

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



Network Updates

December 2024

Reflections...

As the year comes to a close, the Network has had plenty to reflect on and celebrate! This year saw some shifts with CACs transitioning out of their roles into other important endeavours as well as a very recent welcoming of a new CAC to Metlakatla. Thank you Holly, Bryn, Hermann and Terry for your great commitment to the work, and welcome to Garrett and Colleen! Also congratulations to Terry for moving from the CAC role into Chief Administrative Officer for his Nation.

Another big congratulations to the Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group for all of the good work that they've been moving forward - read more in [News and Media](#) on the Premier's Award for Regional Impact. We are also so proud of CACs Lori and Melissa who completed the Indigenous Clean Energy's Catalysts 20/20 program and presented at the Changemakers Forum in November, as well as Oriana who has been receiving mentorship and support for a solar powered greenhouse through ICE's ImaGENation program.

Looking ahead...

What's inside

Funding

- Community Emergency Preparedness Fund
- Community Opportunity Readiness Program (CORP)
- Codes Acceleration Fund (CAF)
- Funding finder tools

Events, Training and Resources

- RiRC 2025
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News and Media

- BC Premier's Award for Regional Impact to RCES

The Network is looking forward to the launch of the upcoming Mentorship program in the spring. We have also recently expanded our wrap-around supports to welcome Elder Contessa Brown from Haítzaq (Heiltsuk) Nation to be our Elder-in-Residence - we are grateful for her guidance and thoughtful care.



Network Lead Gabriela and Elder-in-Residence Contessa Brown at the Indigenous Clean Energy Networking Dinner, December 2024.

- Report: “Kinship and Prosperity: Proven Solutions for a Clean Energy Landscape”

Times Spent Together

- November / December
-

Funding Deadlines Coming Soon

- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food’s Indigenous Food Pathways Program

Deadline for applications: **January 10, 2025**

- NRCan’s Energy Innovation Program - National Energy Systems Modelling Call

Expression of Interest deadline: **January 24, 2025**

Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - 2 Streams

What? The Union of BC Municipalities is accepting applications for two streams of funding:

- **Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training** to help build local capacity on emergency support services through volunteer recruitment, retention and training (range of \$100,000 and under).

- **Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training** to help build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve an Emergency Operations Centre and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises (range of \$100,000 and under).

When? Next intake deadline for the ESS Equipment and Training stream is **January 31, 2025** (funding permitting); next intake deadline for the EOC Equipment and Training stream is **February 28, 2025** (funding permitting).

Community Opportunity Readiness Program (CORP)

What? Indigenous Services Canada provides project-based funding to First Nation communities for a range of activities to support economic opportunities and leverage private sector resources necessary to realize the full potential of these opportunities. The CORP Regional Process is designed to support proposals requesting up to \$250,000. Projects requesting over \$250,000 are ranked and reviewed through the national CORP Prioritization Framework Process, which is intended to support projects with the most optimal economic opportunities.

When? Funding requests for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are open until **March 3, 2025**.

Codes Acceleration Fund (CAF) - 2 Streams

What? Natural Resources Canada's CAF aims to accelerate the adoption and implementation of high energy performance tiers of the national model energy codes for homes and buildings. The funding is split into two streams: for applicants who have the authority to adopt energy codes (\$80 million allocated), or for applicants who don't have the authority to adopt energy codes (\$20 million allocated). Eligible activities for this fund include technical/feasibility studies, training, stakeholder/community engagement, and more.

When? Indigenous applicants have until **March 31, 2025** (or until funds are exhausted).

Funding finder tools:

- The BC Community Climate Funding Guide and the Funding Finder Tool are online resources for those searching for project funding with grants and programs (from under \$100,000 to over \$1,000,000).
- Community Power has a Funding Opportunities Database that you can access (once you give a name and email address).

- Search for [federal funding programs](#) that are available to support Indigenous climate action.

Events, Training and Resources

Renewables in Remote Communities Conference (RiRC2025)

What? Hosted by Pembina Institute, the Renewables in Remote Communities Conference is held every second year with the goal of accelerating and supporting an Indigenous-led transition to clean energy.

When and how? Happening **March 25-28th, 2025**, let Lisa know that you intend to come to set up your registration and accommodations!



Climate Action dinner with partners and friends at the RiRC in Whitehorse, April 2022.

Climate Ready Infrastructure Service

What? The [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#) (CRIS) is a newly established national capacity-building project that connects local governments and communities with climate experts to support the integration of low-carbon resilience into local infrastructure projects across Canada.

When and how? Communities are invited to register before **January 31, 2025**. Review eligibility requirements and registration [here](#), FAQ on the initiative [here](#).

Climate Insight Solutions Finder

What? The [Solutions Finder](#) is a tool you can use to explore different mitigation and adaptation projects you can undertake for the given parameters of your community. You answer a series of questions and the Finder will give you results based on a category of asset (includes buildings, facilities and community housing; transportation; public transit; water, wastewater and stormwater utilities; solid waste; and green infrastructure).

Maps of the Month: First Fall Frost, Ice Days



What? [ClimateData.ca](#) releases a “Map of the Month” where they dive into a type of climate map to show how and why that topic is important. The changes in the first fall frost date affects agricultural planning, ecological timing of local ecosystems, biodiversity and food webs (see map [here](#)). Changes to the number of ice days, or the number of days when temperatures have remained below freezing for 24 hours, can indicate how long and severe the winter season is. Looking to future projections can show us what plants and animals will survive, how to design buildings and vehicles or what energy systems to rely on (see map [here](#)).

News and Media

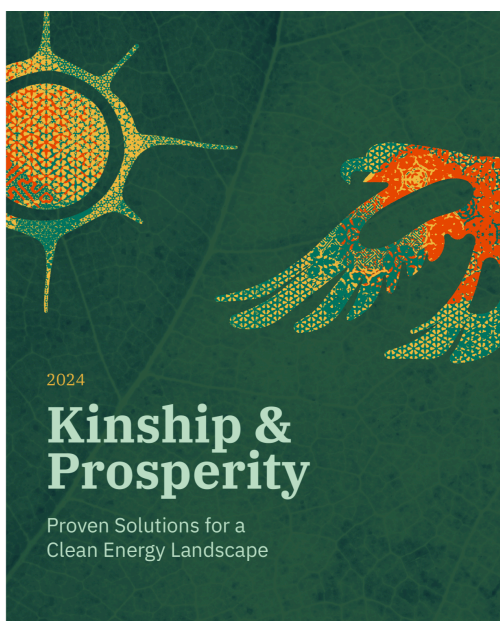
BC Premier’s Award for Regional Impact goes to Remote Community Energy Strategy work

At the 2024 [BC Premier’s Awards](#) for Innovation and Excellence, the BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions’ CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) received the [Regional Impact award](#) recognizing clean energy innovation in remote communities.

RCES is a multi-stakeholder initiative created to achieve a diesel consumption reduction goal of 80% by 2030 in remote communities – most of which are First Nation communities that are not connected to the provincial electricity grid. RCES focuses action through three streams: capacity building, efficient and low carbon buildings and renewable energy generation.

The RCES Working Group, whose important work guides policy development and implementation, is made up of representatives from the following Nations: Gitga’at, Haida, Haítzaqv (Heiltsuk), Nuxalk, Ulkatcho, Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa’mis and Xenigwet’in. In June 2022, the working group provided a Recommendations Report to the Province on how to achieve the goals of RCES, which included an emphasis on the need for the implementation of the UNDRIP/DRIPA and DRIPA Action Plan and the importance of making GHG emissions targets more incremental and distinct as well as increasing the final target from 80% to 100% renewable energy for all primary sources by 2030.

Report: “Kinship and Prosperity: Proven Solutions for a Clean Energy Landscape”

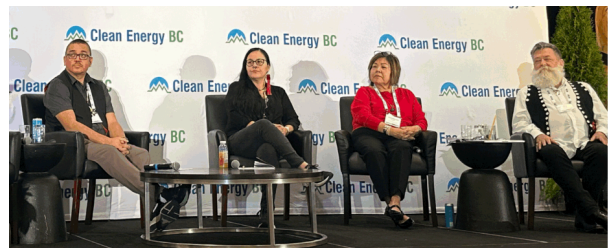


- 1 Ease Access to Funding**
 Resolve **siload funding impacts** through integration of funding streams and continuation of the **one window and no closed-door approach**. **Accelerate** review processes and recognize trusted partners. **Enhance communication and collaboration** with Indigenous communities.
- 2 Develop Consistent Project Eligibility Criteria that prioritizes Indigenous Community Benefits**
 Develop **project eligibility criteria** that are **consistent** across programs and departments, ensure community benefit is demonstrated, and prioritize **Indigenous-led** initiatives. Develop a **unified eligibility tool**, improve consultant vetting, tailor assessments, fund communities directly, be **transparent** with data, improve **post-project evaluations**, support **community energy planning and community ownership**, and enable **free, prior, and informed choices**.
- 3 Advance Inclusive Opportunities and a just Transition**
 Align action with the **Just Transition** principles and Canada's sustainable development goals. **Enhance outreach** and educational events that **prioritize community readiness**, advance **energy democracy**, and advance **battery innovation**.
- 4 Accelerate Indigenous Leadership in the Energy Transition**
 Build upon **successful federal initiatives** (e.g., Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative) and use **convening power** to ensure all governments, utilities, and private stakeholders **accelerate Indigenous leadership**. Reduce and **share project risks** and integrate **free, prior, and informed consent**.
- 5 Respect Self-Determination by prioritizing Indigenous-led Decisions**
 Act on **recommendations from historical engagement**, demonstrate **compliance with the UNDA Action Plan**, celebrate and **profile Indigenous leadership**, and **prioritize joint decision-making**.
- 6 Sustainably Fund Indigenous Participation**
 Develop a **coordinated plan to fund Indigenous climate action**, **redirect fossil fuel subsidies**, ensure **Indigenous representation in decision-making**, include **restitution and redress**, establish **multi-year grants**, and advance **economic reconciliation**.

The Wah-ila-toos Indigenous Council recently published a report titled “Kinship and Prosperity: Proven Solutions for a Clean Energy Landscape,” which outlines guidelines and recommendations, as seen summarized above, that will help with the development of strategy, policy, and legislation, and provide a framework for integrating Indigenous voices into Canada’s climate strategy, ensuring a sustainable and just future for all: “as we look forward, it is evident that the path to a sustainable future lies in recognizing and amplifying the voices of Indigenous Peoples, in simplifying the process and removing unnecessary complexities, and in learning from our experiences.”

Times Spent Together

The late fall had some wonderful opportunities for connection and collaboration. November had a hybrid virtual/in-person team building day for ICAN staff that included a cooking class and December brought most of the Network together for the First Nations Energy Summit in Vancouver. There were illuminating sessions with some of the CACs (Zuǰvalaqs Leona Humchitt, Xuta Terry Webber) sharing their work and knowledge on how to support and uplift Indigenous-led clean energy projects as well as a wonderful Indigenous Clean Energy Networking Dinner jointly-organized by ICAN, Fraser Basin Council and New Relationship Trust. The Network also made the most of the in-person time together and hosted our CAC monthly meeting with a presentation on building energy efficient cultural housing by Richard Hall and a presentation on CEDR funding by New Relationship Trust.



Visit ICAN's website

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