Lessons from Remote Waste Management in Canada

Insights from Nunavut, Nunatsiavut, and Northern Manitoba





Unexpected Connections





The Unique Landscape of Remote Waste Management

- •Vast distances and dispersed communities.
- •Extreme climate conditions and their impact on operations.
- •Strong cultural connections to the land.









The Unique Landscape of Remote Waste Management





Shared Realities

•Historical underfunding and limited investment in infrastructure.

•Challenges in attracting and retaining trained personnel.

•The long shadow of legacy waste sites.





More Than Just Trash: Protecting Land, Health, and Culture





Resourcefulness in Remote Settings: Homegrown Solutions

- Examples of locally adapted technologies or practices.
- Community-led initiatives and the power of local knowledge.
- Creative approaches to waste reduction and diversion.





Connecting Communities: Strength in Shared Experiences

- The value of peer-to-peer exchange between remote communities.
- Building a network of support and shared expertise.





Tangible Improvements: Sharing What Works

Communication with External Services:

- Establishing clear and consistent communication protocols.
- Building strong, long-term relationships with haulers and contractors.

Staff Retention:

- Recognizing the essential role of waste management workers.
- Creating supportive and safe working environments.



The Future is Collaborative: Building Capacity Together

- The ongoing need for sustained investment and support.
- Allocate time to visit and spend time in the communities.
- Be mindful of Engagement fatigue!





Moving Forward Together: Towards Cleaner and Healthier Northern Communities





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