

Issue: Climate Change

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action:

- #61: We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for:
 - ii. Community-controlled culture- and language-revitalization projects
- #92: We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.

Background:

- In 2015 Pope Francis wrote an Encyclical Letter to all of the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, and the Encyclical Letter has been added to the body of the Church's social teaching. The Encyclical Letter focuses on the topic of global environmental deterioration and our common home.
- Pope Francis appeals to humanity to work together to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation, especially felt by the lives of the world's poorest. Pope Francis notes that climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. Also, that many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and eco-system services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry.
- In April 2021, as part of an international leader's summit coordinated around Earth Day, Pope Francis released a video message to world leaders advocating for action to address climate change.
- In November 2021, AFN Regional Chief Prosper attended the COP26 climate summit in November 2021 to ensure that First Nations perspectives are included at an international discussion on climate change.

Suggested Messaging:

- It is vital that conversations around climate change include First Nations voices. Our culture, knowledge and human rights have been ignored for too long. First Nations and Indigenous peoples globally are the biggest strength for finding solutions to addressing climate change.
- First Nations especially in the north are the first to feel the impacts of climate change, disrupting cultural practices and land-based relationships that are vital for their survival.
- Action to address climate change needs to be embraced by all levels, from international policy to individual actions within society. Action and decision-making needs to be guided by thinking of what kind of world we want to leave to the next seven-generations.