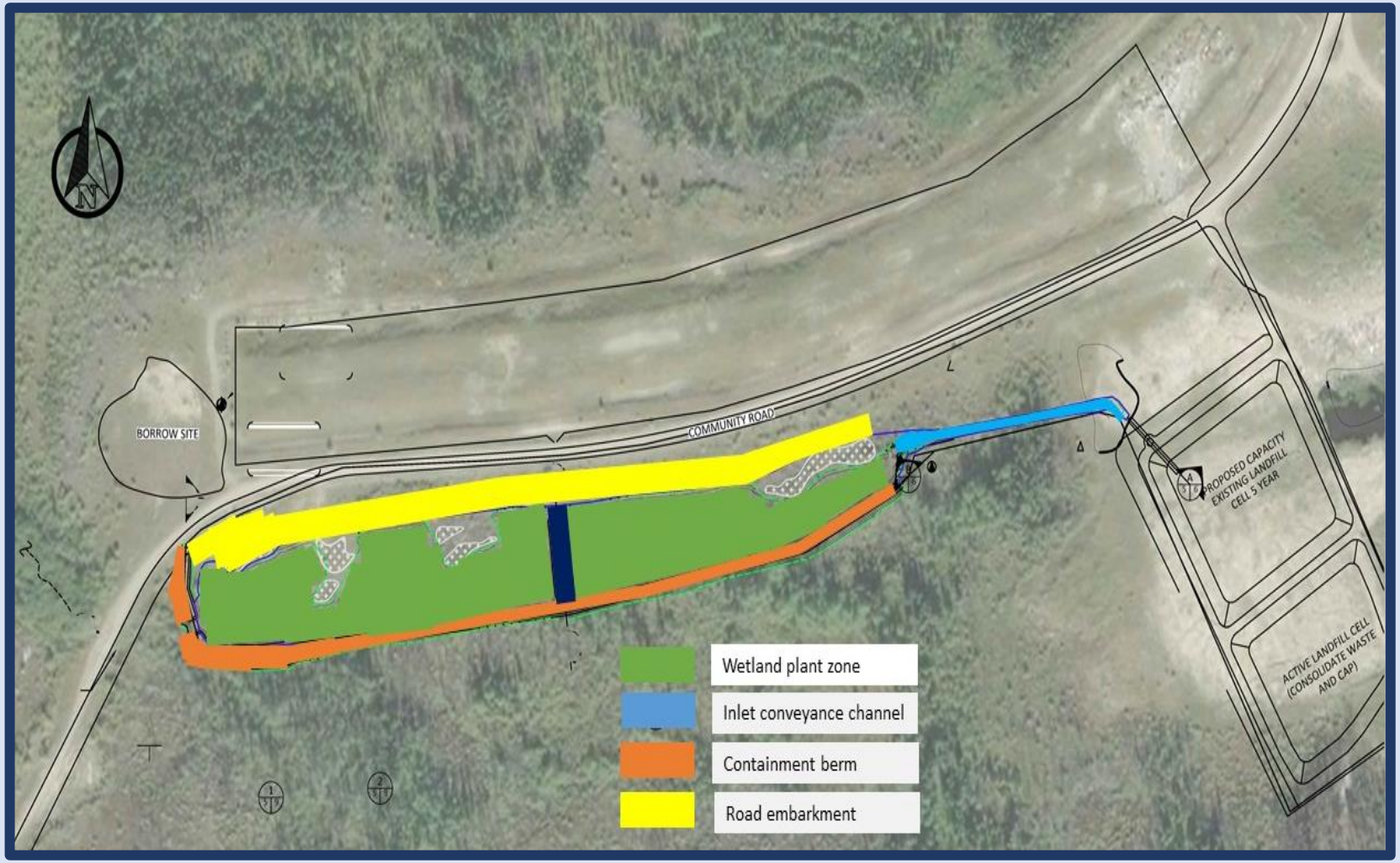
Uses existing road

Reduces cost of construction

Members are familiar with site



2. Biofiltration system / wetland instead of a leachate pond



2. Biofiltration system / wetland instead of a leachate pond

Benefits:

Nature does the work.

Requires minimal manual labor.

Does not require equipment for removal.

Does not require disposal at a different location (e.g., lagoon).

Reduces costs.

3. Used Oil Burner

Benefits:

Used oil remains in the community. Risks associated with transportation are mitigated.

Reduces costs.

Reduces impacts to human health and environment.

Heats a building.

4. Multi-Residential Collection Bins

Benefits:

Reduces collection time.

Fewer trips reduces costs for collection truck.

Side access is easier than top access for residents and collector.

Animal access is significantly minimized.

Durability reduces replacement cots.

5. New Collection Vehicle

Benefits:

Ability to compact waste.

Greater compaction reduces collection time.

Fewer trips reduces costs for operation of collection truck.

Can be used for collection of waste and recyclables.

6. Training and support for operators enables segregation of materials.

Benefits:

Segregation of materials enables re-use of materials.

Re-use of materials creates community awareness and shift in perspective of waste facility.

Reduces costs.

7. Develop signs in traditional language.

Benefits:

Engages Elders and helps revive language in the community.

Reflects community pride and uniqueness.

Reinforces traditional worldview.

Program Future:

- **Seven (7) year program extension from 2021-22 to 2027-28.**
- **$566M secured to continue implementing solid waste projects in communities.**
- **ISC secured additional funding for the Operation & Maintenance of Solid Waste Assets (OMSWAS). Five (5) year commitment.**
- **OMSWAS supports the ongoing costs associated with new infrastructure, additional waste services, and to address the historic deficiency in operations and maintenance costs for solid waste assets.**