

# INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



August 2023

## Network Updates

Summer is a busy time indeed! This season we have said goodbye to Dana as a Network manager, and welcomed Shakya and Gala as Network staff. Shakya will be your support person moving forward, and Gala will be supporting you with organizing group training and events.

### Website

We have a fresh new [Climate Action](#) tab on the Coastal First Nations website! Thank you to everyone who submitted [your profile](#), and supported with highlighting their [community projects](#).

### Computer Training

We are in the process of confirming an online computer workshop course in the fall that builds on basic knowledge of Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, etc).

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### Funding

- Clean Energy in Indigenous, Rural and Remote Communities Program
- First Nation Adapt Program
- Complete Communities

#### Training and Events

- First Nations Home EnergySave (FNHES)
- EMCR virtual meetings on the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment framework

#### News

- Cooling Centres Must Be Known, Accessible to Those Who Need Them Most
- What is the economic cost of wildfire smoke?

#### Times Spent Together

- Photos from Spring & Summer training retreats

### Funding Deadlines Coming Soon

- [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports \(Provincial\)](#)  
2023 intake deadline: September 30, 2023
- [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation stream \(Provincial\)](#)  
23/24 intake deadline: October 6, 2023

# Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities

**What?** The [Clean Energy in Indigenous, Rural and Remote Communities Program](#) offers funding for projects in Indigenous, rural, and remote areas of Canada. It aims to reduce diesel and fossil fuel usage for heat and power. Eligible projects include clean energy initiatives, research, development, demonstration, deployment, energy efficiency, and capacity-building efforts. Funding ranges from under \$100,000 to over \$1,000,000 per project.

**When?** There is no deadline to apply. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

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**What?** The [First Nation Adapt Program](#) provides funding to support climate change adaptation projects related to sea level rise, flooding, forest fires, drought, fisheries, and winter road failures. Funding covers risk assessments, development of adaptation options, cost-benefit analysis, floodplain mapping, and the development of best practices and tools for flood management. The range of funding available per project is under \$100,000 or from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.

**When?** There is no deadline to apply. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

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*Photo source: CAC Network Meeting, Haida Gwaii, 2023.*

**What?** The [Complete Communities](#) provides funding to support communities in undertaking assessments to inform land use decision-making, considering housing need, supply, and location; providing transportation options including increased walkability; and making connections to infrastructure investment and servicing decisions. The range of funding available per project is under \$100,000 or from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.

**When?** The upcoming deadline for application submissions is January 12, 2024.

# Training and Events



**What?** The **First Nations Home EnergySave (FNHES)** initiative by the Fraser Basin Council is offering two noteworthy energy efficiency capacity programs. Both are three-year programs, with offerings available until 2025.

The [Ask an Energy Specialist](#) connects interested First Nations communities with an energy consultant who can offer free guidance for a duration of 3 to 12 hours. This guidance aims to kick-start the community's energy efficiency initiatives and help overcome any initial challenges.

The [Learning Grant Program](#) provides small financial grants of up to \$1,000 to support the educational and career development of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students. These grants can be utilized for various learning opportunities that prioritize energy efficiency.

**When and how?** Applications will be received on a rolling basis moving forward. Apply from June 1 to September 30 for the Summer-Fall semesters.

**What?** Following the successful virtual sessions in Spring 2023, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is announcing two upcoming **virtual meetings on the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment framework**. The key objectives will be to review the highlights from Spring 2023, delve into the first version of the provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment, gather insights from First Nations, Treaty Nations, and Indigenous Partners, and

provide a forum for communities to share their stories of resilience across B.C.

Additional opportunities to contribute to this work will follow, including establishing a Technical Working Group, monthly informational drop-in sessions, and virtual and in-person workshops in late Fall 2023 on the Provincial Assessment.

Communities are encouraged to tap into the [Declaration Act Engagement Fund](#). This fund is designed to support First Nations, furthering the alignment of Provincial laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The funds can offset engagement costs, including staff wages, professional fees, and travel costs related to the Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments. For any queries or additional details, please reach out to [ClimateReadyBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ClimateReadyBC@gov.bc.ca).

**When?** The sessions will take place on:

September 26, 2023, 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
September 28, 2023, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

**What?** With B.C.'s proposed Oil and Gas Emissions Cap being announced as part of the New Energy Action Framework, earlier this year, the Province is hosting two **virtual engagement sessions on B.C.'s Proposed Regulatory Emissions Cap on Oil and Gas** to receive feedback from First Nations and their organizations. More information on the Oil and Gas Emissions Cap, including questions for discussion and feedback, can be found [here](#).

**When and how?** The sessions will take place on:

September 11, 2023, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm  
September 15, 2023, 9:30 am-12:00pm

Register to participate [here](#).

# News

## Cooling Centres Must Be Known, Accessible to Those Who Need Them Most



As we grapple with the escalating temperatures brought on by climate change, cooling centres have emerged as vital refuges, especially for our most vulnerable members. However, their benefits are lost if they are not widely known and accessible. As stewards of our communities, need to invest in public awareness campaigns, barrier-free access, and transportation solutions to ensure these essential resources truly serve those who need them most.

In a publication directed at community organizations that may be running a cooling centre, or thinking of opening one, [Vancouver Public Health focuses](#) on making cooling centres welcoming places for vulnerable people on the street.

For instance, marginally housed individuals may feel unwelcome in cooling spaces if they can't bring their belongings. As such, we need to ensure these spaces are inclusive, fair, and culturally sensitive, optimizing their role in safeguarding our community's health during extreme heat events.

Source: [The Energy Mix](#)

## What is the economic cost of wildfire smoke?



Wildfires, exacerbated by climate change, have significant health and economic implications often overlooked. They emit PM2.5, microscopic particles with considerable health risks. A forthcoming study indicates that between 2007 and 2019, wildfire smoke reduced U.S. earnings by \$125 billion annually. Another study estimated that smoke could cause 4,000 to 9,000 premature deaths in the U.S. each year, costing \$36 billion to \$82 billion in health care. In Canada, during a particularly smoky period this year, the estimated smoke-related healthcare costs alone reached \$1.28 billion. These figures highlight the urgent need for climate action and strategies to reduce harmful exposure.

Source: [CBC News](#)

# Times Spent Together

## Summer UBC / x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵəṃ territories Training Retreat

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the UBC retreat in July! It was a great opportunity for new team members and CACs to get to know each other as well as take inspiration and learnings from [Elaine Alec](#) (telxnitkw) and the ICE Forum!



## Spring Haida Gwaii / X̣aayda gwaay Retreat

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Retreat in Haida Gwaii! Special thanks to Leslie Brown and family for their generous hosting of visitors to Haida lands.

