



Prince George Office



1004 Landooz Road,
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3



Tel: (250) 962-1603
Fax: (250) 962-9552
Toll Free: 1-877-621-1603

Vancouver Office



Suite 1020-1200 W. 73rd Ave
Vancouver, BC
V6P 6G5



Tel: (778) 945-9911
Fax: (778) 945-9916
Toll Free: 1-833-381-7622

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: First Nations Leadership in BC

FROM: BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio Staff

DATE: October 7, 2024

RE: Update on the BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio Activities

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio activities.

BACKGROUND

- A. BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio work is guided by several resolutions passed by First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly, such as:
- Resolution 04/2019: Climate Emergency and Support for the Development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy.
 - Resolution 21c/2020: Supporting for FNLC Participation and Monitoring of the Indigenous Flood Working Group and the Development of the Provincial Flood Risk Strategy.
 - Resolution 05/2021: Supporting First Nations Community-Based Climate Leadership.
 - Resolution 6/2022: Support for the Draft First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
 - Resolution 03/2023: Facilitating the Co-Development of a First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda in BC.
 - Resolution 32/2023: Support for International Engagement and Joint Climate Action between First Nations in BC and Indigenous Peoples Worldwide.
 - Resolution 12/2023: Supporting First Nations to Access Safe, Affordable, Reliable and Low-Carbon Transportation.
- B. The BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio work is also informed by AFN climate resolutions such as:
- Resolution 29/2016: Support for Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Initiatives Project.
 - Resolution 22/2017: Joint Committee on Climate Action.
 - Resolution 60/2018: Positioning First Nations as Climate Leaders.
 - Resolution 101/2017: Supporting First Nations' participation in International Climate Action.
 - Resolution 06/2019: Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency.



www.bcafn.ca



events.bcafn.ca

Prince George Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh

Vancouver Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X^mməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətat (Tsleil-Waututh)



Prince George Office



1004 Landooz Road,
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3



Tel: (250) 962-1603
Fax: (250) 962-9552
Toll Free: 1-877-621-1603

Vancouver Office



Suite 1020-1200 W. 73rd Ave
Vancouver, BC
V6P 6G5



Tel: (778) 945-9911
Fax: (778) 945-9916
Toll Free: 1-833-381-7622

UPDATES

- A. **BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BC FNCSAP):** The [BC FNCSAP](#) centres First Nations in BC to advance strategic actions addressing the climate emergency. These actions align with inherent and constitutionally protected First Nations title, rights, Treaty rights, seek to foster the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and knowledge systems and worldviews in climate planning. The BC FNCSAP is guided by a [vision and guiding principles](#), and [20 Urgent Calls for Climate Action](#). BCAFN and the FNLC are working to implement the BC FNCSAP. Activities include:
- Working in collaboration with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) in developing a Relationship Protocol to create research opportunities and partnerships between PICS, the FNLC, and First Nations title and right holders.
 - Continue working with the Great Bear Initiative and the First Nations Emergency Services Society in the development of a province-wide Climate Change Capacity Assessment Report.
 - Creating a toolkit to support Nation-based climate strategies/action plans.
 - Developing discussion papers on a BC First Nations Climate Fund and First Nation Climate Council or Secretariat for First Nations leadership discussion.
 - Developing a First Nations Climate Change Education Resource Guide.
- B. **BC First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (BC FNCL Agenda):** The [BC FNCL Agenda](#) intends to provide a roadmap to ensure that federal climate policy and legislation and the Canada-wide Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda respect and support the exercise of self-determination and Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights, empower First Nations' meaningful involvement in national climate governance, and ensure long-term funding. Activities include:
- Between November 2023 and July 2024, BCAFN hosted several engagement sessions to inform the FNCL Agenda development, including but not limited to eight (8) in-person regional engagement sessions at Prince George, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Cranbrook, Haida Gwaii, Terrace, Chilliwack, and Campbell River.
 - During the summer of 2024, BCARN drafted an **FNCL Agenda High-level Recommendations Report** to inform a Memorandum to Cabinet and a Treasure Board Submission.
 - On September 11, 2024, BCAFN hosted a virtual session with all First Nations leaders who attended the regional engagement sessions to review the high-level recommendations.
 - BCAFN will host a virtual Chief and Leadership meeting in October 2021 to present the high-level recommendations and receive feedback.
 - Currently, the Climate Change Portfolio Team is writing the BC FNCL Agenda Report to be submitted by late 2024 or early 2025.
- C. **Support First Nations Community-Based Climate Leadership. BC First Nations Carbon Offsets:** BCAFN works to support First Nations interested in exploring carbon offset opportunities in a way that



www.bcafn.ca



events.bcafn.ca

Prince George Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh

Vancouver Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X̱məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)



Prince George Office



1004 Landooz Road,
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3



Tel: (250) 962-1603
Fax: (250) 962-9552
Toll Free: 1-877-621-1603

Vancouver Office



Suite 1020-1200 W. 73rd Ave
Vancouver, BC
V6P 6G5



Tel: (778) 945-9911
Fax: (778) 945-9916
Toll Free: 1-833-381-7622

respects and affirms Indigenous inherent title, rights, and Treaty rights. The BCAFN, in partnership with Ecotrust Canada, created an online [First Nations Carbon Toolkit](#) to provide information to First Nations interested in learning more about forest carbon offset projects, particularly ones based on protecting intact forests and restoring forests degraded by logging.

- a. The Climate Change Portfolio Team continues working with Ecotrust on the Carbon Toolkit. It will soon launch registrations for in-person workshops on using the toolkit.
 - b. Additionally, the Climate Change Portfolio Team will:
 - Continue to advocate for recognizing carbon rights and opportunities for First Nations.
 - Participate in the federal IFM on Public Land First Nations Focus Group.
 - Prepare a study on the impacts of the carbon tax on First Nations.
 - Exploring collaborative work with the BCAFN Economic Development portfolio to support First Nations in enhancing their economic development through natural climate solution initiatives.
- D. **The BC First Nations Low Carbon Transportation Project.** This project aims to support First Nations in BC, including rural and remote communities, to access safe, affordable, reliable, and low-carbon transportation. The Climate Change Portfolio Team is:
- a. Developing a Transportation Assessment Report (TAR) outlining barriers/opportunities and providing recommendations for policy reform.
 - b. Developing a First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Planning Guide to support communities in developing their transportation plans.
 - c. Implementing five (5) community-based Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Projects.
- E. **Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gathering.** BCAFN was mandated to facilitate Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gatherings on Climate Change to gather in ceremony and discuss effective climate solutions to the climate emergency with First Nations Knowledge Keepers. BCAFN activities include:
- a. In November 2023, Spiritual Knowledge Keepers from BC came together in Ceremony on Tsleil-Waututh Territory, sharing stories, songs, and healing around the current climate crisis, its underlying causes, and its profound impacts on the Land and all living beings. The Knowledge Keepers provided a 14-item mandate to guide the FNCL Agenda's development and the BC FNCSAP's implementation.
 - b. On October 9, 2024, BCAFN will host a panel at the AFN 3rd National Climate Gathering. titled 'Transforming Climate Action and Governance Through Ceremony', which brings together First Nations Spiritual Knowledge Keepers, First Nations youth, and observers who participated in the Gathering.
 - c. BCAFN continue to seek funding to support and facilitate regional Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gatherings on Climate Change, as mandated by [Resolution 04/2024](#).





Prince George Office



1004 Landooz Road,
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3



Tel: (250) 962-1603
Fax: (250) 962-9552
Toll Free: 1-877-621-1603

Vancouver Office



Suite 1020-1200 W. 73rd Ave
Vancouver, BC
V6P 6G5



Tel: (778) 945-9911
Fax: (778) 945-9916
Toll Free: 1-833-381-7622

- F. **BC Flood Strategy.** BCAFN contributed to developing the BC Flood Strategy through the Shared the Pen initiative. This Strategy was released in February 2024. Since then, BCAFN has continued collaborating with staff from the Water Management Branch, Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship, and other First Nations representatives to implement the strategy.
- G. **AFN Joint Community on Climate Action (JCCA).** BCAFN technical staff continues to participate in the JCCA. The JCCA is a bilateral technical committee comprising technical representatives from Federal Departments with responsibilities related to climate change, AFN staff, and technical appointees from the AFN regions across Canada. A key priority for the JCCA is ensuring First Nations' participation in climate-related actions and decision-making while working toward the implementation of First Nations priorities and federal climate policy. The JCCA produces annual reports, which are available on [the JCCA website](#).
- H. **AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) and National Climate Coordinators Network.** BCAFN continues to liaise with other AFN and AFN Regions through the Regional Climate Change Coordinators Network and the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE). With the support of the ACE, AFN has finalized the development of the [First Nations National Climate Strategy](#).
- I. **BC – FNLC Technical Working Group on Climate Change (TWG).** The TWG (2019) includes technical representatives from the BCAFN, UBCIC, FNS, and relevant BC Ministries. The TWG meets monthly to discuss provincial climate policies and reforms that may affect First Nations' inherent rights and seek opportunities to improve First Nations' participation in decision-making. This year, the TWG has been focused on exploring partnerships with the federal government to leverage First Nations' and provincial and local climate action.
- J. **Indigenous Peoples Partnering for Climate Project Proposal.** BCAFN partnered with Save the Children Canada and a South American Indigenous Partner, La Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Perú (ONAMIAP) to prepare a draft proposal for the Indigenous Peoples Partnering for Climate program. This program aims to foster partnerships between Indigenous Peoples in Canada and Indigenous peoples abroad to build climate resilience, knowledge sharing and joint action on climate change.
- K. **Building BCAFN climate capacity** - In July and August of 2024, the BCAFN hired two new Climate Change Junior Policy Analysts, Alyna De Guzman and Charlotte Bull. Alongside Patricia Rojas, BCAFN's Policy Analyst and Regional Climate Change Coordinator, and Kristi Denby, BCAFN's Environment Policy Analyst, they make up BCAFN's Climate Change Portfolio Team.

NEXT STEPS

The BCAFN Climate Change Portfolio staff will continue working under the direction of Regional Chief Terry Teegee to carry out the mandates set by First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly, with the primary goal of supporting First Nations' climate action and leadership.



www.bcafn.ca



events.bcafn.ca

Prince George Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh

Vancouver Office

Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X^mməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətat (Tsleil-Waututh)