# Canadian Geography, Grade 9

**The Sustainability Model**

Creating **sustainable** solutions involves a complex process that demands critical questioning about the **impacts** our actions will have on **people, the planet, and profit**. As a guide, you can use the questions below to help determine whether actions are sustainable and/or develop sustainable options to geographic problems:

**People**

* How does it affect people’s quality of life? Negatively? Positively?
* How does it affect people’s culture(s) and traditional way of life?
* Are individuals and communities involved in making decisions about the activity? Is the decision-making process fair and democratic?
* Is it an equitable activity? Does it offer more options and opportunities to certain groups of people than others?
* How does the activity affect people’s health and physical well-being?

**Planet**

* How many natural resources does the activity use up?
* Does the activity cause damage to plants or animals?
* Is biodiversity protected? Damaged?
* Does it cause air pollution, water pollution, or soil erosion?
* Does it use resources at a rate that allows them to be renewed or regenerated? Is there overexploitation of resources?
* Does the activity generate excessive waste? What happens to the waste created by the activity?
* Will this activity contribute to the conservation of natural resources? Depletion of natural resources?

**Profit**

* What is the economic impact of the activity? Who will lose money? Who will make money?
* Do some people benefit economically from this activity at the expense of others?
* Does it create meaningful and satisfying work for individuals? Is employment long or short-term?
* Does it contribute to a community’s overall economic development and long-term economic health?