



Prince George Office



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BRIEFING NOTE

TO: BCAFN Board of Directors

FROM: BCAFN Climate Emergency Portfolio

DATE: March 1, 2024

RE: BCAFN Low-Carbon Transportation Project and Transportation Survey

PURPOSE

To inform First Nations in BC on the progress of the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project and associated First Nations Transportation Survey

RECOMMENDATION

First Nations leadership, women, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, as well as staff and members, are invited to participate in the [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Survey](#). Your input will be instrumental in shaping the Transportation Assessment Report by providing valuable insights and information.

BACKGROUND

- A. [Resolution 12/2023](#), Supporting First Nations to Access Safe, Affordable, Reliable and Low-Carbon Transportation, mandates BCAFN to advance First Nations' access to adequate transportation and transportation services in BC.
- B. In 2022, Chiefs in Assembly endorsed the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which mandated BCAFN to work with the First Nations Leadership Council to implement the strategy, which under Pathway Four, identifies key actions towards achieving low-carbon and active transportation in partnership with First Nations ([Theme 4.2, Objectives 4.2.1 and 4.2.2](#)).
- C. To advance both mandates and with the financial support of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI), the BCAFN has undertaken a 2-year [First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project](#) (the "Transportation Project") with the aim to promote and accelerate First Nations' equitable access to safe, affordable, and reliable low-carbon and active transportation within and between communities, reduce carbon pollution and uphold the rights and well-being of all First Nations peoples.
- D. Project objectives include:
 - Assessing gaps and opportunities that restrict and assist access to transportation.
 - Advocating for changes to transportation-related policies that uphold First Nations' Title, Rights and Treaty Rights.



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

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Ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the X^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətat (Tsleil-Waututh)



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- Strengthening community capacity and climate awareness
- Developing a Low-Carbon Transportation comprehensive planning tool for First Nations communities

KEY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS UPDATE

E. Key activities and progress to date include:

- **Desktop Research:** Research was completed by Charlotte Bull, a UBC Sustainability Scholar. The final public research report can be found [here](#).
- **Project Virtual Kick-Off:** A [project kick-off and info session](#) was held on June 29, 2023, with the participation of First Nations leadership, staff, organizations and the BC government.
- **Five (5) First Nations Community-Led Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Projects:**
 - The goal is to support five (5) diverse First Nations communities in developing their own Low-Carbon Transportation Plan that responds to each First Nation's self-determined and unique needs, realities and priorities. Each pilot community will also deliver a Gap Analysis Report that identifies challenges, gaps, strengths, recommendations and opportunities found throughout the development of the plan.
 - An [Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) was shared with all First Nations in BC on July 13, 2023 to apply to be a Community-Led Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Project. This deadline was extended to September 8th, in recognition of the impacts of the wildfires on First Nations.
 - \$65,000 in flexible funding has been allocated to each pilot community and BCAFN staff are supporting the pilot communities to complete the activities.
 - The First Nations' selected include: **Nisga'a Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation , Daylu Dena Council (Lower Post), Heiltsuk First Nation and Squamish Nation**. These communities were selected based on the EOI criteria, which included geographic representation of coastal, urban/suburban, remote and northern locations.
- **First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Planning Guide (LcTPG):** With the support of the [Community Energy Association](#) (CEA), BCAFN has prepared a draft LcTPG to guide and support the Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Projects. The guide will be updated based on the learnings gathered from the pilot communities, and a final version will be created to support other Nations interested in developing their own low-carbon transportation plans.
- **First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Survey:** To tackle the lack of information concerning transportation challenges and opportunities within First Nations communities, we developed a comprehensive transportation survey tailored for both First Nations



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communities and organizations/actors engaged in transportation and related services within these communities.

- **Transportation Assessment Report:** Informed by the province-wide survey, desktop review, interviews, and Pilot communities, we will create a final report outlining barriers and opportunities and recommendations to address gaps and strengthen opportunities for First Nations.
- **Advocacy and Engagement:** The BCAFN Transportation Project Team meets monthly with the Clean Transportation Branch (EMIL) to share information. Our team also meets with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) regarding shared priorities and their ongoing engagements and work on sustainable transportation and Action item 3.9 in the Declaration Action Plan. The BCAFN will continue engaging the Crown governments, First Nations governments and relevant partners to seek support to implement the recommendations from the Transportation Assessment Report.

NEXT STEPS

1. Continue supporting and working with the Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Projects to advance their planning processes and gaps analysis report.
2. Publish the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Survey and complete outreach to encourage First Nations to fill out the survey.
3. Continual advocacy with EMIL, MOTI and Crown governments on improved transportation and low-carbon transportation policy, funding and outcomes for First Nations in BC.

If you are interested in participating in the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project or require further information, please contact Patricia Rojas (patricia.rojas@bcfn.ca) or Kristi Denby (kristi.denby@bcfn.ca).



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