

BC FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP (FNCL) AGENDA INFOSHEET



WHAT IS THE BC FNCL AGENDA?

Canada committed to advancing an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda (ICLA), ensuring that systemic barriers to Indigenous climate leadership are addressed (Action 46, UN Declaration Act Action Plan). The BC FNCL Agenda provides recommendations to transform federal systems and dismantle systemic barriers that have long constrained First Nations climate leadership. Rooted in self-determination, traditional Knowledge systems, and cultural values, the Agenda seeks to empower First Nations in BC to lead climate action on their own terms.

OVERVIEW OF THE HIGH-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

24 High-Level recommendations within 11 themes were identified, building on the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy) and engagement with First Nations across BC (see Figure 1). This included a Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gathering on Climate Change, eight regional in-person sessions, a survey, virtual engagement sessions, and a peer review process. The 11 themes are summarized below.

1. Rights, Jurisdiction, Natural Law, Legal Orders, Protocols and Identity

Recognize and uphold First Nations’ laws, Knowledge systems, and jurisdictional authority in all federal climate policy and legislation. Support cultural and language revitalization and data sovereignty.

2. First Nations Climate Leadership Capacity

Create and fund climate leadership positions in every Nation. Establish a BC First Nations Climate Action Secretariat and a network to connect and support First Nations climate priorities across the province.

3. Climate Leadership Funding Reform

Establish a First Nations-led Climate Fund that provides direct, long-term, and flexible funding to Nations. Create a whole-of-government framework to streamline programs and reduce barriers to access.

4. First Nations-led Climate Planning

Support Nations to create their own self-determined climate strategies and emergency response plans based on their priorities, Knowledge, and visions.

5. First Nation Youth

Invest in education, training, mentorship, and leadership opportunities for First Nation youth in climate-related fields. Increase First Nations and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth representation in climate decision-making. Support intergenerational learning between youth and Elders.

6. Restoration, Stewardship and Guardians

Support the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and long-term funding for

Guardians programs. Advance First Nations-led conservation, watershed protection, and sustainable economic initiatives.

7. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Conduct a province-wide assessment of infrastructure needs and invest in upgrading roads, water systems, and housing to prepare for future climate impacts.

8. Emergency Management

Co-develop emergency management plans with First Nations. Fund local emergency management positions, training, and equipment. Co-develop mechanisms, including funds, for First Nations in BC to acquire or expand reserve lands impacted or at risk from climate change.

9. Food and Water Security

Support food sovereignty by protecting traditional food systems while supporting local food initiatives. Ensure all Nations have long-term access to clean and safe drinking water.

10. True Collaboration and Breaking Down Silos

Break down government silos and strengthen coordination and communication between federal, provincial, and First Nations governments to enable real partnership in climate action.

11. Clean Energy Transition

Support the shift to First Nations-led, affordable, reliable, and renewable energy systems that reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

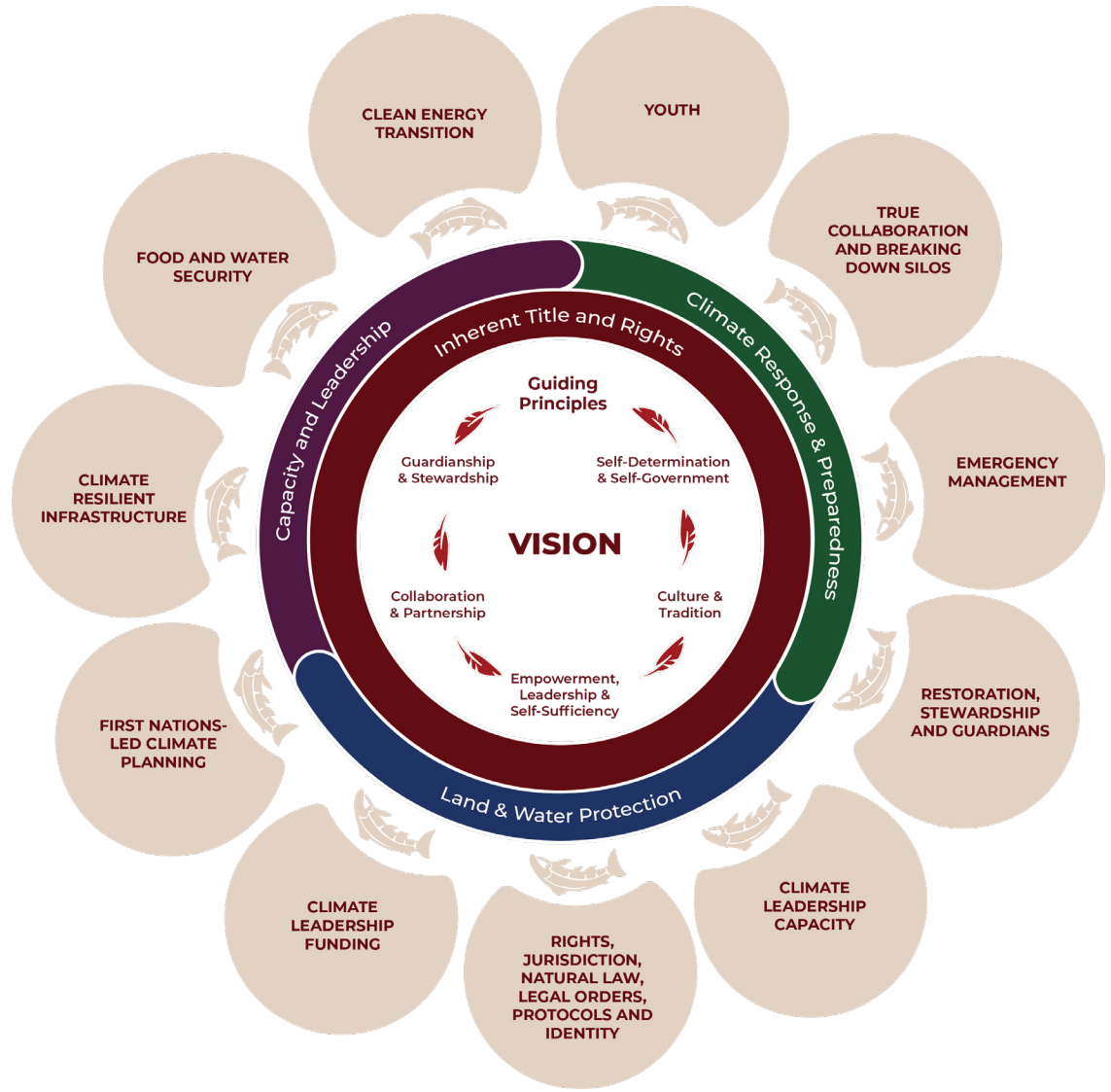


Figure 1: A graphic showing the BC FNCL Agenda 11 high-level recommendation themes. These themes are represented in the graphic surrounding the Strategy’s ‘Four Pathways for Climate Action’ to illustrate their interconnectedness.

MOVING FORWARD: A CALL TO ACTION

The BC FNCL Agenda recommendations were submitted to the federal government in September 2024 to inform the national Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda (ICLA) and support a Canada-wide Memorandum to Cabinet (MC). Although an MC was developed in late 2024, **progress has stalled due to political and economic uncertainty, along with a lack of commitment to implementation under the government of Prime Minister Carney.**

Despite this uncertainty, **it is essential that the federal government remains steadfast in its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, particularly Action 46, as well as other federal climate commitments and legislation.** BCAFN will continue collaborating with the First Nations Leadership Council on the implementation of the Strategy and advocate for the full implementation of the BC FNCL Agenda recommendations. These efforts must be driven and led by the priorities and realities of First Nations rights and title holders.



Read the full [BC FNCL Agenda report here!](#)