



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Assembly of First Nations

Special Chiefs Assembly Advisory Committee Meeting on Climate and Environment (ACE)

Climate change is a priority issue for First Nations in BC and was top of mind among BCAFN staff at the Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa in early December. Patricia Rojas-Caro, Regional Climate Change Coordinator and Michelle Connolly, Carbon Specialist attended the Advisory Committee on Climate and Environment (ACE) meeting to support and manage the BCAFN's commitments to this critical work. Following the recent resolution Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency, BCAFN staff are working to develop the "how" around addressing climate change impacts on communities.

A common thread among discussions around climate in Ottawa is the importance of integrating mitigation (the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (living in a changing world). One of the most powerful tools available to achieve both these objectives is the protection of lands and natural processes on those lands. Integrated climate action has many co-benefits such as food and water security, and sustainable economic development. Exploring ways of supporting BC First Nations in accomplishing nature-based climate action is a key task for BCAFN climate staff in the coming year.

One of the most "climate-forward" regions in the AFN is Yukon Region, who along with the ACE, co-hosted a reception attended by Regional Chief Terry Teegee, National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Chief Tizya-Tramm - Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Norma Kassi, AFN Yukon Climate Leader Award recipient.