

Introduction to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)

Public Access and Use of NPRI Information

March 2026



The Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA)

- Created in the late 1980s and renewed to make it stronger in 1999, CEPA is one of Canada's most important environmental laws. It covers a range of activities that can affect human health and the environment, and acts to address any pollution issues not covered by other federal laws.
- Jointly administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada.
- CEPA provides both enforceable and voluntary risk management tools (regulations, Codes of Practice, Guidelines) to address various pollution risks including:



Transboundary movement of hazardous waste



Animate products of biotechnology



Environmental emergencies



Chemicals



Vehicle and engine emissions



Nutrients, disposal at sea

Community Right to Know

- There was a lack of publicly accessible information about the impacts of most chemicals until the 1980s, when citizens around the world began demanding regulatory change to **recognize their right to know** about the health and environmental impacts of potentially harmful substances.
- In response, governments in many countries developed publicly available inventories of the substances being released by certain polluters.
- One of these inventories is Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), established in 1993. The results of Canada's first NPRI were released in 1994.



What is the NPRI?

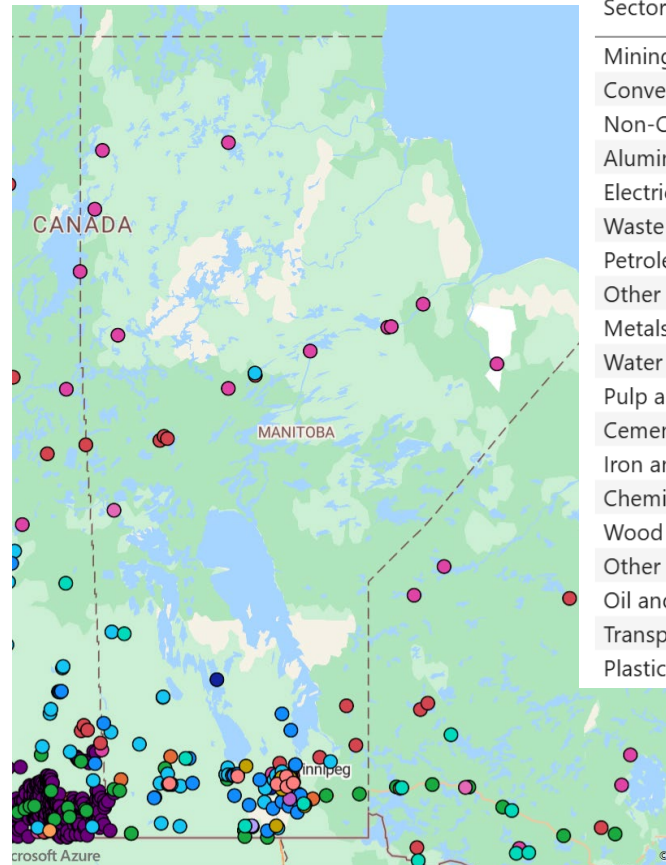
- The NPRI is Canada's public inventory of releases, disposals and transfers. The NPRI tracks certain substances listed on the [Toxic Substances List](#) under CEPA. It tracks over 320 pollutants from over 7,000 facilities across Canada.
- Facilities must report to the NPRI if they meet the following requirements:
 - Employees work more than 20,000 hours per year (approximately 10 full-time employees); or
 - The facilities conduct specific activities on-site (such as incineration, wood preservation or wastewater treatment); or
 - They manufacture, process, use or release substances listed in the NPRI beyond their [reporting threshold](#).
- The NPRI includes a range of information about pollution from facilities, such as:
 - releases from facilities to air, water or land,
 - disposals at facilities or other locations,
 - transfers to other locations for treatment and recycling,
 - facilities' activities, location and contacts, and
 - pollution prevention plans and activities.

Navigating the NPRI

NPRI Data Search Tool: You can use this tool to search detailed information on pollutant releases (to air, water and land), disposals and transfers for recycling reported by facilities to the NPRI. You can also use this tool to display facility data by location, sector and substance as well as to view pollution prevention information.

NPRI Data Dashboard: This interactive dashboard can be navigated using a mouse or a keyboard to view NPRI data in a variety of different formats: e.g., graphs, maps, community-based viewer to see facilities in your area.

NPRI Reports: Includes substance and sector overviews, program and annual reviews, research articles, and an Indigenous report series.



Sector:	Quantity (tonnes):
Mining and Quarrying	1,671,341.32
Conventional Oil and Gas extraction	957,236.35
Non-Conventional Oil Extraction (including Oilsands and Heavy Oil)	665,749.48
Aluminum	470,796.24
Electricity	245,391.59
Waste Treatment and Disposal	230,804.70
Petroleum and Coal Product Refining and Mfg.	228,707.82
Other Manufacturing	183,976.43
Metals (Except Aluminum and Iron and Steel)	162,948.86
Water and Wastewater Systems	161,807.07
Pulp and Paper	141,582.75
Cement, Lime and Other Non-Metallic Minerals	115,164.77
Iron and Steel	106,301.22
Chemicals	96,627.63
Wood Products	73,853.57
Other (Except Manufacturing)	67,371.81
Oil and Gas Pipelines and Storage	48,590.52
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	36,676.52
Plastics and Rubber	15,609.94

Information from the NPRI 2024 about Manitoba (Accessed March 2026)

Available Information: Snow Lake, MB

The total quantity reported for Snow Lake, Manitoba for the 2024 reporting year is: **13,263.40** tonnes reported by **3** facilities.

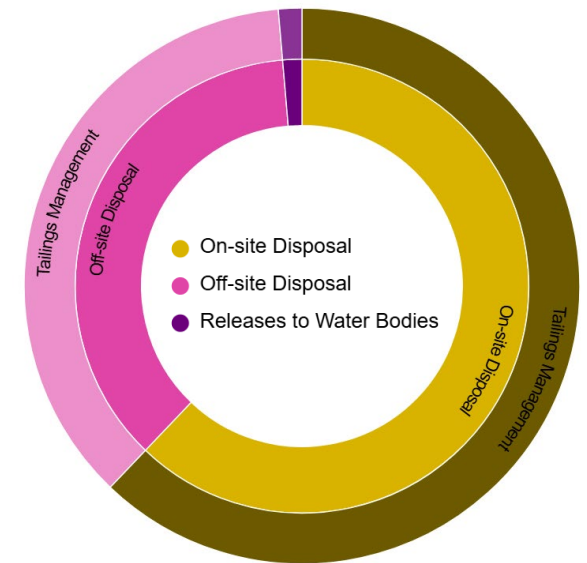


NPRI data includes:

- releases from facilities to air, water or land
- disposals at facilities or other locations
- transfers to other locations for treatment and recycling
- facilities' activities, location and contacts
- pollution prevention plans and activities

On-site Disposal	
Tailings Management	6,400.78
Off-site Disposal	
Tailings Management	3,762.13
Releases to Water Bodies	
Direct Discharges	140.18

Substance	Quantity (tonnes):
Zinc (and its compounds)	8,879.83
Copper (and its compounds)	1,250.35
Ammonia (total)	123.60
Manganese (and its compounds)	32.92
Nitrate ion in solution at pH >= 6.0	16.40



How much did each sector report? (units = tonnes)

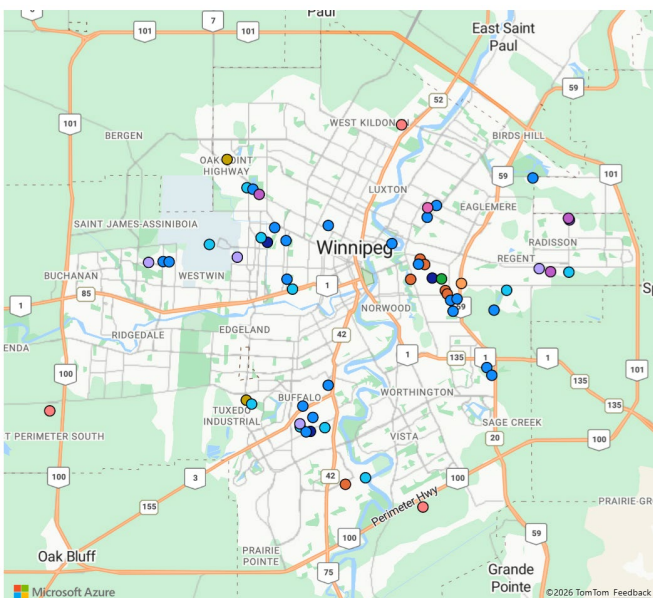
Hover over a sector to see details. Click to select / unselect.

Mining and Quarrying

Sector: Mining and Quarrying
Quantity (tonnes): 13,263.40

Limitations of the NPRI

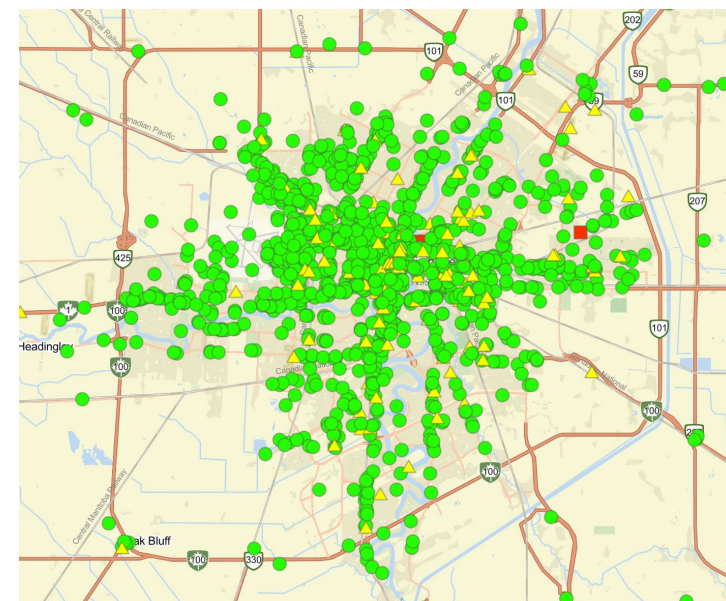
- In some Canadian jurisdictions, like Manitoba, there are a limited number of facilities that meet the reporting thresholds under CEPA, which can make it difficult for citizens to determine the full scope of polluting activities in their communities based on the available information in the NPRI.



NPRI Database: 57 Facilities

IAAC Registry:
85 Projects (Winnipeg)

Environment Act Registry:
156 Projects (Winnipeg)
374 Projects (Central, etc.)



MB Contaminated Sites: 2
Impacted Sites: 124

Getting a Complete Picture: Other Sources of Information

There are also limitations in the range of information provided about reported chemical discharges through the NPRI. For example, the NPRI does not provide details about the environmental and/or health impacts associated with specific substances.

However, the NPRI has been increasingly incorporating links to other sources of information collected and published under CEPA and other government programs. There are also a number of sectoral and substance overviews available through the NPRI that link to other data (e.g., [NPRI Sector Overview: Metal Ore Mining](#))

Other useful information from the Government of Canada:

- **[Chemicals at a Glance](#)**: Chemicals Management Plan information sheets are a series of short fact sheets about chemical substances and micro-organisms that are being (or have been) assessed in Canada for their possible risks to human health and the environment.
- **[Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory \(APEI\)](#)**: a comprehensive inventory of air pollutants at the national, provincial and territorial level. The APEI compiles emissions of 17 air pollutants contributing to smog, acid rain and poor air quality since 1990.
- **[Facility-reported greenhouse gas data](#)**: Data on the latest greenhouse gas emissions from Canadian facilities and changes in these emissions over time.
- **[CNSC Nuclear Facilities map](#)**: This interactive map shows the locations of licensed nuclear facilities in Canada, including nuclear power plants.

Continued Evolution of the NPRI

- Since its creation, the NPRI has regularly added and removed substances, lowered reporting thresholds, and removed certain exemptions. These changes allow for the collection of more complete and relevant information on pollutants.
- Reforms were made to CEPA in 2023 that resulted in the recognition of the right to a healthy environment and the principle of environmental justice, among other changes. These reforms have contributed to a shift in thinking about the range of public information available through the NPRI and the need to collect a broader scope of data and improve the accessibility of information about the chemicals regulated under CEPA.
- Although there have yet to be direct changes to the NPRI, there is recognition that the NPRI is an important tool that can advance environmental justice and help uphold government responsibilities associated with the right to a healthy environment. However, to do so, the NPRI will likely need to be substantially strengthened with respect to its scope, reporting requirements, and validation of data used to inform communities and decision makers.

Right to a Healthy Environment Portal

- One of the new data innovations that have been implemented as a result of the 2023 changes to CEPA is the creation of a new [Right to a Healthy Environment Portal](#) by Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- The portal provides a single window to information on actions and decisions made under CEPA and is organized to reflect the substantive and procedural elements of the right to a healthy environment.
- This includes linkages to the information contained in the NPRI and suggestions on how to use it.

Protection from
harmful substances
and pollutants

Protection
from
harmful
waste

Clean
and
healthy
air

Clean and
healthy
water

Sustainable
climate

CEPA
accountability

Questions?

Please Contact:

Speaker/Organization Contact Info