

# INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



## Network Updates

Fall/Winter 2025

Happy holidays from ICAN! ❄️



*Group photo from the CFN-GBI 25th Anniversary Gala, December 2025.*

It has been a full fall and early winter with lots of in-community gatherings and trainings for the Indigenous Climate Action Network. September saw heat pump maintenance training and the ICAN retreat both take place in Haida Gwaii, and December had the First Nations Energy Summit and CFN-GBI's 25th anniversary dinner celebration in Vancouver (see more in the [Times Spent Together](#) section).

### **Haida Gwaii: Retreat and Heat Pump Training**

We were honoured to receive such a warm welcome for our team building trip to Haida Gwaii in September. Starting the visit with a family potlatch by CFN employee Leslie Brown, the group then toured solar and tidal projects, as well as visited the carving studios of renowned artists Jaalen Edenshaw and Christian White.

### **What's inside**

#### **Funding**

- Indigenous Clean Energy Charge Up
- Indigenous Stewardship Fund
- ECO Canada Youth job funding
- Funding finder tools

#### **Events, Training and Resources**

- Webinar: Capacity Building through Solar Hot Water Systems
- Colour-coded Weather Alerts Update
- Indigenous Climate Adaptation Training Scan
- Report: Building Strength Through Shelter
- Report: Restoring the Flow

#### **News and Media**

- Bear tracking in

The trip also included a powerful tribute to late Leona Humchitt, former CAC of the Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation; a dinner with leaders from the Skidegate Band Council; and a visit to Gwaii Haanas, where the group learned about the stand at Lyell Island, the Haida Legacy Pole, and so much more about Haida culture, language and history. The Network is particularly grateful to CACs Garrett Russ and Kevin Brown for being a big part of this wonderful retreat.



*Peer support includes laughter at Haida Gwaii retreat, September 2025.*

Participants from six ICAN communities (Skidegate, Old Massett, Haíłzaqv/Heiltsuk, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, Metlakatla and Kitasoo Xai'xais) took part in a three-day pilot training program for Heat Pump Operations and Maintenance, held at the Skidegate Community Hall on Haida Gwaii. Trainees included staff from housing, public works, operations and maintenance departments, as well as local contractors and tradespeople. The training was delivered through a collaboration between our Network, the [British Columbia Institute of Technology](#) and [Coastal Heat Pumps](#), with on-the-ground support from Garrett Russ, Climate Action Coordinator for the [Skidegate Band Council](#). [See more photos and details about the training here.](#)

Haíłzaqv territory

- Marine Refuges established along North Coast

### **Times Spent Together**

- December: FNES, CFN-GBI's 25th Anniversary
- September: Haida Gwaii

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## **Funding Deadlines Coming Soon**

- Northern Development Initiative Trust: [Community Places Program \(regional\)](#).

→ Deadline for application: **January 31, 2026**

- Pacific Salmon Foundation: [Community Salmon Program](#)

→ Intake opens early January with applications due: **February 15, 2026**

- New Relationship Trust [Indigenous Labour Market Fund](#)

→ Intake 2 is currently open until funds are exhausted



*Trainees inspect a mock-up of a ducted unit, September 2025.*

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## **Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Communities**

### **Indigenous Clean Energy Charge Up**

**What?** Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) reimburses 75% (up to set maximums) of electric vehicle charger installation costs for Indigenous communities and businesses. Funding covers Level 2 and Level 3 charging, but only covers charger installation, not ongoing maintenance or operating costs. [Learn more about eligibility here.](#)

**When?** Applications will be assessed monthly until all funding has been allocated. The total fund is \$1.6 million.

### **Indigenous Stewardship Fund: Climate Emergency Fund Program**

**What?** The Climate Emergency Fund Program, launched in 2024, is a partnership between the Indigenous Stewardship Fund and the First Nations Fisheries Council. The program supports urgent, Indigenous-led environmental restoration projects that protect and restore salmon populations and their habitats. The minimum funding amount per proposal is \$25,000.

Eligible projects could include:

- Wildfire recovery
- Drought relief
- Water flow augmentation
- Temperature monitoring



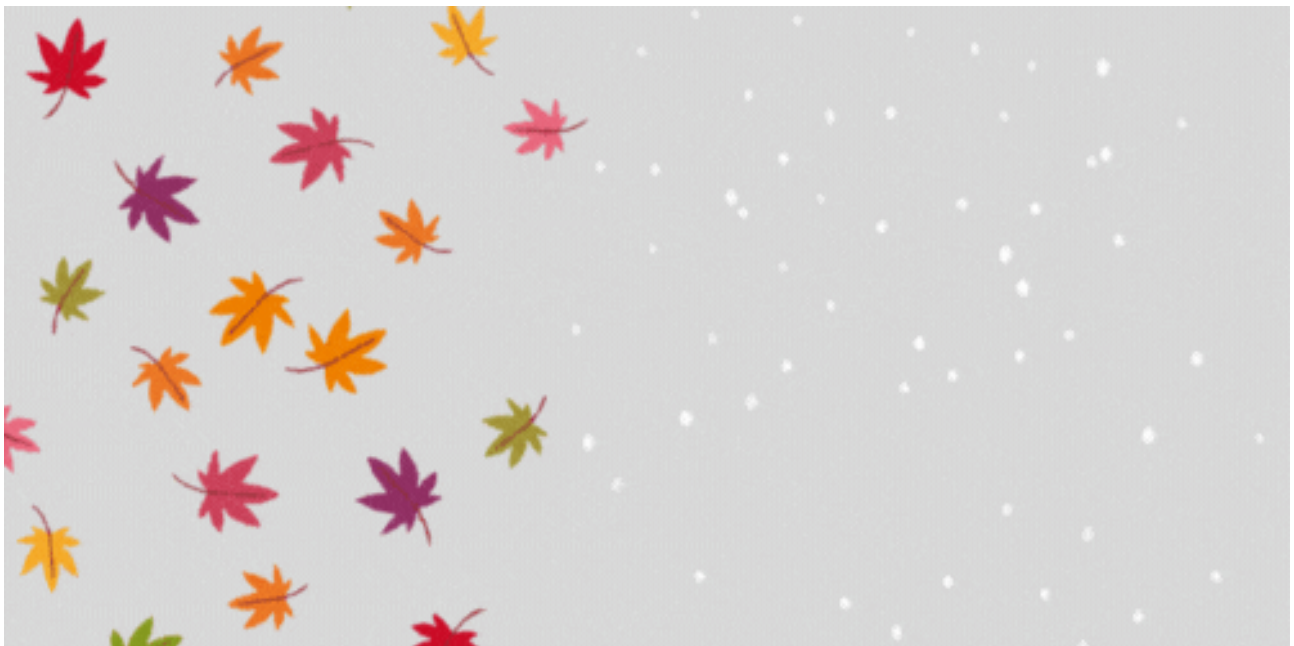
- Rescue of at-risk aquatic species
- Other critical environmental interventions

**When?** There is no formal deadline or intake period for this program. Funding is available on a rolling basis to support urgent, in-season environmental work. [Learn more here.](#)

## ECO Canada Youth in Natural Resources (placement funding)

**What?** ECO Canada and Natural Resources Canada have partnered to provide wage funding for employers looking to onboard young professionals into full-time one year work placements and job training. Employers, including Indigenous organizations and community groups, can receive wage reimbursements up to \$30,000 (typically 75% of salary) in Northern, rural and remote locations and for Indigenous youth. This program is explicitly designed to create entry-level career pathways, cover on-the-job training costs and reduce employer risk. Ideal for hiring youth stewardship workers, climate adaptation technicians, or trainees for installation/maintenance crews. [Request the program guide and learn more here.](#)

**When?** Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis - confirm placement caps and timelines with ECO Canada through the application process.



## Funding finder tools:

- **NEWLY DISCOVERED:** [Climate Caucus' Grants List](#) that includes tabs for National and BC-specific funding opportunities.
- **NEWLY UPDATED:** Coast Funds has released a [Winter Funding Opportunities](#) update that covers stewardship, sustainable energy, training, culture, and economic development programs.
- 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.
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## **Events, Training and Resources**

### **ICE Power Hour: Capacity Building and Empowerment through Solar Hot Water Systems Webinar**

**What?** Indigenous Clean Energy is hosting a [Power Hour with Wahkohtowin Development and CanmetENERGY](#) who will explore the story of how they worked together to build skills with youth through the building of community solar thermal collectors.

**When and how?** Happening over Zoom on **January 12th, 2026** - [register here!](#)

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### **Colour-coded Weather Alerts Update**

As of November 26, 2025, there is a new yellow, orange and red weather alert system (see government icons below) for warnings, advisories and watches. [Learn about more alert examples here.](#)



Yellow alerts mean hazardous weather that may cause damage, disruption, and/or health impacts.

These impacts are:

- moderate
- localized, and/or
- short-term



Orange alerts mean severe weather that is likely to cause significant damage, disruption, and/or health impacts.

These impacts are:

- major
- widespread, and/or
- may last a few days



Red alerts mean very dangerous and possibly life-threatening weather that will cause extreme damage and disruption.

These impacts are:

- extensive

- widespread, and/or
- prolonged

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## Indigenous Climate Adaptation Training Scan

**Indigenous Climate Hub** | Indigenous Climate Hub

The Indigenous Climate Hub is a platform designed by Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples across Canada to share their climate change experiences and stories. It provides access to resources and tools to help monitor and adapt to our ever-changing climate. The platform serves as a central hub for Indigenous climate change leaders working on similar challenges, fostering collaboration, and the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

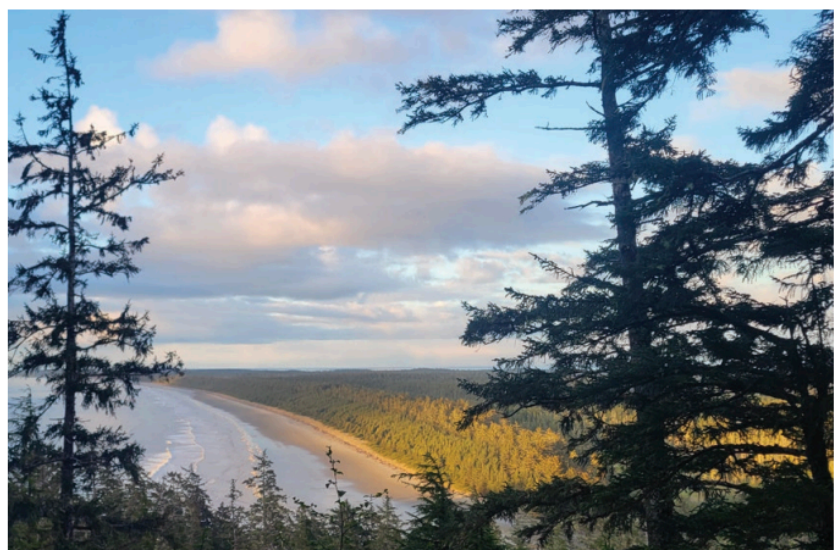
### The Hub includes:

- A [resource library](#), that has a comprehensive global catalogue featuring organizations, articles, and other multimedia on climate change
- A [repository](#) of climate adaptation projects (Canada-wide)
- Indigenous Climate Hub Podcast (launching Spring 2025)

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Access</b>	<b>Open source, online</b>
<b>Development timeframe</b>	<b>Ongoing updates</b>
<b>Geography of content</b>	<b>Across Canada</b>
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Intended audience</b>	<b>All First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals and communities</b>

### Key Features

- Extensive resource library
- Diverse perspectives
- Good at connecting to existing work and related networks
- Emerging repository with new resources being added frequently



**What?** CFN-GBI's Resilience Climate Action Network (RCAN) has [shared a Training Scan](#) that is helping to inform the development of the BC First Nations Climate Resilience Course - launching spring 2026. This training scan summarizes available resources and training programs on the topic of Indigenous climate adaptation. This scan can be used to support the work (with resources like toolkits) or professional

development (with free and paid trainings) for those in the climate adaptation space. See above image for an example from the Training Scan of one of the resources: [the Indigenous Climate Monitoring Toolkit from the First Peoples Group](#).

**How to access?** Access the Training Scan [at the link here](#).

## Report: Building Strength Through Shelter



**What?** This [new report “Building Strength Through Shelter: Policy prescriptions for Indigenous Healthy Energy Homes”](#) from the Canadian Climate Institute and Indigenous Clean Energy, with support from Shared Value Solutions, outlines an innovative approach to building and retrofitting Indigenous housing that will save governments money and, most importantly, save lives.

The research introduces a “Healthy Energy Homes” policy lens that can guide both new construction and deep retrofits. This approach focuses on improving energy efficiency, strengthening resilience to climate hazards like extreme heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, and erosion, and supporting health and overall well-being—all while advancing Indigenous self-determination and reconciliation. The report calls for a

fundamental shift: housing policies must be co-ordinated, long-term, and led by and for Indigenous people.

**How to access?** Find the [report and related information here](#). There was also a webinar that outlined the connections between housing, health outcomes and energy efficiency - find a [recording of that here](#). There will be another webinar on this report exploring policy recommendations on **February 11, 2026** - [this website should update](#) with details as soon as they become available.

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## Report: Restoring the Flow

**What?** Pembina Institute has released the [report “Restoring the Flow: Policies to support Indigenous-led clean energy in remote communities”](#) which lists and reviews policy action taken by federal, provincial and territorial governments to support diesel reduction and Indigenous clean energy leadership. It discusses policies that are helping to restore the flow of clean power back to communities, whether through transmission lines or local renewable generation projects such as hydro, wind, or solar power developments. But it’s about more than just electricity: restoring the flow also refers to the flow of benefits of energy development, and the flow of decision-making power, returning to the community.

**How to access?** Access the report [at the link here](#). There is also a video recording from the authors of the report - [found here](#).



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## News and Media

### Bear tracking in Haíłzaqv territory

*Originally reported on for [bioGraphic](#) by Jane Palmer*

Bears have great cultural and environmental importance to most ICAN communities. One ICAN community in particular, the Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation, is partnering with academics to create [their own model of bear navigation](#). Currently the provincial government uses satellite data to map bear habitats, rather than field studies, and



doesn't explicitly consider how bears travel between them. To develop a more realistic idea of how bears move and crisscross across the territory, Haítzaqv stewards are creating a tool for tracking bears that borrows from “circuit theory” used in electrical engineering.

To build this model, they are using this theory to calculate the “least cost” pathways that the bears might take to move through densely packed forests between salmon streams and combining it with community interviews, the Heiltsuk Traditional Use Study with Elder oral histories, and knowledge of bear movements from DNA samples of fur across the territory. One of the goals in identifying the bears' chosen navigational pathways is to help protect those corridors from future activities that could affect them, like logging or other intensive developments.



## **Marine Refuges established along North Coast with Gitxaala and Haida Nations**

Three marine refuges have been established with the federal government and Gitxaala and Haida Nations. The Haida Nation has worked for almost two decades on leading local marine planning efforts and two of these refuges, named Gaw Kaahlíi and Xaana Kaahlíi, will be co-managed by its council and the Fisheries Department. Gaw Kaahlíi and Xaana Kaahlíi cover almost 30 square kilometers in size and will “protect the habitat of several species of salmon and seabirds, as well as improve the well-being of herring, harbour seals and other animals.”

The third refuge, at about 436 square kilometre in size, is found west of Lax k'naga Sts'ool / Banks Island and “safeguards coral, sponges and key habitats for ts'mhoon (rockfish), including mo'ox (bull kelp), gyoós (giant kelp forests), and gadza k'aw (eelgrass beds).” To protect this Nl̓uut'iksgm Laxyuubm Gitxaala (sacred Gitxaala Territory), all commercial and recreational prawn and crab trap fisheries, and rockfish fishing are not allowed in the Banks Marine Refuge.

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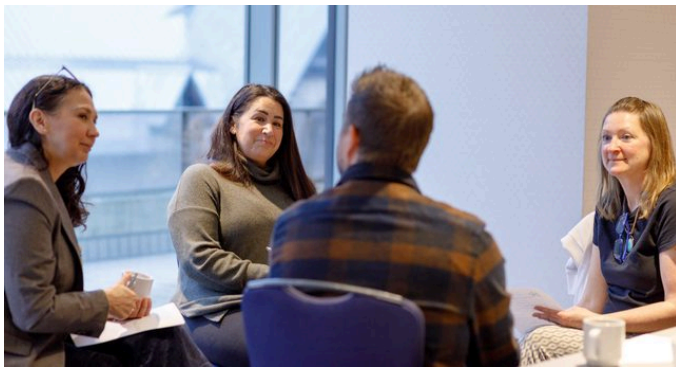
# Times Spent Together

## **Vancouver in December**

Early December brought most of the Network together to attend the First Nations Energy Summit (FNES) and CFN-GBI's 25th Anniversary Gala on xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations' territories. Amongst the panel discussions and speakers, FNES celebrated the completion of TII Yahda Energy's owned and operated Solar North project. [Learn more about the two-megawatt facility on Haida Gwaii here.](#) In addition to conference time, ICAN and New Relationship Trust partnered to host a networking dinner. The Network also hosted an in-person Monthly Meeting and a Mentorship session with a handful of ICAN mentors.







Some highlights from the 25th Anniversary Gala included commemorating many years of CFN-GBI successes and milestones, launching the Youth Scholarship in honour of Leona Humchitt and her Heartwork, and meeting the Indigenous leaders who helped form CFN-GBI as well as David Suzuki and Tara Cullis.



**Extras from Haida Gwaii...**









[Visit ICAN's website](#)

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