

# Code of Ecosystem Ethics for the watershed of the Porcupine River

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The purpose of the Watershed Code of Ecosystem Ethics is to:

Guide and influence the actions of watershed residents, commercial enterprises and to offer support and encouragement to regional and local governments to protect the biodiversity, environmental quality and human health in the watershed of the Porcupine River Watershed.

Basic tenets for the Code:

- The health and well-being of biological systems and their integrity are essential to sustain human well-being,
- Future generations have a right to biodiversity and a healthy environment,
- Long-term economic survival is dependent upon the natural environment, and
- Environmental stewardship is essential to protecting and conserving biodiversity and to maintaining a healthy environment

Local and regional governments, residents of the watershed, First Nations and Métis communities, as well as those industrial and commercial ventures which are operating in the area should make every effort within their sphere of influence, to respect, enhance and restore the life-sustaining integrity of the landscape for all living things in the Porcupine River Watershed.

Our ethical obligation consists of and is defined by the following goals and objectives:

- The riparian zone of the river system and its resources should be preserved, and if necessary, developed and used in a carefully planned, regulated, and responsibly managed manner.
- All forms of water pollution should be eliminated. Land use should conserve and protect water resources and related ecosystems in order to sustain a high-quality standard of living and to maintain the quality of ecosystems.
- Wetlands are essential to the quality of life and the well-being of the earth's ecosystems. Wetland resources should be protected and conserved. Site-specific

development and management efforts should allow for compatible land use, while preserving the ongoing functions of wetland resources.

- The principles of land-use planning and design and the principles of protection and conservation of biodiversity should be integrated throughout to promote the protection, enhancement, and management of watershed ecosystems.
- All lands within the watershed should be maintained and administered in a manner promoting biodiversity, ecosystem health, and by recognizing special issues relating to stewardship and long-term sustainability.
- Regional and local governments will be encouraged and helped to continue to preserve lands of significance for future generations and to provide safe and healthful outdoor recreational opportunities for all citizens, while conserving landscape character and natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- Open space preservation should be incorporated into every planning effort, from the regional to the site level.
- The appropriate use of vegetation in the built environment is a major influence on the quality of life in a healthy environment. Re-created indigenous plant communities or representative communities should be integrated into the built environment with attention given to appropriate species selection and the creation of a suitable growing environment.
- Non-native invasive species adversely impact the ecological function of natural systems worldwide. Non-native invasive species should not be introduced as those species could contribute to the degradation of the environment and long-term maintenance and management programs should be established to control or remove non-native invasive species from land and water.
- Strive to maintain, conserve, or re-establish the integrity and diversity of biological systems and their functions. Restore degraded ecosystems through the introduction of indigenous and compatible materials and plants in the creation of habitat for indigenous species of animals.