

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Rd.
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3

Ph: 778-945-9910
Fx: 778-945-9916



FIRST
NATIONS
SUMMIT

1200-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903
Fx: 604-926-9923
Toll Free: 866-990-9939



UNION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
INDIAN CHIEFS

401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC
V6A 2T2

Ph: 604-684-0231
Fx: 604-684-5726

June 18, 2020

ATTENTION: First Nations Chiefs in BC

RE: FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE EMERGENCY SURVEY RESULTS

In early 2019, the UBCIC Chiefs Council and the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolutions (Resolution no. 2019-02: *“Climate Emergency and BC First Nations Climate Emergency Plan”* and Resolution no. 04/2019: *“Climate Emergency and Support for the Development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy”*, respectively) calling for the development of a **BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy)**, including a Just Transition Plan.

To inform the development of the Strategy, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) hosted a **Climate Emergency Survey (the Survey)** in August and September 2019 to identify First Nation perspectives on impacts, concerns, barriers, and priorities regarding climate change. We are pleased to share with you the Executive Summary and the complete Survey Report, enclosed.

Participation in the Survey came from 139 First Nations and Tribal Councils across all eight regions of British Columbia. A total of 244 people began the questionnaire of which 221 completed it, including 54 Chiefs and Councillors, 9 technicians, 10 Elders, 108 members, and 40 responses from staff members working for First Nations.

The data garnered from the Survey is being used by FNLC technical staff to inform a draft of the Strategy, which will be sent to all First Nation Chiefs & Councils for their review and community input prior to subsequent approval.

We also want to reflect that we are sharing these results in the midst of an unprecedented world crisis facing COVID-19. As a result of the turmoil affecting the world’s economy, multiple sources indicate that we are witnessing a temporary reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, greater than that from the 2008 recession. However, the recent reduction does not mean that we have solved the climate crisis. Canada’s emissions were steadily increasing prior to the COVID-19 crisis, including in 2018. And if we return to the status quo post-COVID-19, then the reductions are but a minor intermission.

However, there is an opportunity as we contemplate how to recover and rebuild our economies. Many sectors are calling for major investments and commitment towards a low carbon recovery. Such an approach could and should coincide with major commitments to support economic recovery and resilience in First Nations’ communities.

As we continue to prepare the draft Strategy, we will continue to advocate for a just COVID-19 recovery plan that does not leave First Nations behind once again, and which truly sets us on a path towards the greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

First Nations in BC are already climate leaders. There are multiple examples from across the province of First Nations helping to reduce emissions while also creating more resilient communities. Our collective Strategy will strengthen these efforts and remind our partners and governments that in this new era, successful climate planning is possible only when co-created with First Nations in ways that protect and strengthen our Title, Rights and Treaty Rights, and when our Indigenous Knowledge and unique connections to our Territories are respectfully incorporated in all aspects of climate planning and action.

Thank you for turning your attention to the Survey results despite these challenging times. We look forward to the next opportunity for further discussion about the Strategy as we continue the drafting and review process. Your Nation's priorities and perspectives are essential to creating a Strategy that reflects both our diversity and our common values. If you have any further questions or comments, please contact a member from the FNLC technical staff working on climate change: Patricia Rojas (BCAFN - Patricia.Rojas@bcafn.ca or 250-859-1511), Josh Kioke (UBCIC - jkioko@ubcic.bc.ca or 604-684-0231). In the meantime, we hope that your Nation and your members remain safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

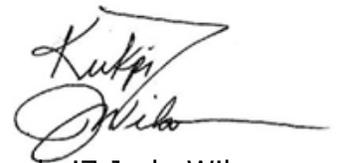
On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



ukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Terry Teegee