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BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS Call for Expressions of Interest

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE

To: First Nations Chiefs, Leadership and Staff

Date: July 13, 2023

From: Vanessa West, Chief of Staff

Pages: 5

RE: **Call for Expressions of Interest for First Nation Community-Led Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Projects**

Deadline: **Friday, September 8, 2023**

The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is accepting Expressions of Interest for five (5) First Nations communities to participate in Community-Led Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Projects. Each selected First Nation community will lead the creation of its own self-determined Low-Carbon Transportation Plan, responding to the specific needs, realities and priorities within their respective community. Selected First Nation communities will receive up to **\$65,000** in flexible funding to support the creation of their Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and Gap Analysis Report.

Overview

The BCAFN is a provincial-territorial organization advocating for the 204 First Nations in British Columbia (BC). BCAFN. [Resolution 12/2023, Supporting First Nations to Access Safe, Affordable, Reliable and Low-Carbon Transportation](#), mandates BCAFN to advance First Nations' access to transportation in BC. The mandate directs BCAFN to assess gaps and opportunities that restrict and assist First Nations in BC to access equitable, safe, reliable, and affordable low-carbon and active transportation and transportation services within and between communities. The BCAFN is mandated to work with First Nations to provide recommendations for legislation, policy, and program reform to advance these goals. To address this mandate, and with the support of the BC government, BCAFN is undertaking the [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project](#) (the "Transportation Project") described in section B.

Background

Many of the 204 First Nations across BC are remotely located with limited access to safe, affordable, low-carbon, and effective ways of transportation by land and/or water and/or air. The lack of proper transportation systems and services has a profound impact on the mobility and access of First Nations individuals to essential services, education, healthcare, traditional activities, and ultimately affects their ability to fully exercise their inherent rights.

Moreover, the climate emergency and the growing number of climate-related disasters in BC have further exacerbated the existing inequitable access to transportation experienced by First Nations. The availability of reliable transportation is crucial for building resilience in the face of pandemics like COVID-19 and climate-related events. Unfortunately, several First Nations communities have been experiencing isolation or limited access to emergency transportation as well as goods and essential services during recent and ongoing climate-related emergency events.

These challenges and deficits resulting from colonialism and systemic racism also mean that First Nations communities are particularly challenged when developing transportation systems and require targeted strategies that respond to their own self-determined priorities and needs. The purpose of the Transportation Project is to promote and accelerate First Nations' equitable access to safe, affordable, and reliable low-carbon and active transportation within and between communities in alignment with self-determination to help reduce carbon pollution and uphold the well-being of all First Nations peoples, as outlined in the UN Declaration.

Transportation Project Objectives:

1. Assess gaps and opportunities that restrict and assist BC First Nations' mobility and access to equitable, safe, reliable, and affordable low-carbon transportation and transportation services within and between communities, including interregional travel, and provide recommendations for legislation, policy, and program reform to advance these goals.
2. Strengthen community capacity and climate awareness in five (5) First Nations communities through the development of all-funded low-carbon transportation plans and a Gaps Analysis Summary.
3. Develop a comprehensive guide for First Nations communities in BC to plan and engage in actions to improve community members' access to safe, reliable, and affordable low-carbon transportation.

Description of Opportunity

Through this Expression of Interest, the BCAFN will select five (5) First Nations communities to develop their own **Low-Carbon Transportation Plan** that responds to their self-determined and unique needs, realities and priorities. The pilot communities must be representative of a diversity of transportation needs and realities based on the remoteness and geography in BC. Selected Pilot Project communities should fulfill at least one of the following geographic categories: a remote coastal community, a remote

northern community, a community from the interior of BC, and a suburban or urban community.

The Low-Carbon Transportation Plans may include targets and actions to secure safe and inclusive transportation, improve transportation efficiency, promote clean mobility options such as low-carbon fuels, electricity and/or hydrogen, improve climate awareness among community members and explore opportunities for economic development through transportation-related initiatives.

As a component of the broader Transportation Project, BCAFN will collaborate with a consultant to create a **First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Planning Guide (LcTPG)** specifically tailored for First Nations in BC. A draft of this guide will be provided to the pilot communities to support the development of their Low-Carbon Transportation Plans. The insights and experiences gained from the pilot communities will then be integrated into the final version of the LcTPG. The primary objective of the LcTPG is to serve as a resource for First Nations governments in BC, supporting them in the development of their individualized transportation plans.

Each pilot community, with the support of BCAFN, will also create a **Gap Analysis Report** identifying the challenges, gaps, strengths and opportunities found throughout the development of the plan and provide recommendations. The defined gaps in these reports from each of the five (5) pilot communities will inform the development of a Transportation Assessment Report (TAR) being prepared by BCAFN. This report will outline barriers and opportunities and provide recommendations to the Crown to address policy and planning gaps and strengthen opportunities to ensure that First Nations across BC have equitable access to transportation.

The pilot communities will have access to support from BCAFN staff as mutually agreed upon at the outset of the project. The selected First Nation communities will receive up to **\$65,000** in flexible funding to support the creation of their Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and Gap Analysis Report.

Ultimately, the pilot communities, acting as exemplary models, will help showcase effective strategies and approaches that can be adopted by other First Nations. By sharing their valuable knowledge and practices, the pilot communities will contribute to the overall success and relevance of the LcTPG and the TAR, ensuring they align closely with the specific needs and aspirations of First Nations in BC.

Pilot Deliverables/Activities

Each Pilot Project is expected to deliver a:

- Low-Carbon Transportation Plan that responds to the Nations' specific needs, realities and priorities;
- Gap Analysis Report that identifies challenges, gaps, strengths, and opportunities found throughout the development of the plan and provides recommendations.

The First Nation selected as a pilot project community will be expected to meet deliverables and project milestones within the timeframes outlined below.

Activity/Deliverables	Estimated Timeframe (2023-2024)
1. Onboarding	September, 2023
2. Community-Led Pilot Project workplan and budget. This may include a community engagement plan.	October 2023
3. Review and use the Low-Carbon Transportation Planning Draft Guide and provide continue feedback to the BCAFN consultant	October – July 2023
4. Prepare the Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and Gap Analysis Report.	October – June 2024
5. Present a progress report and the Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and Gap Analysis Report draft.	April 2024
6. Present the final Low-Carbon Transportation Plan and submit the Gap Analysis Report.	July 2024

Eligibility

1. Must be a First Nation governing body in British Columbia;
2. Must have formal support from Chief and Council;
3. Must demonstrate the ability to complete required Deliverables and Actions within the Timeframes provided in this Call for Expressions of Interest; and
4. Be willing to sign a funding agreement with BCAFN regarding the pilot.

Pilot Community Categories and Evaluation Criteria

Pilot Community Categories

BCAFN is seeking a diversity of five (5) First Nations representative communities to participate in the pilot projects, including, for example:

1. **Coastal:** First Nations community located on or near the Pacific coast (North Coast, South Coast and Vancouver Island) with main access to public services via ferry or private boats or air connection.
2. **Remote* Northern:** First Nations community located in the northwest or northeast of BC with historic and current issues with safety, resource extraction, poor connectivity and harsh winter conditions.

3. **Remote* Interior:** First Nations community located in the Cariboo, Kootenay/Boundary, Thompson/Okanagan Regions.
 - **Sub Urban or Urban:** First Nations sub-urban community located on the outskirts of, or connected to, population centres greater than 29,999 people or connected to a small city under 15,000 people; or an urban First Nations community located within population centres greater than 29,999 people.

*A remote community is a geographic location with any of the following characteristics:

- More than 100 km from a city of >29,999 people
- No year-round road access, limited access to seasonal ice roads or long or unreliable gravel roads
- Restricted access to ferries or remote railways
- Only accessible by air for the majority of the year
- Not currently connected to the electrical grid or the piped natural gas network

Criteria

Other criteria that will be considered in the selection of the pilot communities include:

1. Alignment and relevance of the Low-Carbon Transportation Project and the goals of the First Nation community;
2. Level of historic and ongoing challenges related to transportation; and
3. Willingness to collaborate with BCAFN staff and consultant.

Required Materials to Submit Expression of Interest

Please use the application form provided.

1. Pilot Project Application Form in PDF and Word can be found [here](#).

Supporting Materials

1. [Pilot Project Proposal Application Form](#).
2. BCAFN [Resolution 12/2023, Supporting First Nations to Access Safe, Affordable, Reliable and Low-Carbon Transportation](#).
3. Detailed information on the [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project](#).
4. A First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project Kick-off and [Information Session Recording](#).

Deadline to submit Expression of Interest: **Friday, September 8, 2023**

Contact: Submit your Expression of Interest to kristi.denby@bcfn.ca