

BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan

BC First Nations Technical Advisory Group

Biographies

Albertina Erickson

I am Nak'azdli Whut'en; a Dakehl woman belonging to the Frog Clan. Three of my grandparents are Dakehl and I was privileged to be born into this beautiful place. I grew up in Fort St James which is situated in our territory. I have worked with/for Nak'azdli Whut'enne (people of) for many years now.

Years ago, I was the Treaty Coordinator for our community. While doing preparing for negotiations I had to keep updated on the latest court decisions, different land claims agreements/negotiations, and become familiar with the Federal and Provincial governments policies regarding land and resource management. Our community did not stay in the Treaty process because it did not provide the opportunities to reclaim our governance nor promote self-reliance.

In 2013; our community was asked to review 5 major pipeline applications. I was hired to do Use and Occupancy Mapping and review the applications. I helped our team of researchers provide comments to the proponents based on our traditional knowledge and our Dakehl worldview. The pipeline applications resulted in our community joining six others to negotiate a Collaboration Agreement and later two Pathways Forward Agreements. These agreements with the Province provided capacity funding to assess and negotiate agreements which may eventually result in some measure of 'reconciliation'. While participating at these negotiations, I became more informed about Aboriginal Rights & Title, UNDRIP, the Truth and Reconciliation and other policies affecting Indigenous peoples. I was also tasked with reading and commenting on changes being made to the provincial and federal policies/acts relating to water sustainability, oil & gas, and the environment.

I have participated in workshops and conferences that focused on the many aspects of land/resource management and governance. I am also on the Indigenous Advisory Committee for the Major Projects Coalition.

I am confident that my experience will help with the work that needs to be done and I look forward to working the Technical Advisory Group.