

A close-up photograph of a brown bear sitting on a large, weathered log in a forest. The bear is looking towards the left of the frame with a calm expression. The background is a soft-focus forest with tall trees and green foliage. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the bear's fur.

BC First Nations
**Climate
Strategy**
and Action Plan

Spring 2022

Project Acknowledgements

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) acknowledges the time and effort of all who contributed to the development of the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy).

This work was developed at a time when climate change and its impacts were observed and experienced by many across the province. First Nations communities and community members faced multiple emergency evacuations, home loss and damage, food and resource insecurity, and death due to changes in weather conditions and unprecedented environmental disasters such as wildfires, flooding, and record-breaking summer and winter temperatures. This extremely challenging period was exacerbated by the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the uncovering of thousands of unmarked graves at residential school sites across the country, and the continued fight against colonization and its impacts.

Despite this, First Nations leadership, community members, staff, and organizations continued to attend and participate in the Strategy's engagement activities and processes. Many Nations came together to build unity in recognition of the urgent response needed in the face of the climate emergency we are all witnessing today. The FNLC is extremely grateful for all the contributions made, knowledge shared, and assistance provided. Your leadership and dedicated advocacy are recognized and appreciated.

In collaboration with First Nations in BC, the Strategy was prepared by the FNLC Executive and the FNLC Project Team (Andrea Glickman, Colin Braker, Jaime Sanchez, Cheyenne Arnold-Cunningham, Josh Kioke, and Patricia Rojas) with guidance and assistance from the First Nations Climate Action Technical Advisory Group:

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Message from the FNLC

Since time immemorial, the relationships that First Nations have had with our environments have sustained us and profoundly informed our cultures and ways of living. The process of colonization has disrupted our land-based practices, displaced us from our traditional territories, impacted our relationship with the environment, and made us dependent on a social and economic system that relies on the exploitation, rather than stewardship, of natural resources. Climate change is a direct outcome of this worldview that relegates our living world to a set of resources to be exploited with little regard for the consequences. Our environment, and our relationships to it as First Nations, are again facing enormous transformations as the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident. The climate emergency is not a future problem, but the reality of our current moment.

For decades, Indigenous Peoples have raised concerns about environmental changes that diverged from patterns consistent with the knowledge passed down from prior generations. We now know that many of the observed shifts in environmental processes are driven by the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and that such changes will worsen if GHG emissions continue unmitigated. Already, the province of British Columbia has experienced some of the effects of the global increase in temperature – hotter summers, reduced summer streamflow, floods, droughts, and escalating wildfires are contributing to severe outcomes for vulnerable populations and crucial habitat for endangered and culturally-significant species. The viability of traditional First Nations practices is being eroded by climate change impacts – our rights as first peoples to practice our traditions on the land and waters are at risk of being extinguished by irreversible shifts in the conditions that sustain life in our territories.

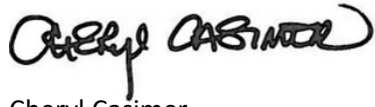
The disproportionate threat that climate change poses to First Nations' security and ways of life necessitates bold planning and action to reduce GHG emissions drastically and quickly, and to ensure that communities are fully prepared for the changes to come. In light of this, the FNLC, as mandated by First Nations in BC, has worked to develop the BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy centres the climate objectives of First Nations communities from all regions of the province to put forward recommendations for climate action that align with First Nations' values, worldviews, and priorities as well as GHG reduction targets aligned with recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

We hope that this document sets a foundation for communities to work from in their climate response while communicating to the Crown and other relevant partners how best to work with and support First Nations in climate action. The climate emergency requires immediate action from us all, with our combined strength, knowledge, and efforts, there is an opportunity to create unity and impactful partnerships to combat this crisis today and for the future generations.

Sincerely,

The First Nations Leadership Council

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Terry Teegee



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS**



**First Nations
Summit**



**Union of
British Columbia
Indian Chiefs**

The First Nations Leadership Council is a collaborative working group comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.



Executive Summary

Background

In 2019 and 2021, First Nations leadership in BC passed resolutions calling for the development of a BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (UBCIC Resolution No. 2019-02; BCAFN Resolution No. 04/2019; and FNS Resolution No. 2021.15). The FNLC was mandated to coordinate the development of this work in collaboration with First Nations in BC to ensure:

- First Nations' Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights were asserted and protected in addressing climate change.
- First Nations knowledge, laws, legal processes, and worldviews were recognized and implemented in climate planning and response.
- Effective and immediate responses to the climate emergency were identified to reduce impacts and vulnerability within and across communities.

The FNLC was instructed to also ensure that the Strategy would work to support reducing GHG emissions to 40-60% by 2030 from 2010 levels and net-zero emissions by 2050, support renewable energy and alternative energy economies, and strengthen the participation and leadership of First Nations in a green economy.

To develop the Strategy, the FNLC worked with First Nations in all regions of the province to identify community-specific challenges related to climate change and the needs and priorities for climate action. The Strategy combines input and feedback from First Nations leadership, staff, Elders, Knowledge Holders, youth, women, First Nations institutions and organizations, and climate experts and advocates.

The Strategy serves as a representation of the knowledge, histories, and experiences that have been shared but it does not represent the voice of all Indigenous Peoples.

There is more work to be done, there are more voices to be heard, there is more knowledge to be shared, and the Strategy cannot be used as a substitute for continuous and meaningful engagement with inherent Title and Rights holders directly.

The Strategy is province-wide in scope, seeking to respond to the needs and priorities of First Nations as a collective body. However, the Strategy also respects the diversity and self-determination of First Nations in BC who are invited to use the Strategy as a foundation to guide the development of their own climate responses and initiatives based on their unique needs, priorities, and processes.

Overview

The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan is grounded on a vision, five guiding principles, and four priority pathways for climate action (Figure 1.0).

The Strategy begins with a core pathway entitled **Inherent Title and Rights**. This pathway acts as an essential building block for First Nations climate action. It enables the work of all other identified pathways and is a key component to thoroughly meet the strategies and actions outlined in this document.

The other pathways identified are more specific to realize and respond to the impacts and experiences of First Nations across the province. They include:

- **Capacity and Leadership**
- **Land and Water Protection**
- **Climate Response and Preparedness.**

Each pathway is described in more detail in what follows. For more information relating to Strategy structure please see Appendix “A” – Guide to the Strategy. For a visual summary of Strategy content please see Appendix “B” – Summary Strategy Chart.

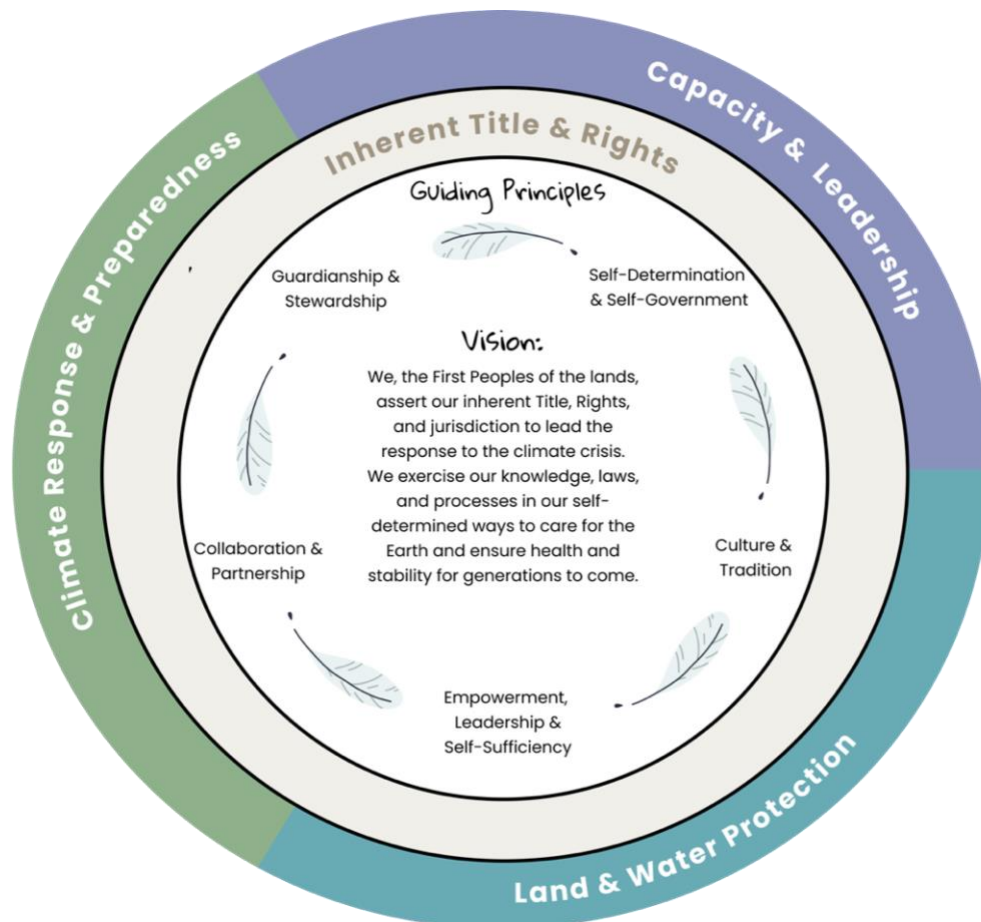


Figure 1.0: Vision, Guiding Principles, and Pathways

PATHWAY: INHERENT TITLE AND RIGHTS

Goal: Ensure First Nations' Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights in BC are recognized and affirmed in climate planning and response.

As a foundation to the Strategy, it is essential that First Nations in BC are recognized in climate planning and response as inherent Title and Rights holders. The aim is to provide an opportunity to begin a new path where First Nations are treated as true and equal partners in climate planning and response. This involves ensuring:

- First Nations in BC have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government, including their right to use their own laws, processes, language, and knowledge in climate action. This involves supporting First Nations in developing, maintaining, and implementing their own institutions, governing bodies, and political, economic, and social structures to address climate change.
- All climate-related legislation, policies, programs, and their implementation mechanisms are reviewed and aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts. It is essential to ensure that any limitations on assertions of First Nations' jurisdiction to manage and care for their territories and resources are immediately removed.
- First Nations knowledge, laws, and languages are protected and preserved as a foundation for building resiliency and responding to the climate crisis both today and in the future. Indigenous Knowledge has the power to combat climate change but must be broadly recognized as legitimate in the same way that western science is.
- Engagement and collaboration with First Nations is strong, moving away from the “duty to consult” and focusing on creating meaningful government-to-government partnerships to co-develop climate legislation, policies, and programs, and co-managing implementation.

PATHWAY: CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

Goal: Ensure First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future

First Nations in BC are climate leaders. However, in order to guarantee continued leadership and long-term climate resiliency within communities it is essential to focus on capacity building to ensure tools are in place for Nations and community members to effectively respond to the climate crisis. The strategies and actions identified in this pathway are focused on:

- Working to identifying capacity challenges and needs for First Nations communities across the province to assess disparities, areas for collaboration, and mechanisms for capacity building.
- Strengthening knowledge and awareness within First Nations communities on climate change, including its sources, impacts, and effective response mechanisms.
- Creating adequate opportunities for climate-related training and skills development for First Nations both on and off reserve that incorporates both Indigenous Knowledge and western science. This involves preparing the future generations through sufficient advocacy and training opportunities and the facilitation of intergenerational knowledge sharing.
- Ensuring long-term and stable climate funding for First Nations communities. Specifically, by establishing a BC First Nations Climate Fund.

- Implementing effective climate data governance and management systems within and between Indigenous communities broadly.
- Ensuring inclusive participation and empowerment for First Nations youth, women, and 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and others) peoples in climate action.

PATHWAY: LAND AND WATER PROTECTION

Goal: Ensure the health, stability, and resiliency of the land, waters, and environment for generations to come.

Climate change and human activity continue to impact the state of the lands and waters across the province. Both human and non-human beings rely on the health and stability of the land and waters. The strategies and actions identified under this pathway focus on environmental stewardship while also ensuring that First Nations in BC are enabled to uphold their responsibilities and obligations to the land, waters, and resources and to continue to protect them in perpetuity. This includes:

- Ensuring mechanisms are in place to restore the lands, waters, and ecosystems that have been impacted by human activity and climate change. This involves strengthening First Nation-led conservation efforts and implementing accountability measures for environmentally impactful human actions.
- Ensuring respect and recognition of First Nations water governance and the protection of natural water ecosystems through First Nation-led water management policies and practices.
- Prioritizing sustainable forestry management, including Old-Growth forests, in recognition of the interconnectedness and link between forest fires and increased floods, erosion, and landslides.
- Recognizing First Nations jurisdiction to access, use, and manage their territories and resources, including food and water sources and medicines, in their own self-determined ways. This involves transforming urban, industrial, and mining development processes and implementing consent-based approaches in line with the minimum standard of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- Strengthening and informing state-led resource management and supporting First Nations in the development and maintenance of their own laws, policies, protocols, and guidelines for land, water, air, and resources within their traditional territories.
- Developing collaborative partnerships and strengthening information sharing within and between First Nations communities, organizations, and others to collectively care for the Earth.

PATHWAY: CLIMATE RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Goal: Ensure First Nations in BC are effectively responding to the climate emergency and current and projected climate impacts by working to reduce GHG emissions and developing their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community-specific priorities

This pathway is focused on working to keep global warming below 1.5°C in line with the IPCC’s recommendation while also supporting First Nations in the development of their own climate responses and initiatives grounded in community-specific priorities by:

- Assessing, identifying, and meeting infrastructure needs in communities to protect community and ecosystem health, adapt to climate impacts, and reduce GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.
- Establishing and/or maintaining culturally appropriate, energy-efficient, and resilient housing and buildings within First Nations communities. This involves supporting First Nations in the development of community-specific housing strategies and plans to build and manage homes and buildings and to explore sustainable and affordable clean energy options.
- Effectively responding to climate-related emergencies and associated risks and impacts by strengthening First Nation-led emergency management and preparedness mechanisms and increasing collaboration between relevant entities.
- Developing community specific climate strategies and action plans that include risk and cumulative impact assessments, monitoring of land use changes, water quality, pollution, etc. This may also involve support for First Nation-led monitoring and the establishment of data collection frameworks to create robust baseline data.
- Reducing GHG emissions through the phase out of oil and gas subsidies and increased support for First Nations to reduce their own emissions, to strengthen their mitigation efforts, and to implement nature-based solutions. This involves eliminating barriers for Nations to pursue land-based carbon offsets.
- Investing in clean energy development and ensuring that First Nations can participate in a green economy. This involves reviewing and reforming Crown policies and programs to ensure accessibility and equitable opportunities for First Nations, exploring alternatives to diesel, oil, and gas, diversifying energy sources within communities, and investing in off-grid energy sources.
- Assessing impacts of climate change on First Nations health and wellness and developing appropriate responses to ensure long-term resiliency. As an immediate action, this involves ensuring that all First Nations have long-term and reliable access to safe and clean food and water sources.
- Ensuring First Nations' economic independence through the development of source revenue, ensuring appropriate revenue-sharing, and exploring sustainable and low carbon economic development opportunities. This involves restoring the ability for First Nations to generate revenue from selling electricity through, for example, Independent Power Agreements and/or other alternatives.

Together, these interconnected and interrelated pathways form the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan, a comprehensive plan to meet climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience-building needs based on First Nations knowledge and goals across the province.

Implementation

The Strategy is designed to be a living and flexible document for use and implementation in different contexts. It is meant to set a foundation for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and communities to work with one another to respond to the climate crisis. It is intended as a means for collective advocacy on climate change while respecting the autonomy and self-determination of each Nation to address climate change on their own terms and through their own processes.

The Strategy is also intended to be used by different actors and read by different audiences. Climate change intersects with many different sectors; considering the scale of the climate crisis we are experiencing, we each have a role to play. Implementation may be led by First Nations leadership, communities, and organizations. It

may also be led by local, provincial, and federal Crown governments, institutions, and entities in the private sector.

To strengthen implementation, the Strategy assigns a priority level for the identified climate strategies and actions. These are prioritized as either **immediate** or **ongoing**. Where possible, the Strategy also provides recommendations, calling on specific entities to lead implementation. These entities include: First Nation governments (both Band and hereditary leadership systems), First Nations communities, organizations (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous), the First Nations Leadership Council, institutions (such as educational institutions and school districts), Crown governments (which for the purposes of the Strategy includes federal and provincial governments *and* municipal governments and regional districts), entities in the private sector, and others.

Further discussions, collaboration, and the development of meaningful and true partnerships will be required in order to thoroughly implement the Strategy. To begin the implementation process, the following actions are recommended:

- The FNLC shall continue to engage with First Nations in BC to discuss implementation of the Strategy. This includes holding an all-Chiefs meeting to develop an implementation plan based on discussed priorities.
- The FNLC shall present the Strategy to the provincial and federal governments and other relevant partners to communicate key climate priorities for First Nations in BC.
- First Nations in BC, with the support of the FNLC and the provincial and federal governments, may adapt the Strategy based on their own needs and priorities through community-specific climate strategies and action plans.
- The provincial and federal governments shall provide sufficient resources for implementation of the Strategy in line with Article 39 of the UN Declaration and to provide an annual BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan Accountability Report to First Nations in BC and the FNLC.
- Finally, all entities shall work to implement the Strategy's 20 Urgent Calls for Climate Action.



20 Urgent Calls for Climate Action

“ We need a genuine, progressive movement that truly understands and fully acknowledges that we are in the midst of a *climate crisis*. It’s having devastating effects on our communities, on our people, and *communities are burning to the ground*. How many more communities have to be incinerated before governments will begin to move beyond good intentions and rhetoric? ”

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs

1

In response to the current climate emergency, strengthen provincial and federal climate measures to **meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s recommendations** to limit human-caused global warming to 1.5°C and support First Nations to prepare for current and future climate impacts.

2

Review and reform all provincial and federal climate-related legislation, regulations, policies, programs, and engagement frameworks to address barriers, impacts, and limitations on the assertion of First Nations’ Title, Rights, Treaty Rights, and inherent jurisdiction in climate planning and response. This involves the recognition and use of First Nations laws and legal processes and their ability to uphold their responsibilities to the land, waters, and environment.

3

Work collaboratively to **build long-term climate capacity** within First Nations communities to effectively respond to the climate emergency. This involves immediately establishing a BC First Nations Climate Council to lead implementation of the Strategy, conducting a provincial First Nations climate capacity assessment to assess disparities and challenges, and increasing Crown government investments specific to First Nations capacity building.

4

Create a **BC First Nations Climate Fund** with initial investments as outlined in the Strategy.

5

Support the creation of **climate-related positions** (such as climate change coordinators) **and programming** (Indigenous Guardians, fisheries authorities, water monitoring programs) within First Nations communities. This involves supporting interested First Nations in the development and implementation of climate data frameworks and the generation of their own baseline data.

6

Strengthen the **incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge** in climate change initiatives. Ensure engagement with Elders and/or Knowledge Holders in all state-led climate discussions and response initiatives, support and facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing with First Nations youth, and support the creation of Nation-specific climate glossaries inclusive of traditional language(s) and teachings.

7

Continue to **empower and prepare First Nations youth** for projected climate impacts through training, mentorship, and advocacy opportunities. Increase representation of First Nations youth in state-led climate discussions and response initiatives, including the development of programs, projects, and policies.

8

Establish a **regional network and discussion forum for First Nations on climate change** to provide mutual support between Nations, create space for climate discussions and information sharing, and help to develop regional and provincial climate alliances. This involves hosting an annual BC First Nations Climate Gathering.

9

Identify areas and critical wildlife habitats requiring immediate restoration and protection due to resource extraction (logging, mining) agriculture, other urban/industrial development, and climate change. Support **First Nation-led conservation and protection** efforts in this regard, including the designation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, which can act as carbon sinks, and establish preventative measures such as **laws or policies at the Nation level** enforcing cleanup and remediation of disturbed lands and waters.

10

Transform resource extraction (logging, mining) and other urban/industrial development processes and tenure systems to ensure:

- FPIC is obtained from all First Nations whose territories (lands, waters, environments, and all beings) may be impacted by a proposed project.
- FPIC is fully informed through honest, transparent, and independent representations of all projected impacts, including those compounded as a result of climate change.
- Early and ongoing engagement throughout the entire scope of a project with early and sufficient notice to review data and information received as well as the ability for First Nation-led assessments and research on a particular issue.
- Appropriate integration of First Nations knowledge and laws into project work, including permitting and decision-making.

11

Protect Old Growth forests, in recognition of their role as carbon sinks, in water retention, species protection and survival, human health, and combating climate change. Prohibit logging in floodplains and critical areas of watersheds to prevent droughts, floods, and landslides.

12

Conduct a BC First Nations Infrastructure Assessment to identify and meet infrastructure needs (transportation and communications networks, emergency response, housing and buildings, climate data, water treatment and distribution systems, waste handling and storage) to effectively adapt and

build communities that are resilient to climate impacts. Explore opportunities for green infrastructure development to help reduce GHG emissions.

13

Develop long-term strategies, policies, and implementation tools to enhance **community-led food and food sovereignty systems**, which include the development of food waste management systems to help reduce carbon emissions and ecological footprints.

14

Ensure recovery and restoration of wild salmon stocks to secure First Nations' cultural connection and access to traditional food sources for current and future generations.

15

Support First Nations in **assessing, quantifying, and reducing their GHG emissions** to inform decision-making, develop offset and/or mitigation measures, and explore economic investments.

16

Immediately **strengthen emergency management, response, and recovery systems** within and between First Nations communities by:

- Ensuring emergency management legislation, policies, and programs, such as *BC's Emergency Management Act*, respond to the current climate emergency and are aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.
- Assessing capacity of First Nations communities to respond to climate-related emergencies and implement critical supports needed. This may involve Identifying and implementing critical supports and infrastructure needed in order to reduce risks and vulnerabilities, supporting fire response positions, implementing traditional fire management systems, and more.
- Developing a BC First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction aligned with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction and the UN Declaration.
- Supporting actions already undertaken by the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Emergency Services Society to implement the Tripartite Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding.

17

Support First Nations in developing their own **Nation-specific climate-related strategies and action plans** based on their own needs, priorities, and self-determined processes. This includes energy-efficiency strategies, risk assessments, GHG emission reduction plans, heritage protection plans, and/or monitoring and data collection frameworks.

18

Support First Nations to rapidly transition to reliable and affordable renewable, non-combustible and/or low carbon energy sources by establishing Indigenous utilities, diversifying clean energy sources, aligning legislation, regulations, policies and programs with the UN Declaration and Declaration Acts, and increasing Crown government support and investments.

19

Support First Nations in developing **environmentally sustainable and low carbon economic development projects and opportunities**.

20

IMMEDIATELY ensure that all First Nations in BC have **long-term and reliable access to clean and safe food and water sources** both in their homes and within their territories.

Part One: Introduction

Why a BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan

Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories are disproportionately affected by climate change more than any other group in Canada. In British Columbia, the changing climate impacts the lands, waters, natural habitats, and ecosystems that sustain us. First Nations' traditional lands and sacred resources are at risk of degradation and destruction. Their communities, ancestral lands, and cultural identity depend on immediate and bold climate action.

First Nations communities hold thousands of years of knowledge stemming from their relationship and connections to the land, the waters, and the Earth. Yet, provincial and federal climate responses have fallen short of adequately engaging and co-developing appropriate climate actions with First Nations in BC. Climate actions are not and cannot be divorced from other priority issues of First Nations cultural survival, self-determination, self-governance, and place-based economy autonomy. As such, the development of a First Nations-led climate strategy is essential.

“*As demonstrated over the last eight months, BC and First Nations in particular have experienced the catastrophic effects of climate change. The wildfires, the record-breaking heat dome, the atmospheric rivers and subsequent floods, and the extreme cold weather highlight the urgency for delivering bold changes to tackle and prepare for a world living in a climate crisis. Yet, the CleanBC plan and other Crown plans do not respond to First Nations' specific needs, realities, and priorities. That is why we need our own plan that reflects the unique connections we have to our lands and to our ancestors' teachings. The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan will guide our path forward while asserting our inherent and constitutionally protected Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights.*”

Regional Chief Terry Teegee, BC Assembly of First Nations

The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan serves to amplify First Nation voices as the first peoples and original caretakers of these lands, to communicate priorities in climate planning, and to work collaboratively to ensure the protection and stability of the Earth. The Strategy intends to help guide climate responses while also communicating to partners that climate action is only possible when co-created with First Nations in ways that protect and strengthen Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights and when Indigenous Knowledge, laws, and legal processes are thoroughly incorporated in all aspects of climate planning and response. The hope is that the Strategy inspires change and is a catalyst for implementation of foundational initiatives that will preserve the quality of life for generations to come.

First Nations Climate Lens

In 2019, the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly declared a First Nations Climate Emergency and called for urgent and transformative climate action that reduces emissions in Canada. As a result, First Nations gathered at the AFN's National Climate Gathering in 2020 and discussed the importance of finding multidimensional, interconnected, and interrelated solutions for climate change reflected in a "**First Nations Climate Lens**." This concept emphasizes the inseparability of the climate emergency from the daily and lived experiences of First Nations through the intersection of three concentric circles: **context, impacts, and action** (See Figure 2.0).

CIRCLE 1: "Context - The Legislative, Legal, and Policy Ecosystem" represents that climate action for First Nations occurs within a legislative, legal, and political context where we must ensure implementation of [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (the UN Declaration), BC's [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and the federal [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (collectively, the Declaration Acts), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) [Calls to Action](#), the Calls for Justice from the [Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), and Canadian legal jurisprudence outlining First Nations' Title, Rights, Treaty Rights and the protections afforded under the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Furthermore, given First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over their lands and territories as well as their right to self-determination and self-government, First Nations must occupy a place of priority in any climate action discussion. Here, First Nations knowledge must stand equally with colonial systems of government and knowledge.

CIRCLE 2: "Impacts - The First Nations' Lived Reality" expresses how climate change exacerbates many impacts of colonization held and felt by First Nations. This includes impacts related to mental health and well-being, poverty, housing, food, and water insecurity, rights erosion, culture, access to land, among others. These diverse factors and their intersectionality are essential to understanding the impacts of the climate emergency on First Nations and their communities. Therefore, the lived reality of First Nations must be understood and incorporated into climate action and related discussions.

CIRCLE 3: "Action - A First Nations' Worldview" emphasizes solutions that are: multidimensional, interrelated, and interconnected, as well as those grounded in First Nations laws, knowledge, language, and governance. While acknowledging the heterogeneity of First Nations, the core of a First Nations worldview has a common foundation: an understanding that we are the land and the land is us, representing a sacred and personal relationship with all of creation. This understanding sets a foundation for legal principles and processes that, while being unique to each community, represent law and, in turn, legal obligations, responsibilities, and relationships to the land, waters, and all beings on the Earth.

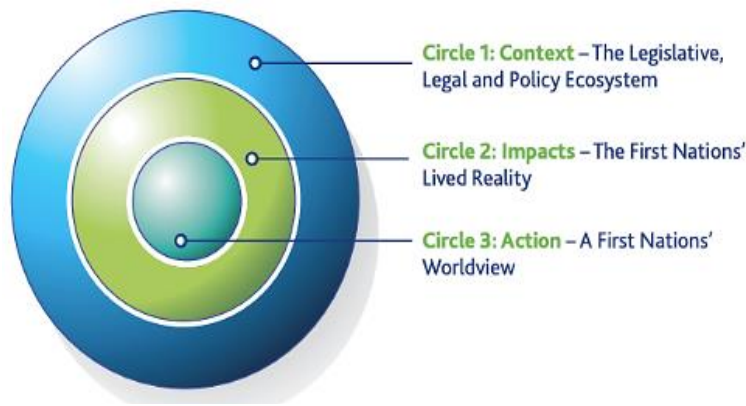


Figure 2.0: First Nations Climate Lens excerpted from the [AFN National Climate Gathering Report: Gathering Change, Leading Solutions \(2020\)](#)

The First Nations Climate Lens challenges the conventional conceptualizations of First Nations as vulnerable people and passive recipients of climate impacts. Instead, it emphasizes how the unique connections of First Nations to the land, water, air, and non-human beings have enabled them to live reciprocally and in balance with all creation for thousands of years, denoting that First Nations are leaders and active drivers of change. This conceptualization was used to inform the Strategy.

Context: The Climate Emergency, a Global Pandemic, and Colonization

We are experiencing a global climate emergency. Throughout British Columbia, we are experiencing record setting summer and winter temperatures, a warming and rising ocean, droughts, sudden and unprecedented wildfires, damaging storms, floods, and landslides.

FIRES

BC's 2018 wildfire season was unique in its impacts to almost all regions in the province, and in its record-setting area burned: 2,117 fires consumed 1,354,284 hectares of land and 66 evacuations were ordered. For 2021, BC Wildfire Service reported 1,610 wildfires burning 868,203 hectares of land between April 1 and September 30, 2021, leading to 181 evacuation orders, 304 evacuation alerts, and a 56-day provincial state of emergency. Throughout this time, people across the globe witnessed the sudden destruction of the village of Lytton by fire.



DROUGHT

As a result of low spring rainfall amounts and extreme heat and record high temperatures for 2021, Vancouver Island and southern areas of British Columbia experienced high drought levels and water scarcity conditions. This resulted in temporary water restriction orders for the Lower Mainland, the Thompson-Okanagan region, and some areas of Vancouver Island.

SUMMER "HEAT DOME"

On June 28, 2021, BC imposed an early ban on all campfires and open burning as the province experienced an unprecedented heat dome and temperatures reaching a record setting high of 50.2°C on June 29th in the interior of the province (data collected by the Kanaka Bar Indian Band Weather Station). Nearly 600 people died due to extreme temperatures with 526 deaths specifically related to the heat dome. There were 231 deaths on June 29, about 10 deaths per hour.



Photo Credit: Maqqie MacPherson/CBC

FLOODING

In November of 2021, an extreme rainstorm created by an atmospheric river hit several regions of the province setting all-time rainfall records. After just two days, the rain began to lead to mudslides, landslides, and floods causing catastrophic damage to homes, roads, and infrastructure at an alarming rate. Many individuals were stranded far from their homes. The City of Abbotsford declared a local state of emergency and thousands of communities within and around Merritt and Princeton were ordered to evacuate. In the Sumas Prairie, more than 600,000 farm animals perished in the floods. The Nooaitch First Nation was left landlocked due to damage to bridges and those in the Lower Mainland were completely cut off from the rest of the country due to damage to Highway 99. Many other First Nations communities were heavily impacted. In mid-November, the province entered into a state of emergency, confirming the death of thousands of animals and some individuals, banning non-essential travel, and rationing gasoline in certain regions of the province.



Photo Credit: The Canadian Press



Photo Credit: Ben Nelms/CBC

WINTER "COLD SNAP"

Environmental Canada warned of extreme cold and Arctic outflow and winter storm warnings for most of British Columbia in December of 2021 and January of 2022. In December, it was reported that at least 2 dozen temperature records were broken, many communities feeling temperatures as low as -40°C and -50°C in the northern region.



KING TIDES

In early 2022, coastal communities in southern BC experienced high water levels and local tidal flooding as a result of impactful weather and king tides. This caused damage to waterfront infrastructure, including the Stanley Park seawall in Vancouver and flooding in different areas across the Lower Mainland, West Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast, and Vancouver Island.

The [Canadian Changing Climate Change Report \(2019\)](#) confirms that Canada has warmed at nearly double the magnitude of the global average warming. The [Indicators of Climate Change for British Columbia \(2016\)](#) notes that BC has warmed an average of 1.4°C per century from 1900 to 2013, higher than the global average rate of 0.85°C per century. Northern and interior regions of BC have warmed even more rapidly than coastal regions. The IPCC states that maintaining the global temperature increase below 1.5°C is vital for a safe and sustainable world, but it is estimated that global warming is likely to pass this amount by 2030 under intermediate, high, and very high emissions scenarios. The UN Secretary-General referenced the latest IPCC Report entitled [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#) (the IPCC Report) as a “code red for humanity” highlighting the urgency to act decisively now in order to keep 1.5 alive.

“Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion – such as continued sea level rise – are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The future of climate change will primarily be driven by the magnitude of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and human action, which influence the state of the lands, waters, and biosphere. The [UN Emissions Gap Report \(2020\)](#) projects dramatic temperature increases if we do not escalate mitigation efforts now. The report states that despite a dip in GHG emissions from the COVID-19 economic slowdown, the world is still heading for a catastrophic temperature rise between 3-6°C by the end of the century. The strategies and actions we choose to take in our immediate future are critical to ensuring the health of the Earth and all that sustains us.

There is an urgent need to reduce GHG emissions, address cumulative GHG emissions, and reach net-zero globally. The IPCC Report affirms that there is a near-linear relationship between cumulative anthropogenic CO₂ emissions and the global warming they cause. The two main anthropogenic sources of CO₂ emissions are the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) and land-use change/land management. Both of these processes must be targeted in order to meaningfully reduce global emissions. Notably, Canada has one of the highest per-capita contributions to global GHG emissions and is a major exporter of fossil fuels. Canada and BC’s emissions reduction targets and commitments, outlined within the federal [Pan-Canadian Framework](#) and [A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy](#), and the provincial [CleanBC](#) and its [Roadmap to 2030](#) are insufficient to address the urgency presented by the IPCC report. Canada and BC must enhance their climate responses to meaningfully shift towards a sustainable and low carbon society and economy. This includes incorporating strict emissions reduction policies and planning across all economic sectors and all levels of government.

Canada and BC must move beyond an incremental, technological approach to achieve emissions reduction and discontinue incentives and resources provided to the fossil fuel industry. Strategies and actions within the Strategy also strive to prioritize land and ocean conservation projects undertaken by First Nations in BC, as well as clean energy initiatives, where First Nations play an important role in participating in a green and sustainable economy. Clean energy initiatives would provide communities with reliable and affordable alternatives to fossil fuels that significantly reduce emissions and do minimal environmental harm throughout production, distribution, and end-use.

As a result of climate impacts, the Earth's natural balance has been disrupted and species habitat and biodiversity are rapidly declining. The climate crisis is inseparable from the daily experiences and realities of First Nation peoples and their communities. Climate change amplifies the impacts of colonization experienced on both an individual and intergenerational basis. These impacts include physical and emotional health and wellness, poverty, housing insecurity, food and water insecurity, and continued restrictions and limitations on First Nations ability to access and use their traditional lands, resources, and assert their Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights. These impacts will likely increase. The IPCC report identifies key global impacts as a result of climate change which are expected to increase in frequency and intensity with 1.5°C of warming, impacts being more widespread at 2°C. These impacts include, but are not limited to:

Extreme heat thresholds and severe agricultural and ecological droughts. Heat and drought events will continue to lead to deaths, health problems, food and water insecurity, and the loss of traditional resources for many First Nations in BC. First Nations communities will continue to suffer from rapid wildfires that decimate properties, homes, lives, and ancestral territories within seconds, and more intense and frequent hydrological and meteorological droughts. Extreme heat events highlight the urgency to address the housing and food insecurity crisis experienced by First Nations both on and off reserve. Many across Canada experience homelessness, as well as poor living conditions. First Nations need access to permanent, stable, and healthy homes as well as clean food and water sources that will enable them to be in a state of preparedness against the anticipated extreme climate events.

Impacts to the global water cycle. Global warming and land use impacts such as water extraction and pollution will continue to influence water quality and quantity for humans and their relatives. Lack of safe water will affect fish populations such as salmon, which many First Nations in BC are heavily reliant. First Nations require support in developing and strengthening community-based flood, drought, and food security strategies, including an in-depth assessment of current and projected changes to water balance and water cycle in local ecosystems and its impacts on water (which may be used for drinking, bathing, healing), wildlife, and traditional foods.

“*We all need clean water to survive, and we should not be polluting our lakes, rivers, and oceans. Therefore, we must change the way everything works to ensure clean water for everything and everyone. We must learn to manage ourselves to create sustainable environments for generations to come. Instilling value systems that promote respect for Mother Earth is one simple way to make consistent positive change.*”

Tannis Reynolds, Stellat'en First Nation

Rising sea-levels, ocean warming, and ocean acidification. Warmer and more acidic oceans will continue to disrupt marine ecosystems and species including salmon, leading to food insecurity for First Nations and wildlife. Coastal First Nations will also experience flooding due to the combination of more frequent extreme sea level events (due to rising sea levels and storm surges) and extreme rainfall and river flow events.

“*My Tribe stands to lose up to five reserves due to rising sea levels. They will go underwater and become inhabitable.*”

Participant, FNLC Engagement Session on November 29, 2021

Climate impacts have and continue to be compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and colonization. The pandemic context dominated in 2020 with global cases rising to 83,832,334 with 1,824,590 deaths. The pandemic progressed into 2021 and has now made its way into 2022 with new variants, government-imposed restrictions and mandates, and continued uncertainty. COVID-19 has not only impacted community health and wellness but has also disrupted traditional food systems and harvesting practices, community communications and in-person gatherings and ceremonies, and economic loss for First Nations across the country.

In addition, 2021 brought to public attention Canada's residential school system following the discovery of thousands of undocumented and unmarked graves of children and youth within several institution sites across the country. These specific discoveries began in May 2021 with the finding of 215 remains at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, a search led by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. Within months, discovery numbers reached thousands as communities all across Canada began their own searches. Canada's residential school system has left long-lasting and continuing impacts on individuals, families, and communities to date. Impacts on physical and emotional health, intergenerational trauma and grief are a few of the many effects of residential schools. The experiences at these institutions will continue to be held and felt by First Nations and Indigenous Peoples, both individually and collectively, for generations to come.

In Canada and BC, climate conversations often disregard the legacies of colonization and the continued displacement and assimilation practices led by the state. This can be seen in varying contexts: the over-representation of Indigenous children in Canada's child welfare system, the over-incarceration rate of Indigenous Peoples, particularly women, in Canada's criminal justice system, and the continued enforcement of colonial legislation and policy, including the *Indian Act*, which has the effect of undermining First Nations' inherent jurisdiction and authority over their territories and resources and disregarding the legitimacy of Indigenous laws and legal processes. Even more, colonialism and capitalism are driving forces in climate change, devaluing First Nations knowledge, infringing Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights, and intensifying racial and gender-based inequality.

Climate change policy and environmental stewardship is predicated on a colonial model that discounts Indigenous Knowledge and often prioritizes industry over Indigenous Title and Rights. Indigenous land and water protectors and defenders, who resist the development of emissions-intensive projects and protect the environment within their territories in line with their responsibilities and obligations to the land, waters, and the Earth, face excessive force by policing authorities such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As a result, First Nations approaches to climate change have been silenced and predominately excluded from provincial and federal climate response and planning. For First Nations, decarbonization cannot be seen as separate from decolonization.

“The Creator put us here to look after the land.
When you take away the right to make decisions to care for the land,
it is one of the deepest cuts of colonization.”

Albertina Erikson, Nak'azdli

The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan attempts to consider not only the current climate context but also the impacts of colonization and the global pandemic which compound the impacts stemming from climate change. These cumulative impacts restrict capacity to build climate resiliency within First Nations communities. The Strategy serves to address underlying structural inequities, capacity issues, and barriers within First Nations communities while also offering opportunities to strengthen emergency response, long-term resiliency to climate change, and First Nation-led stewardship of lands and waters to avoid ecosystem destruction, biodiversity loss, zoonotic diseases, and the loss of cultural and spiritual relationships between First Nations and their ancestral territories.

Reconciliation with BC and Canada

British Columbia and Canada continuously comment on their commitments to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Both the provincial and federal governments have committed to uphold and implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) through the development of BC's [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and the federal [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#). In addition, the government has committed to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) [Calls to Action](#) and the [Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#). However, to date, reconciliation in the climate context has not been at the forefront of their efforts. Engagement with First Nations in BC is a starting point to meaningful collaboration and partnership between entities, but there must be more.

The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan is aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts, the TRC's *Calls to Action* and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the [Calls for Justice](#). In particular, the Strategy, and the implementation thereof, is guided by the UN Declaration in its entirety, including articles 18, 25, 26, 28-29, 32, and 39.

“*The climate is changing quickly. Climate changes disrupt our connection to the lands, waters, and environment and our ability to use traditional resources, foods, and medicines that we have relied on for thousands of years. The widespread, rapid, and intensifying movement of climate change makes it challenging for us to be able to adapt. Part of this is because we are not equal partners at the table. To be able to influence the way the climate is changing our lands and ways of being, we need to be full equal partners in decision-making.*”

Participant, FNLC Engagement Session on Feb 16, 2021

It is essential that BC and Canada recognize and honour their obligations and commitments to First Nations in climate planning and response. The Strategy calls on Crown governments at all levels to thoroughly review and *implement* Strategy content as a requirement to implementing the above-mentioned legislation, reports, and instruments, particularly the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts, in line with IPCC recommendations.

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 26

- (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
- (2) Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- (3) States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 28

- (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
- (2) Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 29

- (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
- (2) States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
- (3) States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 32

- (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- (2) States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
- (3) States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or

UN DECLARATION – ARTICLE 39

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Part Two: Vision and Guiding Principles

The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan is grounded on the following vision and guiding principles:

Vision

We, the first peoples of the lands, assert our inherent Title, Rights, and jurisdiction to lead the response to the climate crisis. We exercise our knowledge, laws, and processes in our self-determined ways to care for the Earth and ensure health and stability for generations to come.

Youth Vision Statements

We, First Nations youth, are the stewards of our own lands, the lands we have cared for since time immemorial. We are advocates for education, sustainable production and economies, and the care and protection of the Earth.

Coastal Region (FNLC Youth Engagement Session)

We practice sustainable living to provide for the people and the Earth. We hunt, harvest, and use our language so our knowledge is not lost. Through a holistic approach, we understand our relationship with the lands, waters, and all beings.

Interior Region (FNLC Youth Engagement Session)

We have our land back. We have re-established access and management of our lands and resources. We are able to respond to climate change through a First Nations led and inclusive approach, reclamation work and long-term planning and investing in opportunities for clean energy.

Northern Region (FNLC Youth Engagement Session)



Guiding Principles

Self-Determination and Self-Government

Respect and recognize the assertion of First Nations’ inherent jurisdiction over their traditional territories and their right to self-determination and self-government in climate action.

Before settler arrival, First Nations in BC lived on the land with their individual laws, territories, and thriving economies and societies. They have effectively protected and cared for the land, water, air, and resources for thousands of years. However, their inherent sovereignty to uphold their responsibilities to the Earth has been restricted and disregarded by *assumed* Crown sovereignty, colonial laws, and climate responses. First Nations’ assertion of their inherent Title over their territories and the right to self-determination and self-government must be priorities in any climate discussion. The Crown and other entities must recognize and respect First Nations’ Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights, hereditary and elected leadership systems, and must fully implement the UN Declaration in the climate context.

Culture and Tradition

Protect First Nations culture, values, and identity, including the knowledge, laws, and languages of each individual Nation, as an essential element of responding to the climate emergency.

Colonial laws, policies, and practices have served to destroy First Nations cultural identity as well as their ability to use, protect, and share their laws, languages, and worldviews. Climate change further threatens their identity and ways of being and knowing. It is essential to facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing within First Nations communities to prepare future leaders to thrive in the face of the climate crisis. All must acknowledge the importance of including Indigenous cultural and ecological knowledge to combat climate change. The strength of this knowledge must be recognized and implemented alongside scientific understandings in developing climate strategies and actions. Western science provides the data to support confidence in knowing what has happened and what is expected moving forward. Indigenous Knowledge provides the innate understanding of the connection between the land, water, and life and the mindset of respect and stewardship for the Earth.

Guardianship and Stewardship

Exercise reciprocity, restoration, and collaboration with the lands, waters, and environment in maintaining ecosystem health and stability for generations to come.

We all have a collective responsibility to recognize the climate emergency with an urgency to act immediately and in the long term to maintain the integrity and functionality of the environment. This includes helping to reduce global GHG emissions at all levels, largely as a result of human activity and resource extraction and other urban and industrial development projects. When making decisions, it is vital to consider reciprocity, restoration, cooperation, and collaboration with the Earth to ensure ecosystem health and stability. Instilling values that promote a true respect for the Earth is one simple way to make consistent positive change. Stewardship must be conducted through a holistic and preventative approach with the incorporation of First Nations’ knowledge and laws.

Collaboration and Partnership

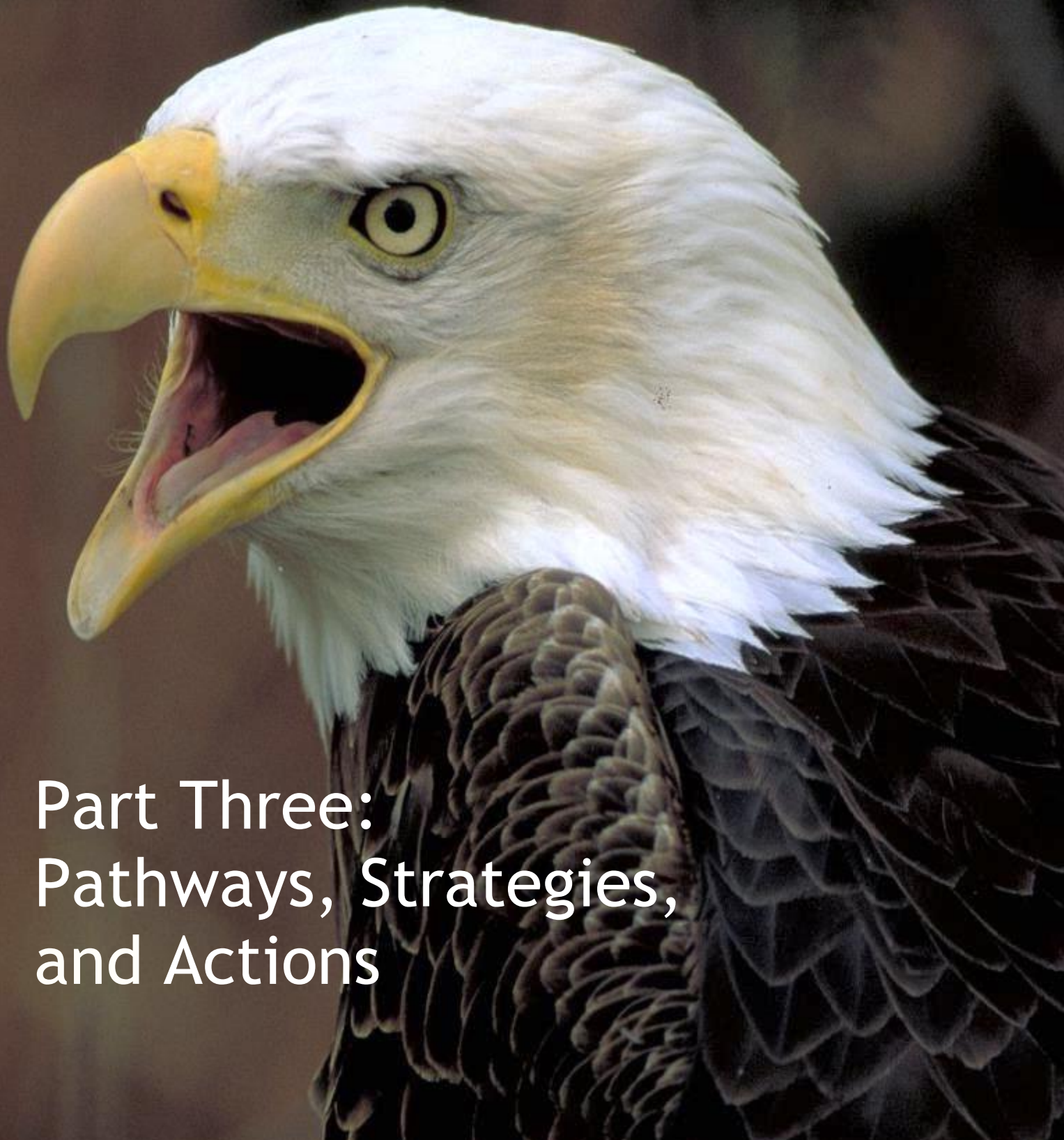
Collaborate and develop true partnerships between First Nations and Crown governments, the private sector, organizations, institutions, Indigenous Peoples, and society as a whole to effectively address the climate emergency.

Climate change is an urgent threat that transcends jurisdictional boundaries, making collaboration and partnership essential. There must be collaboration and true partnerships between First Nations in BC and all other entities. As inherent Title and Rights holders, individuals and groups must come to the table ready to recognize First Nations' inherent jurisdiction to care for their territories. The Free, Prior, and Informed Consent must be attained from *each* individual and distinct community in climate response, planning, and project development within their territories. Past and present harms of colonization must be acknowledged and addressed as an essential component of developing accountable relations for climate action. An intersectional lens that considers the significant roles and experiences of First Nations' Elders, youth, women, and members of the 2SLGBQQIA+ community must be adopted to highlight diverse ways to relate to and be responsible for the land, waters, and environment.

Empowerment, Leadership and Self-Sufficiency

Build capacity and self-sufficiency within First Nations communities to strengthen resiliency while also preparing and empowering the future generations for projected climate impacts.

Despite the impacts from the legacies of colonization and ongoing colonial practices, First Nations are climate leaders who have effectively responded to climate change over thousands of years. However, the impacts of the changing climate will be stronger and more frequent. First Nations communities will continue to face the impacts at a higher rate more than any other group in Canada. It is essential for Nations to strengthen their capacity, build climate resiliency, and empower the future generations to effectively respond to the ongoing climate crisis.



Part Three:
Pathways, Strategies,
and Actions

Inherent Title and Rights

Goal: Ensure First Nations’ inherent Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights in BC are recognized and affirmed in climate planning and response.

THEME 1.1: Self-Determination and Self-Government

Objectives

1.1.1: Ensure First Nations in BC have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government in climate planning and response.

1.1.2: Respect and support First Nations in developing, maintaining, and implementing their own institutions, governing bodies, and political, economic, and social structures related to climate change.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
a. Co-develop processes with transformed decision-making where First Nations are recognized as governments holding inherent jurisdiction in climate planning and response. This includes jurisdiction to manage and care for their territories, resources, and economy.	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All entities engaging with First Nations in BC must transform and co-develop decision-making processes and agreements with one another in line with the identified actions. This specifically includes Crown governments and entities in the private sector. The FNLC to advocate for the implementation of these actions while supporting First Nations to assert their rights to self-determination and self-government in climate response.
b. Engage with First Nations through a government-to-government relationship based on the recognition and implementation of their inherent Title, Rights, and jurisdiction.	Ongoing	
c. Respect the development and implementation of First Nations laws, policies, or programs, including those that guide land, water, and environmental protection and stewardship, emergency management, and related decision-making.	Ongoing	

THEME 1.2: Legislation, Policy, and Program Reform

Objectives

1.2.1: Ensure all climate-related legislation, policies, programs, and their implementation mechanisms are aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.

1.2.2: Remove legislative barriers on First Nations in BC in being able to exercise their inherent Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights in climate planning and response.

1.2.3: Strengthen collaboration and partnership between First Nations in BC and Crown governments in climate response, conservation, and environmental, land, and water protection and stewardship.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
a. Conduct a review at both the provincial and federal levels of current climate-related legislation, regulations, policies (including CleanBC policies), and programs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify barriers, impacts, and limitations on the assertion of First Nations’ Title, Rights, Treaty Rights, and jurisdiction in climate planning and response. This includes any restrictions on 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments to work in collaboration with First Nations in BC to prepare a review/report on climate-related legislation, regulations, policies, and programs in line with this action.

<p>consent-based decision-making in line with the minimum standard of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop reform recommendations and a work/implementation plan with timelines, continued updates, milestones, and indicators of success. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments are responsible for reviewing, implementing, and reporting the progress of the identified recommendations. The FNLC to support First Nations to implement the above.
<p>b. Establish protocols, mechanisms, or guides for provincial and federal government agencies to use in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that climate-related legislation, policies, and programs are co-developed with First Nations in BC through meaningful engagement and collaboration. Ensure inclusive and diverse representation of First Nations in BC, including leadership, Elders, Knowledge Holders, youth, women, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals at climate-related discussion tables. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments to work in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC to co-develop protocols, mechanisms, or guides in line with this action. The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above.
<p>c. Conduct a publicly available assessment on how the UN Declaration can be used to assert and protect Title and Rights in climate action in various venues.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FNLC to collaborate with interested First Nations in BC to draft and share this resource.

Examples of key legislation:

Federal Legislation: *Indian Act; Species at Risk Act; Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act; Impact Assessment Act; Environmental Assessment Act; Fisheries Act; Migratory Birds Convention Act*

Provincial Legislation: *Clean Energy Act; Climate Change Accountability Act; Carbon Tax Act; Environmental Management Act; Fisheries Act; Oil and Gas Activities Act; Mineral Tenure Act; Forest Act; Water Sustainability Act; Wildlife Act; Heritage Conservation Act; Riparian Areas Protection Act.*

THEME 1.3: Indigenous Knowledge, Laws, and Languages

Objectives

1.3.1: Support the preservation and use of First Nations knowledge, laws, and languages as a foundation to build resiliency and respond to the climate crisis today and in the future.

1.3.2: Revitalize and implement First Nations laws and legal orders to guide climate change response.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Increase representation of Elders and/or Knowledge Holders in state-led climate discussions and response initiatives.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments to work in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC to develop mechanisms to implement this action. The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Theme 1.2 for more implementation recommendations.
<p>b. Create opportunities for climate action collaboration between Elders and/or Knowledge Holders and First Nations youth.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with financial support from Crown governments and/or organizations, to develop initiatives in their own self-determined ways to implement this action.
<p>c. Support interested First Nations communities with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of climate discussion circles, storytelling and teaching, and land-based learning initiatives between Elders and/or Knowledge Holders and First Nations youth. • Selection of oral narratives and stories to identify legal principles relating to the stewardship of lands, resources, and the environment. • Development and/or implementation of specific laws, policies, programs, and strategies to inform climate action and environmental protection and stewardship broadly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examples: Heiltsuk Language & Culture Mobilization Partnership with UBC; Syilx Nation Language Declaration; ʔELHDAQOX DECHEN TS'EDILHTAN ("ʔEsdilagh Sturgeon River Law"). ○ Resource: First Peoples' Cultural Council: A Guide to Language Policy and Planning. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, educational institutions, legal practitioners, academics, and individuals with appropriate training to support interested First Nations communities seeking to implement this action.
<p>d. Support the creation of Nation-specific climate glossaries grounded in traditional language(s) to adapt colonial climate terminology.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC to work to draft this resource in collaboration with Elders and/or Knowledge Holders and language speakers. • The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above.
<p>e. Explore partnerships with education institutions and organizations to collaborate in the revitalization and use of First Nations laws and legal orders in the climate context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Secwépemc Lands and Resources Research Project (Partnership between the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council and the Indigenous Law Research Unit) 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC are encouraged to explore these types of partnerships.

THEME 1.4: Crown Engagement and Honouring Commitments

Objectives

1.4.1: Strengthen the Crown “duty to consult” by ensuring meaningful Crown engagement, collaboration, and partnership with First Nations in climate planning and response.

1.4.2: Support First Nations capacity to meaningfully participate in negotiations, consultations, and climate-related engagement and collaboration discussions.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Engage with First Nations as inherent Title and Rights holders and respect their self-determination and self-government throughout engagement discussions and related decision-making in line with Theme 1.1.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, at all levels, must immediately implement this action at all discussion tables.
<p>b. Review current state-led First Nations and Indigenous engagement and consultation frameworks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify limitations that prevent First Nations from fully participating in climate-related engagement processes and decision-making. • Ensure broad active participation and representation of First Nations at all levels in the community through engagement and collaboration activities. • Strengthen co-management and decision-making processes related to climate planning and response. • Develop tools for governments and relevant stakeholders, such as engagement guidelines and best practices. • Ensure Crown governments provide information and resources to First Nations communities well in advance of climate-related engagement and discussions, negotiations, and consultations. • Ensure that relevant decision-makers with the respective authority to make decisions are at the table during climate discussions and relevant decision-making processes with First Nations. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to work in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC to prepare a review/report in line with this action and provide recommendations. This includes the development of a work and implementation plan with measurables, targets, and indicators of success to monitor progress. • The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above.
<p>c. Improve inter-ministerial collaboration in state-led climate engagement processes with First Nations and develop annually updated mechanisms to measure their progress.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, at all levels, to strengthen inter-ministerial and internal processes in this regard.

THEME 1.5: Public Knowledge and Education

Objectives

1.5.1: Enhance public knowledge and understanding of the societal, cultural, and economic consequences of climate change impacts on First Nations in BC, as well as the unique and essential role of Indigenous Peoples in addressing the climate crisis.

1.5.2: Increase public understanding of the role of colonization and colonial laws, such as the *Indian Act*, in limiting and restricting First Nations ability to respond to climate change.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Identify curriculum reform recommendations at all levels throughout the province to incorporate content about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations in BC and their history, culture, traditional territories, connection to the land and waters, and inherent Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights. • Historic and current forms of colonization experienced by First Nations in BC and how communities are impacted by the cumulation of colonization, climate change, and current state-led climate responses. • The essential globally recognized role of Indigenous Peoples in addressing the climate crisis. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions, at all levels, are encouraged to work in collaboration with First Nations in BC to develop curriculum reform recommendations in line with this action.
<p>b. Develop publicly available educational materials (pamphlets, webpages, reports, videos) highlighting impacts and threats of climate change on First Nations communities.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments, like-minded organizations, school districts and private investors, to develop these resources.
<p>c. Build competence and understanding within Crown governments, entities in the private sector, and their respective institutions relating to First Nations’ Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, organizations, and entities in the private sector to must immediately develop mechanisms to implement this action.
<p>d. Improve public education regarding the principle of FPIC including the rationale behind FPIC, the content of FPIC, and the difference between FPIC and a “veto”.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations, to develop/improve materials to implement this action.
<p>e. Create space where interested First Nations communities may safely and comfortably invite non-Indigenous peoples to tables to discuss and share their priorities, challenges, and responses in the climate context.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations in BC are encouraged to explore ways to implement this action in their own self-determined ways.

Capacity and Leadership

Goal: Ensure First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.

THEME 2.1: Climate Capacity Building

Objectives

2.1.1: Identify climate capacity needs of each individual First Nations community throughout the province.

2.1.2: Strengthen overall capacity within First Nations communities to respond to climate change.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Conduct a province-wide climate capacity assessment of all First Nations communities in BC to assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disparities among communities in their capacity to respond to the climate crisis. Areas for collaboration between communities and other entities (Crown governments, institutions, organizations) to address challenges. Mechanisms to support capacity building in order to address identified disparities. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FNLC to work in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC and Crown governments to conduct the climate capacity assessment. The FNLC to seek resources for the development of this province-wide climate capacity assessment.
<p>b. Support First Nations in meeting their capacity needs and priorities as identified in the climate capacity assessment.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, organizations, and institutions are encouraged to support First Nations climate capacity building in line with recommendations identified in the climate capacity assessment.
<p>c. Establish a BC First Nations Climate Council to lead implementation of the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FNLC, in collaboration with First Nations in BC, to prepare a draft discussion paper to outline a scope of work for this body and to present to First Nations leadership for discussion.

THEME 2.2: Education and Training

Objectives

2.2.1: Strengthen knowledge and awareness within First Nations communities on climate change, including climate impacts, sources, mitigation and adaptation response, and energy efficiency.

2.2.2: Strengthen climate-related training and skills development for First Nations both on and off reserve that incorporates both Indigenous Knowledge and western science.

2.2.3: Effectively establish and fulfil climate-related positions and advocacy roles within First Nations communities.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Support the development of and enhance First Nations participation in community-based and culturally appropriate climate educational initiatives to better understand sources and impacts of climate change and effective responses. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs grounded in land-based learning. • Hosting events with speakers and presenters (climate advocates, storytellers, and/or artists) to share knowledge. • The development of community climate circles led by Elders and/or Knowledge Holders. • The development and sharing of climate-related educational materials grounded in community systems and priorities. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC are encouraged to develop and strengthen participation in these types of initiatives in their own self-determined ways. • Crown governments to increase funding available for First Nations in BC to implement this action. • Educational institutions and the FNLC to support interested First Nations at their request to implement this action.
<p>b. Identify mechanisms to enhance skills within First Nations communities relating to the development, management, and delivery of climate-related projects and initiatives. This includes training to draft funding applications, project proposals, and assessing relevant climate data.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms to enhance skills within First Nations communities in this regard shall be identified as part of the climate capacity assessment outlined at Theme 2.1. • The FNLC to advocate for implementation of the identified mechanisms.
<p>c. Support First Nations in accessing and enrolling in climate-related certification programs. This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring opportunities to provide subsidies to cover certification costs. • Exploring collaboration opportunities with institutions and/or organizations that have the services to assist in training, certification, and hiring for roles related to climate mitigation and adaptation. • Exploring partnerships with other First Nations communities to assist with training and skills development. <p>Example certification programs: Community Energy Association's Community Energy Management Certification Program; BC Hydro Community Energy Managers Program.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, educational institutions, and like-minded organizations to support implementation of this action and strengthening First Nations ability to access these types of programs. • The FNLC to advocate to educational institutions and Crown governments to increase investments to ensure First Nations access to climate-related certification programs and training.
<p>d. Assess existing standard certification programs and courses in the climate context to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge as part of course curriculum and content.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions must work in partnership with interested First Nations in BC to strengthen inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in climate-related curriculum.
<p>e. Develop a BC First Nations Climate Change Competency Toolkit that contains knowledge, roles, skills, and training required when working for First Nations governments or organizations on the topic of climate change. This toolkit</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to work in collaboration with First Nations in BC to seek resources for and to develop this resource.

can set a foundation for climate capacity building and the implementation of community-specific priorities for climate change.

- Precedent example: [Adaptation Learning Network's Climate Adaptation Competency Framework](#).

THEME 2.3: Climate Funding

Objectives

2.3.1: Ensure First Nations communities obtain the financial resources needed to continually build climate capacity and develop their own self-determined climate responses.

2.3.2: Improve both provincial and federal funding frameworks and programs to reflect First Nations priorities on climate change.

2.3.3: Ensure adequate government support for First Nations with their applications for climate-related funding.

2.3.4: Increase long-term government investments for First Nations in BC in their climate mitigation and adaptation actions and initiatives.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Create a BC First Nations Climate Fund, with an initial 5-year investment reflective of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreed-to portion of funds collected through the BC carbon tax (Estimated \$100,000,000M annually for capital investment into First Nations clean energy initiatives). • An agreed-to portion of funds collected through other government environmental taxes, levies, and/or fees. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to prepare a draft proposal to create this climate fund for consideration by First Nations through resolution at FNLC organization assemblies. • The FNLC to advocate for the creation of this fund on the terms identified. • This fund can be co-managed between First Nations governments in BC and the provincial and federal governments. Example: The Green Municipal Fund.
<p>b. Create and/or improve a resource webpage for First Nations to access provincial and federal climate-related funding information, including opportunities across governments and agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: BC's Community Climate Funding Website; Canada's Indigenous Climate Funding Website. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate to Crown governments to assess existing webpages to respond to First Nations' needs and develop recommendations for improvement.
<p>c. Review and reform current provincial and federal funding frameworks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify limitations on First Nations accessibility to funding, both on and off reserve. This includes widening eligibility requirements for funding support and services. For example, there is an opportunity to widen BC's Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program to recognize and 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations, to conduct an assessment of their funding frameworks in line with this action. • The FNLC to advocate for thorough implementation of this action.

<p>include First Nations governments as eligible governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow greater flexibility for spending based on community-specific needs. • Meaningfully consider community and local knowledge as part of application materials. • Assign responsibility to Crown governments to effectively and continuously communicate relevant funding information to First Nations communities, such as application deadlines, requirements, and process timelines. 		
<p>d. Provide technical assistance to First Nations with their climate-related funding applications to increase accessibility to financial support and services.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to establish a First Nations Funding Coach position to ensure governments provide direct assistance to First Nations with their climate-related funding applications. This involves an expansion of Clean BC's Community Energy Coach program.
<p>e. Fund the creation of climate change positions in interested First Nations communities such as Climate Action Coordinators to coordinate community-based mitigation and adaptation actions and to engage with government and other actors in climate response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: The Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Peer Network is composed of Climate Action Coordinators within each of the member Nations of the initiative. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to collaborate with interested First Nations in BC to seek resources for and develop a proposal that explores the creation of climate change positions in First Nations communities. The FNLC to share and present this proposal to Crown governments. • Crown governments to commit to fund and support the establishment of climate-related positions within interested First Nations communities.

THEME 2.4: Data Governance

Objectives

2.4.1: Strengthen First Nations data governance and support Nations in generating, managing, and accessing climate data and information to inform decision-making and climate response.

2.4.2: Engage in respectful and reciprocal generation and sharing of climate data and information with First Nations in BC.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Identify challenges experienced by First Nations in BC in accessing climate data and information. This includes assessing connectivity and IT resources currently in place.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These types of challenges shall be identified as part of the climate capacity assessment outlined at Theme 2.1.

<p>b. Support First Nations in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing climate data governance frameworks, including protocols to generate, collect, store, and use climate data. • Generating and using climate data to establish baselines for climate monitoring programs and indicators to assess the effectiveness of climate responses. For example, the Kanaka Bar Indian Band’s weather and water stations are controlled by the community to generate their own data. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like-minded organizations, such as the First Nations Data Governance Initiative and the First Nations Information Governance Centre, to provide support to interested First Nations in BC under this action. • Crown governments to facilitate First Nations access to funding support to implement this action.
<p>c. Develop and implement comprehensive data and information sharing protocols following the First Nations Principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP).</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations, to develop this resource.
<p>d. Create opportunities for climate discussions and information sharing (climate data, resources, templates) within and between First Nations communities through the development on an online climate network and discussion forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Indigenous Climate Hub. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC and First Nations organizations to prepare a proposal to advocate for the creation of this online resource and to present to First Nations leadership.

THEME 2.5: Gender Equity and Inclusion

Objectives

2.5.1: Implement the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the Calls for Justice in climate action.

2.5.2: Recognize the impacts of colonization on First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and strengthen recognition and respect of their right to culture, health, security, and justice as part of climate preparedness and adaptation planning.

2.5.3: Remove barriers, such as sexual and gender norms grounded on colonial ideals, experienced by First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals throughout climate action.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls so that First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals enjoy equal protection against all forms of discrimination in climate planning and response. This includes equal access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-related education, training, and employment, including climate leadership opportunities and stewardship roles, in line with actions found at Theme 2.2. • Health, safety, and wellness, including access to healing and connection to the land and waters in line with actions found at Theme 4.9. • Participation in engagement and collaboration opportunities in climate-related decision-making, planning, and response, in line with actions found throughout Pathway: Inherent Title and Rights. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to work in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC to seek resources for and prepare a report to identify mechanisms to implement this action. • The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above. • Crown governments, organizations, institutions, and entities in the private sector (such as urban and industrial project proponents) must work to implement this action.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to housing and food security in line with actions found at Theme 4.3 and 4.4. 		
<p>b. Develop a report with recommendations that uses a culturally relevant Gender-Based Analysis Plus approach to inform how climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized First Nations populations. This includes evaluating intersectional identity and socio-economic factors.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC, in collaboration with First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations, to seek resources for, develop, and share this resource.
<p>c. Apply a distinctions-based approach and an intersectional lens to climate planning and response, recognizing and accounting for different lived experiences between First Nations communities and individuals.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, at all levels and within all ministries, and First Nations in BC to apply this approach in all climate-related response, planning, and decision-making.
<p>d. Review and reform all provincial and federal climate-related policies and programs to ensure they are gender-inclusive, non-binary, and recognize and value the knowledge and ways of knowing of First Nations women and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to conduct a review and assessment in line with this action and to provide recommendations for implementation.

THEME 2.6: Commitment to Youth

Objectives

2.6.1: Increase opportunities for First Nations youth to take on climate advocacy and leadership positions both within and outside of their communities.

2.6.2: Create inclusive and culturally appropriate spaces for First Nations youth, including 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, to participate in climate discussions and response and support the implementation of any outcomes.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Increase representation of First Nations youth in state-led climate discussions and response initiatives, including the development of programs, projects, and policies.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate to the province on this issue. • Crown governments are responsible for ensuring meaningful engagement with First Nations youth and to explore current committees and councils in the climate context where representation may be strengthened.
<p>b. Establish training opportunities for youth to empower, develop, and implement climate advocacy actions.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and educational institutions to support the implementation of this action.

<p>c. Create internal and external mentorship programs between youth and Indigenous climate leaders, Elders and/or Knowledge Holders, land and water protectors, academics, and others.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC work with academics and like-minded organizations to establish these programs and/or similar initiatives in their own self-determined ways. Crown governments to increase funding support to implement this action.
<p>d. Create youth-led climate initiatives and collaboration opportunities with other First Nations and Indigenous groups broadly to support a global youth climate movement.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments and organizations to financially fund and support interested First Nations youth in their advocacy while also facilitating similar opportunities.
<p>e. Assess and reduce systemic barriers that First Nations youth, including 2SLGBQQIA+ youth, face in participating in climate discussions and response.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments and like-minded organizations to work to conduct this assessment and provide recommendations.
<p>f. Support the development of First Nation-led climate related programs specifically for First Nations youth both on and off reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Kaska Dena Environmental Youth Camp. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments to support the development of these types of initiatives.
<p>g. Ensure long-term and stable financial support for youth climate education (access to education and education resources) and to be prepared for green jobs in order to participate in a green economy.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments must work with educational institutions to strengthen funding for First Nations youth in this regard.

Land and Water Protection

Goal: Ensure the health, stability, and resiliency of the land, waters, and environment for generations to come.

THEME 3.1: Restoration and Conservation

Objectives

3.1.1: Restore the lands and waters, including natural habitats and native plants and medicines, disturbed due to climate change and/or urban and industrial development (including resource extraction such as logging, mining, and fracking).

3.1.2: Strengthen long-term conservation efforts and accountability measures to preserve and protect the lands, waters, habitats, and non-human beings while adapting to climate impacts.

3.1.3: Enhance development and implementation of First Nation-led conservation work that facilitates the exercise of First Nations rights and their ability to uphold responsibilities in line with their laws.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Prioritize site restoration and protection in areas disturbed due to urban and industrial development as a component of climate adaptation and mitigation plans and cultural revitalization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: The Saulneau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations’ Twin Sisters Nursey propagates and distributes native plant species for ecological restoration and remediation of mining and other industrial projects while incorporating First Nations values and beliefs. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to identify specific land and water restoration and protection priorities and targets by region (interior, north, and coast) with timelines for implementation. The province to provide an annual update to First Nations in BC on their investment to this action and outcomes.
<p>b. Strengthen the development and implementation of legislation or policies enforcing cleanup and remediation of lands disturbed by urban and industrial development, agriculture, and climate impacts with specific roles for advocates to lead this work.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to co-develop and implement state-led law and/or policy on this issue. First Nations in BC must be able to enforce any co-developed law or policy within their territories. It is recommended that First Nations in BC prioritize the development and use of their own laws, protocols, and standards for this action.
<p>c. Require resource extraction (logging, mining, fracking) and other industrial development to have net-positive impacts on biodiversity, water quality, and critical wildlife habitats.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments and interested First Nations in BC to review existing environmental and climate change regulations and mechanisms that govern resource extraction and development and to promote net-positive impacts and source

		<p>compliance with Crown and First Nations laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All governments must strengthen accountability measures in line with this action.
<p>d. Support First Nations in the designation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and marine IPCAs across the province to meet and exceed Canada’s land and marine conservation targets and strengthen protection standards.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments to increase investments to support interested First Nations organizations in line with this action and to provide annual updates on their investment to this action and outcomes.
<p>e. Support the development and implementation of First Nation-led conservation plans and nature-based solutions projects that enhance conservation, restoration, and climate mitigation goals.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in this work.
<p>f. Develop and deliver materials, resources, and projects to amplify First Nation voices and to increase public education and awareness on the essential and unique role that First Nations play in restoring and conserving biodiversity.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments and organizations, to develop and share these resources.

THEME 3.2: Water, Watershed, and Ocean Protection

Objectives

3.2.1: Ensure respect and recognition of First Nations water governance and authority to steward and manage water sources, including fresh and brackish waters, watersheds, and the ocean.

3.2.2: Protect natural water ecosystems (marine ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems) and enhance water management policies and practices to safeguard long-term water quality and quantity.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Revise and update the BC First Nations Water Rights Strategy to advance First Nations jurisdictional water rights throughout the province.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As mandated by First Nations in BC, the FNLC to continue working with First Nations in BC to revise and update the First Nations Water Rights Strategy.
<p>b. Strengthen provincial and federal legislation, policies, and plans to protect, restore, and enhance the state of the waters and oceans and increase ecological resiliency to the effects of human-caused global warming and other activities.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to review and reform legislation, policies, and plans in this regard. This review should include measurables, targets, and indicators of success to monitor progress of implementation.
<p>c. Support First Nations in the development and implementation of water protection and stewardship plans which include a climate change analysis and appropriate responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Nicola Watershed Governance Project. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, First Nations organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in BC to develop these community-specific plans.

<p>d. Co-develop pathways as part of the BC Watershed Security Strategy in full partnership with First Nations with specific actions to ensure a healthy state for the oceans and waters across the province.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial government to work in full partnership with First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations to implement this action.
<p>e. Support community-based climate and water monitoring programs to establish baseline data and track climate variability and other impacts from global warming on freshwater and marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, First Nations organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in BC to develop these programs and establish their own data. • See Theme 2.4 for more implementation recommendations.
<p>f. Build and upgrade water treatment facilities and improve water treatment methods to prevent water and ocean pollution from human activity and entities in the private sector.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, First Nations governments, and the private sector to collaboratively implement this action. • Crown governments to ensure public and private water treatment facilities are using the most up-to-date methods and technology to strengthen compliance with government and First Nations laws.
<p>g. Support First Nations in implementing their own self-determined nature-based solutions for ocean restoration and coastal protection.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to support interested First Nations in implementing this action.
<p>h. Develop a resource of best practices and guidelines for those entering First Nations communities to use the land, waters, ocean, and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Cowichan Watershed Board's Pathways and Partnerships: Framework for Collaboration and Reconciliation in the Cowichan Watershed. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC to implement this action. First Nations are encouraged to ground these documents on their own laws and self-determined processes.
<p>i. Respect and recognize the rights of nature and explore opportunities to advocate for and uphold legal personhood rights of the waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: The Muteshekau Shipu (Magpie River) in Quebec. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate for this recognition.

Theme 3.3: Forest Protection and Sustainable Management

Objectives

3.3.1: Facilitate forest regrowth and prioritize sustainable forestry management to reduce fires, landslides, and flood risks.

3.3.2: Protect Old-Growth forests and their contributory role in water retention, species protection and survival, human health, and combating climate change.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Support the development and implementation of a provincial renewed old-growth strategy, ensuring meaningful partnership with First Nations governments.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FNLC to continue to advocate to the province for the development and implementation of a renewed old-growth strategy that entrenches Indigenous consent into its processes and is aligned with the UN Declaration, the BC First Nations Forestry Strategy, and the Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations.
<p>b. Implement the BC First Nations Forestry Strategy and BC's Old Growth Strategic Review Panel's report recommendations.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, at all levels and within all ministries, to implement this action. Crown governments to provide an annual update to First Nations in BC on their investment to this action.
<p>c. Identify critical wildlife habitats, including habitats of species listed under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i>, and immediately ban all logging in those areas.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown government to work with interested First Nations in BC and like-minded organizations to collaboratively implement this action.
<p>d. Prohibit logging in floodplains and areas that are critical to prevent floods and landslides throughout the province and support sustainable First Nation-led forestry management.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province to work in collaboration with interested First Nations governments to identify and implement mechanisms to prohibit logging in line with this action.
<p>e. Assess current logging practices and cumulative impacts on ecosystems and their services, particularly on the ability of forests to capture and store carbon, and to ensure First Nations' food and water sources are protected and restored. Refine logging practices and policies in line with findings.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown government, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to conduct this assessment from a climate crisis perspective. It is recommended that First Nations in BC prioritize the development and use of their own laws, protocols, and standards in line with assessment findings and community-specific knowledge and experience. Entities in the private sector to be responsible for reforming logging practices in line with assessment findings and outcomes. The FNLC to advocate for implementation of this action.

<p>f. Ensure all future climate-related legislation, policies, and programs provide for the protection of intact and old growth forests aligned with local First Nation protocols for forestry management.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments at all levels to be responsible for implementing this action.
<p>g. Support First Nations in conducting their own forestry mapping and research as well as accessing relevant data.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in this work.

THEME 3.4: Urban and Industrial Development Processes

Objectives

3.4.1: Transform resource extraction and other urban/industrial development processes, including project approval and associated decision-making, to ensure respect and recognition of First Nations jurisdiction to steward and manage their lands and resources.

3.4.2: Implement a consent-based approach in line with the minimum standard of FPIC in urban and industrial project processes.

3.4.3: Strengthen collaboration in true partnership between entities in the private sector and First Nations communities for climate initiatives, proposed development, and resource management.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Review and reform legislation, policies, and guidelines to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenure systems are aligned with FPIC. • Project proponents obtain FPIC from <u>all</u> First Nations communities potentially impacted by a proposed project. • FPIC is fully informed, and First Nations can respond to third-party proposals and project development in a meaningful way. • Transparency and honest representation of all impacts of a proposed project, including those that are compounded by or a result of climate change. • Early and ongoing engagement throughout the entire timeline of a project ensuring relevant information is shared promptly between partners. • Early and sufficient notice is provided for First Nations to review data and information received and conduct assessments and research of their own. • Independent data collection and assessment during project review and compliance monitoring. • Appropriate integration of First Nation knowledge and laws into project work, including permitting and decision-making. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations, to review/reform legislation, policies, and guidelines accordingly in line with this action. • The FNLC to advocate for implementation of this action and to support interested First Nations at their request. • Entities in the private sector to begin implementing items in this action in their daily practice and processes and to implement any outcomes as a result of reformed legislation, policies, and guidelines. • It is recommended that First Nations in BC use their own laws, processes, and regimes related to mining, forestry, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource: BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council's Indigenous Sovereignty: Consent for Mining on Indigenous Lands Final Report. 		
<p>b. Enhance First Nations' capacity to conduct environmental assessments and/or to meaningfully participate in environmental assessments processes and ensure respect for their knowledge and jurisdiction in those processes and subsequent decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation developed a Project Assessment Process and conducted their own review of a proposed mine project in 2014; Squamish Nation assessed the Woodfibre LNG Plant. Example: The Nisga'a Nass Area Strategy Working Group reviews and prepares responses for various environmental referrals and processes, including projects undergoing EA and permitting. Resource: The First Nations Major Projects Coalition: A Guide to Major Project Environmental Assessments. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments, to begin capacity-building initiatives in line with this action and explore implementation of similar actions as part of the BC First Nations Mineral Exploration and Mining Action Plan.
<p>c. Ensure recognition and respect of First Nations authority and jurisdiction throughout when entering their territories and seeking to enter into agreements such as Impact Benefit Agreements.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entities in the private sector, including Crown corporations, to immediately engage with First Nations with recognition of their inherent jurisdiction and authority to manage their own lands and resources.
<p>d. Implement the Calls for Extractive and Development Industries from the Calls for Justice as part of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to ensure safety, security, and gender-based impact assessments as part of project planning and development.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All entities in the private sector, including Crown corporations, to immediately review and implement these calls for action.

THEME 3.5: Resource Management

Objectives

3.5.1: Support First Nations in developing and maintaining laws, policies, and guidelines for land, water, air, and resource management to use within and between their territories.

3.5.2: Support First Nations compliance and enforcement systems to promote respect for and compliance with their laws, policies, plans, and guidelines.

3.5.3: Strengthen Crown-led resource management engagement, processes, and communications between the provincial and federal governments and First Nations communities.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Respect and recognize First Nations inherent jurisdiction to access, use, and manage their traditional lands, waters, and resources.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All entities must make this recognition, especially those entering community territories and engaging in land use activities.

<p>b. Support the development and compliance of First Nation-led land use plans, management plans, and resource laws. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Haida Gwaii Clean Energy Declaration; Syilx Nation Water Declaration and Water Planning Methodology; Tsilhqot'in Sturgeon River Law; Yinka Dene 'Uza'hne Water Declaration and Management Policy. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions, to begin development of these resources. • All entities entering community territories must comply with action outcomes.
<p>c. Identify and integrate alternatives to contemporary resource management in line with traditional First Nations systems and governance. For example, weirs, fish traps, reef nets, dip nets, fish wheels in the fisheries context.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations communities to implement and share these types of alternatives.
<p>d. Support the development and implementation of First Nations compliance and enforcement systems such as Indigenous Guardians and other guardianship and stewardship programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Coastal First Nations Guardian Program; Gitanyow Lax'yip Stewardship Guardians; Gitanyow Fisheries Authority. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and like-minded organizations to support these types of initiatives for interested First Nations in BC. • Crown governments to increase funding support for First Nations to start or continue with existing Guardian programs and similar initiatives.
<p>e. Explore the development or reform of First Nations licensing and tenure systems as an option to implement resource management regimes within their territories. For example, forest licences, carbon licences, etc.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments and organizations, to develop these systems. • All entities must ensure recognition of these systems when established.
<p>f. Increase engagement and collaboration with First Nations in state and/or corporate-led resource management systems and decision-making, including those relating to provincial and federal forestry, fishing, and mining licensing processes, laws, and regulations.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, at all levels and within all ministries, and the private sector to implement this action.

THEME 3.6: Collective Stewardship

Objectives

3.6.1: Strengthen collaboration, partnership, and information sharing within and between First Nations communities, organizations, and others to collectively care for the Earth and build climate leadership and resiliency.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Host an annual virtual BC First Nations Climate Gathering with First Nations leadership and community members across the province to engage in climate-related discussion and collaborate to implement the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Tsleil-Waututh Nation Climate Summit. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to secure resources to lead implementation of this action.

<p>b. Support agreements, laws, initiatives, and networks that promote and enhance local and regional collaboration and support between First Nations on climate response and the protection of lands, waters, and resources for future generations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Sylx Nation Unity Declaration; Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative; Coast Salish Gathering Treatise 2010; Inch Creek Hatchery and the Takla and Tlazt'en First Nations work to rebuild salmon populations; S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC to come together in unity to implement this action. • Crown governments, organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in this regard.
<p>c. Support research and raise awareness about the limitations and opportunities that nature-based solutions offer to First Nations and society as a whole in addressing climate change.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to implement this action.
<p>d. Establish a regional network of climate coordinators who can provide mutual support between First Nations and help develop regional and provincial climate alliances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Peer Network. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action to be implemented through items identified at Theme 2.3.
<p>e. Explore stewardship partnerships and project initiatives following OCAP principles and self-determined processes and priorities of partnered communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Program gathers data regarding water flow needs and partners with the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the province; The Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships and project initiatives may be between First Nations, Crown governments, organizations, institutions, and Indigenous Peoples broadly.

Climate Response and Preparedness

Goal: Ensure First Nations in BC are effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts by working to reduce GHG emissions and developing their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community-specific priorities.

THEME 4.1: Green Infrastructure

Objectives

4.1.1: Establish appropriate infrastructure within First Nations to protect community and ecosystem health, reduce GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, and adapt to current and projected climate impacts.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Conduct a provincial-wide infrastructure assessment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify First Nations infrastructure needs (transportation and communications networks, emergency response, climate data). Explore opportunities for green infrastructure development within and between First Nations communities. Close infrastructure gaps in First Nations communities. Implement item “c” at Theme 4.9. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments to work in collaboration with First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations, to conduct the infrastructure assessment and provide recommendations. The FNLC to advocate for implementation of identified recommendations and to support First Nations at their request to implement the above. Crown governments to provide sufficient long-term funding in order to close infrastructure gaps. Crown governments to provide an annual update to First Nations in BC on their investment to this action.
<p>b. Support the development of infrastructure-related training opportunities within First Nations communities in line with actions found at Theme 2.2.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to financially and technically support training in this regard. Crown governments and educational institutions to report annually on the number of beneficiaries and type of benefits received.
<p>c. Support First Nations in developing and operating their own infrastructure management plans and systems to effectively respond to current and projected climate impacts, including energy-efficiency strategies and plans.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to financially and technically support the development and operation of management systems for interested First Nations in BC.

THEME 4.2: Transportation

Objectives

4.2.1: Ensure reliable and affordable low-carbon and active transportation within and between First Nations communities

4.2.2: Support First Nations in reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Review state-led policies and programs* relating to low-carbon transportation and active transportation projects and develop reform recommendations to support the needs and priorities of First Nations both on and off reserve. This work may include strengthening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations awareness and education on current government transportation projects and initiatives. • Reliable transportation networks for communities, particularly for those in northern and remote communities. • Clean mobility options for communities and vulnerable community members. • Opportunities to use electric vehicle fleets within communities. • Charging/hydrogen fueling infrastructure development opportunities and rebates. • Transitioning into clean and low-carbon fuel resource opportunities, including hydrogen and biofuels. • Accessibility to public transportation. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nation in BC and First Nations organizations, to review their policies and programs in line with this action. • The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above. • Crown governments must communicate investments made to implement identified reform recommendations.

* Policies and programs here may include, but are not limited to: Clean BC’s Go Electric Vehicle Rebate Program, Heavy Duty Vehicle Efficiency Program, Go Electric Commercial Vehicle Pilots Program, Go Electric Public Charging, Go Electric Hydrogen Program, Go Electric Charger Rebates, Go Electric Advanced Research and Commercialization, the implementation of charging stations and private and utility investment in charging/hydrogen fueling stations, the implementation of BC’s Zero-Emission Vehicle Standard and Active Transportation, and BC’s public transit systems.

THEME 4.3: Housing and Buildings

Objectives

4.3.1: Ensure that housing and buildings within First Nations communities are culturally appropriate, energy-efficient, and resilient to climate change.

4.3.2: Address the systemic inequity of housing security for First Nations both on and off reserve as a component of building resiliency and adaptation to climate change.

4.3.3: Strengthen First Nations management and capacity to build homes and buildings in their own self-determined ways.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Support First Nations in developing and implementing their own energy-efficient housing and building strategies and plans to respond to their specific needs and priorities.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and like-minded organizations to support interested First Nations in implementing this action.
<p>b. Support First Nations with energy-efficiency capacity and energy-efficient home and building development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening training opportunities for First Nations on housing and energy-efficient design, construction and maintenance, materials and technologies, building inspection, energy advising, and other areas. • Partnering with other Indigenous groups, organizations, and educational institutions to develop region-specific training programs for First Nations related to GHG emission counting, energy-efficiency, and the assessment of energy-efficient projects. • Supporting networking efforts between First Nations communities to share successful experiences in energy-efficient construction and retrofits. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in line with items identified under this action.
<p>c. Review state-led policies and programs related to energy-efficient housing and buildings and develop reform recommendations to support the needs and priorities of First Nations both on and off reserve.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC and First Nations organizations, to review/reform relevant policies and programs in line with this action. • FNLC to advocate for the implementation of this action and to support First Nations at their request to implement the above.
<p>d. Develop a Housing and Building Funding Framework, aligned with actions found at Theme 2.3, to support Nation capacity to undertake culturally appropriate and energy-efficient housing and building initiatives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC and like-minded organizations, to implement this action. • This may involve First Nations in BC to explore opportunities for on-bill financing with BC Hydro and the province.
<p>e. Explore opportunities to create a First Nations Energy-Efficient Home Design Certification Program to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into building design and construction.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, First Nations organizations and institutions to co-develop this program with interested First Nations in BC.
<p>f. Support First Nations off-grid with sustainable and affordable options to access clean energy sources and reduce home energy costs.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to increase investments and work with interested First Nations to find long-term solutions in this regard.

<p>g. Support the development of "passive homes" to minimize residential energy demand and to incorporate traditional housing elements into building designs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments and like-minded organizations, to implement this action.
<p>h. Explore the development of a Nation-specific Building Codes to provide a framework for communities on how the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings can comply with energy-efficient objectives.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations and institutions, and Crown governments, to implement this action.
<p>i. Support the development of education and awareness programs to strengthen First Nations knowledge on energy-efficiency in the home and building context and its benefits, aligned with actions found at Theme 2.2.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions and like-minded organizations are encouraged to explore partnerships with interested First Nations in BC to implement this action.
<p>j. Strengthen capacity of the First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council and the Housing & Infrastructure Authority for First Nations in BC once established in order to lead the transition toward more energy-efficient housing and building schemes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate for the implementation of this action.

THEME 4.4: Food Security and Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems

Objectives

4.4.1: Strengthen food and seafood security for First Nations through the recognition and support of traditional food systems which are also sustainable and low carbon.

4.4.2: Support First Nations in creating and enhancing mechanisms to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change on traditional food, seafood, and medicinal sources.

4.4.3: Support innovative solutions to ensure food security and establish self-sufficiency within First Nations communities, especially those in colder climates with short outdoor growing seasons and those most vulnerable to climate-related impacts and emergency-related disasters.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Recognize and support First Nations authority and right to define, use, and manage their own food systems, including harvesting, gathering, and trapping processes and markets.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All entities must make this recognition, especially those entering community territories and engaging in land use activities. • The FNLC to advocate for the implementation of this action.
<p>b. Support First Nations in developing long-term strategies, policies, and other tools to enhance community-led food sovereignty systems. This includes supporting equitable access to traditional foods, responding to low populations of species, protecting and restoring critical food source habitats, and ensuring systems are sustainable and low-carbon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Yunesit'in and Kwadacha First Nations greenhouse initiatives; First Nations Health Authority's Food Security Planning Toolkit; 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in implementing this action. • Crown governments to increase investments to support interested First Nations in implementing this action and to report annually on work and progress made.

<p>Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program; Nisga'a Nass Wildlife Committee.</p>		
<p>c. Ensure wild salmon stocks are protected and restored for current and future generations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the development and implementation of a BC First Nations Wild Fisheries Strategy and a BC Salmon Advocate with items related to climate impacts on food security. Supporting the First Nations Fisheries Council in the development of the BC First Nations Fisheries Strategy. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations, to implement this action. The FNLC to work to advocate for and support the recovery and restoration of wild salmon stocks as mandated by Chiefs in BC. This includes implementation of this action and developing a strategic approach to salmon fisheries in BC.
<p>d. Identify, protect, and restore ecosystems and natural habitats impacted by climate change and human activity (including resource extraction and other urban/industrial projects) to sustain traditional food and seafood systems.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations and institutions, and Crown governments to implement this action and to develop mechanisms for biodiversity and ecosystem protection. Crown governments to provide an annual report on its investments to this action. The FNLC to advocate to Crown governments on the legislative development of a new biodiversity and ecosystem health law. See Theme 3.2 and Theme 3.3 for more implementation recommendations.
<p>e. Consult with Elders and/or Knowledge Holders to determine effective and appropriate approaches to protecting and restoring food security.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown governments and interested First Nations in BC to identify mechanisms to strengthen implementation of this action.
<p>f. Support innovative ways to ensure that Elders and other community members in need have access to healthy foods, such as traditional foods and fresh food, i.e., community gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Metlakatla Food Fish Program. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from Crown governments and First Nations organizations, to identify and implement mechanisms in line with this action.
<p>g. Support the development of educational initiatives, specifically for First Nations youth, related to the importance of restoring and maintaining traditional food diets and sustainable low-carbon food systems to combat climate change.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from educational institutions, Elders/Knowledge Holders, and experts, to develop these initiatives and resources.
<p>h. Support First Nations in developing appropriate and local food waste management mechanisms to help reduce GHG emissions and ecological footprints.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from like-minded organizations and Crown

		governments, to implement this action.
i. Support First Nation-led research to assess impacts of global warming on ecosystems and natural habitats that support the protection of traditional foods, seafood, and medicines within communities.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational institutions and like-minded organizations to explore partnerships with interested First Nations in BC in these climate research initiatives. Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action.
j. Facilitate and support collaborative discussions and opportunities within and between First Nations communities and other Indigenous groups to combat food insecurity.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations organizations to advocate and explore opportunities to implement this action.

THEME 4.5: Emergency Response

Objectives

- 4.5.1:** Effectively respond to climate-related emergencies and associated risks and impacts on First Nations communities.
- 4.5.2:** Strengthen First Nation-led emergency management and preparedness to effectively respond to climate-related impacts, risks, and emergencies.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Immediately strengthen emergency management, response, and recovery systems within First Nations communities in order to ensure preparedness from catastrophic weather events and natural disasters. This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting an assessment of communities most vulnerable to climate-related emergencies and prioritize support for those communities. Developing an emergency response tracker for vulnerable communities in order to assess previous events and their impacts while also preparing for future events. Identifying and implementing critical supports needed in order to reduce risks and impacts from emergency climate events within communities. For example, build critical infrastructure such as cooling centres and equipment, install air purifiers, implement paid fire response positions, etc. Ensure all mapping and assessment data and systems are up to date within First Nations communities specific to their territories. Investing in and supporting First Nations communities in developing their own emergency management strategies, plans, and systems. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations, and Crown governments, to conduct the emergency management assessment and identify recommendations. The FNLC to advocate for implementation of the identified recommendations and to support First Nations at their request to implement the above. Crown governments to invest in this action and outcomes and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC in their investments.

<p>b. Support the actions undertaken by the FNLC and the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Tripartite Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and establish a collective process to create partnerships and enhance First Nations emergency response, capacity and management. • Develop the BC First Nations Regional Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aligns with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the UN Declaration, and the Declaration Acts. ○ Ensures emergency management planning incorporates Indigenous Knowledge and recognizes and upholds the inherent Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights of First Nations in BC. ○ Implements recommendations relating to provincial wildfires as found in Trial by Fire: Nadleh Whut’en and the Shovel Lake Fire Report, Tsilhqot’in Nation’s NAGWEDIŹK’AN GWANEŖ GANU CH’INIDŹED GANEXWILAGH: The Fires Awakened Us and the Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to continue working with the FNESS and Crown governments to implement these actions. • Crown governments to increase their investments to support implementation of this action.
<p>c. Enhance collaborative opportunities with the provincial and federal governments and First Nations organizations to implement an ecosystem-based approach for adaptation actions, including nature-based solutions for flood management and traditional and prescribed burning practices to mitigate wildfire disasters.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations organizations to explore opportunities and partnerships with Crown governments and other institutions in line with this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action.
<p>d. Support First Nations in conducting their own research to assess and better understand the interactions between climate change and local hazards to inform decision-making on climate adaptation response.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions and like-minded organizations to support interested First Nations in line with this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action.
<p>e. Integrate emergency management planning into climate change response by merging disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation actions at the provincial, federal, and Nation levels.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and interested First Nations governments to integrate emergency management planning into their climate adaptation work to optimize resources and capacity.
<p>f. Review and reform all emergency management legislation, policies, and programs, such Canada’s</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First

Emergency Management Act and BC's *Emergency Program Act*, to ensure appropriate response to the current climate emergency and alignment with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.

Nations in BC, to conduct this review/reform and to implement outcomes.

- The FNLC to continue advocating and working implementation of this action and to support First Nations at their request.

THEME 4.6: Climate Plans, Monitoring, and Risk Assessments

Objectives

4.6.1: Ensure First Nations communities are equipped and informed through the development of their own climate strategies, actions plans, risk assessments, and monitoring programs and initiatives.

4.6.2: Recognize First Nations authority to conduct climate- related assessments and monitoring work in their own self-determined ways to generate their own data and inform their self-determined climate response and planning.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Support First Nations in developing Nation-specific climate strategies and action plans based on their own needs, priorities, and self-determined processes. This may include strategies and plans relating to adaptation and mitigation, emergency response, clean energy, net-zero emissions, and/or others.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, institutions, academics, and experts to support interested First Nations in line with this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC on their investments.
<p>b. Ensure future provincial-led risk assessments are co-developed with First Nations in BC to assess risks and vulnerabilities specific to distinct and unique First Nations individuals and communities while also incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and a First Nations climate lens.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate to the province for thorough implementation on this action
<p>c. Support First Nations in conducting Nation-specific risk assessments, which may include a review of cumulative effects of climate change, land use changes, water extraction, and pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Kanaka Bar Indian Band Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment; Tsleil-Waututh Nation Resiliency Plan. • Resource: Metlakatla Cumulative Effects Management: Methods, Results, and Future Direction of a First Nation-led CEM Program. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, institutions, academics, and experts to support interested First Nations in line with this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC on their investments.
<p>d. Support the development and implementation of First Nation-led monitoring and data collection frameworks to establish robust baseline data on climate, environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors to inform climate response.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and like-minded organizations to support interested First Nations in line with this action.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Coastal First Nations' Regional Monitoring System. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Theme 2.4 for more implementation recommendations.
<p>e. Support First Nations in developing appropriate and effective strategies to mitigate or avoid climate-related impacts to cultural rights and heritage sites. This may include mapping of cultural heritage sites and identifying and designating places of significance.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, organizations, institutions, academics, and experts to support interested First Nations in line with this action.

THEME 4.7: GHG Emission Reduction

Objectives

4.7.1: Meet and exceed provincial and federal climate targets to align with the IPCC's recommendation to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

4.7.2: Strengthen collaboration and partnerships between First Nations, governments, corporations, institutions, and organizations to reduce global GHG emissions and carbon pollution.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Establish more ambitious climate targets for Canada and BC to align with IPCC's recommendations to limit global warming to 1.5°C, including reaching net-zero by 2040. To meet newly established targets, Canada and BC must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely phase-out subsidies for oil and gas and other intensive industries and focus on building a renewable energy economy. • Support First Nations who rely on the fossil fuel industry to adapt to low carbon revenue sources. • Assess their programs and plans that aim to reduce GHG emissions to ensure they are effectively designed and working towards sustainable emission reductions. • Assess methodologies for GHG emission counting and estimates, as well as indicators of performance for programs that support high-emitting industries (oil and gas, logging, mining, agriculture) to reduce emission and ensure sustainable reductions. • Fully integrate logging emissions into their GHG inventories and carbon pricing systems. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate to Crown governments to implement this action.
<p>b. Ensure Crown governments develop and commit to large-scale GHG emission reduction from wildfires.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to advocate to Crown governments to ensure implementation of this action.
<p>c. Support First Nations in assessing, quantifying, and reducing their GHG emissions to inform decision-making, develop offset and/or mitigation measures, and explore economic investments.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations, to develop a toolkit for First Nations to use to assess and quantify GHG emissions.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action.
<p>d. Support First Nations in developing and leading nature-based solutions in their territories to help reduce GHG emissions and address climate change impacts. This may involve meeting conservation targets to protect 25% of Canada’s land and ocean by 2015 with IPCAs to offset GHG emissions.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like-minded organizations, institutions, and Crown governments to support First Nations in implementing this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC on their investments.
<p>e. Review and reform legislation, regulations, policies, and programs related to the carbon market and carbon offsets to ensure alignment with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening First Nations leadership and decision-making in existing and emerging carbon markets and carbon trading in a way that recognizes and respects their inherent Title and Rights. • Supporting First Nations in asserting their jurisdiction to carbon rights and the right to hold productive capacity within their territories. • Removing restrictions on First Nations authority to pursue land-based carbon offsets and conservation projects within their territories. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to review/reform legislation, regulations, policies, and programs in line with this action. • The FNLC to advocate for implementation of this action and to support First Nations at their request.
<p>f. Partner with local governments, institutions and/or organizations to explore and assess mitigation opportunities for communities, such as negative emissions technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Community solar feasibility research project carried out in partnership with relevant university programs and their students. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from like-minded organizations, institutions, and Crown governments, to assess opportunities and limitations of negative emissions technologies on First Nations’ Title, Rights, and interests.

THEME 4.8: Clean Energy Development

Objectives

4.8.1: Facilitate First Nations energy independence and energy security while building sustainable economies within First Nations communities by supporting First Nations participation and ownership in the generation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy (renewable, non-combustible and/or low carbon energy sources).

4.8.2: Reduce energy poverty in First Nations communities by ensuring access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy and energy sources that reduce total GHG emissions and mitigate environmental impacts relative to alternative sources.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Establish an Indigenous Clean Energy Legacy Fund to support clean energy projects in First Nations communities for generations to come.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FNLC to continue to support the New Relationship Trust’s efforts to secure funds to establish

		an Indigenous Clean Energy Legacy Fund as mandated by First Nations in BC.
<p>b. Support First Nations in generating, transmitting, and distributing clean energy. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to establish Indigenous utilities. Examples: Tsleil-Waututh Nation Proposed Solar Project; T'sou-ke Solar Project. • Connecting communities to the grid or developing First Nations microgrids • Working to diversify clean energy sources available to support energy independence, cost reduction, community resiliency, and GHG emission reduction. • Increasing investments in energy sources that are often ignored such as ocean energy (tidal and ocean thermal) and geothermal energy (electricity and heat). Examples: Kitselas Geothermal Inc.; Clark Lake Geothermal Project now known as Tu Deh-Kah Geothermal. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with support from First Nations organizations such as the First Nations Energy and Mining Council, to work collectively with Crown governments to implement this action. • The FNLC to advocate for the establishment of Indigenous utilities across the province and to support First Nations at their request. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC on their investments.
<p>c. Restore the ability for First Nations to generate revenue from selling electricity through agreements such as electricity purchase agreements for small projects and/or other alternatives that allow for economic opportunities related to clean energy.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province must immediately re-establish opportunities for First Nations to own and develop clean energy projects and to sell electricity to BC Hydro. • The FNLC to advocate for implementation of this action.
<p>d. Conduct research on clean energy development within First Nations communities, including opportunities and impacts associated with the shift to clean and low carbon fuel sources such as hydrogen and biofuels.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested First Nations in BC, with the support from like-minded organizations and educational institutions, to develop initiatives to implement this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action.
<p>e. Assist First Nations communities to eliminate any existing dependency on fossil fuel use by addressing limitations that constrain their ability to transition toward clean energy alternatives.</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments must increase their investments and efforts to implement this action with respect to First Nations' inherent right to self-determination and to develop and use their own self-determined processes and institutions. • The FNLC to continue to advocate for implementation of this action.
<p>f. Review and reform all provincial and federal clean energy legislation, policies, and programs to ensure accessibility and equitable opportunities for First Nations in BC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: The BC Hydro Net Metering Program framework and policies such as the Hydrogen Strategy for Canada, BC Hydrogen Strategy, BC 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, in collaboration with First Nations in BC, to review/reform legislation, regulations, policies, and programs in line with this action. • The FNLC to continue advocating for implementation of this action.

<p>Bioenergy Strategy, BC Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and Canada’s Clean Fuel Standard.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Theme 1.2 for more implementation recommendations.
<p>g. Support education and awareness programs to educate and train First Nations in clean energy alternatives and development in line with actions found at Theme 2.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Indigenous Clean Energy Catalysts Program. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions and like-minded organizations to develop initiatives, in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC, to implement this action.

THEME 4.9: Community Health and Wellness

Objectives

4.9.1: Better understand the impacts of climate change on First Nations health and wellness.

4.9.2: Ensure long-term First Nations community health and wellness to ensure resiliency in the face of the climate emergency.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Ensure all First Nations in BC have long-term and reliable access to safe and clean food and water sources both in their homes and throughout their territories.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal government must immediately honour its commitment to improve First Nations drinking water and ensure implementation of this action.
<p>b. Facilitate First Nation-led research to better understand the impacts of climate change on First Nations’ health in communities, particularly those vulnerable with low populations. This includes the development of health and wellness indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource: Measuring Wellness: An Indicator Development Guide for First Nations. 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations organizations, such as the First Nations Health Authority, non-Indigenous organizations, and educational institutions to explore partnerships with interested First Nations in BC in these climate research initiatives. • Crown governments to facilitate First Nations’ access to funding to further support implementation of this action.
<p>c. Conduct a province-wide assessment on critical infrastructure in First Nation reserves necessary to protect community health and wellness. Assessments may be focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water treatment, storage facilities, and distribution systems. • Water withdrawal systems. • Hazardous waste handling and storage. • Waste disposal and recycling. • Other items identified at Theme 4.1 	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to work in collaboration with interested First Nations in BC to ensure this assessment is conducted in line with the infrastructure assessment at Theme 4.1.
<p>d. Ensure Indigenous and non-Indigenous health agencies undertake culturally appropriate and periodic climate change health assessments in communities to inform climate adaptation response.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and like-minded organizations to identify and implement initiatives to meet this action.

<p>e. Support First Nations in developing and establishing culturally appropriate community wellness centres and programs to provide services for members with the incorporation of traditional practices and medicines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: Songhees Wellness Centre; Wet'suwet'en Wellness Working Group. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like-minded Organizations to support interested First Nations in BC to implement this action. • Crown governments to increase their funding support to implement this action and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC on their investments.
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THEME 4.10: Just and Green Economy

Objectives

- 4.10.1:** Strengthen First Nations economic independence by supporting and recognizing First Nation-led sustainable and low carbon economic development initiatives.
- 4.10.2:** Maximize First Nations participation in economic development and employment opportunities arising from the transition to a low-carbon society.
- 4.10.3:** Ensure recognition and implementation of the "economic component" of First Nations' Title and facilitate equitable resource revenue sharing with First Nations communities.

Strategies and Actions	Priority	Implementation Recommendations
<p>a. Support First Nations in exploring and developing environmentally sustainable and low carbon economic development projects and opportunities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the implementation of the BCFN Sustainable Economic Development and Fiscal Relations Strategy. • Increasing equity-financing for First Nation-led sustainable and low-carbon initiatives, with accessibility to First Nation entrepreneurs. Examples of these types of initiatives include: T'Sou'ke First Nation's greenhouses as part of their franchise agreement with Pacific Coast Wasabi; Metlakatla First Nation's sustainable social enterprise with essential oils. • Transforming the current model for revenue sharing in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create consent-based long-term economic agreements with interested First Nations throughout the province. ○ Remove disparity between First Nations to ensure all Nations receive equal access to revenue and revenue-sharing opportunities. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations organizations and institutions to support interested First Nations in implementing this action. • Entities in the private sector are encouraged to explore partnerships and opportunities to work with First Nations in line with this action. • Crown governments to facilitate First Nations' equal access to funding to implement this action and to provide an annual report to First Nations in BC on their investments. • The FNLC to advocate for increasing equity-financing for First Nation-led initiatives.
<p>b. Support First Nations in implementing GHG emission standards, assessments, and criteria at the community level to inform decision-making for economic development. See also item "c" at Theme 4.1</p>	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like-minded organizations, institutions, and Crown governments to support interested First Nations in implementing this action. • See Theme 4.7 for more implementation recommendations.

<p>c. Support First Nations investment in eco-tourism and land-based carbon offsets to build sustainable revenue streams for communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments, like-minded organizations, and institutions to support interested First Nations in implementing this action.
<p>d. Develop a BC First Nations Green Jobs Plan to increase First Nations participation in BC in green educational programs and to ensure sufficient funding opportunities are available for First Nations to access education.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments to work in collaboration with First Nations in BC to develop and share this resource. This plan shall include clear indicators and milestones that measure First Nations’ participation in the green work force. • The FNLC to support First Nations at their request to implement the above.
<p>e. Create opportunities for First Nations to buy licenses (timber forest licenses and/or woodland licenses) in their territories to not only create economic independence, but to also reclaim control to protect and care for the land and its resources.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and entities in the private sector to explore opportunities in line with this action.
<p>f. Apply a First Nations lens to economic analysis and measurement, using holistic indicators in decision-making processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: BCAFN Discussion Paper: Centering First Nations Concepts of Wellbeing. Toward a GDP-Alternative Index in British Columbia. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown governments and like-minded organizations to collaborate with interested First Nations in BC to implement this action.

Appendix “A” – Guide to the Strategy

The Strategy is organized in the following manner:

Vision

The Strategy’s vision is a collective representation of what First Nations in BC hope to see and experience in the future in the face of the ongoing global human caused climate crisis.

Guiding Principles

These principles serve to guide the development and implementation of the Strategy. These principles point to recurring themes and values expressed by First Nations in BC when sharing their knowledge and experiences with our team.

Pathways

There are four pathways identified in the Strategy:

- Inherent Title and Rights.
- Land and Water Protection.
- Capacity and Leadership.
- Climate Response and Preparedness.

Goals

Each pathway has an achievable and relevant goal:

- Ensure **First Nations’ Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights in BC are recognized and affirmed** in climate planning and response.
- Ensure First Nations in BC are **empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed** to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.
- Ensure the **health, stability, and resiliency of the land, waters, and environment** for generations to come.
- Ensure First Nations in BC are **effectively responding to the climate emergency and current and projected climate impacts** by working to reduce GHG emissions and developing their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community-specific priorities.

Themes

Each pathway includes a set of related themes. These themes represent many of the climate action priorities discussed throughout the Strategy’s development as part of engagement and collaboration activities with First Nations in BC. Priorities for First Nations may differ based on a Nation’s unique context, including their geography, histories, capacities, challenges, and overall experiences of climate change impacts. Included within each theme are a set of objectives, strategies, and actions.

Priority

The strategies and actions listed under each theme have been assigned a priority level of either **immediate** or **ongoing**. The prioritization of these items within the Strategy is a general guide and may not reflect priorities in every community or region. First Nations in BC are encouraged to assess and identify their own priority levels based on their Nation and community-specific needs.

Implementation Recommendations

The identified strategies and actions are general in nature in order for them to be used by all First Nations in BC and to respect their diversity, distinctiveness, and right to self-determination. At the same time, Strategy content responds to priorities and needs of First Nations as a collective body, such as affirming inherent and constitutional rights and building capacity to address climate change.

The Strategy attempts to provide cohesive implementation recommendations. Where possible, the Strategy identifies key actors and approaches to lead implementation and/or support First Nations in leading implementation efforts. These include: First Nation governments (both Band and hereditary leadership systems), First Nations communities, organizations (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous), the First Nations Leadership Council, institutions (such as educational institutions and school districts), Crown governments (at all levels, which for the purposes of the Strategy will include federal and provincial governments *and* municipal governments and regional districts), entities in the private sector, and others.

Examples

The Strategy includes real-world examples and local experiences that can provide additional guidance in support of the identifies strategies and actions.

Resources

The Strategy includes resources to assist individuals, organizations, and institutions to implement specific strategies and actions.

Appendix “B” – Strategy Summary Chart

BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan

Vision

We, the first peoples of the lands, assert our inherent Title, Rights, and jurisdiction to lead the response to the climate crisis. We exercise our knowledge, laws, and processes in our self-determined ways to care for the Earth and ensure health and stability for generations to come.

Guiding Principles

- Self-Determination and Self-Government: Respect and recognize the assertion of First Nations’ inherent jurisdiction over their traditional territories and their right to self-determination and self-government in climate action.
- Culture and Tradition: Protect First Nations culture, values, and identity, including the knowledge, laws, and languages of each individual Nation, as an essential element of responding to the climate crisis.
- Guardianship and Stewardship: Exercise reciprocity, restoration, and collaboration with the lands, waters, and environment in maintaining ecosystem health and stability for generations to come.
- Collaboration and Partnership: Collaborate and develop true partnerships between First Nations and Crown governments, the private sector, organizations, institutions, Indigenous Peoples, and society as a whole to effectively address the climate emergency.
- Empowerment, Leadership, and Self-Sufficiency: Build capacity and self-sufficiency within First Nations communities to strengthen resiliency while also preparing and empowering the future generations for projected climate impacts.

Pathways

Inherent Title and Rights

Capacity and Leadership

Land and Water Protection

Climate Response and Preparedness

Goals

Ensure First Nations’ inherent Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights in BC are recognized and affirmed in climate planning and response.

Ensure First Nations in BC are empowered and prepared with the capacity and tools needed to effectively lead the response to the climate crisis both now and in the future.

Ensure the health, stability, and resiliency of the land, waters, and environment for generations to come.

Ensure First Nations in BC are effectively responding to current and projected climate impacts by working to reduce GHG emissions and developing their own self-determined initiatives grounded in community-specific priorities.

Themes and Objectives			
<p>Theme 1.1: Self-Determination and Self-Government</p> <p>Objective 1.1.1: Ensure First Nations in BC have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government in climate planning and response.</p> <p>Objective 1.1.2: Respect and support First Nations in developing, maintaining, and implementing their own institutions, governing bodies, and political, economic, and social structures related to climate change.</p>	<p>Theme 2.1: Climate Capacity Building</p> <p>Objective 2.1.1: Identify climate capacity needs of each individual First Nation community throughout the province.</p> <p>Objective 2.1.2: Strengthen overall capacity within First Nations communities to respond to climate change.</p>	<p>Theme 3.1: Restoration and Conservation</p> <p>Objective 3.1.1: Restore the lands and waters, including natural habitats and native plants and medicines, disturbed due to climate change and/or urban and industrial development (including resource extraction such as logging, mining, and fracking).</p> <p>Objective 3.1.2: Strengthen long-term conservation efforts and accountability measures to preserve and protect the lands, waters, habitats, and non-human beings while adapting to climate impacts.</p> <p>Objective 3.1.3: Enhance development and implementation of First Nation-led conservation work that facilitates the exercise of First Nations rights and their ability to uphold responsibilities in line with their laws.</p>	<p>Theme 4.1: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Objective 4.1.1: Establish appropriate infrastructure within First Nations to protect community and ecosystem health, reduce GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, and adapt to current and projected climate impacts.</p>
<p>Theme 1.2: Legislation, Policy, and Program Reform</p> <p>Objective 1.2.1: Ensure all climate-related legislation, policies, programs, and their implementation mechanisms are aligned with the UN Declaration and the Declaration Acts.</p> <p>Objective 1.2.2: Remove legislative barriers on First Nations in BC in being able to exercise their inherent Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights in climate planning and response.</p> <p>Objective 1.2.3: Strengthen collaboration and partnership between First Nations in BC and Crown governments in climate response, conservation, and</p>	<p>Theme 2.2: Education and Training</p> <p>Objective 2.2.1: Strengthen knowledge and awareness within First Nations communities on climate change, including climate impacts, sources, mitigation and adaptation response, and energy efficiency.</p> <p>Objective 2.2.2: Strengthen climate-related training and skills development for First Nations both on and off reserve that incorporates both Indigenous Knowledge and western science.</p> <p>Objective 2.2.3: Effectively establish and fulfil climate-related positions and</p>	<p>Theme 3.2: Water, Watershed, and Ocean Protection</p> <p>Objective 3.2.1: Ensure respect and recognition of First Nations water governance and authority to steward and manage water sources, including fresh and brackish waters, watersheds, and the ocean.</p> <p>Objective 3.2.2: Protect natural water ecosystems (marine ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems) and enhance water management policies and practices to safeguard long-term water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>Theme 4.2: Transportation</p> <p>Objective 4.2.1: Ensure reliable and affordable low-carbon and active transportation within and between First Nations communities.</p> <p>Objective 4.2.2: Support First Nations in reducing reliance on fossil fuels.</p>

environmental, land, and water protection and stewardship.

advocacy roles within First Nations communities.

Theme 1.3: Indigenous Knowledge, Laws, and Languages

Objective 1.3.1: Support the preservation and use of First Nations knowledge, laws, and languages as a foundation to build resiliency and respond to the climate crisis today and in the future.

Objective 1.3.2: Revitalize and implement First Nations laws and legal orders to guide climate change response.

Theme 2.3: Climate Funding

Objective 2.3.1: Ensure First Nations communities obtain the financial resources needed to continually build climate capacity and develop their own self-determined climate responses.

Objective 2.3.2: Improve both provincial and federal funding frameworks and programs to reflect First Nations priorities on climate change.

Objective 2.3.3: Ensure adequate government support for First Nations with their applications for climate-related funding.

Objective 2.3.4: Increase long-term government investments for First Nations in BC in their climate mitigation and adaptation actions and initiatives.

Theme 3.3: Forest Protection and Sustainable Management

Objective 3.3.1: Facilitate forest regrowth and prioritize sustainable forestry management to reduce fires, landslides, and flood risks.

Objective 3.3.2: Protect Old-Growth forests and their contributory role in water retention, species protection and survival, human health, and combating climate change.

Theme 4.3: Housing and Buildings

Objective 4.3.1: Ensure that housing and buildings within First Nations communities are culturally appropriate, energy-efficient, and resilient to climate change.

Objective 4.3.2: Address the systemic inequity of housing security for First Nations both on and off reserve as a component of building resiliency and adaptation to climate change.

Objective 4.3.3: Strengthen First Nations management and capacity to build homes and buildings in their own self-determined ways.

Theme 1.4: Crown Engagement and Honouring Commitments

Objective 1.4.1: Strengthen the Crown “duty to consult” by ensuring meaningful Crown engagement, collaboration, and partnership with First Nations in climate planning and response.

Objective 1.4.2: Support First Nations capacity to meaningfully participate in negotiations, consultations, and climate-related engagement and collaboration discussions.

Theme 2.4: Data Governance

Objective 2.4.1: Strengthen First Nations data governance and support Nations in generating, managing, and accessing climate data and information to inform decision-making and climate response.

Objective 2.4.2: Engage in respectful and reciprocal generation and sharing of climate data and information with First Nations in BC.

Theme 3.4: Urban and Industrial Development Processes

Objective 3.4.1: Transform resource extraction and other urban/industrial development processes, including project approval and associated decision-making, to ensure respect and recognition of First Nations jurisdiction to steward and manage their lands and resources.

Objective 3.4.2: Implement a consent-based approach in line with the minimum standard of FPIC in urban and industrial project processes.

Objective 3.4.3: Strengthen collaboration in true partnership between entities in

Theme 4.4: Food Security and Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems

Objective 4.4.1: Strengthen food and seafood security for First Nations through the recognition and support of traditional food systems which are also sustainable and low carbon.

Objective 4.4.2: Support First Nations in creating and enhancing mechanisms to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change on traditional food, seafood, and medicinal sources.

Objective 4.4.3: Support innovative solutions to ensure food security and establish self-sufficiency within First Nations communities, especially those in

the private sector and First Nations communities for climate initiatives, proposed development, and resource management.

colder climates with short outdoor growing seasons and those most vulnerable to climate-related impacts and emergency-related disasters.

Theme 1.5: Public Knowledge and Education

Objective 1.5.1: Enhance public knowledge and understanding of the societal, cultural, and economic consequences of climate change impacts on First Nations in BC, as well as the unique and essential role of Indigenous Peoples in addressing the climate crisis.
Objective 1.5.2: Increase public understanding of the role of colonization and colonial laws, such as the *Indian Act*, in limiting and restricting First Nations ability to respond to climate change.

Theme 2.5: Gender Equity and Inclusion

Objective 2.5.1: Implement the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the Calls for Justice in climate action.
Objective 2.5.2: Recognize the impacts of colonization on First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and strengthen recognition and respect of their right to culture, health, security, and justice as part of climate preparedness and adaptation planning.
Objective 2.5.3: Remove barriers, such as sexual and gender norms grounded on colonial ideals, experienced by First Nations women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals throughout climate action.

Theme 2.6: Commitment to Youth

Objective 2.6.1: Increase opportunities for First Nations youth to take on climate advocacy and leadership positions both within and outside of their communities.
Objective 2.6.2: Create inclusive and culturally appropriate spaces for First Nations youth, including 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, to participate in climate discussions and response and support the implementation of any outcomes.

Theme 3.5: Resource Management

Objective 3.5.1: Support First Nations in developing and maintaining laws, policies, and guidelines for land, water, air, and resource management to use within and between their territories.
Objective 3.5.2: Support First Nations compliance and enforcement systems to promote respect for and compliance with their laws, policies, plans, and guidelines.
Objective 3.5.3: Strengthen Crown-led resource management engagement, processes, and communications between the provincial and federal governments and First Nations communities.

Theme 3.6: Collective Stewardship

Objective 3.6.1: Strengthen collaboration, partnership, and information sharing within and between First Nations communities, organizations, and others to collectively care for the Earth and build climate leadership and resiliency.

Theme 4.5: Emergency Response

Objective 4.5.1: Effectively respond to climate-related emergencies and associated risks and impacts on First Nations communities.
Objective 4.5.2: Strengthen First Nations-led emergency management and preparedness to effectively respond to climate-related impacts, risks, and emergencies.

Theme 4.6: Climate Plans, Monitoring, and Risk Assessments

Objective 4.6.1: Ensure First Nations communities are equipped and informed through the development of their own climate strategies, actions plans, risk assessments, and monitoring programs and initiatives.
Objective 4.6.2: Recognize First Nations authority to conduct climate-related assessments and monitoring work in their own self-determined ways to generate their own data and inform their self-determined climate response and planning.

Theme 4.7: GHG Emission Reduction

Objective 4.7.1: Meet and exceed provincial and federal climate targets to align with the IPCC's recommendation to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Objective 4.7.2: Strengthen collaboration and partnerships between First Nations, governments, corporations, institutions, and organizations to reduce global GHG emissions and carbon pollution.

Theme 4.8: Clean Energy Development

Objective 4.8.1: Facilitate First Nations energy independence and energy security while building sustainable economies within First Nations communities by supporting First Nations participation and ownership in the generation, transmission, and distribution of clean energy (renewable, non-combustible and/or low carbon energy sources).

Objective 4.8.3: Reduce energy poverty in First Nations communities by ensuring access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy and energy sources that reduce total GHG emissions and mitigate environmental impacts relative to alternative sources.

Theme 4.9: Community Health and Wellness

Objective 4.9.1: Better understand the impacts of climate change on First Nations health and wellness.

Objective 4.9.2: Ensure long-term First Nations community health and wellness to ensure resiliency in the face of the climate emergency.

Theme 4.10: Just and Green Economy

Objective 4.10.1: Strengthen First Nations economic independence by supporting and recognizing First Nation-led sustainable and low carbon economic development initiatives.

Objective 4.10.2: Maximize First Nations participation in economic development and employment opportunities arising from the transition to a low-carbon society.

Objective 4.10.3: Ensure recognition and implementation of the "economic component" of First Nations' Title and facilitate equitable resource revenue sharing with First Nations communities.