

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



Network Updates

Hello to the hot, hot, summer!

ICAN staff hopes everyone has been able to stay safe and cool during some of these hot, dry, wildfire days. Hopefully there have been restoring moments away from work to be on the land, connecting with community, family and loved ones!

ICAN recently invited Nikkayla Gladstone, a Youth Intern for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, to share about funding pathways and how to get more Indigenous Youth involved in clean energy opportunities. Continuing on that theme, we have highlighted some events and resources in this newsletter that are aimed towards supporting and uplifting young people and their important perspectives.



Haida Pole from a previous ICAN retreat, May 2023.

Summer 2025

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With September nearly upon us, ICAN staff have been busy preparing for the yearly retreat - this year taking place on Haida Gwaii. We are so grateful to be visiting the beautiful island and we're looking forward to all of our planned activities including a family potlatch, and visits to a carving studio and clean energy sites (geothermal, solar and tidal power). We've also got our fingers crossed for good weather to allow a trip to the conservation area and Haida Heritage site Gwaii Haanas.



Mentorship in action! Our Elder-in-Residence with CACs at the Renewables in Remote Communities conference, March 2025.

ICAN staff have been overjoyed to see the excitement and commitment that mentors and mentees have been bringing to the Háikálá q̓s Wúwáx̓díyaʔ q̓n q̓nts Páiniyaʔ (ICAN Mentorship program). With the initial 3 month pilot phase coming to a close in July, staff have been checking in and collecting feedback on how the program is going and we are so pleased to see how immediate and significant the support has been for everyone, especially the mentees. Mentorship has always been an important part of the Network and it has been wonderful to witness how positive the experience has been so far with this more formalized matching of mentor-mentee pairs. ICAN staff are grateful to the mentors and mentees for putting so much time and care into this program and we look forward to continuing to improve and expand it to uplift these special connections!

Funding Deadlines Coming Soon

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities' [Green Municipal Fund for Implementation Projects](#)

→ Deadline for application: **August 19, 2025** (with pre-application required before application submission)

- Union of BC Municipalities' [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports](#)

→ Deadline for applications: **September 30, 2025**

- New Relationship Trust CEDR program: [CEP and DSM streams](#)

→ Deadline for applications: **November 28, 2025**

Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities

Union of BC Municipalities' Community to Community Program

What? The goal of this regional [Community to Community \(C2C\) program](#) is increased understanding and improved overall relations between First Nations and local governments. The C2C program supports this goal with funding for:

- forums that support dialogue to build relationships, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest or concern, or to advance tangible outcomes
- developing agreements (such as protocols, MOUs, and service agreements), joint plans and/or strategies that advance First Nation/local government reconciliation and relationship building
- joint review of bylaws and/or policies in order to develop recommendations for amendments or new bylaws and/or policies that advance reconciliation.

Projects funded under this program must be completed within one year from the date of grant approval. Each project can receive up to \$20,000 in financial assistance, with \$10,000 towards C2C forums, and \$10,000 for C2C agreements and joint review of bylaws/policies.

When? Applications are accepted from April 9 to **September 5, 2025**, and will be reviewed after the intake deadline on September 5.

TELUS Indigenous Communities Fund

What? The TELUS Indigenous Communities Fund provides flexible grant funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for Indigenous-led social, health, and community programs across all Canadian provinces and territories. Funding is available for projects focused on, but not limited to the following:

- health, mental health and well-being
- access to education and resources
- preservation of the land and water
- community building and enhancement
- intergenerational language and cultural revitalization

Preference may be given to programs where technology is being used to advance reconciliation and with the following community outcomes: accomplishing individual and community wellness and healing, reviving cultural strength, knowledge and skills, helping overcome geographical and economical barriers and/or increasing social connections to help foster community engagement.

When? Applications are accepted during two periods annually. The Fall application window is from September 10 to **October 9, 2025**, or until the first 200 applications are received.

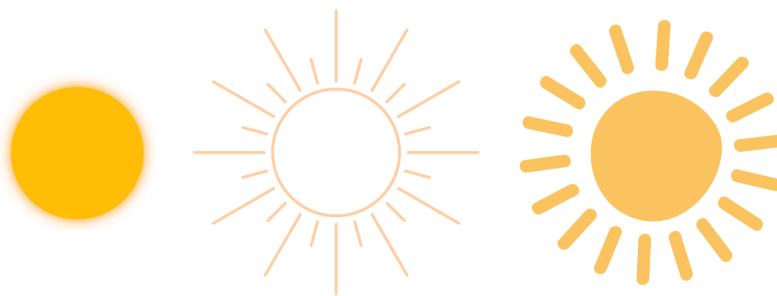
Oshki Wupoowane / The Blanket Fund - Reconciliation Action stream

What? The Blanket Fund provides funding for Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities for amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$15,000. Indigenous people, as well as Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations in Canada, are eligible to apply. The Reconciliation Action Grants stream supports reconciliation activities, events, and initiatives in communities that contribute to:

- cultural revitalization
- elevating Indigenous culture, languages, and traditions
- increasing understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
- other grassroots initiatives that move reconciliation forward

When? This is an ongoing funding opportunity, applications are accepted on a

quarterly basis.



Funding finder tools:

- **NEWLY DISCOVERED:** [Climate Caucus' Grants List](#) that includes tabs for National and BC-specific funding opportunities.
- 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

2025 Land + Youth Digital Conference

What? The Land and Youth Digital Conference is a free global event amplifying youth voices in land and climate change governance. It will work as a space for young groups to articulate the ideas they want to champion leading up to, during, and beyond COP 30 in Brazil. The conference will bring together a diverse range of participants, including young Indigenous leaders, practitioners, and surveyors.

The following themes for youth will be explored:

- social justice
- sustainable management
- climate change
- conflicts, migration and displacement
- jobs
- Indigenous rights
- digitalization and access to information

When and how? Happening **September 9 to 11**, 2025 - [learn more and register here!](#)



Upcoming Webinars on Funding Opportunities

- **What?** The Tamarack Institute is having an information session on their Community Climate Transitions Innovation Fund to give an overview of the project, provide examples of past projects and answer questions.

When and how? August 21, 2025 at 10am. [Learn more](#) and [register here!](#)

- **What?** UBCM is having an information session on their upcoming 2026 FireSmart Community and Funding Supports program intake. They will also be posting the recorded session afterwards on [their website](#).

When and how? October 1, 2025 at 1:30pm - [register here](#).

How to stay safe with Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke

[Climate ReadyBC](#) has information sheets on what to do, how to monitor air quality and temperature advisories and who is at higher risk of health impacts for various climate-related hazards. For this hot and smoky summer season, the following resources can be helpful to review and share with your community:

- [How to keep yourself and others safe during extreme heat](#)
- [How to keep yourself and others safe with wildfire smoke](#)

How to protect yourself from wildfire smoke



Take it easy. The more active you are, the harder it is on your lungs.



Wear a tight fitting 3-layer cloth or disposable mask when outside



Drink plenty of water to help your body cope with the smoke.



Check on your community—especially those more sensitive to smoke.



If possible, visit places that have cooler and cleaner air.



Stay indoors and keep windows closed if it's safe to do so.

Climate Dashboard

CBC News has an [interactive Climate Dashboard](#) where you can easily access historical trends, records and projections for any location. You can compare across the country to see what the current temperature and precipitation levels are, as well as where active wildfires are occurring.

Report: Supporting Indigenous Youth, Why On-The-Land and On-The-Water Programming is Important

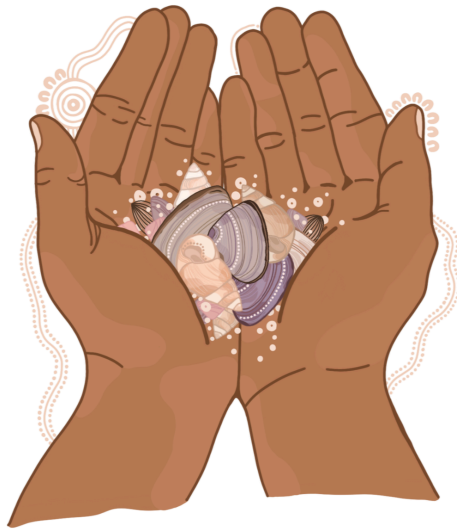
What? This “[Supporting Indigenous Youth](#)” report provides a high level summary of existing evidence on the value and importance of providing and supporting on-the-land/water programming for Indigenous youth within Canada. The on-the-land/water programs that were included are those informed by Indigenous teachings, using the land or water as the main source of knowledge and teaching, and involving cultural teachings and intergenerational knowledge transfer in a rural or nature-based remote location for youth up to 24 years old. This resource can be used to provide evidence for the impact of, to support funding applications for, and to provide examples of on-the-land/water programming for Indigenous youth in Canada.

Some of the positive outcomes that were found from on-the-land/water programs for Indigenous youth included increasing:

- Indigenous leadership
- stewardship
- climate change monitoring/understanding
- food security

- health and wellness (physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and intergenerational trauma and healing)

How to access? Available at the link [here](#).



News and Media

Indigenous fire guardians program in Kainai Nation

Members of the Blackfeet fire management in Montana, Waterton Lakes National Park and the Kainai fire department came together earlier this year in southern Alberta, with funding from Natural Resources Canada, to bring fire back to the land with the intention to heal. As reported on by the Narwhal, these communities took four days in May for a knowledge exchange on cultural fire and training on how to responsibly set fires. The Kainai Nation, as part of the Blackfoot Confederacy, has a traditional use of fire and it goes as far back to creation stories like the story of Napi the trickster and the Sun leggings. A fuel specialist, from Blackfoot and Kainai Nations, notes that when he got into prescribed burns he started learning about traditional methods of burning by the Blackfoot people, such as lighting cattails, sap-covered pine cones and cow or bison dung.

The use of fire among Indigenous Peoples in Canada wasn't just lost, it was taken away through colonial fire exclusion policies - BC was the first province to outlaw cultural burns in 1874, and other provinces followed. Indigenous land sovereignty is inextricably tied to traditional land management practices which includes cultural burns. While there are more than 200 Indigenous guardians programs in Canada, this fire program is the first of its kind. The focus of the program on intentional burns can help meet a variety of cultural land stewardship objectives for the community such as reducing invasive plants, improving berry habitat, opening up trails, creating firewood, etc. For more on wildfires across the country and how they are affecting Indigenous communities see [The Narwhal's Wildfire](#) topic section.

What to Watch: “Medicine Surrounds Us”

With ICAN staff and CACs getting ready for our yearly retreat to Haida Gwaii this September, we wanted to highlight some the island's traditional and medicinal plant species. [Watch this guided walk down Spirit Lake Trail](#) with Linda Tollas (Gaajiaawa) who has been passed down knowledge through her family's generations on local

plants and their uses. She shares when to harvest, what parts of the plants are used for what purposes and how to identify plants like the Lady Fern, Blue Huckleberry and Bracken.



Haida Tourism also highlights the “Giants” of their coastal rainforests [in this resource](#), where you can see photos and learn more about the tree species that are culturally important and deeply woven into Haida society. Of all the included trees, the Western Hemlock is the tree that lives the shortest at 500 years! Just to think... if you encountered a mature and dying Hemlock tree today, your ancestors from about 17 generations ago could have known that same tree!



Times Spent Together

The Network was thrilled to attend [the groundbreaking ceremony](#) for Ulkatcho’s Anahim Lake Solar Project in June. This project is set to be the largest off-grid solar power project in the country and is 100% owned by the Ulkatcho Energy Corporation. It is projected to reduce the community’s use of diesel by 64%.



It was a wonderful ceremony with the whole community really coming together to share with guests all sorts of delicious foods and treats that were served by the community’s youth, who were dressed in their finest regalia. Among the sharing from Ulkatcho leadership and CAC Melissa Cahoose, funding and project partners, ICAN leadership also presented about the Network. There was a visit to the solar site, with a ribbon-cutting celebration cut by a youth. Network staff are so proud of CAC Melissa Cahoose for her role in this project and big-hearted commitment to her work and her community.



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