



# First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda

A Vision for Co-development: The BC First Nations  
Climate Leadership Agenda

December 1, 2023



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada 



## Overview

- Provide background on the Government of Canada's commitment to co-develop a distinctions-based Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) Agenda, including a First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda.
- Outline where this work is starting and some areas of focus that could guide this work.
- Provide an overview of the ICL co-development process.

# The First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda

Canada has committed to co-develop with Indigenous partners an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda (ICL), on a distinctions-basis.

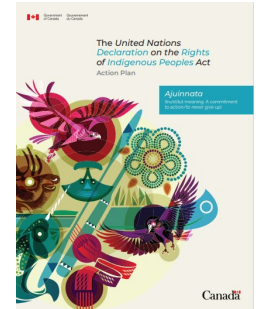
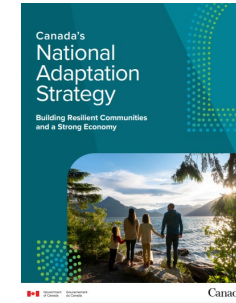
The First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda represents the First Nations-led process under the larger ICL process and builds on longstanding dialogue between Canada and First Nations.

## Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda

First Nations  
Climate  
Leadership  
Agenda

Inuit Climate  
Leadership  
Agenda

Métis Climate  
Leadership  
Agenda



Federal commitments to advancing the ICL Agenda were set out in the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, the National Adaptation Strategy, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* draft Action Plan. (See Annex 1 for a full list of federal commitments to ICL)

# Starting from What We Know

Because the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda has emerged from longstanding dialogue between Canada and First Nations, we are not starting from a blank page.

**First Nations must navigate a complex web of federal programs** to access the funding to act on self-determined climate priorities.

*Underfunding of programs targeting First Nations*

*Inflexible/niche program mandates*

*Administrative and reporting burdens*

*Investment categories that do not reflect First Nations' priorities*

*Rigid funding arrangements and programs*

There is **poor/shallow First Nations' engagement** in climate-related decision-making and policy development.

*Limited opportunities for participation of First Nations throughout the policy cycle*

*Lack of capacity, resources, and time to meaningfully participate*

*Fatigue*

The **funding** and other supports needed to holistically **implement climate priorities over the long term are difficult to access.**

*Lack of long-term funding approaches to implement strategies*

*Insufficient capacity and related supports at the community, regional, and national level*

*Poor consideration of First Nations Climate Lens, First Nations' lived realities, Indigenous knowledges, laws, and governance*

## Areas of Focus



Progressively transform how First Nations access funding for climate action.



**A new fiscal relationship, with mechanisms that enable predictable and long-term funding to act on self-determined priorities in self-determined ways.**



First Nations have a seat at the table in climate-related decision-making and are engaged in meaningful ways.



**Collaborative decision-making on climate policy and stable, and well-defined engagement mechanisms.**



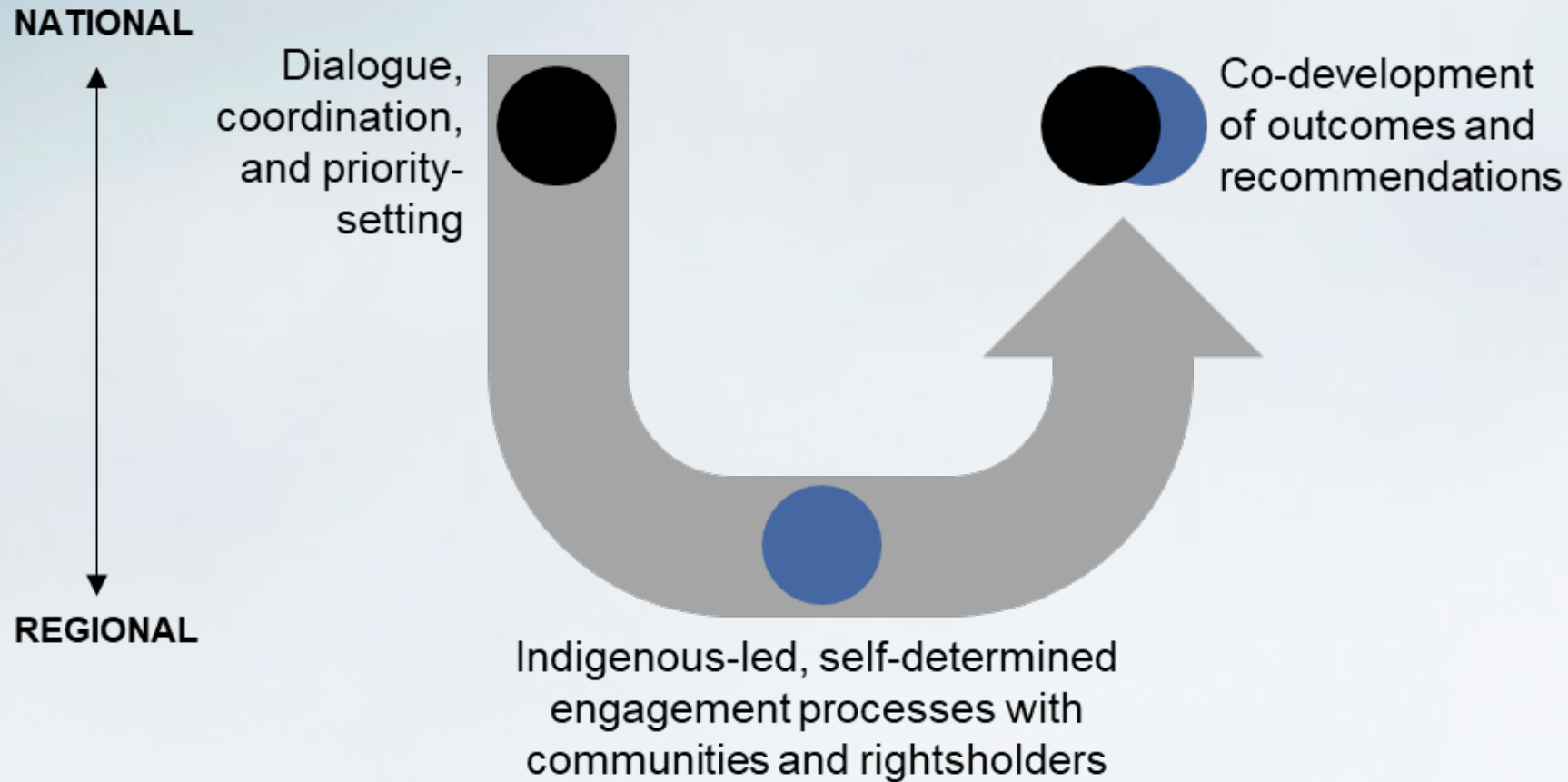
Remove systemic barriers to First Nations climate action and implement First Nations climate strategies.



**First Nations climate plans are implemented, with holistic funding to build and grow the local and regional capacity, expertise, and institutions necessary to advance self-determined responses to climate change.**

# Overview ICL Co-development Process

First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda co-development is occurring at the national level, informed by regional, First Nations-led engagement across Canada.



## National, Regional, and Other Variations in First Nations Climate Leadership

The impacts of climate change across Canada vary, as do the circumstances and priorities of First Nations. The First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda and co-development process should reflect this.



Canada does not require First Nations to come to consensus on one vision for First Nations Climate Leadership, approaches can vary regionally or otherwise as appropriate.

However, there is also an opportunity to identify common priorities nationally, as appropriate.



Similarly, there is not a requirement that the co-development process be uniform for all First Nations.

However, the co-development process is tied to the same timelines and general process for all.

# Thank you

## Contacts:

Dylan McMahon, Manager Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) Agenda, CIRNAC

[Dylan.mcmahon@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:Dylan.mcmahon@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Ben Linaker, Snr Policy Advisor, ICL Agenda, CIRNAC

[Ben.Linaker@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:Ben.Linaker@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Brecken Hancock, Manager, Indigenous Climate Policy and Engagement Division (ICPED), ECCC

[Brecken.Hancock@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Brecken.Hancock@ec.gc.ca)

Chantal Kipfer, Snr Policy Advisor, ICPED, ECCC

[chantal.kipfer@ec.gc.ca](mailto:chantal.kipfer@ec.gc.ca)



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# Annex 1: Federal Commitments to Indigenous Climate Leadership

## UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT DRAFT ACTION PLAN

*“Together with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda, including distinctions-based strategies, that vests the resources and authorities necessary for Indigenous Peoples to fully exercise their right to self-determination in relation to climate. This includes ensuring that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis have stable, long-term financing to implement self-determined climate actions, make climate-related decisions with the Government of Canada, and that systemic barriers to Indigenous climate leadership are addressed.”*

## NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY

*“For First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, climate change adaptation must be premised on the right to self-determination and should support Indigenous Peoples in leading adaptation action in and on their lands, territories, ice, and waters. To achieve this, the **Government of Canada will work in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda, which will be the main pathway for implementing Indigenous communities’ adaptation priorities.**”*

## BUDGET 2022

*“As announced in the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, Budget 2022 proposes to provide **\$29.6 million over three years**, starting in 2022-23, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support the **co-development of an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda** to support self-determined action in addressing Indigenous peoples’ climate priorities. The funding will also support the **phased implementation of distinctions-based climate strategies.**”*

## 2030 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

*“The Government of Canada will **continue to work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis** representatives and rights-holders to **develop and implement a model of partnership for climate action** that:*

- Empowers self-determined climate action and the expression of Indigenous and Treaty rights, jurisdictions, governance, and legal traditions through climate action, and progressively vests authorities and resources in the hands of Indigenous governments;*
- Leverages the transition to a net-zero economy to support overarching efforts towards self-determination, the alleviation of socio-economic inequities, and the implementation of the UN Declaration, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and,*
- Supports the expression of Indigenous Knowledge systems in national climate policy through appropriate governance arrangements, the promotion of Indigenous perspectives on climate change, and the weaving together of Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems.*

***The Government will make an additional investment of \$29.6 million to advance Indigenous Climate Leadership.”***

## CANADA’S STRENGTHENED CLIMATE PLAN

- “Support the **implementation of Indigenous-led climate strategies** for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.”*
- “To position Indigenous climate leadership as a cornerstone of Canada’s strengthened climate plan, the Government of Canada will partner with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to **set an agenda for climate action and a framework for collaboration.**”*
- “Co-develop, on a distinction basis, an Indigenous Climate Leadership agenda which builds regional and national capacity and progressively vests authorities and resources for climate action in the hands of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis and representative organizations.”*



# Annex 2: Lessons Learned in the Delivery of Federal Programs

Based on longstanding dialogue between the federal government and First Nations partners, many lessons have been learned about best practices and challenges in the current federal program landscape.

## Best Practices

- ✓ **Meaningful, early, and consistent First Nations involvement.**
- ✓ Approach to climate change must be **holistic**.
- ✓ **Long-term, flexible funding** that is responsive to First Nations needs and priorities.
- ✓ **Regional and distinctions-based** approaches.
- ✓ Uplifting and integrating **Indigenous Knowledge**.

## Challenges

- ⚠ **Systemic inequities**, such as inadequate housing, infrastructure and socioeconomic conditions.
- ⚠ **Short-term funding cycles** limit impact and longevity of programming.
- ⚠ **Burdensome and restrictive application processes** and terms and conditions for **competitive programs** limit First Nations access to available funding.
- ⚠ Lack of First Nations involvement in decision-making results in **unintended consequences** for First Nations.
- ⚠ **Limited capacity**.
- ⚠ **Uncoordinated, siloed federal system**.

