



# Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda

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Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

ᑭᓂᓂᓂ (Norman Wells)  
Public Listening Session  
Climate, Wildfire and Caribou  
February 20-22, 2024



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# Overview



- Provide background on the Government of Canada's commitment to jointly develop a distinctions-based Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) Agenda.
- Outline where this work is starting and some areas of focus that could guide this work.



# Indigenous Peoples Have Called for a Transformative Approach to Partnering with Canada on Climate

First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Canada have been working together to advance Indigenous climate leadership through the Senior Bilateral Tables on Clean Growth and Climate Change and through other joint tables and engagement processes. Indigenous partners have consistently voiced that Canada must do a better job of partnering with Indigenous governments and communities on climate action, including:

Adopting more equitable, accessible, long-term, and self-determined funding approaches.

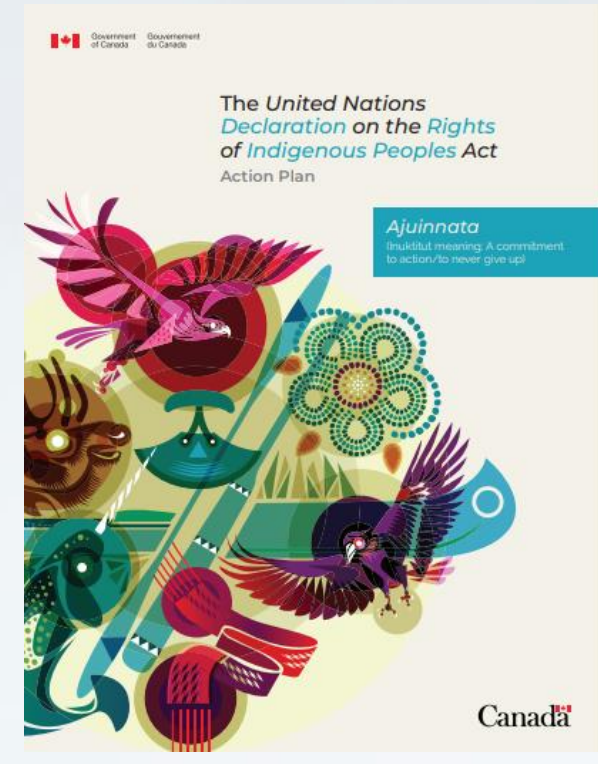
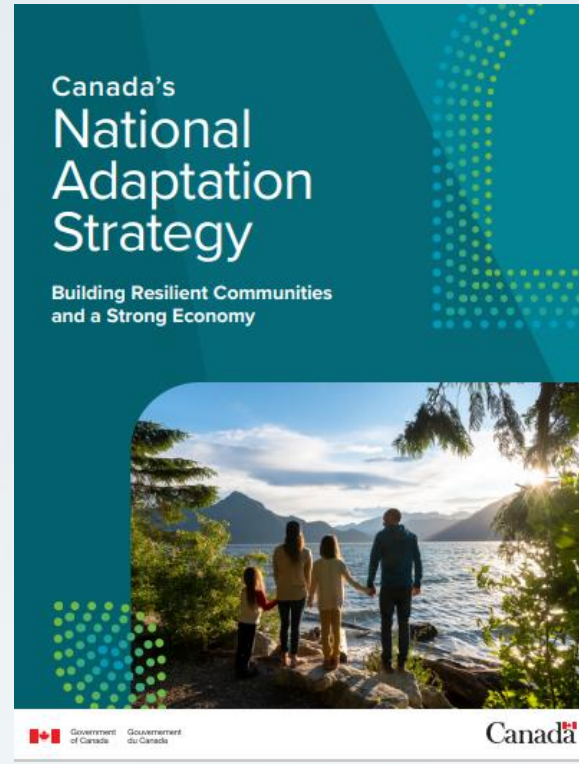
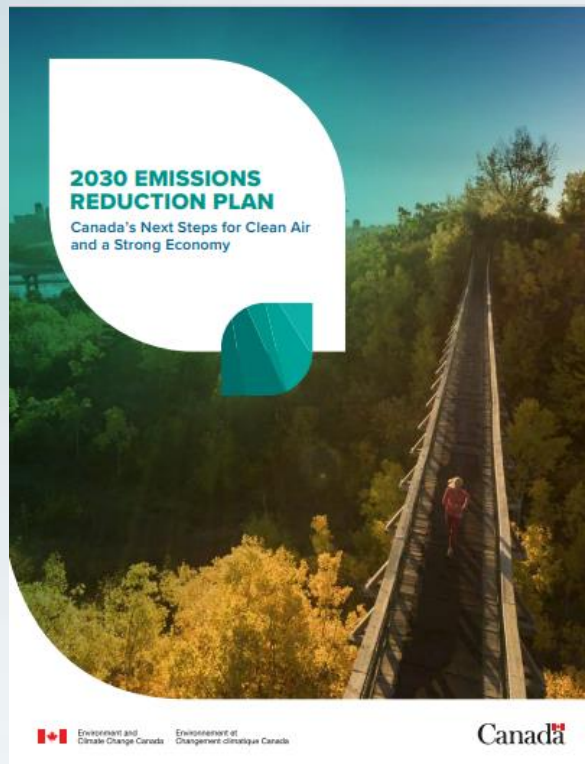
Ensuring Indigenous Peoples have a seat at the table in climate-related decision-making.

Supporting Indigenous communities to build and grow the capacity and expertise necessary for self-determined climate action.

Recognizing that Indigenous Peoples face significant barriers to taking climate action in self-determined ways, the [Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda](#) is being jointly developed with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to renew the Nation-to-Nation, Crown-Inuit, and government-to-government partnership on climate change.

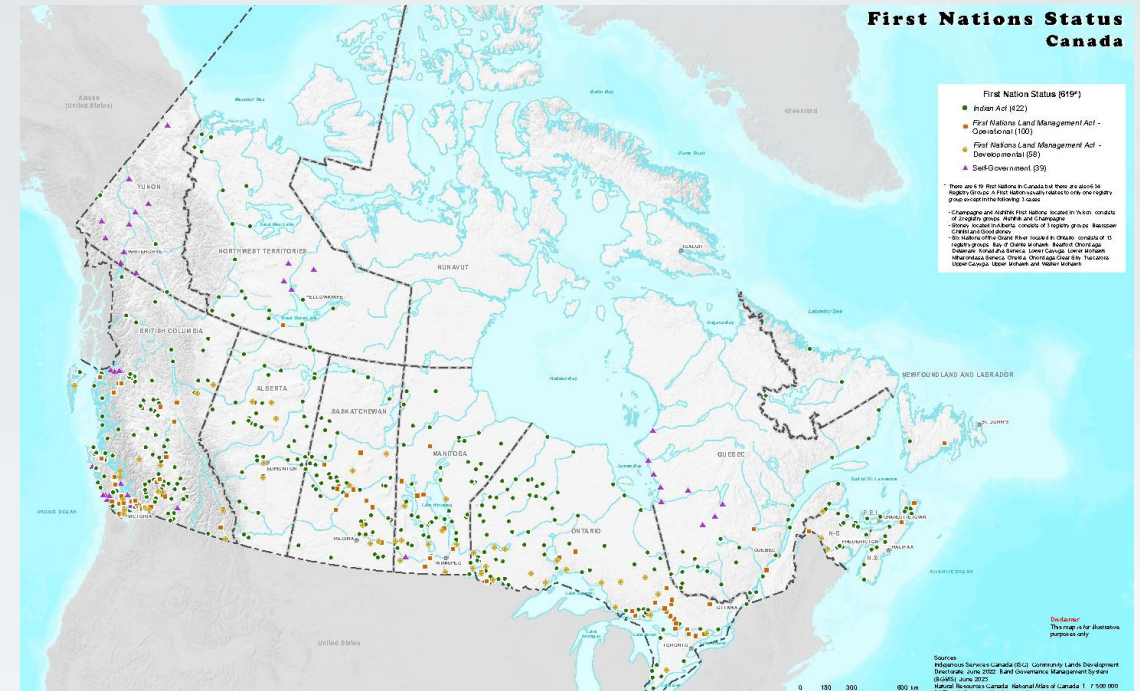
# Federal commitments to Indigenous Climate Leadership and mandate

Canada has made significant policy and legal commitments to ensure that Indigenous Climate Leadership is the cornerstone of our collective response to climate change, including in the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, the National Adaptation Strategy, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan. (See Annex 1 for a full list of federal commitments to ICL)



# Taking unique approaches

- Canada has committed to advancing the Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda on a distinctions-basis in a way that respects regional differences.
- This means there will be separate processes and agendas for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, and that regional and local governance, circumstances and priorities will be respected, such as the inclusion of both Sahtú Dene and Métis a shared process in the Sahtú region.
- There are currently over 40 Indigenous governments and organizations leading this work among their communities and nations, allowing for regional differences to be highlighted.





# Starting from What We Know

Because the Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda has emerged from longstanding dialogue between Canada and First Nations, Inuit and Métis, we are not starting from a blank page.

**Indigenous Peoples must navigate a complex web of federal programs** to access the funding to act on self-determined climate priorities.

There is **poor/shallow engagement of Indigenous Peoples** in climate-related decision-making and policy development.

**The funding** and other supports needed to holistically **implement climate priorities over the long term are difficult to access.**

*Underfunding of programs targeting Indigenous Peoples*

*Inflexible/niche program mandates*

*Administrative and reporting burdens*

*Limited opportunities for participation of Indigenous Peoples throughout the policy cycle*

*Lack of capacity, resources, and time to meaningfully participate*

*Lack of long-term funding approaches to implement strategies*

*Insufficient capacity and related supports at the community, regional, and national level*

*Investment categories that do not reflect Indigenous priorities*

*Rigid funding arrangements and programs*

*Fatigue*

*Poor consideration of Indigenous Peoples' lived realities, Indigenous Knowledges, laws, and governance*

# Areas of Focus



Progressively transform how Indigenous Peoples access federal funding for climate action.



**A new fiscal relationship, with mechanisms that enable predictable and long-term funding to act on self-determined priorities in self-determined ways.**



Indigenous Peoples have a seat at the table in climate-related decision-making and are engaged in meaningful ways.



**Collaborative decision-making on climate policy and stable, and well-defined engagement mechanisms.**



Remove systemic barriers to Indigenous climate action and implement self-determined climate strategies.

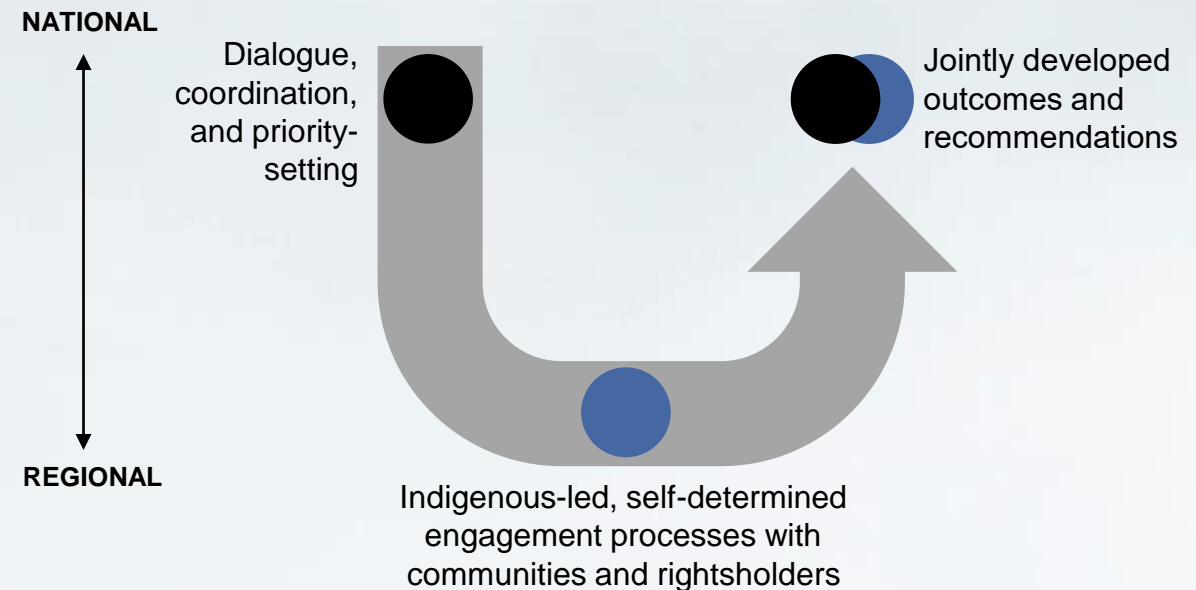


**Indigenous climate plans are implemented, with holistic funding to build and grow the local and regional capacity, expertise, and institutions necessary to advance self-determined responses to climate change.**

# Overall approach

- **Canada has committed to return to federal decision-makers in Fall of 2024 with recommendations developed in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis.**
- To meet these timelines, initial, draft recommendations from Indigenous Partners are required by Late Spring/Early Summer.
- These recommendations will help to set the long-term relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples on climate change.
- The objective of this effort is to ensure that Indigenous governments, communities, and representative organizations have the resources and authorities to take self-determined climate action.

Coordination of Indigenous Climate Leadership at the national level, informed by regional, Indigenous-led engagement processes and priorities.





# National, Regional, and Other Variations in Indigenous Climate Leadership

The impacts of climate change across Canada vary, as do the circumstances and priorities of Indigenous Peoples. The outcomes of the Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda should reflect this.



Canada does not require Indigenous Peoples to come to consensus on one vision for Climate Leadership – approaches can vary regionally or otherwise as appropriate.

However, there is also an opportunity to identify common priorities nationally if desired.



Similarly, there is not a requirement that the engagement process be uniform for all regions.

However, the engagement process is tied to the same timelines and general process for all.



# In the Sahtú Settlement Region and the Northwest Territories

- CIRNAC and ECCC have been working at a leadership and working level through the Sahtú Dene Council and the Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated to support engagement on Sahtú Climate Leadership.
  - In June 2023, an initial meeting occurred with Grand Chief Kochon, with follow-ups with the SDC and SSI in August.
  - Continued conversations with SSI have taken place to develop a plan to engage Sahtú communities this spring and summer to identify Sahtú climate leadership priorities and develop recommendations to the Government of Canada.
- Additionally, CIRNAC and ECCC are working with a number of other regional- and community-level First Nations across the NWT to support coordination of these processes, and, where possible, to identify shared priorities and recommendations.



**The Sahtu  
Secretariat Inc.**

**Mahsi Cho**  
**Thank you**



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# Annex 1: Federal Commitments to Indigenous Climate Leadership

## UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT DRAFT ACTION PLAN

*“Together with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda, including distinctions-based strategies, that vests the resources and authorities necessary for Indigenous Peoples to fully exercise their right to self-determination in relation to climate. This includes ensuring that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis have stable, long-term financing to implement self-determined climate actions, make climate-related decisions with the Government of Canada, and that systemic barriers to Indigenous climate leadership are addressed.”*

## NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY

*“For First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, climate change adaptation must be premised on the right to self-determination and should support Indigenous Peoples in leading adaptation action in and on their lands, territories, ice, and waters. To achieve this, the **Government of Canada will work in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda, which will be the main pathway for implementing Indigenous communities’ adaptation priorities.**”*

## BUDGET 2022

*“As announced in the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, Budget 2022 proposes to provide **\$29.6 million over three years**, starting in 2022-23, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support the **co-development of an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda** to support self-determined action in addressing Indigenous peoples’ climate priorities. The funding will also support the **phased implementation of distinctions-based climate strategies.**”*

## 2030 EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

*“The Government of Canada will **continue to work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis** representatives and rights-holders to **develop and implement a model of partnership for climate action** that:*

- Empowers self-determined climate action and the expression of Indigenous and Treaty rights, jurisdictions, governance, and legal traditions through climate action, and progressively vests authorities and resources in the hands of Indigenous governments;*
- Leverages the transition to a net-zero economy to support overarching efforts towards self-determination, the alleviation of socio-economic inequities, and the implementation of the UN Declaration, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and,*
- Supports the expression of Indigenous Knowledge systems in national climate policy through appropriate governance arrangements, the promotion of Indigenous perspectives on climate change, and the weaving together of Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems.*

***The Government will make an additional investment of \$29.6 million to advance Indigenous Climate Leadership.”***

## CANADA’S STRENGTHENED CLIMATE PLAN

- “Support the **implementation of Indigenous-led climate strategies** for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.”*
- “To position Indigenous climate leadership as a cornerstone of Canada’s strengthened climate plan, the Government of Canada will partner with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to **set an agenda for climate action and a framework for collaboration.**”*
- “Co-develop, on a distinction basis, an Indigenous Climate Leadership agenda which builds regional and national capacity and progressively vests authorities and resources for climate action in the hands of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis and representative organizations.”*

