



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



BCAFN First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Forum

May 27-28, 2025

Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

Chair: Sanala (Jessie Hemphill)

Accelerating opportunities for First Nations in BC, including rural and remote communities, to access safe, affordable, and reliable low-carbon and active transportation.

Registration: <https://events.bcafn.ca/fn-low-carbon-transportation-forum/>

TUESDAY MAY 27 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast & Registration
8:30 AM- 9:15 AM	Cultural Welcome and Opening Prayer Address from Regional Chief Terry Teegee Opening Remarks from Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions Assistant Deputy Minister, Nat Gosman Overview of Agenda by Chairperson
9:15 AM - 9:45 AM	Honoring Leona Humchitt <i>BCAFN mourns the passing of Leona Humchitt and her sister Valerie Humchitt, who unexpectedly passed away on March 12, 2025. A member of the Haítzaqv Nation, Leona's leadership transcended regional, national, and international Indigenous climate policy and action. She fiercely advocated for First Nations' worldviews, Knowledge systems, environmental justice, and food sovereignty through intergenerational knowledge sharing and the recognition and implementation of First Nations' rights and self-determination.</i>

	<p><i>We will be honouring Leona during this session in recognition of her legacy, leadership, and unwavering dedication to advancing climate justice for all First Nations.</i></p>
9:45 AM-10:45 AM	<p>Plenary panel 1:</p> <p>Panel of pilot communities <i>This panel will showcase the pilot communities' experience developing their low-carbon transportation plans. Each panelist will share their own experience and any opportunities/challenges they faced. Then there will be a moderated Q&A where the panelists will be asked a variety of questions to provide insights to other Nations who are interested in developing their own transportation plans.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BCAFN First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project Pilot community representatives ● Jeremy Johnston, Community Energy Association
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Health Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<p>Plenary panel 2:</p> <p>Discussion on the outcomes and recommendations outlined in the Transportation Assessment Report (TAR)</p> <p><i>One of the major outcomes of BCAFN's First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project was the Transportation Assessment Report. This report outlines barriers and opportunities and provides recommendations to address gaps and strengthen opportunities to ensure that First Nations across BC have equitable access to transportation. During this breakout session, participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the key recommendations as well as ask questions to the provincial government.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jeremy Johnston, Community Planner at the Community Energy Association ● BCAFN First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project Pilot community representative ● James Donald, Executive Director, Clean Transportation, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch

<p>1:00 PM - 2:00PM</p>	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions:</p> <p>1. How to get Active Transportation projects off the ground- examples from FN communities in BC</p> <p><i>This panel will showcase First Nations-led active transportation projects to provide insights to other Nations who are interested in developing their own active transportation projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aaron Pete, Chawathil First Nation Councillor ● Elder Ruth Adams, Tsawwassen First Nation ● Hayden Guilderson, Ch'íyáqtel First Nation Councillor <p>2. Accelerating low-carbon marine transportation and improving ferry services for First Nations communities in BCs</p> <p><i>This panel will explore ways to improve marine ferry services that serve First Nations communities, with a focus on both service delivery and low-carbon options for marine transportation. Panelists will also discuss the relationships between First Nations and BC Ferries, including the development and implementation of relationship protocols. The conversation will highlight the benefits of these protocols while also addressing the challenges. The panel will examine opportunities for more collaborative, sustainable, and responsive ferry services that reflect the needs and priorities of First Nations communities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Erralyn Thomas, Snuneymuxw First Nation ● Other speakers TBC
<p>2:00 PM</p>	<p>Health Break & Registration</p>
<p>2:15 PM - 3:15 PM</p>	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions:</p> <p>3. Powering the Future: Energy Solutions for First Nations Transportation</p> <p><i>Approximately 40 remote First Nations communities in British Columbia remain disconnected from the provincial electricity grid and rely on diesel. This panel will explore pathways for First Nations to develop their own renewable energy projects, as well as examine the role of biofuels and other renewable fuels in the transition to low-carbon transportation.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Powell, Manager of Clean Energy Initiatives at the New Relationship Trust ● Other speakers TBC <p>4. Investing in Infrastructure: What Will It Take?</p> <p><i>The AFN's Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 report provides a comprehensive analysis aimed at addressing the significant infrastructure disparities within First Nations communities across Canada. This panel will discuss how this report supports a case for greater investment in transportation-related infrastructure. It will explore funding mechanisms and collaborative frameworks between federal, provincial, and First Nations governments to achieve this as well as How to align infrastructure projects with reconciliation and UNDRIP commitments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Owen James, Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd. ● Ryan Hennessey, Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd.
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Health Break
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions:</p> <p>5. Economic development and innovation in low-carbon transportation: Opportunities and Barriers</p> <p><i>This panel will discuss some of the opportunities and barriers that First Nations face when they are considering developing their own low-carbon transportation projects such as EV charging stations or active transportation infrastructure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speakers TBC <p>6. Climate Resilience and Planning for Emergencies</p> <p><i>This panel will discuss how transportation infrastructure and systems can be made more resilient in the face of increasing climate-exacerbated disasters such as wildfires and floods.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speakers TBC
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Wrap-Up/Closing

WEDNESDAY MAY 28 2025

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Breakfast & Registration

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Cultural Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Remarks from Deputy Minister of Transportation and Transit, Heather Wood

Day 1 Recap & Day 2 Overview by Chairperson

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Keynote speaker - Jacob Taylor

Jacob Taylor is a visionary Indigenous entrepreneur and advocate from Curve Lake First Nation (Otter Clan), recognized for his pioneering work in integrating drone technology to empower Indigenous communities across Canada. As the founder and CEO of Indigenous Aerospace, Taylor has dedicated his career to addressing the unique challenges faced by remote First Nations, particularly in accessing essential services and asserting sovereignty over their airspace

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Health Break

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Plenary Panel 3:

Improving accessibility to transportation for First Nations, women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and responding to the Calls for Justice 4.8, 8.1, 17.9

This panel will discuss the issues First Nations, women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals face in accessing safe transportation and will outline solutions to respond the MMIWG Calls for Justice 4.8, 8.1, 17.9.

- **Orene Askew**, BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative
- **Tiffany D. Hind Bull - Prete**, Assistant Professor at the University of Lethbridge
- **Lorna Brown**, Executive Director of the Tears to Hope Society

Lunch

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions</p> <p>7. Building Partnerships for more equitable and inclusive transportation</p> <p><i>This panel will discuss ways First Nations can build partnerships with different levels of government, NGOs and the private sector to develop transportation projects that serve their communities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jeevana Rajkumar, Create Climate Equity ● Allan Stroet, Manager of Economic Development, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation ● Paula Cousins, Associate Deputy Minister Ministry of Transportation and Transit <p>8. How to support rural and on-reserve transit development</p> <p><i>This panel will discuss ways for First Nations living in rural/remote areas to develop transit projects in collaboration with partners such as local government etc. It will also discuss Strategies to create a Province-wide public transit network that integrates First Nations-led transit solutions into regional systems.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speakers TBC
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Health break
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	<p>Closing Remarks by Chairperson</p> <p>Cultural Closing Ceremony</p>