



# Indigenous Relationship and Cultural Awareness (IRCA) Courses: Interactivity Guide Answers

## Module 14: Environmental Health

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*Note that the answers provided below are not exhaustive and merely provide relevant information/points to consider for each question.*

### Chapter 1 – Background of Environmental Health

1. What is environmental racism?

**Answer:**

Environmental racism is the disproportionate location and greater exposure of Indigenous and racialized communities to contamination and pollution from polluting industries and other environmentally hazardous activities. In a Canadian context, environmental racism is a form of systemic racism and is the direct result of colonial and contemporary policies.

### Chapter 2 – Climate Change

1. Reflection: Do any of the following impacts of climate change surprise you? Pick one and reflect on how it disproportionately affects Indigenous communities.
  - Flooding
  - Wildfires
  - Water Quality and Quantity
  - Winter Road Inaccessibility
  - Food Insecurity
  - Reduction of Biodiversity and Destruction of Invasive Species
  - Herd and Animal Patterns

**Answer:**

Reflection

### Chapter 3 – Drinking Water Advisories

Match the correct definition to the type of drinking water advisory

Type of drinking water advisory	Definition
Boil Water Advisories (BWA)	<p>These advisories warn the public that they should not use their tap water for any reason.</p> <p>This advisory is issued when using the water poses a health risk, the water system has pollutants that can't be removed through boiling, being exposed to the water through bathing could irritate the skin, eyes, nose.</p>
Do Not Consume (DNC) Advisories	<p>Are issued when there are problems with the water treatment system, such as chlorine levels being too low, or water test results confirm the presence of disease-causing viruses, bacteria or parasites.</p> <p>These advisories advise home users that they should bring their tap water to a rolling boil for at least 1 minute before they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• drink the water</li><li>• Use the water for other purposes such as to cook, feed pets, brush their teeth, make infant formula or other drinks</li></ul>

Do Not Use (DNU) Advisories	<p>These advisories are issued when the water system has contaminants such as lead, which can't be removed from the water by boiling.</p> <p>These advisories tell the public that they should not use their tap water to cook, drink, feed pets, brush their teeth, and make infant formula or other drinks.</p>
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Answer:

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#### Chapter 4 – Colonial Interference Byproducts

1. Reflection: After reviewing the chapter, are there any colonial interference byproducts that you were not aware of? If so, please explain.

**Answer:**

Reflection

#### Chapter 5 – The Health Impacts of Environmental Pollution

1. Globally, Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by the impacts of environmental pollution. What poor health outcomes are linked to environmental pollution?

**Answer:**

Specific types of cancer, respiratory disease, high rates of miscarriage, and kidney disease.

- Diseases of the respiratory system (asthma, bronchitis) are one of the leading causes of acute care hospitalizations for Indigenous people in Canada, particularly First Nations people.
- Poor housing conditions and compromised indoor air quality have further been associated with respiratory conditions among Indigenous populations.