The Aboriginal Involvement Program continues to demonstrate excellence in its three sub-program areas, the Multi-community Traditional Cultural Study, Referral Process, and Supporting Aboriginal – Industry site visits. Specifically, the study has documented and is storing 2400 quality control checked cultural sites from five communities (Foothills Ojibway Society, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada, Sunchild First Nation, Bighorn First Nation, Nakcowinewak Nation) in one central, protected database. In leveraging these sites through the Foothills Research Institute's proprietary Referral Process, 91 cultural sites have been protected from potential disturbance, through eight pilot referral runs by 4 companies (Shell Canada Limited, Suncor Energy Inc., West Fraser Mills Ltd., and Coal Valley Resources Ltd.).

On top of all this applied research, numerous community technicians, elders, and leaders continue to be supported in all phases of their research training and aspirations. Flowing from this, Industry and government partners remain stalwart supporters and contributors to the program's overall success. In the next few years, expanded research applications for Aboriginal data and knowledge in sustainable resource management and development will be pursued with vigour. This is possible due to the hard work, support, and overall exceptional research capabilities of the Foothills Research Institute and its partners.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a mapping project that links the Traditional Culture Study and the Aboriginal Community/Industry Referral Process. It entails development of a GIS database. The database will be managed by Foothills Research Institute and will belong to Aboriginal communities within the Foothills Research Institute land base. It is not made available to industry.

**Aboriginal Involvement Program**

This program is a unique Aboriginal community driven initiative designed to help Aboriginal communities preserve their culture.

The Aboriginal Involvement Program continues to demonstrate excellence in its three sub-program areas, the Multi-community Traditional Cultural Study, Referral Process, and Supporting Aboriginal – Industry site visits. Specifically, the study has documented and is storing 2400 quality control checked cultural sites from five communities (Foothills Ojibway Society, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada, Sunchild First Nation, Bighorn First Nation, Nakcowinewak Nation) in one central, protected database. In leveraging these sites through the Foothills Research Institute's proprietary Referral Process, 91 cultural sites have been protected from potential disturbance, through eight pilot referral runs by 4 companies (Shell Canada Limited, Suncor Energy Inc., West Fraser Mills Ltd., and Coal Valley Resources Ltd.).

On top of all this applied research, numerous community technicians, elders, and leaders continue to be supported in all phases of their research training and aspirations. Flowing from this, Industry and government partners remain stalwart supporters and contributors to the program's overall success. In the next few years, expanded research applications for Aboriginal data and knowledge in sustainable resource management and development will be pursued with vigour. This is possible due to the hard work, support, and overall exceptional research capabilities of the Foothills Research Institute and its partners.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a mapping project that links the Traditional Culture Study and the Aboriginal Community/Industry Referral Process. It entails development of a GIS database. The database will be managed by Foothills Research Institute and will belong to Aboriginal communities within the Foothills Research Institute land base. It is not made available to industry.