

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



January 2024

Network Updates

Here we are in a New Year – 2024! The fall and early winter have been full with conference trips and the start of computer training. We also have welcomed Lisa Maloney to the Network staff as our Climate Action Administrator!



Conference/Training and Planning

Network staff are immersed in mapping out the events, conferences and training opportunities for 2024 that will help support CACs in their variety of climate action work.

We've been engaging the group on what training opportunities they would like to see. So far, we have heard that for general training, community engagement methods are a shared need. For technical training, diving deeper into topics like energy efficiency projects, solar PV projects and heat pumps have been the most requested, as well as interest in learning more on scalable geothermal and wind energy projects.

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Funding Deadlines Coming Soon

- [North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action Grant](#)
 - Deadline for proposals: January 24, 2024
- [Fighting and Managing Wildfire in a Changing Climate program](#)
 - Deadline for applications: February 1, 2024
- [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centres and Training](#)
 - Deadline for 2024 intake: February 23, 2024

Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities

The [BC Community Climate Funding Guide](#) and the [Funding Finder Tool](#) are great online resources for those searching for project funding with grants and programs (from under \$100,000 to over \$1,000,000).



Lori Saunders (Xeni Gwet'in) at the Queen of Peace Monastery's micro hydro project, 30km north of Squamish, 2023.

Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF)

What? The [LCEF](#) is delivered through 4 streams: the *Indigenous Leadership Fund*, the *Implementation Readiness Fund*, the *Leadership Fund*, and the *Challenge Fund*. Every project must request a minimum of \$1,000,000 and a maximum of \$25,000,000, with a maximum federal cost share of 75% for Indigenous recipients. Applicants are encouraged to use the *self-screening tool* to figure out project eligibility and competitiveness. To access the tool, please send an email to lcef-fefec@ec.gc.ca.

When? Applications are due **February 8**.

Learning Grant Program

What? The **First Nations Home EnergySave (FNHES)** initiative by the Fraser Basin Council offers the [Learning Grant Program](#) which provides small financial grants of up to \$1,000 to support the educational and career development of Indigenous people who want to learn more about energy efficiency.

When? [Applications](#) are still being received on a rolling basis.

Wah-ila-toos Funding

What? [Wah-ila-toos: Clean Energy Initiatives in Indigenous, rural and remote communities](#), is still accepting applications under:

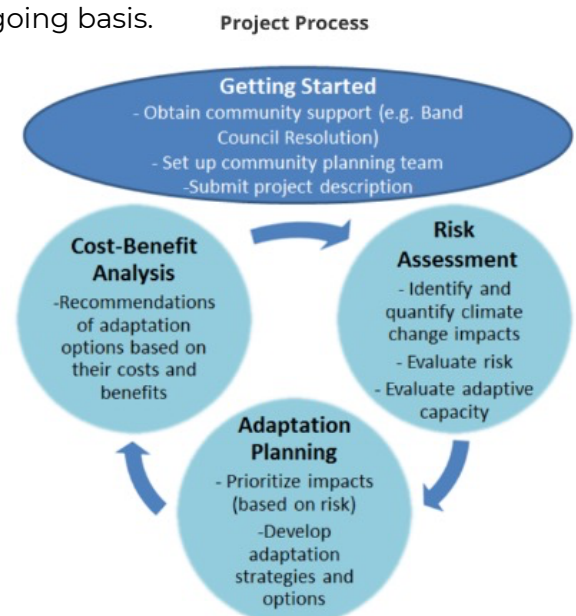
- Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities – Biomass heating, district heating, and combined heat and power systems
- Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities – Research, Development, and Demonstration projects

When? Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

First Nation Adapt Program (FNA)

What? The [FNA Program](#) has funding to assess and respond to the impacts of climate change, and increase climate resilience, in support of self-determined priorities. Priority may be given to First Nations experiencing repeated and severe climate impacts related to infrastructure and disaster mitigation and communities not previously supported by the program. The average yearly cost of funded projects is \$80,000-\$160,000, with costs varying based on the scope and nature of projects, and it can support multiyear projects.

When? Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis.



Events and Training

Rising Voices Workshop

What? The **12th Annual Rising Voices workshop** is hybrid [event](#) (in person in Boulder, CO and virtual) that brings participants together to work on proposed pathways and guidelines for intercultural collaborations for co-created, place-based Earth systems science research, policy, practice and action. The core priorities for this workshop are advancing science through collaborations that *bring Indigenous and Earth sciences into partnership*; creating opportunities for Indigenous students and early career scientists through *scientific and community mentoring*; and supporting adaptive and resilient communities through *sharing scientific capacity*.

When and how? Happening **May 6-8** and the deadline to [register](#) (no cost) is **January 31**.



Photo source: Visit to Nuxalk territory, 2023.

Tidal Energy Webinar

What? A [webinar](#) on *Tidal energy in Rural and Remote Communities*, presented by Clyde Greenough of Yourbrook Energy, outlines the benefits, challenges and solutions to tidal power.

When and how? Happening **February 12 at 12pm**, register [here](#).

Indigenous Climate Resilience Forum

What? The **3rd Indigenous Climate Resilience Forum** is a free, three-day virtual event designed to inform, connect, and support Indigenous communities in building resilience to the impacts of climate change. The forum aims to centre Indigenous voices by sharing and celebrating the work happening in communities, facilitating knowledge sharing amongst Indigenous folks, and supporting connection between communities and government bodies.

When and how? Happening **February 20-22** and [registration](#) is now open!

Learning Lab on Heat Pumps

What? Fraser Basin Council's **FNHES** is hosting a *Learning Lab on Heat Pumps* with Ehsan Haghi, Community Energy Specialist at Musqueam Indian Band, who will speak about his community's heat pump projects.

When and how? Happening **February 22, 11-12pm**, register [here](#).

Ecoversity

What? The **Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources** has an online Ecoversity that has a free course with seven 15-minute modules on the [Indigenous Climate Change Adaptation and Planning](#) toolkit they developed. This short course helps Indigenous communities with climate change planning, wherever they are in that process.

When and how? [Create an account](#) with CIER and you can enrol and complete the course at your own pace.



News and Media

First Nations Knowledge Keepers across BC call for urgent climate action to restore balance and reciprocal relationships with Mother Earth



In November 2023, First Nation Knowledge Keepers from across the province gathered in ceremony on Tsleil-Waututh Territory to discuss the roots of climate change, its impacts on the Land and all living beings, as well as solutions and responsibilities.

First Nations throughout BC and Canada, and Indigenous Peoples around the world, continue to heal from the impacts and trauma caused by colonialism and are adapting to climate change through the revitalization of culture, ceremony, natural laws, governance systems and languages. Knowledge Keepers recognize that building relationships between First Nations and non-Indigenous communities and decision-makers is an essential aspect of healing.

“It is clear that the solutions to the climate crisis are held by our Elders and Knowledge Keepers. This existential threat to humanity is part of the sickness of our societies; as our Indigenous cultures heal from the trauma of colonialism and capitalism, we will show each other and our neighbours how to heal, to stand together, lift each other up, be hopeful and bring balance back to our lands and communities” – Regional Chief Terry Teegee of the BC Assembly of First Nations.

Source/photo source: [BC Assembly of First Nations](#); created image on Canva.

WATCH: Silavut Asijiliqtuq – The Weather is Changing, 2023 (23 mins)



The short [video](#) “Silavut Asijiliqtuq – The Weather is Changing” explores how Inuit have been leaders, for decades, in the fight against climate change.

“Her Excellency Governor General of Canada Mary Simon speaks about the importance of the 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. Sheila Watt-Cloutier comments on the court challenge in the mid 2000s by Inuit at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to fight for the right to be cold. Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorrough addresses the contributions Inuit are making at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as expert reviewers. Our current ICC Chair Sara Olsvig speaks to contemporary issues such as the false dichotomy between the developed and developing world.”

Source/photo source: Inuit Circumpolar Council [YouTube channel](#); still from video.

Times Spent Together

October: Adaptation Futures conference

The first week of October was a whirlwind of plenaries/sessions (online and in-person), dinners and exploration in Old Montréal!

Some highlights included supporting Denni Clement in her presentation on the Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group, a visit to the Botanical Garden, and an Italian ICAN dinner with partners.



November: First Nations Energy Summit

Early November at FNES in downtown Vancouver brought a full four days with presentations, networking, and an in-person monthly network meeting. Some of the most memorable points were hearing from CACs Leona and Terry on the Long-Term Resource Planning and BC Hydro's diesel reduction strategy for the NIA, the New Relationship Trust dinner (picture from NRT's LinkedIn) and a project-related visit to the Queen of Peace Monastery's micro hydro project, 30km north of Squamish.

