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NEWSLETTER

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



Network Updates

Spring - May 2025

Mentorship Launch and Honouring Leona Humchitt

The Network celebrated the official launch of the Mentorship Program in late April in North Vancouver! We were honoured to have the Squamish Ocean Canoe family share their cultural teachings, songs and dances with us, especially as a Host Nation who have stewarded those lands and waters for generations. We were also very grateful to the Squamish Elders who joined us for lunch and sharing on mentorship in the afternoon.



Group photo from Mentorship Launch day, April 2025.

What's inside

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- Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program
- NRT: Nation Building Grant
- Funding finder tools

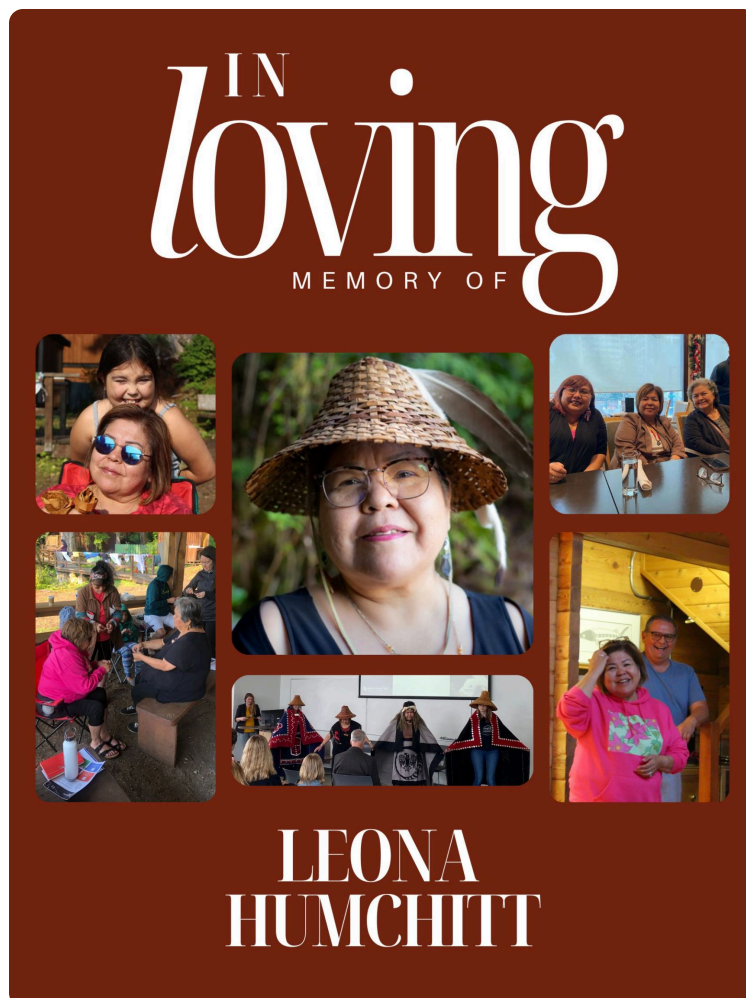
Events, Training and Resources

- FNHES Learning Lab: Climate Resilient Retrofits
- Indigenous Perspectives Roundtables
- National Indigenous Peoples Day - June 21st
- First Nations Guide to Emergency Management Self-Resiliency

It was heartwarming to see Mentees and Mentors meeting and sharing with one another to build their connections and get a better sense of who they'd like to match with. The Network Staff, especially our new Mentorship Network Facilitator, Lisa Luscombe, are looking forward to supporting these mentoring relationships to develop and deepen over the coming months!

Háikálá q̓s Wúwáx̓díyáx̓ q̓n q̓nts Páiniyáx̓

It was a great honour to have our beloved, late Leona Humchitt memorialized at the Launch by Elder Contessa and CACs Daniel Cupples and Melissa Cahoose. ġiáxsiḡa (thank you) to Haítzaq̓v (Heiltsuk) Elders and community members Liz Brown, Gilbert and Gloria Jackson, for the Heiltsuk naming of the Mentorship program to uplift Leona, her “heart work” and all of the mentorship and guidance she lovingly gave to so many of us.



- “Indigenous Utilities” Report

News and Media

- Bills 14 and 15 now law, despite First Nations leaders opposition
- What to Watch: Indigenous History and Pride Month

Times Spent Together

- March / April
- Departing and Joining CACs

Funding Deadlines Coming Soon

- BC’s Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding program
→Deadline for Expression of Interest: **June 27, 2025**
- New Relationship Trust’s CEDR - Stream 3: Renewable Energy Generation
→Deadline for applications: **July 2, 2025**
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant
→Deadline for applications: **July 15, 2025**

Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities

BC Parks Foundation: BC Conservation Fund

What? The BC Parks Foundation is accepting Expressions of Interest for Stream 1 Funding (Area-Based Conservation Initiatives). This funding stream includes phases/projects that are focused on securing a community mandate, conservation planning and agreements, or long-term stewardship and restoration of new conservation areas. The amount of funding given will vary depending on the funding stream and phase; however, they anticipate smaller, more community-based initiatives will tend to range up to \$100,000, whereas more complex, multi-year projects will likely range up to \$250,000.

When? Expressions of Interest (Eoi) are due **July 4, 2025** and following that submission the Fund will advise Eoi applicants to submit a full application in early September.

Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program, South

What? Indigenous Services Canada has a Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program with a Stream for First Nations South of 60°N (Nations within BC qualify). The program supports projects that focus on the health impacts of climate change with some possible areas of adaptation and research being: food security and access to traditional foods; engagement and knowledge transfer between Elders and youth; emergency preparedness; safety while on the land; and mental health impacts of climate change. In previous years, the program has provided up to \$125,000 per project, with recipients having up to two years to complete the project. For more details on applying, to discuss a project idea, or to request a proposal template please contact a program officer at cchap-pccas@sac-isc.gc.ca.

When? The deadline to submit a proposal is **September 12th, 2025**.

New Relationship Trust: Nation Building Grant

What? New Relationship Trust has a Nation Building Grant that offers either a 1 year grant of up to \$60,000 or a 2 year grant of up to \$120,000 for projects and activities focused on strengthening the institutional, governance and community capacities in reclaiming and rebuilding resiliency, self-determination and sovereignty within each Nation's context. Some example projects include habitat restoration and environmental feasibility studies; commercial development and business acquisition plans; and land use, strategic, community energy and economic development plans.

If you have questions or want to discuss a potential project, you can reach out to nationbuilding@nrtf.ca.

When? Applicants have until **December 5th, 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.
 - Coast Funds has [updated their list of current funding opportunities](#) and grants to support First Nations' projects for the summer.
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Events, Training and Resources

FNHES Learning Lab: Climate Resilient Retrofits - Planning for Multiple Hazards

What? Fraser Basin Council's First Nations Home EnergySave is hosting a virtual Learning Lab on a new tool called the Climate Resilient Retrofits Database, with guest speakers from the creators Partners for Action and the National Research Council Canada. Participants will get a chance to try out the database and learn how to use it to help decision making about retrofitting community buildings for multiple climate hazards and improving energy efficiency.



When and how? Happening **June 17th, 2025**, [register here!](#)

Indigenous Perspectives Roundtables

What? The virtual Indigenous Perspectives roundtable is hosted every year in partnership with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources and it brings together over 1,000 people to share and reflect on Indigenous-led research and knowledges on climate issues.

There are two roundtables with the following topics:

- Indigenous Ways of Knowing as Climate Policy on **June 18**
 - Discussion of 3 case studies that highlight why Indigenous governance approaches and worldviews are essential for more effective climate adaptation and mitigation policies
- Indigenous Power as the Pathway to Clean Electricity on **June 19**
 - Exploring the necessity and potential of expanded Indigenous participation in the development, delivery, and security of clean electricity

When and how? Learn more and register for the virtual **June 18th** and/or **June 19th Roundtables** [here!](#)

National Indigenous Peoples Day - June 21st

National Indigenous Peoples Day, overlapping with the Summer Solstice this year, is a day to celebrate, recognize and uplift the cultures and traditions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. On June 21st, Network staff hope you can take some time to be with family and loved ones, to be on the land and to connect to what is meaningful to you. For those who are non-Indigenous, we encourage you to connect to the land and learn more about those who have been its caretakers for centuries/since time immemorial.

Indigenous Tourism BC [has a list of events](#) happening all over the Province (scroll to the bottom) so you can participate in nearby events that are open to the public to learn and celebrate in community.



First Nations Guide to Emergency Management Self-Resiliency

What? The First Nations Guide to Emergency Management Self-Resiliency was created by Indigenous Youth Interns and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, who produced the Guide by collecting input and feedback from communities, partnership tables, and the provincial government. The Guide is meant to provide an introduction to emergency management, hazard-specific terminology, fact sheets and contact information. It is intended for use by Emergency Program Coordinators or those that oversee and coordinate emergency planning efforts at the community level. The Guide is promoted to be used alongside the Emergency Management Planning Guide, [found here](#).

When and how? The guide is available to download at [the link here](#).

“Indigenous Utilities: The building of Indigenous-owned electrical utilities in Canada” Report

What? The First Nations Major Project Coalition (FNMPC) has released a report looking at Indigenous-owned utilities in both Canada and the US. The report explores why Indigenous nations may want to form a utility, a range of possible utility models and what the barriers, challenges and risks may be. It gives recommendations for governments, utilities and regulators, as well as recommendations for Nations.

When and how? The report is available to download at [the link here](#).

News and Media

Bills 14 and 15 now law, despite First Nations leaders opposition

Bill 14 (Renewable Energy Projects - Streamlined Permitting Act) and Bill 15 (Infrastructure Projects Act) were both rushed through the legislature the first week of June, [despite many concerns on their impact to First Nations’ Rights and Title](#). Backlash to Bill 15 has been building since it was first introduced in the legislature on May 1. While the bill has been claimed to “reduce delays for urgently needed projects” like schools and hospitals, many cite that the lack of consultation and environmental protections work against advancing Reconciliation. Chief Don Tom of the Tsartlip First Nation said [First Nations will do everything in their legal power](#) to challenge the bills in court.

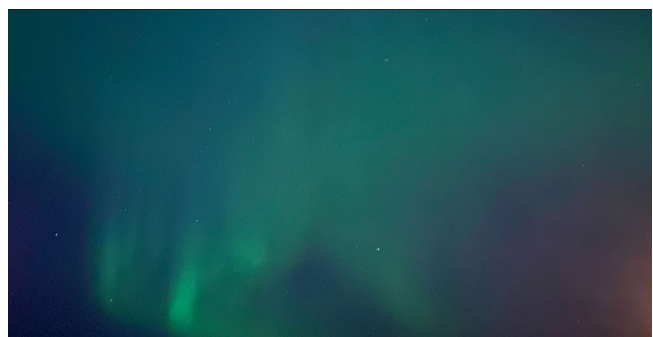
What to Watch: Indigenous History and Pride Month

With June being both Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month, we're highlighting shows and movies that explore Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ experiences. imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival has an online festival happening June 9-15th, with movies like *Inkwo for When the Starving Return*, *Aviliaq (Entwined)*, and the compilation of short films *Rainbow Shorts* that you can watch online for \$6. See full list of all [virtual films/shows here](#).

The [National Film Board of Canada](#) is also releasing films for Indigenous History Month - watch *My Friend the Green Horse* by Abenaki American-Canadian filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, *Northlore* animated by Dene artist Casey Koyczan or *First Stories - Two Spirited*.

Times Spent Together

Most of the Network attended Pembina's Renewables in Remote Communities conference late March in beautiful Whitehorse, Yukon on the shared traditional territory of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. Network staff and CACs Daniel Cupples (Lhoosk'uz Dene), Garrett Russ (Skidegate) and Kevin Brown (Old Massett) took the opportunity to present on ICAN and their communities. Network Lead Gabriela also sat on a panel discussing "Capacity Building & Empowering Community Involvement in the Clean Energy Transition" with fellow capacity building programs like ICE's 20/20 Catalysts and the Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy.





The Network has had some changes over the spring - we've said our heartfelt goodbyes and are wishing all the best to the future endeavours of Jamie Pond (Kwikwasut'inuxw Hax'wamis), and CACs Lori Saunders (Xeni Gwet'in) and Chris Monaghan (Uchucklesaht). We've also welcomed (or welcomed back!) CACs Elijah Mecham (Nuxalk), Sydni McCue (Kitasoo Xai'xais), Kim Spencer (Gitxaala), Hayden Keating (Gitga'at), Nigel Moore (Uchucklesaht), and Loretta Williams (Xeni Gwet'in).

More photos from the Mentorship Launch event



Members of the Squamish Ocean Canoe Family, April 2025.



Visit ICAN's website

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