



Climate Action Peer Network: Moving Forward through Learning from Others

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DISCLAIMER

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This project was conducted under the mentorship of the Great Bear Initiative's contracted employees. The opinions and recommendations in this report and any errors are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Great Bear Initiative or the University of British Columbia.

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Executive Summary

The Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Network (CAN) was formed in 2018 by the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative (GBI) which serves nine remote Indigenous communities throughout the North and Central Coast of BC (Metlakatla, Gitxaala, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Wuikinuxv, Skidegate, Old Massett and the Council of the Haida Nation). Local Climate Action Coordinators (CACs) have been hired in eight of these communities to work on their nations priorities and visions related to climate mitigation and adaptation. The CACs are supported by the Climate Action Network, a peer network, which provides 1:1 mentorship and support, regular check-ins, monthly team meetings, and group and individual training opportunities.

The purpose of this report was to identify and explore how other Indigenous Peer Network models engaged in capacity building work with Indigenous communities. This work is intended to support the CAN to improve their networks functioning and provide lessons learned from other Indigenous Peer Networks to build off the current model of CAN.

The central questions this research project intends to answer are:

1. How are other Indigenous organizations (Networks) building local capacity to complete complicated projects that relate to the priorities and visions of the community?
2. How are other Indigenous organizations (Networks) implementing climate mitigation and adaptation solutions?

The project methods for this research project consisted of an electronic search for similar Indigenous peer networks in an environmental scan, semi-structured interviews with relevant organizations, analysis of interviews for recommendations, and report preparation. Further, GBI provided contact information of stakeholders who may work with other Indigenous peer networks related to climate change.

Environmental scan results indicated that the Climate Action Network is quite a unique Indigenous-led organization that is dedicated to serve Indigenous communities regarding their climate mitigation and adaptation goals. Nine interviews were conducted with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations. Several recommendations were made for GBI CAN that can help inform its expansion and operation including: funding a dedicated position for the CAN coordinator that does not have other work duties; developing and maintaining positive working relationships with diverse funders and leveraging the funding to find additional funding sources; meeting the training needs of communities by providing a variety of training opportunities that

are either in-person or online; review the resources of other similar organizations to determine their suitability for GBI CAN; embed Indigenous values in all work carried out such as the meaningful inclusion of Elders, prioritizing Indigenous worldviews and solutions; develop toolkits and resources in conjunction with communities based on community success stories and lessons learned; develop a web presence that shares information, resources, funding opportunities, a program newsletter, webinars/videos, etc.; host a yearly CAN program gathering for centralized capacity building from subject matter experts and sharing of best practices from other CAN members; ensure gender balance among CAN CACs and trainers and address barriers to achieving gender balance; and use creative means to engage CAN members as well as the broader community both online and in-person which includes use of locally-created art and music. Many organizations interviewed indicated that they support the expansion of the GBI CAN program and look forward to forming a positive working relationship and partnership with them.

Context and Limitations

There were important constraining factors that affected the realization of this study. Indigenous communities have been living with the realities of the genocidal policies, laws, and actions of the Canadian settler state, including the involvement of the Catholic church, and others, in this ongoing project of settler colonialism. This reality was brought to the fore for the world to see near the end of May 2021, when “the remains of 215 children who were students of the Kamloops Indian Residential School”¹ were discovered using ground penetrating radar. This and subsequent similar discoveries at other former residential ‘schools’ resulted in the re-opening of traumatic wounds for Indigenous communities and individuals. It is with great sensitivity that work on this study continued with the realization that Indigenous communities, organizations, and individuals may not have the time or emotional energy to contribute their knowledge during this challenging time.

Furthermore, the summer of 2021 in British Columbia, as well as elsewhere, saw unparalleled climate disasters. A ‘heat dome’ in early July caused the deaths of hundreds of British Columbians² as well as an extensive wildfire that destroyed the village of Lytton³ and affected surrounding First Nations communities. Many Indigenous communities were left scrambling to ensure that their members were safe from the heat, fires, and smoke.

Together, these multiple tragedies of the remains of children who attended residential ‘schools’ and the effects of the heat dome likely drained the emotional capacity of many people, including those who were contacted for this study. Nonetheless, those organizations that responded were eager to share their strengths and stories in the spirit of uplifting one another so that other Indigenous communities could succeed. Additionally, the author of this report has been affected by the ongoing intergeneration traumas of residential ‘schools’ and very much affected by the discovery of the many unmarked graves of Indigenous children.

Introduction

There are 27 remote First Nations communities in British Columbia, the majority of which still rely on diesel power generation. Diesel generation is an expensive form of power production that releases greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to climate change. Relying on diesel generation increases vulnerability and decreases resiliency in remote communities, as communities rely on fuel to power their lives. Moreover, reliance on energy sources that exacerbate harm to all our relations, both human and non-human, is often not aligned with the worldviews of First Nations. The risk of fuel spills and damage to the land and sea is an ever-present worry for the communities.

One important pathway to reducing diesel dependency and increasing resiliency in remote Indigenous communities is increasing local capacity to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. This involves both hiring a community member to take on this work and providing them with necessary resources and support.

Climate Action Network

The Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Network (GBI CAN) was formed in 2018 by the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative (GBI) which serves eight remote Indigenous communities throughout the North and Central Coast of BC (Metlakatla, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Wuikinuxv, Skidegate, Old Massett and the Council of the Haida Nation)¹. Local Climate Action Coordinators (CACs) have been hired in all eight of these communities to work on their nations priorities and visions related to climate mitigation and adaptation. The CACs are supported by the Climate Action Network, a peer network, which provides 1:1 support and mentorship, regular check-ins, monthly team meetings, and group and individual training opportunities.

Research Questions

The GBI would like to explore other models similar to the Climate Action Network that serve other Indigenous communities in order to learn from peers and build towards continuous

¹ Note that Gitxaala joined the CFN family in summer 2021, and is not currently involved in the CAN. This will change with new funding expected in the coming months.

improvement. In order to achieve this, the following two research questions guided this project and report:

1. How are other Indigenous organizations (Networks) building local capacity to complete complicated projects that relate to the priorities and visions of the community? and
2. How are other Indigenous organizations (Networks) implementing climate mitigation and adaptation solutions?

In order to answer these questions, the project sought to understand:

- What other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations exist?;
- How other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations are structured?;
- What support other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations receive regarding:
 - training?
 - mentorship?
 - other areas as identified by the scholar and mentors?;
- How do network activities advance the Rights of Indigenous Peoples beyond energy sovereignty?
- How do we further braid Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing into the Network structure?

Given the successes and popularity of the CAN to date, there was a desire by GBI to look towards expanding the program using best practices and lessons learned from similar networks.

Therefore, this report sought to provide evidence and case studies that could inform the possible expansion of the CAN program to other remote Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

Research Approach

The research plan consisted of completing an environmental scan to identify relevant Indigenous peer networks to interview using our Interview Guide (Appendix A). The environmental scan revealed that the CAN was quite unique in its structure as an Indigenous-led peer network, therefore, the focus of the interviews shifted to interviewing other programs that were either Indigenous-led, served Indigenous communities, or were funders. It is important to note that the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation hired Fraser Basin Council in the fall of 2020 to complete a research project with a scope that was nearly identical to our initial research questions⁴. Their report examined “the state of current capacity building initiatives for remote communities (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) in British Columbia to implement policies, plans and projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy generation” (page 3) for

the purpose of informing a submission to the Province’s Treasury Board in the Fall of 2020. While this report remains unpublished, it was shared with GBI at the outset of this research to help inform this project. This report builds upon those interviews in some areas and supports their findings in other areas.

Interviews were conducted virtually over Zoom and the majority were recorded with the Zoom virtual meeting platform and lasted between 45 minutes and just over an hour. The Interview Guide (Appendix A), which was developed with GBI staff, was shared on the screen and questions were discussed as the interviewee saw fit and deemed relevant. Recordings were analysed with a summary prepared for each. Relevant themes and information were then extracted for this report.

The following organizations were interviewed: BC Hydro, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Fraser Basin Council, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, BC Assembly of First Nations, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, First Nations Health Authority, and Yukon organizations (Assembly of First Nations Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations Climate Action). Interviews were sought with Indigenous Climate Action, Indigenous Climate Hub, Indigenous Environmental Network, Honor the Earth, and Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) Social Enterprise; however, they were not conducted due to scheduling conflicts or lack of response.

Findings

As mentioned previously, the environmental scan undertaken revealed that the Climate Action Network to be a unique organization in Canada in that it is an Indigenous-based organization and peer network. Best practices and recommendations were taken from interviews (when conducted) and websites as they pertain to the expansion and delivery of GBI CAN. The following sections detail the findings along with their associated recommendations for the expansion of GBI CAN.

Lessons From the Fraser Basin Council Capacity Development Report

As mentioned above, the Fraser Basin Council report examined “the state of current capacity building initiatives for remote communities (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) in British Columbia to implement policies, plans and projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy generation”⁴ (page 3). Their report summarized their extensive program and participation scan as well as their gap analysis.

Their report highlighted several barriers to capacity building from remote community engagement interviews. Relevant portions of the report and their relevance to expanding CAN are discussed below.

It should come as no surprise that issues regarding adequate funding for capacity building for remote communities was identified as a significant barrier. Some of these challenges are more difficult to overcome as they are embedded in larger governance issues. However, GBI can advocate for change to overcome issues such as lack of funding for staff positions and increasing the scope of technology rebate programs to include a more diverse number of eligible products. A business case should be made that highlights the need to pay for dedicated staff positions so that issues of climate mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable energy so that it can be a priority. Otherwise, the issue tends to get lost in the many other duties that staff members are responsible for in small, remote communities. Funding for professional development and support to participate in western society and governance is also of importance to communities. GBI does provide support for CAN by way of funding members to attend the 20/20 Catalysts Program, a three-month clean energy mentoring and coaching program, which can help meet their professional development needs. Other opportunities for relevant professional development should also be investigated.

In terms of capacity needs identified by the remote communities in the FBC report that are relevant to GBI and CAN, interviewees expressed a need for providing training in specific areas such as project management, administration, funding applications, bookkeeping and financial management, infrastructure maintenance, housing coordination, human resource management, and technical engineering. These skills certainly relate to the overall professional development needs that were discussed above. Unsurprisingly, the FBC report also revealed that communities would like access to more peer networks and peer learning opportunities, which only bolsters the claim that CAN needs to expand to include more communities.

The CAN member communities are all remote coastal Indigenous communities with their own unique challenges. Interviewees in the FBC report indicate that they experience challenges when securing contractors such as funding, travel, accommodation, forming trusting relationships, racism, and geography. GBI is an Indigenous-led initiative and is therefore quite familiar with these challenges. To expand the CAN, these realities must remain in the spotlight when advocating for more funding from government and non-governmental funders. Forming positive relationships with industry stakeholders such as BCIT and the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) can also help address issues such as racism and forming trusting relationships with contractors.

To develop community capacity, community members should ideally be interested in issues related to climate change, mitigation, and sustainable energy to help advance projects. However, lack of interest and lack of community participation is an identified challenge. Interesting and creative methods should be used that engage all members of the community, including youth, in energy literacy and energy security.

When it comes to systemic and structural barriers such as questions of land ownership and sovereignty, GBI and CAN should provide capacity building that supports, promotes, and respects Indigenous views for the future.

Environmental Scan

An environmental scan was conducted to search for organizations and networks that were like the Climate Action Network (CAN) to inform the interview stage of the project. The scan consisted of internet searches using terms such as “Indigenous climate change”, “Indigenous diesel alternatives”, and “Indigenous network”. The initial search revealed very few relevant organizations that were non-government or Indigenous led. To uncover more networks, the main funders and stakeholders in Indigenous climate mitigation were contacted via email to enquire about whether they were aware of other organizations like the CAN. This also did not produce any additional results. In the planning stages of this research project there was initial thoughts that CAN was unique and cutting edge in its structure, which turned out to be true.

The table below lists the organizations that were deemed relevant for this study and briefly summarizes findings from interviews (when conducted) and websites, including best practices and recommendations for GBI CAN.

Table 1 Environmental Scan Results

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
<p>Indigenous Climate Action (ICA)</p>	<p>Per their website: “Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led organization guided by a diverse group of Indigenous knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders from communities and regions across the country”. Their website includes resources such as the Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit which builds capacity in climate change and adaptation. They do not currently have a peer network; however, their website indicates that the Toolkit training will “build a network of Indigenous climate change experts and strategies”. Upon review of their website and annual report, however, it was unclear how this network would be hosted or by whom. An interview was scheduled; however, a last-minute scheduling conflict arose, and it was not conducted. It is recommended that GBI review the Toolkit to determine its relevance for outreach activities for BC First Nations communities.</p>	<p>https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/</p>
<p>Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship</p>	<p>A cohort of 14 young people from Yukon and transboundary BC First Nations make up the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship. They were chosen throughout a partnership with the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and Youth Climate Lab. This cohort of</p>	<p>https://www.yfnclimate.ca/</p>

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	<p>young people will co-create the Yukon First Nations Climate Vision and Action Plan, which is scheduled for release in Spring 2022. They were interviewed as part of the Yukon First Nations group for this report and summarized in the Yukon Assembly of First Nations row below.</p>	
<p>Fraser Basin Council</p>	<p>Administers the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities Program on behalf of the Province of British Columbia, which includes Indigenous communities. They are a charitable non-profit society that brings people together to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin and across British Columbia across four orders of government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations) along with those from the private sector and civil society. One of their sustainability principles per their website is to “Advance reconciliation in collaboration with Indigenous Nations and Peoples to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. An interview was conducted for this report, which revealed that due to their extensive network with various funding stakeholders, they can assist communities to leverage funding to initiate innovative projects.</p>	<p>https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/</p>
<p>Indigenous Climate Hub</p>	<p>This is mostly a website hub that is mean to inform Indigenous communities about climate change and adaptation and associated funding opportunities.</p>	<p>https://indigenousclimatehub.ca/</p>

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	<p>Their website includes a resource library section. Their current funding opportunities section is regularly updated. They provide a members area forum; however, it is not very active as evidenced by the author joining, posting, and observing the lack of activity. There was no response from the interview request email for this report. Community members can refer to this website to research current funding opportunities.</p>	
<p>Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources</p>	<p>CIER is a national First Nation directed environmental non-profit charitable organization that was created in 1995 whose mission is to work in partnership with Indigenous nations to support and build sustainable Indigenous communities and protect lands and waters. They have several resources online including the Climate Change Adaptation Planning Toolkit for Indigenous Communities. They are not a peer network <i>per se</i>, however, they have formed relationships with many communities and often forward those communities relevant funding opportunities. According to their website, they provide training for approximately 97 community members per year and work with an average of 112 communities per year. They provide project management and other support to communities who have successfully received grant funding. An interview was conducted for this report. Their toolkits are</p>	<p>http://www.yourcier.org/</p>

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	<p>developed and tested with communities to ensure they are relevant and valuable. For example, Fox Lake shared their lessons learned in their project which included how they formed a community working group, hosted a community fishing derby to engage community members regarding climate change, published an article promoting their project in the community newsletter, and hired a local caterer for their community meetings. GBI CAN should consider partnering with a case study community to develop resources for other CAN member communities and encourage the inclusion of unique outreach activities such as a fishing derby with prizes.</p>	
<p>British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)</p>	<p>BCAFN is a political organization, however, they have prepared a report <i>Cultural Rights of First Nations and Climate Change</i>, which may be valuable to some communities. They also passed a resolution to develop the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan and they employ a Regional Climate Change Coordinator, who was interviewed for this report. BCAFN is not a part of nor hosts any peer networks. The RCCC mostly focuses on communicating the priorities of communities to the Federal and Provincial governments. They also work to support communities by providing funding information. BCAFN is currently working with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs to develop a First Nations</p>	<p>https://www.bcafn.ca/</p>

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. They would like to maintain contact with GBI CAN and support calls to expand the CAN.	
Yukon Assembly of First Nations (YAFN)	The main roles of the Regional Climate Change Coordinator for Yukon region include liaising with the AFN National Environment Sector, sharing climate information with Yukon First Nations (YFN's) communities, supporting Regional Chief Adamek as the National Portfolio holder for Environment & Climate Change, and serving as the technical representative on the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE). They also work on projects with the YFN's Climate Action Fellowship and the YFN's Climate Vision & Action Plan (Strategy). Their funding is largely from the Federal government. YAFN was interviewed as part of the Yukon First Nation group in this report. Several lessons learned from YAFN include: prioritize youth voices and capacity development since they are future leaders, guidance and emotional support are important and can be provided by a mentor who serves a traditional "Aunty" role, include emotional intelligence in capacity building, hold regular 'virtual campfire' networking sessions, communicate with member communities via a regularly published newsletter.	https://afnyukon.ca/

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
Indigenous Environmental Network	<p>The Indigenous Environmental Network was established in 1990 within the United States by grassroots Indigenous peoples and individuals to address environmental and economic justice issues (EJ). They held yearly Protecting Mother Earth Gatherings to organize and educate Indigenous peoples throughout North America, with the 12th Gathering being held in Penticton in 2001. Their website is up to date with all their current campaigns and resources. They are not a peer network; however, they do engage with many Indigenous communities and organizations to raise awareness regarding a just transition away from fossil fuels. Their website provides up to date news articles on their various activities such as the opposition to Line 3, their YouTube videos, and information on all their current campaigns. A particularly interesting webinar series titled “Indigenous Feminisms” provides an interesting lens to view their environmental protection work with. An interview was scheduled; however, scheduling conflicts arose, and it was not conducted. During an introductory phone call, the IEN staff member was aware of GBI and CAN and would like to maintain contact. It is recommended that GBI reach out to IEN and form a relationship as a relevant Indigenous organization.</p>	https://www.ienearth.org/

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
<p>Honor the Earth</p>	<p>The mission of this Minnesota-based Indigenous non-profit is to “create awareness and support for Native environmental issues and to develop needed financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities” in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. They are not a peer network; however, they do provide small grants to Indigenous communities for food sovereignty, renewable energy, anti-fossil fuel, youth and education, media, and arts. An interview was not scheduled with this organization. Their website indicates that they make use of creativity to raise awareness with music, the arts, and media. Their factsheets and newsletters are visually stimulating and engaging. They make great use of infographics, photographs, and Indigenous artwork. GBI can certainly follow this example as a creative way of engaging with community members and stakeholders.</p>	<p>https://www.honorearth.org/</p>
<p>Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) Social Enterprise</p>	<p>The Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) Social Enterprise is a Canadian non-profit whose mission and vision are “to stimulate collaboration that facilitates leadership by, and meaningful collaboration with, Indigenous peoples in the transition to a clean energy future” and “a collaborative, community-driven clean energy future respects the rights of Indigenous peoples and enriches their communities”. They deliver the 20/20 Catalysts Program – a national clean energy capacity</p>	<p>https://indigenoucleanenergy.com/</p>

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	<p>building program for Indigenous individuals from communities and organizations across Canada. Further, they also host an online discussion platform, the ICE Network, which has approximately 7000 members and includes a separate section for 20/20 Catalyst alumni. The ICE Network does engage in quarterly capacity and network building sessions in the forum. An interview was sought with ICE, however, they did not reply in time to schedule an interview. The possibility of GBI CAN hosting an online discussion and networking platform should be investigated.</p>	
<p>Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative</p>	<p>This initiative is delivered in collaboration with the Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise (ICE SE) and the Pembina Institute. It is funded by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), who were interviewed for this report. A unique aspect of this initiative is that the applications were reviewed by an external all-Indigenous jury. This is an important consideration, as the jury can provide much-needed context to the applications due to their knowledge of community realities. NRCan also adjusted the timelines to the Initiative as a result of feedback from communities who emphasized the need for a longer timeline. This is an important consideration for GBI when approaching government funders, as advocacy can</p>	<p>https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/off-diesel</p>

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	result in positive changes that meet the needs of communities.	
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	<p>The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a non-profit Tribal health organization this is like BC's First Nations Health Authority in that it was formed as a result of a transfer from Alaska Area Native Health Service to ANTHC. Their Center for Climate and Health "assists communities and helps them to better understand the impacts of climate change and how to adapt in healthy ways". The program provides assessments, technical assistance, training through 7 Generations and assistance monitoring environmental impacts. All the services are provided free to member communities. They were interviewed for this report. ANTHC is an extremely large organization with core funding as well as access to additional funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They host a yearly gathering for their environmental coordinators where they can learn from subject matter experts in various subject 'streams'. Communities can also submit an abstract of their work to present at the yearly gathering to share their lessons learned and best practices. ANTHC also hosts regular training sessions to assist communities in applying for and reporting on EPA funding.</p>	https://anthc.org/what-we-do/community-environment-and-health/
First Nations Health Authority	<p>FNHA delivers Indigenous Services Canada's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program in British</p>	

Organization	Project(s)	Website and Contact Information
	<p>Columbia. Their program is called the Indigenous Climate Health Action Program (ICHAP) which “supports First Nations leadership in reducing climate change impacts on health”. They were interviewed for this report. Key findings include that during engagement with communities, they indicated that they wanted to move away from Western concepts of health and wellness to holistic concepts that respect their beliefs. The holistic belief system should be embraced and highlighted by GBI CAN as well.</p>	

Interview Findings

Relevant interview findings are summarized here with associated recommendations for GBI CAN. As stated previously, most interviews were conducted via Zoom and lasted approximately 45 minutes to just over an hour.

FNHA Indigenous Climate Health Action Program

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) has received funding from Health Canada to deliver the Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program to their member communities. Per their website: “FNHA’s Indigenous Climate Health Action Program (ICHAP) supports First Nations leadership in reducing climate change impacts on health. Climate change affects physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health in many ways. Through ICHAP, communities can strengthen their climate health resilience by working together to improve the environmental, social, cultural and economic factors that affect their health and wellness”². This program was funded for a period of four years, with the first years dedicated to an extensive engagement process.

Through the communities determined the priorities and it was made clear that they wanted to move beyond Western concepts of health and wellness and include the emotional, cultural, and spiritual aspects as well. The result is a genuinely bottom-up program that communities developed based on their needs and beliefs. Furthermore, the application process itself is more of an iterative process with applicants where the proposals are discussed and further developed, rather than a static, one-time application form or proposal. Additionally, communities decide on what success means to them in their project.

Decisions regarding which proposals are funded are based on several criteria including: a focus on climate health; the level of youth engagement; the incorporation of traditional knowledge; the potential ability to strengthen community climate health resilience through new knowledge and skills; and whether it demonstrates integration with or connection to existing community plans.

Due to the 21/22 FY is the first year that communities have applied for the funding, there is no network of successful applicants that has been developed as of the date of the interview. However, there may be an opportunity to develop a network for interested communities. FNHA hopes to develop a project database in the ICHAP webpage where communities can share project

² <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/climate-health-action-program>

snapshots for other communities to learn from. Building network capacity is challenging, however, given the time constraints of the program funding. It is recommended that GBI meet with FNHA to explore the possibility of CAN and their community network forming an alliance to learn from one another.

Another project that addresses climate adaptation and mitigation at FNHA is the **We All Take Care of the Harvest (WATCH)**, which is a pilot project that addresses seafood safety, security, and sovereignty in the context of climate change. The purpose of the project is to help coastal communities and their members decide if and when their seafood is safe to harvest.³ The WATCH project includes four First Nations communities that are the pilot communities and are part of a network that includes a First Nations advisory team, an external advisory team (subject matter experts), a network community of practice, and a monitoring community of practice. Members of the network have participated in several capacity building workshops including climate change adaptation planning, dietary and harvest research, phytoplankton monitoring, and biotoxin monitoring program best practices. Additionally, the four pilot communities are encouraged to participate in FNHA's other programs, ICHAP and the Environmental Contaminants Program, to build their capacity. There is also an opportunity for the pilot communities to participate in the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network⁴ to share their observations.

Recommendations for GBI from this interview include the exploration of partnering with the WATCH program as it aligns with GBI's climate change and adaptation goals. Furthermore, the notion of sovereignty is also present in the CAN program in the form of energy sovereignty for communities. Furthermore, GBI should also explore the relevance and benefits of participating in the Local Environmental Observer Network along with FNHA. The LEO Network is discussed in more detail below in the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium section. All FNHA's program development and capacity building initiatives are all rooted in FNHA's first directive "community-drive, nation-based", meaning that they develop programs and services based on grassroots needs and input which does not compromise First Nations autonomy and authority. GBI operates under such principles as well and these principles should direct the design and expansion of the CAN program. A working relationship and comparing of resources between FNHA and GBI is recommended as it can help to identify and address gaps or overlaps in trainings.

³ <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/watch-project>

⁴ <https://www.leonetnetwork.org/en/docs/about/about>

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Center for Climate & Health

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a large non-profit Tribal health organization that serves over 180,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians. Their Center for Climate & Health “assists communities and helps them to better understand the impacts of climate change and how to adapt in healthy ways”⁵. Communities all over the state have funding for an environmental coordinator whose work includes climate change. The State itself is large with a diverse landscape resulting in a wide range of different climate issues facing each community. They face diverse challenges such as sea-level rise, permafrost thawing, and wildfire smoke.

ANTHC has several programs that support capacity development for their communities. For instance, they operate the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) which assists “federally recognized Tribes and intertribal associations to plan, develop and establish the capacity to implement programs administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).”⁶ Their website offers an extensive array of tools and templates to assist communities in applying for EPA grants as well support to fulfill their associated reporting requirements. IGAP coordinators offer training in the communities each year to support them in their planning, implementation, and reporting.

Each year the environmental managers gather for the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) for networking, training, capacity building and peer learning. Subject matter experts, including some communities, submit abstracts to present. There are several streams that attendees can follow including air and healthy homes, environmental field services, contamination support, water, emergency preparedness and climate and health. Prior to Covid, it was a well-attended in-person gathering of around 500 people from across the State. All communities receive funding to attend. There is also the opportunity for participants to receive the 7 Generations training which is “an interactive workshop that introduces participants to a community-based approach for developing local environmental plans. The training also introduces the basics of common environmental issues that can affect health such as drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, fuel storage, air, energy and climate, etc.”⁷. Materials for this training are available on the ANTHC website for community members to review freely outside of the training.

⁵ <https://anthc.org/what-we-do/community-environment-and-health/center-for-climate-and-health/>

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ <https://anthc.org/what-we-do/community-environment-and-health/tribal-capacity-and-training/>

In addition to the yearly IGAP training and yearly ATCEM event, ANTHC also offers a wide array of webinars designed to build capacity and support communities with their projects as well as networking and sharing opportunities.

Communities can participate in the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network and receive training to do so. The LEO Network is “a network of local environmental observers and topic experts who apply traditional knowledge, western science and technology to document significant, unusual or unprecedented environmental events”⁸ in their communities and territories. The benefit to communities in participating in the LEO Network is that they can observe and track changes in their environment and plan to adapt in healthy ways.

With such a diverse range of communities, some are challenged by their small size, however, some have partnered with nearby cities or larger villages to carry out their work and share programming resources such as grant writers. Another challenge is scheduling meetings and trainings for the large number of communities, especially in the spring and summer months when members are out on the land engaging in subsistence food gathering.

Overall, the ANTHC offers a wide range of capacity building trainings to its communities that are both in-person (when Covid restrictions allow) and online in the form of webinars. Their website is well-organized with a wide range of resources available for capacity development.

This large and established organization offers many best practices for GBI to consider including the development and hosting of online templates that assist communities in developing funding proposals for their projects, hosting a yearly networking and training event for CAN coordinators, providing subject area training at the yearly gathering, exploring the 7 Generations training to determine its relevance to the BC context, host webinars in relevant subject areas, and revamp its website to include capacity building resources for CAN coordinators. Furthermore, ANTHC expressed a strong interest in forming a partnership with GBI with the long-term view of relaying climate change effects that are moving from the south to the north. They also encouraged GBI to explore the possibility of joining the LEO Network that will be hosted by FNHA to provide more data points and observations.

⁸ <https://anthc.org/what-we-do/community-environment-and-health/leo-network/>

Yukon First Nations Organizations

Climate adaptation and mitigation work as well as associated capacity building is undertaken in the Yukon Territory by organizations that work together with their 14 member communities. One interview was conducted with three separate organizations as outlined below.

The Yukon Climate Action Fellowship⁹ consists of a group of 14 young people between the ages of 14 and 30 from Yukon and transboundary BC First Nations that are embarking on a 20-month journey receiving various online and in-person programming. At the outset, the goal was to achieve gender balance, however, this was not achieved due to the difficulty in recruiting men. The goal of the Fellowship is to co-create a Yukon First Nations Climate Vision and Action Plan for release in Spring 2022. The need for such a plan resulted from the understanding that a First Nations worldview and associated approaches are critical to responding to climate change and building a just and regenerative world during the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Gathering in February 2020. The fellows are a diverse group of youth with very diverse backgrounds including those who are or have been in the foster care system, those experiencing intergenerational trauma, artists, students, and policy workers. Each youth is on their own unique healing journey, and each brings their own strengths to the group. Some are outgoing and others more reserved. Due to the lack of gender balance and difficulty in recruiting men, it is recommended that GBI analyse its CAN coordinator recruitment efforts to ensure that all genders can participate. Barriers to participation by gender should be investigated. The Fellows are supported by staff from the CYFN, Jodi Gustafson, as well as Jocelyn Joe-Strack, Indigenous Knowledge Research Chair at Yukon University. Jocelyn supports them in a traditional “Aunty” role and offers them spiritual and emotional grounding and guidance. Jodi’s role is that of a coordinator who organizes and facilitates capacity building opportunities for the Fellows as well as the Steering Committee members. For example, prior to working with the Fellows, training and capacity building was offered to committee members which included Illuminating Worldviews and other emotional intelligence capacity building which enabled the committee to take a step back and examine the underlying values and assumptions and world views that were coming into climate change programming. They also took part in ‘virtual campfires’ bi-weekly. The “Aunty” role was seen as important to the development of the Fellows; therefore, this model of a traditional “Aunty” type role model and mentor should be included in GBI CAN programming. Additionally, it is important to offer emotional intelligence capacity building for GBI CAN coordinators. A very important overarching recommendation for GBI is to ensure that the CAN program is embedded in a holistic

⁹ <https://www.yfnclimate.ca/origin-and-purpose>

First Nations world view by maintaining an open relationship with communities that includes communication that actively engages with communities. Planning for CAN program expansion should be undertaken after consultation with communities and that the consultations emphasize the need to prioritise First Nations worldviews, values, and knowledges. Furthermore, the Yukon Climate Action Fellowship maintains a close and personal relationship with an Indigenous university researcher. GBI CAN should consider developing and maintaining a relationship with Indigenous researchers so that they can work on evidence-based projects and access funding for program development through research grants.

The Council of Yukon First Nations¹⁰ is a non-profit society that serves as a political advocacy organization for their communities to protect their rights, title, and interests. The Natural Resources and Environment department works on natural resources and environmental matters of concern to Yukon First Nations. This includes mining, mineral exploration, development assessment, fish and wildlife and their habitats, northern contaminants, and climate change. They assist communities in their efforts to access funding for their environmental and climate projects. The CYFN also employs an energy and sustainability analyst who happens to be male, which is positive for other young males to see in the communities, furthering the notion that gender equity needs to be considered for programming. GBI should ensure that there is gender equity and investigate barriers to participation when balance is not being achieved.

Particularly relevant to GBI is the formation of the Yukon First Nation Energy Network group, which meets quarterly to share what they are doing and acts as a platform to share resources and advice. For future work, they hope to help communities with projects such energy benchmarking and energy mapping. Other initiatives have been pushed back due to Covid. For example, youth have identified plastic waste as an important issue, however, plastics gathering cannot happen at this time until pandemic restrictions are lifted. Capacity building around the issue of plastic waste is planned so that the communities can learn from researchers in the plastics world. Although in-person capacity building is very valuable, the pandemic restrictions have made it such that there needs to be more reliance on webinars, which are a great opportunity for some communities. For GBI CAN, it is important to recognize that webinars and online training may be more useful for some communities for whom travel is a barrier to participation. For in-person training, planning must include recognition of their travel times,

¹⁰ <https://cyfn.ca/>

weather restrictions at certain times of the year, food harvesting schedules, and childcare requirements.

Yukon Assembly of First Nations employs a Regional Climate Change Coordinator that works with member communities to advance their priorities at the National level. To do this, the RCCC learns what the priorities of the communities are, which can be quite varied. Generally, their environmental priorities focus on Chinook Salmon, Caribou, and clean water. Newsletters are sent out to all member communities to promote funding opportunities and relevant events and webinars. A regularly published newsletter for CAN coordinators may prove to be useful. Such a newsletter could highlight success stories, outreach strategies, and other lessons learned.

Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is Canada's first and only Indigenous-directed environmental non-profit charitable organization and has been forming relationships and partnerships with Indigenous communities for 25 years. They are mostly a fee-for-service organization and rely on project-based grant funding for most of their projects. CIER provides a variety of capacity building activities to assist Indigenous communities in addressing their environmental concerns that affect their land and water such as community-based monitoring, workshop facilitation, research services and elder/youth engagement activities. CIER is governed by an Indigenous Board of Directors which includes Elders. Elder advisors are also a regular part of the projects carried out by CIER to provide cultural grounding and direction and are an important pillar in their organization.

The website for CIER contains many guidebooks and toolkits that have been developed and tested with Indigenous communities to assist in community capacity building. Despite the availability of virtual learning opportunities for capacity building, some may prefer the in-person experience for the connection they develop with others as well as the opportunity to travel outside their community. As a mostly virtual workspace, CIER uses virtual means to connect with their staff regularly such as during scheduled weekly and monthly meetings and with more social chatting channels for more personal connections. The frequent meetings and virtual social chats provide an opportunity for "water cooler" discussions that take place in a more traditional office setting.

In terms of best practices, it is important to include Elders in community work being done by any Indigenous organization, including GBI CAN. Also, with pandemic restrictions being eased for many communities, the option of in-person learning is now once again available. Community

needs and priorities should be used as guidance when determining what learning model is the best fit for a particular workshop, virtual, in-person, or a hybrid model. Furthermore, GBI CAN should consider developing toolkits and guidebooks for communities using case study communities. Finally, although the CAN coordinators are spread over a wide geographic area, it could be useful to consider including less formal social channels for coordinators to chat “water cooler” style.

Key best practices for GBI CAN from this case study include convening a community working group, using creative means of outreach such as a fishing derby (with prizes) to gather the

community and promote the project, promoting the project in a community newsletter, hiring local community members for events (such as catering), and including Elders and youth.

Fox Lake Cree Nation: Passing on Lessons Learned

Fox Lake Cree Nation, an Indigenous community of approximately 500 people along the Nelson River in Manitoba, has received funding from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) for their climate change project. Fox Lake Cree Nation has worked with CIER during their project to help develop the Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guidebooks for Indigenous Communities.

For example, in Guidebook 1⁶, several examples of their community work are shared to help provide guidance and inspiration to other communities. Fox Lake Cree Nation shared how they established their Working Group as an initial step in developing their climate change adaptation plan. The project team met with interested community members at a promotional event in the community where catering was provided by a community member as well as honoraria for participants. The Working Group then planned several events in their community to introduce the project to the community, youth, and Elders. “The events included discussion and feedback sessions and time for community members to describe their observations of local climate change impacts” (page 13).

Unique community methods of promoting their project and collecting information were shared. For instance, the “Fox Lake Climate Change Adaptation and Awareness project coordinator wrote a newspaper article for the local paper, Fox Tracks, that provided background on the project, an overview of what has been accomplished to date, as well as some of the project goals” (page 9). Another example of unique ways to gather information and promote the project was the free fishing derby that the project hosted in the community. Prizes and food were offered to the approximately 50 community members who participated. Community members shared feedback, discussed climate change, and gave ideas while community Elders guided the process. The event proved to be a huge success and was used as an inspiration in the Guidebook for other communities to think about what community events and methods could be used for their projects.

By sharing their experiences in their climate change project, Fox Lake Cree Nation helped provide real-life examples for the CIER Guidebook series.

Natural Resources Canada' Off Diesel Initiative (NRCan)

Another program that is relevant to Indigenous climate adaptation and mitigation is Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) 'Generating New Opportunities: Indigenous Off-diesel Initiative'¹¹ which aims to support remote Indigenous communities in developing and implementing ambitious plans to reduce diesel use for heat and power. This program aims to fight climate change by supporting community-driven clean energy solutions to help reduce diesel use while creating green jobs and training opportunities, improving air quality, and increasing energy security by harnessing clean energy resources that work best for each community.

The application process consisted of a two-page application form which was submitted, followed by an informal interview to fill the in gaps and address questions. Each application was then reviewed by an external Indigenous jury which selected the Clean Energy Champions. The Champions then received \$20,000 in support to take the 20/20 Catalysts Training Program, a hands-on program designed to develop the skills to maximize community social and economic benefits of clean energy initiatives. If the Indigenous jury determined that the Champion was ready to move on, their community was eligible to receive up to \$500,000 to develop a community energy plan, identify training requirements to support the plan and develop a detailed project implementation plan. Once again, the external Indigenous jury determines whether the communities are ready for the next phase, to develop their first clean energy project, identified through the clean energy planning process, in which they can receive up to \$800,000. This unique phased process which included an external Indigenous jury was made possible in part by the partnership that NRCAN developed over 18 months with Impact Canada, which allowed for a simplified process as an experiment in new ways of doing things for NRCAN. Part of the aim of the process was to take the competition out of the process, thereby offering each community the same amount of funding. Although there were initial difficulties regarding the longer timeline, it was eventually approved. The longer timelines allowed for the communities to implement their plans in a more thoughtful, unrushed manner.

The success of this process is likely partially due to the longer timelines, external Indigenous jury, phased approach, and relatively simple initial application process. The project overcame initial internal resistance to their experimental approach which benefits the Indigenous communities. Future planning includes implementing a process that can accommodate smaller communities who may have more challenges in participating at the initial application stage.

¹¹ <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/off-diesel>

The positive changes in their application process and the extension of their initial timelines were implemented as a result of feedback from communities and stakeholders. This illustrates the need for ongoing advocacy work from Indigenous-led organizations such as GBI to funding organizations.

Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is not an Indigenous-led organization; however, they work closely with First Nations communities in various capacities that relate to clean energy transitions. The Fraser Basin Council administers some of the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program (RERC) funding on behalf of the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR). Eligible First Nations can apply for this funding for projects that "facilitate the displacement of diesel electricity generation"⁵

FBC also maintains relationships with other funding partners such as the Real Estate Foundation of BC, BC Hydro, Fortis BC, and BC Housing, allowing them to leverage their relationships to attract additional funding for community prioritized programs. While there are often some restrictions on funding from their funding partners, they also work to maximise flexibility. FBC acts as a convener role, facilitating connections between community-based projects to funders. Their role is to help build capacity, not to do the work on the ground. In their convenor role, they bring ideas to life especially when projects involve training and capacity building. Although FBC is not necessarily an environmental organization, or a direct funder, they do a lot of work on renewable energy for remote communities, including Indigenous communities across the province. In the FBC report which was summarized in part above, they affirmed that staff in communities experience a high workload, often with competing priorities, demonstrating a need for dedicated staff funding. Furthermore, communities desire to receive capacity building in their own communities with hands-on, practical training. It is recommended that GBI engage with communities to determine the best way to deliver capacity building training. There may be situations where in-person training makes the most sense and others in which webinars or self-directed studies do.

A great example of how the FBC helped to leverage its contacts and funding can be found in the case study below:

An Indigenous Peer Network in the Making

Richard Hall, an Indigenous community member from Nuxalk, a central coast remote community, attended an in-person Zero Energy Buildings training session at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) prior to the Covid pandemic. He thoroughly enjoyed the training and immediately saw the value in having more Indigenous community members being trained in this area, however, he also realized he was the only Indigenous person at the training. Having a relationship with the FBC, he approached them with the idea of finding funding to deliver the training in his community to help build their capacity in this area. Working together with BCIT and Richard Hall, the FBC was able to leverage its funding partners to develop the Train-the-Trainer: Building Indigenous Capacity for Energy Efficiency project. The project is now live on the FBC website and includes recordings of the training sessions for other communities to view and download.

A peer group consisting of “eight Indigenous building experts and 12 student trainees, representing four regions in BC (Northern BC, Central Coast, Southern BC and BC Interior BC). The student trainees include Indigenous youth who have beginner-level knowledge of building trades and construction”. The training is delivered by BCIT, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), and Richard Hall. It is important to note that the AHMA includes urban Indigenous housing societies in their mandate. Oftentimes, urban Indigenous people are left out of programs that relate to clean energy and the environment. Furthermore, it is important to also note that Indigenous youth at the beginning of their career and women in trades will be supported by a network of experienced builders such as Richard Hall and his contacts, who will act as mentors. After Covid restrictions are lifted, there are plans underway to plan for future training to take place in Nuxalk territory. BCIT and AHMA will visit the community to visit the community to gain a better understanding of the realities that remote communities are faced with.

This case study demonstrates the importance of organizations having a network of flexible funding partners that can fund such grassroots projects and leverage their contacts. In order to expand the CAN program, GBI will need to draw upon its contacts and funding partners to generate funding opportunities and leverage them. Further, forming a working relationship with this upcoming network is recommended to share best practices.

Summary

The findings were summarized at the beginning of this report. Adequate funding is necessary to expand the GBI CAN program, and the importance of adequate funding is reflected in the FBC report summarized earlier. Some funders are responding to the needs of communities based on the interviews conducted, however, the need to develop a stronger business case for longer-term project funding still exists. Key to this argument is demonstrated by the research that a private consulting firm, Community Power conducted, which was summarized in the FBC report referred to earlier in this paper⁴. They found that when comparing funding models between BC, which required annual applications, and Alberta, which allowed for 3 years of funding, the cost savings were 50%. With longer-term funding, there is less administrative burden for communities; they can recruit, train, and retain staff; and they can develop relationships and networks within and outside of the community. This finding should be emphasized when advocating for funding to expand the GBI CAN program.

There are also systemic challenges to overcome by communities such as the impact of settler colonialism, the impact of non-Indigenous forms of governance over Indigenous rights to steward land, and the intergenerational effects of residential 'schools'. Funding programs, mentoring programs, and peer networks then must keep these issues front of mind when designing, conducting, and evaluating their work. Trauma-informed practices are a must. If outside organizations are used in communities, they must be properly vetted and introduced to the community on their timeline. GBI can provide tools for communities to do this work and also become involved in this work directly with communities.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made from the interviews and environmental scan:

- **Trauma-informed practices when working with communities are a must.** There is a long legacy of settler colonial trauma that continues to reverberate in Indigenous communities. This was particularly evident at the beginning of this project with the discovery of many unmarked graves at former residential 'schools'. Any outside organizations must be sensitive to such re-traumatizing events when working with Indigenous communities. This can be achieved by forming positive working relationships with industry trainers and industry governing bodies and encouraging them to develop anti-racist and trauma-informed programming.

- **Gender equity should be a key goal of the expansion of the GBI CAN program.** There should be gender equity among CACs as well as trainers providing capacity building. Barriers to participation by gender should be investigated and addressed. For example, if childcare is an issue for participation in training, then funding should be made available for this. If more male CACs are needed, specific recruitment efforts should be designed and implemented to achieve this.
- **GBI should establish and maintain working relationships with relevant organizations to share best practices and keep apprised of funding opportunities.** In particular, the ANTHC wishes to establish a working relationship so that they can learn of climate change effects that are spreading from the south to the north. They also encourage participation in the LEO Network with FNHA. The developing green building training initiative started by Nuxalk Nation should also be contacted to share best practices.
- **There is a need to keep advocating for better funding agreements that meet the needs of Indigenous communities.** Funders can change their funding requirements to meet the needs of Indigenous communities if they receive feedback to do so. This can result in more flexibility in project requirements and longer-term agreements.
- **GBI CAN should investigate the possibility of developing tool kits and other resources for Indigenous communities** based on success stories, best practices, and lessons to be available online.
- **There should be a website for GBI CAN** that shares resources, funding opportunities, newsletters, and success stories.
- **Creative means of engagement should be encouraged.** Locally produced artwork, songs, stories, infographics, and photographs should be used in media. When awareness activities are conducted, creative outreach activities should be considered such as fishing derbies and other fun events with prizes.
- **An emphasis on Indigenous values should be encouraged** for all programming such as the meaningful inclusion of Elders, opportunities for youth to learn from Elders, culturally relevant mentors and coaches (such as “Aunties”).
- **A yearly gathering of CACs should be held** at a convenient location for centralized capacity building by subject matter experts that also provides an opportunity for CANs to present their success stories, lessons learned, and best practices.

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Appendices

Appendix A Interview Guide

We'd like to explore other models similar to the Climate Action Network that serve other Indigenous communities in order to build off our current model. An essential component of this research project will be to answer the two following research questions:

1. How are other Indigenous organizations (Networks) building local capacity to complete complicated projects that relate to the priorities and visions of the community? and
2. How are other Indigenous organizations (Networks) implementing climate mitigation and adaptation solutions?

To answer these questions, we would like to understand:

- What other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations exist;
- How other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations are structured;
- What support other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations receive regarding:
 - training
 - mentorship
 - other areas as identified by the scholar and mentors;

Further, since the Network's inception there have been requests from other First Nations to join the Network, an action that cannot be accommodate under our current structure. As we plan for the next phase of work, we would like to explore expanding or replicating the Climate Action Network to other remote Indigenous communities in British Columbia and would appreciate recommendations related to this point.

Topic	Guiding Questions	Possible Follow-up Questions
Organization structure	Can you tell me a little bit about how your organization is structured to serve the communities it works with?	How is your organization funded? Is it long term? Do you have a board? How are communities represented?
Capacity building	What kind of training or capacity building do you offer communities so that they can reach their climate goals?	What if communities are having a challenging time regarding personnel availability? Time constraints?
Community visions and priorities	How do you and your communities communicate the visions and priorities of the community?	Do you have specific visioning and prioritizing meetings? Sessions? Do you host engagement and planning activities? Strategic planning?
Implementation	Can you share with me an example of how your communities are implementing their climate mitigation and adaptation solutions?	If they are in the planning stages, can you share with me how that is going? What is planned?
Support received	What support does your organization receive regarding training? Mentorship from other organizations?	Do you require other supports to achieve your goals?
Challenges	What would you say are your biggest challenges in working with your communities on their climate mitigation and adaptation activities and solutions?	Are there enough personnel in communities that can dedicate their time? Is there enough capacity support?
Summary	Thank you for taking the time share with me. Is there anything else you think I should know?	