

Assembly of First Nations

# 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering

*Catalyzing First Nations Climate and Conversation  
Leadership for Transformative Change*

**Summary Report**



October 7 – 10, 2024 • Calgary, AB





# 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering

Catalyzing First Nations Climate and Conversation  
Leadership for Transformative Change



## Assembly of First Nations

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern. Every Chief in Canada is entitled to be a member of the Assembly, and the National Chief is elected by the Chiefs in Canada, who in turn are elected by their citizens. The AFN has 634 member First Nations within its Assembly. The role and function of the AFN is to serve as a nationally delegated forum for determining and harmonizing effective, collective, and co-operative measures on any subject matter that the First Nations delegate for review, study, response, or action, and to advance the aspirations of First Nations.

The AFN supports First Nations by coordinating, facilitating, and advocating for policy change, while the leaders of this change are the First Nations themselves. Chiefs, and the First Nations they represent, must be an integral part of meeting the challenge of sustainable, transformative policy change.

The AFN has been mandated by eleven (11) climate-related resolutions since 2016. Most recently, AFN passed *Resolution 36/2023: Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy*, the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolve to:

1. Reaffirm the declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency.
2. Fully endorse the AFN National Climate Strategy and its seven key priority areas of action.
3. Call on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work directly, and in full partnership with, First Nations rights and title holders to implement self-determined First Nations climate priorities, including, but not limited to, those outlined in the AFN National Climate Strategy.
4. Direct the AFN to work with First Nations rights and title holders to advocate to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments for sufficient and sustainable funding to First Nations to implement their own strategies in a manner consistent with Article 39 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Call on the federal government to compensate First Nations with new or additional land for any land that First Nations may lose due to climate change.
6. Direct the AFN to use the AFN National Climate Strategy in national and international contexts as an advocacy tool, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.





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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the peoples of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot First Nations of Siksika, the Piikani, the Kainai; the Stoney Nakoda First Nation tribes of Chiniki, Bears paw, and Wesley; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation, who so graciously hosted the October 2024 National Climate Gathering in Calgary, Alberta. This important meeting place is known as "Mohkinstis," where the Bow River meets the Elbow River.

We are honoured to have had the opportunity to see over 1100 registrations and bring together over 800 First Nations, alongside allies, from across the country and across different sectors attend the Climate Gathering. We would like to express our deep gratitude to Elder Clarence Wolfleg Sr., Elder Charlie Crowchild and David Megunis for their opening and closing remarks and leading ceremonies, as well as the drum groups of [Eya-Hey Nakoda](#) and [Babyflatz](#). We also wish to acknowledge the beautiful welcome reception by the Treaty 7 Youth Drum Group, Babyflatz, alongside several dancers, as well as the Wednesday evening entertainment, Cikwes and CreeAsian, supported by Purple City Entertainment and sponsored by OKT Law.

We wish to express our gratitude to the following dignitaries for their attendance and insight shared at the National Climate Gathering: National Chief Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak, Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief Andrea Paul, Xàkújághá Steven Crowchild, and Minister Steven Guilbeault, Environment and Climate Change.

We are extremely grateful to all the speakers and concurrent session presenters who shared their knowledge, insight and personal experiences, as well as the participants in the Trade Show.

We would also like to thank Lowa Beebe and Wina Sioui for facilitating the Gathering, as well as the guidance and support received from the members of the AFN Regional Offices and the contributions from the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment ('ACE').

We are appreciative of the support provided by Hunter-Courchene Group and Encore, and all participants at the National Climate Gathering for their thoughtful contributions. We are grateful for the financial support of Environment and Climate Change Canada, OKT Law, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and Climate Proof Canada.



*“Since time immemorial, First Nations  
have emphasized the importance of living in  
balance with Mother Earth.”*

*The Three Sisters, Photography, Isaac Trapper*

Isaac Trapper is a self taught, Indigenous photographer who relies on his passion for the arts and trial and error to explore landscape, wildlife, astro, urban and portrait photography.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From October 7 to 11, 2024, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) held its 3rd National Climate Gathering ('the Gathering') in Calgary, Alberta, on the traditional territories of Treaty 7 (Blackfoot First Nations of Siksika, the Piikani, the Kainai; the Stoney Nakoda First Nation tribes of Chiniki, Bears paw, and Wesley; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation). This followed the very successful 2nd AFN National Climate Gathering in September 2022, hosted in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the traditional territory of the Walostqiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Peskotomuhkati peoples. The three gatherings were in response to Resolution 05/2019, *Declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency*, and Resolution 36/2023, *Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy*.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> AFN National Climate Gathering was opened by Xàkújáhá Minor Chief Steven Crowchild of Tsuut'ina Nation, Elder Charlie Crowchild, Tsuut'ina Nation, Elder Clarence Wolfleg Sr., Siksika Nation, David Meguinis, Tsuut'ina Nation, AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak (video message), AFN Nova Scotia Regional Chief Andrea Paul, AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate Change, and Water Stewardship, and Minister Steven Guilbeault, Environment and Climate Change Canada (virtual). The Gathering was co-facilitated by Lowa Bebee from Piikani Nation and Wina Sioui from Abitibiwinni First Nation.

The Gathering offered the continued opportunity to focus on climate action initiatives and solutions in the prairie regions. Over 800 participants from every province and territory (except Nunavut), as well as government officials, were able to gather to engage both youth and Knowledge Holders on climate action-related experiences and knowledge transfer. The Gathering offered an opportunity to explore diverse solutions that First Nations are advancing in their communities.

This Gathering began with Youth Day hosted on October 7th in collaboration with the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) as a preparatory Gathering to prepare Youth for the coming days. Youth-led discussions highlighted in the "[Youth Gathering Summary Report](#)," the need for active participation in climate spaces, legislative involvement in policymaking, intergenerational knowledge transfer in traditional knowledge and language revitalization.

The Gathering sessions were presented in an assortment of ways from plenary panels, keynote addresses, and workshop discussions and presentations. Attendees had the opportunity to choose from over 50 different concurrent dialogue sessions, organized into five blocks, as well as a special networking opportunity and two evenings of entertainment, featuring Treaty 7 Youth Drum Group BabyFlatz and dancers. The Gathering also emphasized the development of the "First Nations Climate Lens Toolkit" as a means to identify and strengthen First Nations leadership in climate-related initiatives and action. This concept was explored during the Gathering framing discussions and highlighting communities who have led in advancing their climate solutions.

Topics covered a wide range of issues, including accessibility, health, traditional storytelling, youth-led initiatives, emergency management, fisheries, conservation, and environmental health, illustrating the breadth of First Nations-led climate solutions. The lessons learned from the three AFN National Climate Gatherings are: i) the act of Gathering, when First Nations come together to share knowledge, experiences, and stories, is a powerful form of climate action; ii) the inclusion and leadership in accessibility and disability; iii) centering intergenerational dialogue; iv) the essential role of women and gender-diverse leadership in climate action; and v) being solutions-focused.



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## AFN 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering Logo

*"The power to change" by Eruoma Awashish*



*The heart symbolizes what drives us all as living beings.  
At the center, the growing leaf embodies hope and medicine to heal our planet.  
In my language, this plant is called Maskominanatikw, the bear plant.  
For us, the bear represents strength - a strength we need to take the necessary actions to heal Mother Earth.*

*The orange bursts in a vibrant cry, signaling the urgency to act.  
The seven flowers surrounding the heart represent the seven priorities outlined in the National Climate Strategy  
and the seven future generations.  
As the mother of a seven-year-old girl,  
I emphasize the urgency of safeguarding  
the future for future generations.*

*We are all interconnected and share the responsibility of protecting what is sacred.*

Eruoma Awashish is an Atikamekw Nehirowisiw mother and artist who is committed to her nation. She works in a variety of mediums, including painting, installation, performance, video, silkscreening and traditional dance. Awashish grew up in the community of Opitciwan. She is now established in Pekuakami (Lac-Saint-Jean), and her studio is located in the Ilnu community of Mashteuiatsh. She holds an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts from the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi.



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## INTRODUCTION

This report, titled "*3<sup>rd</sup> AFN National Climate Gathering Report (2024): Catalyzing First Nations Climate and Conversation Leadership for Transformative Change*," ("the Report") reflects on the presentations, discussions, experiences, and knowledge shared at the Gathering. It aims to inform the scope and direction of First Nations Climate Leadership, with a focus on the AFN National Climate Strategy and Climate Lens, featuring diverse presentations, workshops, and video screenings, demonstrating the First Nations' stewardship approach to climate action and conservation.

In 2024, Canada faced one of its most devastating wildfire seasons in the past fifty years, with over 5.3 million hectares of land consumed by flames. The scale and intensity of these fires led to widespread destruction in the prairies, particularly in Jasper, Alberta, where damages are estimated to be around C\$800 million <sup>1</sup>. As a direct result, climate-driven health risks such as declining air quality, water scarcity, and food insecurity are disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities in Canada <sup>2</sup>.

Current federal climate strategies are failing as emissions and inequalities rise. The interconnected systems of colonialism, capitalism, and carbon must be addressed, with First Nations leading climate solutions. A First Nations Climate Lens has been developed in the context of the AFN National Climate Strategy, focusing on four key components:

1. **Natural Law** – The original instructions from the Creator.
2. **Worldviews** – Understanding historical and systemic factors affecting First Nations.
3. **Lived Realities** – Recognizing disproportionate climate effects on First Nations.
4. **Context** – Empowering First Nations to drive climate solutions.

This framework ensures First Nations' leadership in shaping just and effective climate policies explained in **Box 1**.

- 
- 1 Nia Williams, "Canada's wildfire season ranks among worst but less severe than feared," Reuters, September 12, 2024. [https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadas-wildfire-season-ranks-among-worst-less-severe-than-feared-2024-09-12/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadas-wildfire-season-ranks-among-worst-less-severe-than-feared-2024-09-12/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
  - 2 Government of Canada, "Risks to Health from Climate Change," June 10, 2024. [https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health/risks-to-health.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health/risks-to-health.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).



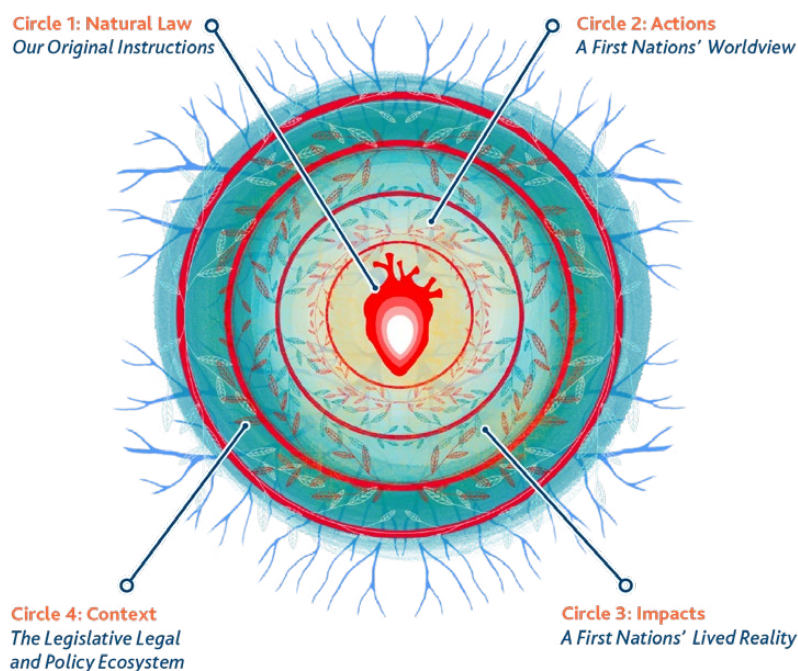
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## Box 1: The First Nations Climate Lens

The First Nations Climate Lens contains four concentric circles – Natural Law, Worldviews, Lived Reality, and Context. Together, they bring into focus First Nations climate solutions. These solutions call for systemic change and a revitalization of a value system that is grounded in a deep reciprocal relationship with the Land and Water.



The First Nations Climate Lens shaped the organization of the Gathering, ensuring an inclusive approach to climate discussions. A Call for Sessions was issued, emphasizing the need to address imbalanced relationships with the natural and unnatural (industrial) world. The process was broad and open for First Nations, welcoming oral presentations, workshops, and technical sessions aligned with key themes of the Climate Lens. Over 100 proposals were received and reviewed by a selection committee made up of First Nations from across the country, with the majority being accepted and organized into the agenda [\[Annex 1\]](#). This approach ensured diverse First Nation climate action perspectives and discussions.

Sessions spanned the breadth of realities and expertise, including accessibility and disability inclusion, emergency management, food security, biodiversity and conservation, and youth-led initiatives. Over 800 participants from every province (except Nunavut), were able to gather to engage both youth and Knowledge Holders on climate action-related experiences and knowledge transfer.



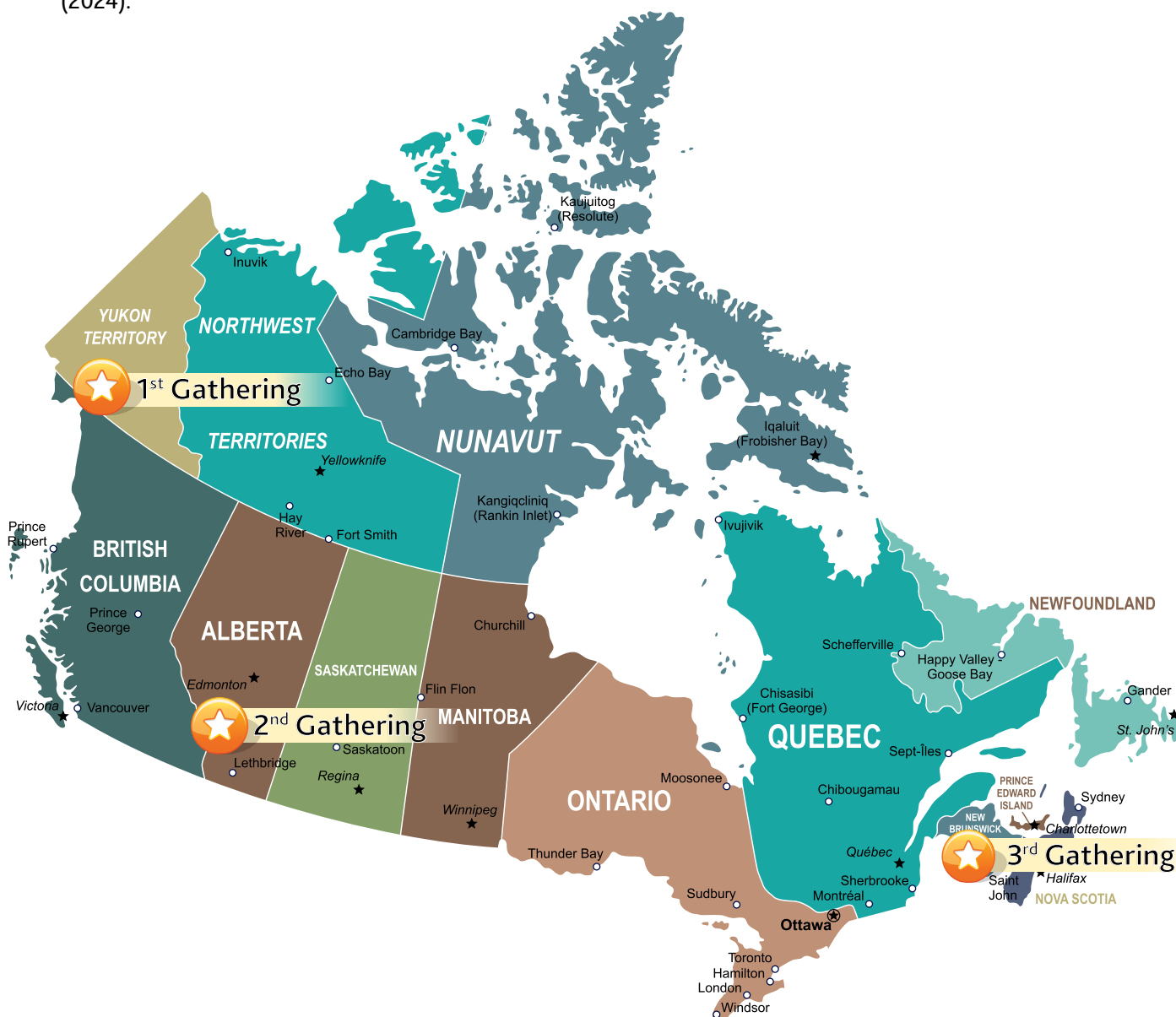
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Figure 1.

Map of Canada displaying where each (3) AFN Climate Gathering has taken place. The first gathering was held in Whitehorse (2020), the second gathering was in Fredericton (2022), and the third gathering was held in Calgary (2024).





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## The AFN National Climate Strategy

### Seven Priorities




### The AFN National Climate Strategy is developed with distinct objectives:

- To uplift First Nations' rights, self-determination, and knowledge systems within federal, provincial, and territorial climate action.
- To promote First Nations-led solutions to the climate crisis, grounded in their rights, self-determination, and knowledge systems.
- To advocate for urgent and transformative climate action aligned with the First Nations-in-Assembly Declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency.

Furthermore, the AFN National Climate Strategy ensures that First Nations governance, laws and priorities breathe life into the Government of Canada's climate plans committing to "position Indigenous climate leadership as a cornerstone of a strengthened climate plan."

Each priority area coincides with a specific goal, a set of objectives, and a detailed list of strategies and actions. Altogether, the strategy presents 108 strategies and actions, each complemented with recommendations for implementation partners.

To achieve the vision outlined in the AFN National Climate Strategy, federal, provincial, and territorial governments must work directly and in full partnership with First Nations rights and title holders to implement self-determined First Nations climate priorities. This includes providing sufficient and sustainable funding for each First Nation. For more information, please refer to: <https://afn.ca/environment/national-climate-strategy>.



*“First Nations Climate Leadership offers  
an opportunity to re-operationalize  
First Nations legal systems and assert  
First Nations jurisdiction.”*

*The Curves of the Falls, Photography, Isaac Trapper*



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## THE GATHERING

The following information provides a descriptive overview of the proceedings of the AFN's 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering.

### Pre-Gathering Events (October 7, 2024)

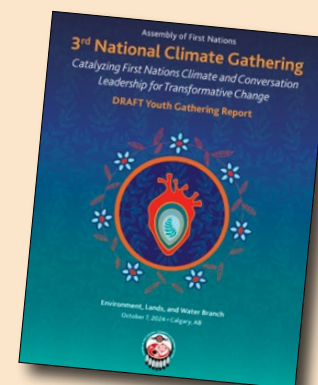
In advance of the official Gathering, several concurrent half-day and full-day sessions were held.

#### **Youth Gathering**

- In collaboration with the AFN National Youth Council (NYC), a preparatory Youth Gathering was held for all youth delegates attending the Gathering [Annex 2]. The Gathering was facilitated by Hailey Rose from Mosquito Grizzly Bear's Head Lean Man First Nation, Youth Chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.
- Key points from this discussion include recommendations on improving youth Inclusion in every area, including leadership, active participation in climate spaces, and legislative involvement in policymaking, all while emphasizing traditional knowledge and language revitalization. Further key points included: the desire to create community-based youth councils, prioritizing youth empowerment, crisis centers and mental health support, and equitable access and coordination to community engagements and projects. Lastly, youth expressed concerns about government accountability, environmental justice, and inclusive and accessible spaces. In line with the National Climate Strategy, it was recommended that the AFN take urgent steps to establish a First Nations Youth Advisory Council on Climate Change for national representation, in collaboration with the NYC.

### Box 2: Youth Gathering Summary Report

[\(click to view report\)](#)



*"To bring their young people closer to spirit was to actively bring young people into policy decision-making spaces and governance." - Serena Mendizabel Wolf Clan, Six Nations of the Grand River*



Photo 1: AFN's Environment Sector, Junior Policy Analyst, Skw'akw'as Dunstan-Moore, leading breakout discussions for Youth Day.



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## Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)

- The Marine IPCA Working Group, a sub-working group of the ACE, met for a full day, where members and other interested First Nations attendees had an opportunity to provide input on capacity-building tools for Marine IPCAs.
- Attendees closed off the meeting by receiving an update on Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) progress in advancing Marine IPCAs with First Nations and ensuring long-term sustainable funding for this work, which are items outlined in Canada's Action Plan for the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA).

## Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment (ACE)

- The ACE met for a half-day meeting in person, which was attended by committee Chiefs, technicians, and youth to set the context for the 3<sup>rd</sup> AFN National Climate Gathering.
- ACE members heard an update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering and had an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback in advance of relevant concurrent dialogue sessions.
- The meeting ended with an update from AFN Environment and Water Sectors and a closing prayer offered by Elder Lorraine Netro, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

## Evening Reception

An opening reception was hosted, with support from the Insurance Bureau of Canada and Climate Proof Canada, at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre to welcome delegates and to acknowledge the traditional territories of Treaty 7 (Blackfoot First Nations of Siksika, the Piikani, the Kainai; the Stoney Nakoda First Nation tribes of Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation). Following appropriate local protocols, led by Elder Mike Bruised Head, Blood Reserve of the Kainai First Nation, and opening remarks by Xàkújághá Steven Crowchild, Tsuu T'ina Nation, and AFN Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Kluane First Nation, the youth drum group BabyFlatz, Treaty 7, and Dancers shared welcoming songs.



Photo 2: Treaty 7 Dancer opening the evening reception entertainment.



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## Day 1: Summary of Proceedings (October 8, 2024)

### Opening and Welcome Speeches

The Gathering was opened with several songs from Eya-Hey Drum. Elder Clarence Wolfleg Sr., Siksika Nation, opened with a prayer, followed by welcoming remarks from Elder Charlie Crowchild and David Meguinis, Tsuut'ina Nation, who added an additional song.

Xàkújàghá Minor Chief Steven Crowchild of Tsuut'ina Nation welcomed delegates, acknowledging Treaty 7 territory and stressing that while treaties shaped Canada, their commitments remain unfulfilled. He highlighted the increasing severity of climate change, manifesting in extreme weather, wildfires, and ecosystem disruptions and urged collective action to protect the land, water, and air.



**Photo 3: Drum Group Eya-Hey Nakoda, Stoney Nakota Nation, opening the Climate Gathering with an honor and victory song.**

**Photo 4: Elder Charlie Crowchild and David Meguinis, Tsuut'ina Nation, singing honor song.**



### Setting the Context

AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak (recorded message) emphasized the climate crisis is a state of emergency, noting the endorsement of the AFN National Climate Strategy in July 2024. This Strategy includes a First Nations Climate Lens to guide decision-making and foster interconnected, solution-oriented discussions.

Minister Steven Guilbeault, Environment and Climate Change Canada (virtual), outlined federal efforts in Indigenous-led conservation, including the National Guardians Program and the creation of Pitumkeek National Park Reserve, created in collaboration with the Mi'kmaw Nation Government of Prince Edward Island. He stressed the need for federal accountability, environmental justice legislation, and addressing environmental racism affecting First Nations communities.



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AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek highlighted the AFN's National Climate Strategy, designed to uplift First Nations' rights, knowledge systems and self-determination. Regional Chief Adamek shared personal experiences with salmon to reflect the interconnectedness of climate impacts, such as declining populations and called for urgent climate action.



**Photo 5: Regional Chief Kluane Adamek providing opening remarks.**

## **Panel Presentation: Knowledge Keeper's Circle**

*Moderated by Lowa Beebe (Piikani First Nation). Knowledge Keeper's Circle Panelists: Elder Francois Paulette (Smith's Landing First Nation Northwest Territories); Elder Dr. Gwen Point (Sto lo First Nation, British Columbia); Elder Lorraine Netro (Vuntut Gwitch'in, Yukon); and Elder Verna McGregor (Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg Unceded Algonquin Territory, Quebec).*

Elders and Knowledge Keepers underscored the importance of ceremony, storytelling, and traditional practices in climate action. They discussed the need for: robust ceremonial practices and respect for water, a life source critical to survival; resilience through spirituality and culture fostering hope for climate solutions; prayer, traditional knowledge, and the role of women in protecting sacred lands; and the interconnectedness between Mother Earth's health and human well-being and the need to revitalize ceremonies.

*"The importance of education and promoting understanding with non-Indigenous peoples was also mentioned. Our language is as expressive as the Drum as it translates to the heartbeat of Mother Earth in honor of being alive." - Elder Verna McGregor, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation*

Moderator Lowa Beebe asked the Knowledge Keepers to share why the ceremony is important in climate action, how stories play a role in this work, and share advice on how participants should engage over the Gathering.



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Elder Francois reflected on his experience as a young Chief addressing the United Nations on climate change, emphasizing the deep connection between water, life, and ceremony. He highlighted the role of traditional knowledge in addressing environmental crises, particularly in relation to water, wildfires, and land stewardship. He called for collaboration and the inclusion of non-Indigenous peoples in ceremonies to foster greater understanding and respect. Inspired by the youth present, he urged them to carry ancestral knowledge with hope for the future.

Elder Dr. Gwen Point shared examples of teachings she received from Elders, emphasizing the importance of listening and carrying lessons forward. She encouraged the Gathering participants to approach discussions with a good mind and good heart, as actions rooted in positive intent align with the right path. Reflecting on the loss of ceremonies in her family due to colonial impacts, she stressed the need to reclaim and revitalize traditional practices. She saw hope in the younger generation, urging them to learn from language speakers, share knowledge, and maintain strong connections to the land.

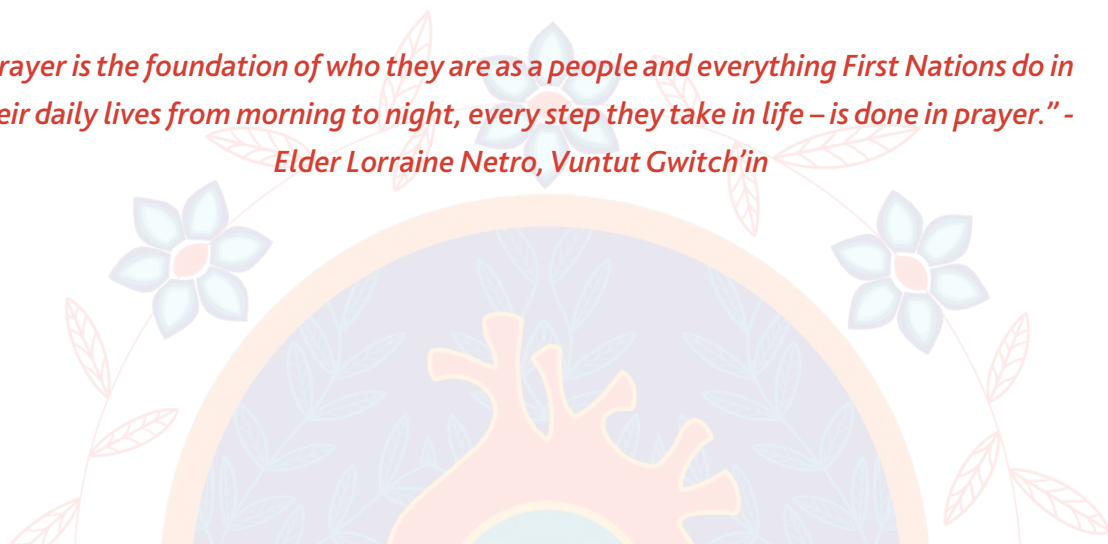
Elder Lorraine Netro underscored prayer as the foundation of First Nations' identity and daily life. She spoke of the emotional toll of advocating for sacred lands and the strength drawn from prayers, teachings, and language. She reminded participants that all living beings have a spirit and that gathering with Knowledge Keepers strengthens the collective spirit. She shared the impact of climate change on her people's relationship with Caribou and encouraged delegates to share stories, build unity, and take bold steps toward a vision for future generations.

Elder Verna McGregor, joining virtually from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg, discussed the significance of climate change conversations and the Gathering. She spoke about her work in economic development, traditional ceremonies, and language revitalization. She emphasized the balance of walking in two worlds and the First Nations' resilience in times of crisis. She highlighted the role of women as waterkeepers and men as firekeepers, stressing the need for balance in protecting land and water. Referencing the Seven Fire Prophecy, she called for education and understanding among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike, linking climate action to the protection of future generations.

Lowa concluded the session by asking the panelists to share key messages for participants to carry forward. The panelists collectively emphasized listening, learning, and fostering inspiration in climate action. They encouraged reconnection to the Land, Water, and community, with a focus on practicing and participating in ceremonies, ensuring that knowledge and teachings are preserved for the next seven generations.

*"Prayer is the foundation of who they are as a people and everything First Nations do in their daily lives from morning to night, every step they take in life – is done in prayer." -*

*Elder Lorraine Netro, Vuntut Gwitch'in*





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Photo 6: Elder Lorraine Netro, Vuntut Gwitch'in, Yukon, setting the context for the Knowledge Keeper's Circle Presentation.

## Highlights of Concurrent Sessions (#1 - #20)

Following the morning plenary activities, two blocks of Concurrent Sessions (2 hours each) were held on the afternoon of Day 1. The length of sessions provided an opportunity to explore the scope and diversity of action that First Nations are leading to fight the climate crisis.

**Energy and Just Transition:** Several sessions explored the role of First Nations leadership in the energy transition and the importance of a just and equitable shift towards sustainable energy solutions. In the session *"Implementing a Just Transition,"* led by Sacred Earth Solar, panelists discussed solutions and their frontline impact while centering First Nations' perspectives, needs, and challenges. The session, through introducing the Just Transition Guide, outlines ten key lessons for successful implementation, covering foundational principles, energy demand reduction, renewable energy development, community engagement, energy sovereignty, food systems, land and housing, policy decision-making, and Indigenous-led solutions. A curriculum to support the implementation of the Just Transition Guide is currently under development. Another session, *"L'nu Energy Sovereignty"* showcased Lennox Island First Nation's plan to become Prince Edward Island's largest independent power producer. Current projects include an 18MW wind farm with planned expansion, a 37MW solar farm, oil-to-heat pump conversions, electrification of lobster vessels, and a net-zero greenhouse incorporating agrivoltaics. The ultimate goal is to establish a non-profit utility and a net-positive microgrid, ensuring true energy sovereignty for the community.

**First Nations Climate Resilience:** A session on "Climate Resilience – Emergency Management and Additions to Reserves" led by the Emergency Management and Lands Sector at AFN, discussed how to drive forward transformational policy change as it relates to two (2) key policy areas. The first area is the [Additions to Reserve \(ATR\) policy](#) and the second area on the [Emergency Management Assistance Program \(EMAP\)](#). Attendees were able to learn more about navigating working with the federal government and other partners to improve their climate resilience by focusing on incorporating, upholding, and respecting First Nation laws and empowering First Nations self-determination for climate resilience. Participants asked questions about the ATR and EMAP in relation to climate disasters and gained important perspectives on the future of multilateral emergency management agreements and the path forward from proposal-based programming.



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**Conservation, Nature-Based Solutions and Guardians:** Sessions in this thematic area focused on highlighting the role of nature-based solutions and First Nations-led conservation. One session, *Nature-Based Solutions, Natural Climate Solutions, Carbon Offsets or is it really Netukulimk?* led by Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR), held discussions emphasizing the role of community engagement and co-governance in decision-making, critiquing ineffective colonial funding structures and the lack of Indigenous knowledge in Greenhouse Gas reporting. Participants were encouraged to incorporate First Nation perspectives to improve reporting processes. The UINR highlighted the economic potential of nature-based solutions, including forestry, land use, and renewable energy, stressing the need for revitalized relationships with the land over strict targets. A separate session focused on marine conservation session explored the potential of marine IPCAs and the role of developing capacity-building tools to support First Nations leadership. Water issues in the Athabasca/Peace watersheds and Mackenzie River were discussed, with concerns over minimal consultation with the Dene people. Another session saw presentations by representatives of Laval University's *Land Guardian Certificate* program, to illustrate how the program was creating a culturally safe space to weave First Nations and Western science while supporting folks to get back on the Land. Other sessions, including *Indigenous-led Conservation and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)* and *Climate Change and Carbon Governance*, provided insights into Indigenous conservation efforts and challenges in securing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) under various carbon pricing regimes, including *BC's Carbon Offset Protocol 2024*.

**Environmental Health:** The workshop on "*Holistic Approach to Addressing the Climate Crisis*" examined three case studies (Health, Climate Impacts, and international Climate COP meetings) which discussed the impacts on human health, due to the climate crisis and warming climate. As extreme heat and poor air quality increased and floods, wildfires, droughts, and storms continued to worsen, a less human-centric perspective, called "*One Health*" was vital to understanding the inter-connectedness and alignment to First Nations worldviews and the caution of false solutions and health. The panelists on the "*Strategizing Against Environmental Racism and Towards Environmental Justice and a Right to a Healthy Environment*" panel discussed community experiences, initiatives, programs, laws, and other legal instruments that could be used to strategize against environmental racism and its impacts. They considered how the federal *Right to a Healthy Environment Implementation Framework and Environmental Justice Strategy* aligned with the UN Declaration. The panelists also discussed to what extent recent federal legal reform would compel government entities to consider and address equity concerns in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, including public health, cumulative impacts, social costs, and welfare impacts.

**Youth-led Initiatives:** The *Gnaaji-wiinge* session introduced an Anishnaabeg Life Path board game developed with Elders, youth, and Knowledge Keepers. Unlike traditional competitive games, this one values collaboration, knowledge, and skills as currency. The session explored how to communicate cultural teachings to youth, addressing fundamental life questions through connection with the land. It emphasized the importance of language, ceremony, and ancestral teachings in preserving First Nations identity and navigating the future. Another Youth-led session called "*The Yukon Youth-led Social Transformation*" highlighted the *Reconnection Vision (RV)*—a climate action guide created by 13 Yukon First Nation youth. The youth group aims to implement the *10 Reconnection Seeds*, establish governance structures, and promote self-government engagement. Their goal is societal transformation through holistic relationships with the land, each other, and themselves.

**Climate Leadership and Action:** The "*Advancing First Nations Climate Leadership*" session, led by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), emphasized the urgent need for federal support to First Nations, with worsening wildfires, floods, and droughts. This session introduced the process of the *First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda* focused on improving funding access, decision-making inclusion, and eliminating systemic barriers. It highlighted the link between climate and biodiversity crises, stressing the



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disconnect between colonial climate policy and First Nations governance. It was recommended that solutions must be holistic, and rooted in First Nations self-determination, laws, and traditions. Similarly, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations outlined ways government agencies could support First Nations, including equitable partnerships and systemic changes. Another session on Climate Leadership titled, “*Developing a Climate Toolkit*” led by AFN, explored the creation of a First Nations Climate Action Toolkit as directed by the AFN National Climate Strategy. The session examined existing climate toolkits, noting gaps in technology-focused resources. Participants discussed adaptation, mitigation, policy engagement, and education, considering how to tailor toolkits to different audiences, particularly youth, to foster deeper climate action strategies.

## Day 2: Summary of Proceedings (October 9, 2024)

### Panel Presentation: Catalyzing Climate and Conservation Leadership

*Moderated by Mel White (Wauzhushk Onigum Nation), AFN. Panelists: Hetxw’ms Gyetxs (Brett D. Huson) (Gitxsan Nation); Marie-Philippe Ménard (Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan); Api’soomaahka/William Singer III (Piikani First Nation); and Chairperson Khelsilem (Squamish Nation).*

Panelists showcased First Nations-led climate solutions, emphasizing the integration of First Nations knowledge with modern science. They spoke about bridging First Nations pedagogy and research; involving youth in environmental protection programs; traditional land stewardship and restoring First Nations food systems; and the Squamish Nation’s Climate Legacy Strategy for carbon-neutral development.

Mel White (moderator) introduced the concept of the First Nations Climate Lens and invited panelists to share examples of how they are incorporating it into practice.

Hetxw’ms Gyetxs (Brett D. Huson) spoke about the importance of integrating Indigenous perspectives into research while building First Nations research capacity. He emphasized that First Nations pedagogy is rooted in observation and practice rather than conforming to Western scientific frameworks. He highlighted the evolving nature of traditional knowledge, the need for new stories and songs, and the role of ceremony and culture in knowledge preservation. Through his initiative, [Aluu’taa](#), Brett supports the creation of new Indigenous narratives to ensure their knowledge continues to shape future generations. He also called for youth engagement in de-siloing research and policy, integrating laws, environmental concerns, and well-being holistically.

*“Our pedagogy is literally observing repeated instances theorizing what those observations are, and implementing those in our teachings – so, we have science!”*

*- Brett D. Huson*

Marie-Philippe Ménard shared her experience as a member of the Innu Nation in Quebec, noting the linguistic challenges faced by French-speaking First Nations in national discussions. She spoke about her work at Laval University on programs supporting traditional knowledge and her role on the AFN National Youth Council. Marie-Philippe emphasized the importance of learning from Elders, respecting Innu traditions, and uplifting First Nations youth through initiatives like the Land Guardians Program, which focuses on environmental



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protection. She concluded with a message of hope and responsibility in safeguarding traditional territories and cultures against climate change.

Api'soomaahka/William Singer III, an artist and educator from the Blackfoot Confederacy, discussed land-based teachings and the necessity of educating First Nations children about their true cultural heritage. With guidance from Elders, he established a traditional garden to restore the land, teaching youth to grow and eat Indigenous foods. He highlighted the deep connection between land, healing, and survival, stressing that Indigenous knowledge exists within people rather than written texts. He urged his community to reclaim the land and shift perspectives to address climate challenges through cultural learning and stewardship.

Chairperson Khelsilem introduced the Squamish Nation's [Climate Legacy Strategy](#), developed through community engagement to address the climate crisis. The strategy includes partnerships for carbon-neutral housing, policies influencing Crown Corporations, and a consent-based regulatory process ensuring industry accountability. He announced that the Climate Legacy Strategy will be publicly released in October 2024, hoping to inspire other First Nations. Khelsilem emphasized that addressing climate change requires crossing boundaries and large-scale commitment, urging those most affected to take leadership in shaping climate policy.

Mel concluded the session by asking panelists to share key takeaways. The panelists highlighted the importance of reclaiming Indigenous knowledge, strengthening community ties, and fostering intergenerational learning. They encouraged participants to listen, be inspired by one another, and engage in climate action that reconnects people to the land, water, and their communities.

*"Indigenous knowledge is stronger than any other knowledge system as it is not written, but rather, is inside of the people, is power and it needs to be given to the children." -*

*William Singer III*



Photo 7: Panel discussion on Catalyzing Climate and Conservation Leadership featuring Mel White (AFN), Brett D. Huson, Marie-Philippe Ménard, Api'soomaahka/William Singer III.



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## Panel Presentation: Sharing Examples of First Nations Climate and Conservation Solutions

*Moderated by Janna Wale (Gitxsan First Nation). Panelists: Melina Laboucan-Massimo, (Lubicon Cree First Nation), Sacred Earth Solar; Shelley Cardinal, (Bigstone Cree Nation), Canadian Red Cross; Regional Chief Andrea Paul (Assembly of First Nations Nova Scotia); and Jocelyn Joe-Strack (Champagne and Aishihik First Nation), Reconnection Vision.*

Based on guidance by Janna Wale (moderator), panelists shared powerful stories about: Yukon First Nation's Reconnection Vision; focusing on healing and community-centered climate action; environmental restoration of Boat Harbour, Nova Scotia, emphasizing Mi'kmaq values; and First Nations-led renewable energy solutions through Sacred Earth Solar.

Jocelyn Joe-Strack introduced the [Reconnection Vision](#), Yukon First Nations' climate plan emphasizing self, community, and land reconnection. Sparked by a climate emergency declaration, it calls for youth leadership, governance reform, and balanced decision-making rooted in Indigenous values. She highlighted Yukon's 11 self-governing First Nations and challenged participants to reflect on Canada's relationship with First Nations. She stressed risk-taking, power-sharing, and creating safe spaces for leadership, recognizing women's vital role in fostering accountability and care in youth engagement.

*"The work on the Climate Plan has included developing a Reconnection Vision, a social transformation guide and a toolkit focusing on First Nations living well and whole as opposed to making decisions that are imbalanced and not from the true self."*

*- Jocelyn Joe-Strack*

Regional Chief Andrea Paul shared the Mi'kmaq-led remediation of Boat Harbour, once a sacred place but devastated by industrial pollution. She described its loss as losing a mother, highlighting the deep cultural impact. Her advocacy began in 2014 after a pipeline break, leading to a blockade and legislation that ended effluent dumping in 2020. With a key decision ahead in 2025, she hopes to reclaim the land. She underscored environmental racism, the role of women in climate leadership, and the need to empower First Nations in environmental justice.

Shelley Cardinal of the Canadian Red Cross framed colonization as a stewardship crisis predating the climate crisis. She introduced the *Community Journey to Wellness* framework, focusing on language, familial reconnection, and relational health. She stressed restoring matriarchal balance, amplifying women's voices in leadership, and fostering intergenerational learning to ensure traditional wisdom informs climate solutions.

*"The importance of re-stewarding the Land was critical to addressing the climate crisis as well as recognizing that these issues are interconnected." - Shelley Cardinal*

Melina Laboucan-Massimo of *Sacred Earth Solar* called for a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, centering Indigenous leadership. She shared her fight against tar sands extraction and oil spills, reinforcing the need for Indigenous-led solutions. She introduced the *Just Transition Guide*, emphasizing that



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colonialism and capitalism drive climate change, Indigenous sovereignty is key to solutions, and renewable projects must be community-led. She also highlighted the emotional toll on climate leaders and the importance of healing through ceremony.

Panelists urged youth to trust their instincts, follow ancestral guidance, and stay grounded amid the climate crisis. They emphasized youth leadership and deep land connection, reinforcing the message: youth must claim their space—it is their future.

*"The youth also have a vision, brilliance, and optimism that is refreshing and it is important to consider wellness, language, medicines, family and that the Land is medicine." - Melina Laboucan-Massimo*



**Photo 8 & 9: Panelist speakers presenting on the Sharing Examples of First Nations Climate and Conservation Solutions Discussion.**



## Highlights of Concurrent Sessions (#21 - #40)

**First Nations Youth Councils:** The *"Uplifting the Voices of Youth"* session, led by the National Youth Council (NYC), spoke to discussions hosted at the Youth Gathering held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, amplifying the voices, knowledge, and experiences of First Nations youth. First Nations youth discussed what meaningful engagement in climate and conservation looks like, shared stories from their Elders and Knowledge Keepers at home and discussed the interconnection between land, rights, culture, and First Nations-led solutions. The group stressed three key points—education, capacity and leadership. Additional points from the session include the importance of making spaces accessible and the inclusion of teachings on 2-spiritness, as well as the interconnection between impacts on the Land and impacts on First Nations bodies. They recommended that the next Gathering includes an opportunity to be on the land. Another session featured a youth-led council in Saskatchewan, *"The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Youth Advisory Council Climate Action Initiatives."* In 2024, the Youth Advisory



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Council outlined their plans to install weather and air quality monitoring stations to monitor the water quality of their lakes and streams. They explained that these initiatives were not just for them but for the safety and well-being of their Nations, ensuring that the detrimental effects of climate change were better understood and that preventative actions were in place.

*"Indigenous knowledge is stronger than any other knowledge system as it is not written, but rather, is inside of the people, is power and it needs to be given to the children."*

*- William Singer III*

**Climate Finance:** The *Pathways to Indigenous-led Conservation Finance* session highlighted the devastating impact of wildfires on Cree lands, sharing that the largest fire (ten times the size of New York City) affected 60% of traplines and worsened homelessness. Key issues included shifting ecosystems, drought, infrastructure loss, health, flooding, and food security. A 35-year restoration plan was developed, emphasizing First Nations-led governance, strategic partnerships, and combining biodiversity and cultural restoration with carbon credits. The Cree Land Use Map played a vital role in assessing impacts and guiding recovery efforts. Another session titled, "*Decolonizing Environmental Non-Profit Climate Advocacy*," led by West Coast Environmental Law and Climate Action Network Canada, addressed the colonial roots of climate change and the need for ENGOs to center Indigenous rights, laws, and governance. The session stressed the importance of dismantling colonial structures, fostering long-term relationships with First Nations, and building solidarity through care and service. While strong collaborations exist, true decolonization remains a challenge in environmental advocacy.

**First Nation Solutions and Action:** In response to climate inaction, First Nations are taking steps to create their own climate solutions, highlighted in several sessions. The presentation on "*Climate Leadership 101 with Indigenous Climate Action (ICA)*," provided an overview of ICA's Climate Leadership training, which recognized that Indigenous rights were the primary solution to the climate crisis. The training provides an overview of the principles of free, prior, and informed consent, climate science as well as Indigenous-led solutions and strategies based on a toolkit. ICA stated that their shared vision and mission included recognizing the need to mobilize solutions and to develop and support climate leaders. More information can be found on their website. Another session, "*Anchoring Climate Action in Territories and Knowledge*" highlighted climate action projects in the Quebec Region. Participants explored the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, seasonal patterns, and coastal erosion—disruptions affecting medicinal plants, creating new waterways, and altering traditional harvesting practices. They then discussed examples of land-based solutions, including cultural and spiritual programs, traditional harvesting and fishing practices, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, such as teaching community members how to make traditional drums, selecting the right wood for cabins, and crafting fishing nets. The session concluded with a tasting of locally sourced foods and products, reinforcing the importance of place-based solutions, preserving cultural identity, traditions, and ways of being for future generations.

**Accessibility and Disability Climate Action:** Members of AFN led a session focused on the importance of viewing climate issues through an intersectional, health-centered perspective. The session on "*Accessibility/Disability Climate Action Toolkit*," emphasized that First Nations persons with disabilities were among the most at-risk populations, vulnerable to climate emergencies, and were often missed in decision-making processes and climate preparedness and recovery responses. In the session, First Nations persons of all abilities and all participants had the opportunity to engage in building a one-of-a-kind toolkit designed by First Nations for



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First Nations to assist emergency and climate responders and First Nations in creating effective and accessible policies and implementing inclusive strategies. The discussion noted that more needed to be done to understand and provide support to address the impacts of climate change on spiritual and emotional wellness. Presenters explained that disability in First Nations affected all areas of the medicine wheel: spiritual; emotional; mental; and, physical.

**Climate Action and Ceremony:** The role of ceremony in First Nations climate solutions emphasizes the need for urgent action, healing and the importance of bringing back First Nations culture, teachings and Natural Law into climate action. The aim of this session, Transforming Climate Action and Governance through Ceremony, was to share insights and reflections from the BC Spiritual Knowledge Keepers on Climate Change Gathering hosted by the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) and Kukpi7 Darrell Bob in Tsleil-Watuth Territory on November 17-19, 2023. The session began in a powerful way through a bear ceremony and drumming led by Kukpi7 Darrel and his family, where attendees were able to also take part and receive healing. Kristi Denby, BCAFN, shared key outcomes from the gathering that emphasized the importance of revitalizing First Nations worldviews to address the climate crisis and challenge current Western methods that continue to fail and reinforce inequity and environmental destruction. Following the presentation, panelists had the opportunity to share their experiences from the gathering, which led to a further discussion facilitated by Kukpi7 Darrell on the importance of weaving ceremony and spiritual gatherings into climate action, governance, decision-making, and policy development both within First Nations and Crown governments. **Read the full report from the BC Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gathering on Climate Change here:** [BCAFN Knowledge Keepers Gathering Report](#)

**First Nations Climate Leadership:** In a session, *Trailblazing Indigenous Climate Leadership*, two concrete examples were shared. First, the Hailzaqv Climate Action Team outlined their leadership in a session that shared, building on the knowledge and strength of their ancestors, progress on their Climate Action Plan. Their work focuses on implementing a community-led clean energy plan rooted in nation-building, traditional laws, Indigenous knowledge systems, and language revitalization. As part of their approach, the team developed visual representations of future community scenarios, prompting discussions on potential climate impacts and preparedness. These discussions, engaging youth and Elders alike, explored eight key climate challenges, including flooding, wildfires, heat stress, health concerns, and ice road reliability. One proposed solution is the creation of a peatland conservation area, emphasizing the importance of First Nations understanding both the need for adaptation and the pathways to achieve it. In the second part of the presentation, Dr. Pearson highlighted key components of the [Adaptation Framework](#); a five-step strategy designed for communities to customize based on their realities. Additionally, the Pacific Institute for Climate Change Adaptation (PICCA) has introduced micro-credentials for individuals involved in climate projects and has published the Climate Atlas of Canada, further supporting Indigenous-led climate action.

**First Nations participation in Clean Energy:** The *First Nations in the Clean Energy Transition* session, explored the First Nations' role in Canada's clean energy shift. While renewable energy offers opportunities, concerns remain over mining critical minerals for solar panels and EV batteries. Discussions emphasized the need for First Nations' free, prior, and informed consent. The session highlighted responsible resource extraction, battery recycling, and Indigenous governance in shaping a sustainable energy future while protecting lands and rights. Another session titled, "*Navigating Nuclear Waste and Climate Change*," examined nuclear waste management, First Nations priorities, and climate change. Concerns were raised about the sustainability of nuclear storage as geological conditions shift. The discussion emphasized Indigenous leadership, partnerships, and traditional knowledge in ensuring safe, long-term nuclear waste management. Other sessions focused on Just Transition explored climate justice, Indigenous rights, and economic transition. Dr. Angele Alook warned of "green theft" without Indigenous leadership and emphasized traditional economies rooted in sustainability.



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Discussions critiqued the “green economy,” highlighting labor challenges and the need to move beyond extractives systems. The session stressed shifting narratives, reclaiming economies, and prioritizing Indigenous-led solutions.

**Species At Risk:** The *Climate Change and Freshwater Fisheries* session examined the impact of colonial practices on First Nations’ fishing rights and stewardship. As key protectors of ecosystems, it acknowledged the vital role that First Nations play in addressing climate change’s effects on fish and habitats by applying a First Nations climate lens to freshwater fisheries. Key highlights included mercury accumulation in fish, its natural and human-caused increases, and its health impacts on communities. Another presentation focused on specific vulnerabilities related to flooding, *Fighting the Flow: A Workshop on Flood Adaptation Strategies*, First Nations face unique climate risks, including limited emergency services, forced relocations, and disrupted traditional food sources. These challenges reflect the broader cumulative impacts of climate change. To build resilience, communities are developing emergency access plans, river monitoring, early warning systems, land-use strategies, and improved water and housing infrastructure. A session, *First Nations and Species at Risk* led by AFN, highlighted the importance of First Nations rights in conservation and the need to assess regulatory impacts on First Nations. The [Species at Risk Act \(SARA\)](#) was outlined as generally supportive legislation, recognizing Section 35 rights, but there were additional opportunities for advocacy from Section 11 Agreements. The sessions shared an example of an agreement between the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree, and Canada to guide boreal caribou recovery through Indigenous stewardship. SARA has the potential for Nation-to-Nation partnerships and Indigenous-led conservation, reinforcing land stewardship and species protection.

**Health and Food Security:** *Indigenous Knowledge, Risk, and Climate Resilience* presentation explored the role of Indigenous knowledge in climate risk assessments and introduced *Aluu’taa*, a newly launched Indigenous-led research institute. *Aluu’taa* supports Indigenous researchers and bridges Western and Indigenous research methodologies. Janna Wale presented [From Risk to Resilience](#), a special report co-authored with Brett Huson, examining Western risk assessment frameworks and the importance of Indigenous perspectives. The Kluane First Nation team—Elder Mary Jane Johnston, Dr. Alyce Johnston, Lawrence Ignace, and Kelsey Kabanak—shared their governance and resilience efforts, offering attendees opportunities for deeper discussion on their initiatives. Similarly, ISC held a presentation on *First Nations Knowledge, Food Sovereignty, and Future Generations* which highlighted funding for First Nations-led projects addressing climate-related health risks. [Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program \(CCHAP\)](#) provides up to \$125,000 for 1–2-year community-based research initiatives incorporating Indigenous knowledge, youth, and Elders. A specific example was shared by the Dene Tha’ Nation, where they showcased work on food sovereignty, ecosystem balance, and Indigenous-led solutions, including the reintroduction of Wood Bison. The session underscored the importance of Indigenous-led research in preserving treaty rights and closing knowledge gaps.

## Reception and Evening Entertainment

An entertainment reception was hosted, with support from OKT Law, at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre to showcase local Indigenous artists and provide networking opportunities. Co-facilitated by Lowa Beebe and Wina Sioui, the event hosted musical performances from [Cikwes](#) and [CreeAsian](#), supported by [Purple City Entertainment](#).



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## Day 3: Summary of Proceedings (October 10, 2024)

### Panel Presentation: Youth Knowledge Keeper's Circle

*Moderated by Danielle Kehler (Kawacatoose First Nation). Panelists: Nikita Bailey-Sawrenko (Kaska Dene Nation), National Youth Council; Serena Mendizabal (Six Nations of the Grand River Territory), SevenGen; Amber Big Plume (Tsuut'ina First Nation), First Nation Power; and Beze Gray (Aamjiwnaang First Nation).*

Youth leaders emphasized the importance of youth involvement in climate solutions, discussing key topics like a 'just transition' rooted in First Nations governance, self-governing agreements for urgent climate policy, First Nations ownership in clean energy projects, addressing environmental racism, and community-led environmental monitoring.

Serena Mendizabal of SevenGen Energy shared insights from Six Nations of the Grand River, focusing on Hereditary governance and community-led solutions. She highlighted the impact of colonialism, industrial pollution, and exclusion from energy project decisions. Serena stressed the need for full First Nations ownership of projects, citing Sacred Earth Solar, a women-led initiative, and a sustainable longhouse restoration project. She emphasized that a truly just transition requires reducing consumption, supporting First Nations governance, and reclaiming land and decision-making power.

Nikita Bailey-Sawrenko of the AFN National Youth Council discussed climate impacts in the Yukon, particularly the salmon crisis, and the interconnectedness of environmental issues like mining, flooding, and wildfires. She highlighted how self-government agreements allow for timely climate policy discussions and called for sustainable food practices in schools and communities. Nikita also stressed the importance of amplifying Indigenous voices across Turtle Island.

*"The issues are interconnected – the waterways, language, salmon, no traditional fish camps, health issues resulting in Elders with diabetes and children that are unhealthy." -*

*Nikita Bailey- Sawrenko*

Amber Big Plume of [First Nation Power](#) (FN Power) advocated for First Nations' equity and ownership in clean energy projects. She emphasized that projects must be community-led, with Elders and youth involved in decision-making. Amber also discussed the need for capacity-building and long-term revenue generation that benefits communities, not just developers. She shared a successful FN Power project that engaged neighboring communities and encouraged collaboration to create sustainable, Indigenous-led energy solutions.

Beze Gray of Aamjiwnaang First Nation highlighted the environmental injustices faced by their community due to nearby industrial facilities. They discussed the lack of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for pipelines and the impact of petrochemical pollution on health. Beze emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge and cultural practices, such as hide tanning, in building climate resilience and guiding sustainable policies.

The panel concluded with a call to empower Indigenous youth in climate action. Serena urged investment in youth through community-building and solution implementation. Amber emphasized the need for youth voices in climate policy. Beze called for increased access to events, ceremonies, and resources for youth. Nikita addressed climate anxiety and the importance of youth-led policy influence. The panel closed with a focus on



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kinship, community, and intergenerational dialogue in climate action, encouraging delegates to engage in meaningful conversations and listen to young people closely connected to the land and spirit.

*"First Nations participation in ownership in clean energy projects must be based on a collaborative framework, that the relationships are meaningful ensuring the perspective of First Nations are brought to the forefront of the project." - Amber Big Plume*



Photo 10 & 11: Panelists presenting during the Youth Knowledge Keeper's Circle Discussion.



## Highlights of Concurrent Sessions (#41 – #50)

**Climate Finance:** One session highlighted the work of Coast Funds, an Indigenous conservation finance organization that emerged from the Great Bear (Rainforest) Agreements. The organization provides financial support for conservation, stewardship, and economic development to participating First Nations, having invested \$418.6M in coastal communities as of 2023, with its initial \$60M investment growing to \$95M in principle. Presenters discussed the success of the Great Bear Rainforest's \$120M ecosystem-based protection model, emphasizing community well-being outcomes such as the creation of permanent jobs, skills training, the growth of businesses, and support for education. The presentation also shared details about Great Bear Sea, a \$335M Project for Permanence (PFP) initiative, that integrates upfront financing and regulatory support to ensure long-term conservation. Philanthropic funding played a crucial role in the development of First Nations-led business, land use, and economic plans. The session also covered the "Finance for Forests" report, which focuses on conserving forest ecosystems while maintaining economic security, and exploring opportunities for conservation finance tools over the next 20 years. Another Indigenous organization, [NDN Collective](#), shared its mission of supporting Indigenous self-determination for better outcomes for both people and the planet. They discussed their conservation and climate initiatives, particularly their efforts to expand



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services to First Nations in Canada. NDN Collective has developed a model to access national and international climate funding, re-granting and repatriating funds directly to Indigenous communities. Despite \$2.9B in global climate funding, Indigenous communities remain underfunded. NDN views philanthropy as a tool for returning stolen capital to Indigenous Peoples, supporting projects like green energy and land defense. A notable example was the disruption of the Keystone XL pipeline, which involved acquiring and returning lands to Indigenous peoples. The session fostered dialogue on increasing access to resources for Indigenous climate resilience and self-determination.

**First Nations Strategy and Monitoring:** Cold Lake presented “*Sharing Examples of First Nation-led Monitoring*” which focused on the critical role of monitoring climate change impacts for First Nations across the country. The discussion began by exploring what constitutes effective climate change monitoring, emphasizing the importance of basing it on the culture, history, and values of the Nation. It must be community-based, aligned with leadership’s strategic objectives, and focused on establishing baselines to monitor what land users interact with. The session underscored the importance of understanding climate change, ecosystem tipping points, and monitoring techniques to align with strategic objectives, grounded in the direct involvement of First Nations youth. The presenter concluded by stressing the need for long-term data records to track changes and their impact on First Nations’ rights and practices. The Dene Nation presented *Uplifting Dene Knowledge in Climate Action*, which explored the accelerating impacts of climate change, compounded by industrial developments such as the Oil Sands and the Site C Hydroelectric Dam. The participants also shared insights from the 2023 Dene Nation Water Summit, addressing the environmental consequences of industrial activities, including pollutants linked to cancer, water contamination, and the effect on traditional Dene fire practices related to water. The session recommended the integration of Dene knowledge in developing solutions to address climate change and mitigate the impacts of industrial development on their communities. Similarly, the Grand Council Treaty #3 presented on their Climate Strategy and its use by Treaty #3 First Nations to address the impacts of climate change. The presentation highlighted the development of a Treaty #3 Climate Strategy, including a community-based climate impacts monitoring program that focuses on water and weather, intending to support First Nations in understanding and mitigating the climate challenges they face.

**Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Actions:** A collaborative presentation between AFN and ESDC “*Leveraging Canada’s International Commitments to Elevate First Nations Priorities*,” focused on engaging First Nations in Canada’s international commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. With an emphasis on Goals 13-15, which address climate action, resource conservation, and biodiversity protection, the discussion focused heavily on water security where participants shared examples of specific provinces such as Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan that continue to deny First Nations’ rights to water ownership and governance. The session also discussed the potential of Bill C-61, the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, as a potential solution to these issues, but certain provinces are opposed to it. The session concluded by discussing strategies for advancing water rights, including regional water protection laws, policies requiring environmental reviews, governance grounded in Indigenous legal traditions, as well as litigation and advocacy to assert water rights and self-governance. Similarly, the Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group (ICAWG), an advisory body in British Columbia focused on climate change preparedness and adaptation, presented on “*Advocating for First Nations Climate Action at the Local, Provincial, and National Levels*.” ICAWG shared its advocacy efforts for First Nations climate action at various levels: provincial (First Nations Leadership Gathering, Indigenous Climate Resilience Forum), national (Adaptation Futures Conference), and international (COP 28 in Dubai). The discussion then shifted to a local example, focusing on the challenges of drug and medical supply chains in rural and remote First Nations in northern British Columbia. Traditionally, First Nations have used the land’s natural resources for medicinal purposes. However, intensified climate impacts and increasing wildfires,



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combined with the imposition of Western medicine, have created barriers to accessing these essential medicines. The session emphasized the need to improve drug and medical supply chains in northern British Columbia by integrating a holistic, two-eyed approach that supports First Nations health and access to medicine in a changing climate.

**Energy Sovereignty:** The “*Visioning Workshop*” led by Indigenous Clean Energy invited participants to join this interactive workshop holding space for First Nations’ future visioning around community-centered energy sovereignty. This session encouraged youth, Elders, and leaders to join in collective visioning for realizing pathways to clean, affordable and reliable energy, with an emphasis on remote communities. The participants broke into smaller groups to discuss what is energy sovereignty and what it means to them.

**Climate Resilience:** The release of [For Our Future: Indigenous Resilience Report](#) in March 2024 marked a pivotal moment in Canadian climate assessments. As the first climate assessment in Canada developed from the perspectives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, the report emphasized five key messages that centered on amplifying Indigenous solutions in a rapidly changing climate. Presenters invited participants to join them at the Kitchen Table for discussions with several members of the author team and federal assessment representatives. The conversation focused on the report’s findings, upcoming climate assessments, and opportunities for First Nations to engage in future processes. Federal representatives presented on “*Drought Preparedness and Resilience*” which explored the impacts of drought on First Nations communities, ecosystems, and traditional practices, highlighting resilience through collaboration, traditional knowledge, and innovation. Drought, a slow-moving disaster, threatens agriculture, water sources, and biodiversity, endangering species like the Emerald Ash tree, Yellow Perch, sturgeon, and eel, which struggle with dwindling water levels. Participants emphasized the need for flexible policies to support proactive risk assessments and drought planning. The session underscored the importance of engaging both youth and Elders in resilience efforts. Schools were recognized as essential for educating youth, who, in turn, engage their families. Elders, with their historical knowledge of water changes, provide valuable guidance on adaptation strategies.

## **Panel Presentation: Turning Our Minds to Implementation**

*Moderated by Nikita Kahpeaysewat (Moosomin First Nation), AFN. Panelists: Xàkújághá (Minor Chief) Steven Crowchild (Tsuut’ina First Nation); Carol Montour (Six Nations of the Grand River), Indigenous Climate Action; Kenneth Deer (Kahnawake), Haudenosaunee External Relations Taskforce; and Jesse McCormick (Anishinaabe/Oneida), First Nations Major Projects Coalition.*

With the guidance of Nikita (moderator), panelists explored various topics related to First Nations-led climate action, focusing on rights-based approaches grounded in inherent and treaty rights, cultural revitalization, grassroots capacity building, and financial empowerment. Key themes included First Nations’ representation in international climate policy and the development of climate policies led by First Nations.

Xàkújághá (Minor Chief) Steven Crowchild of Tsuut’ina Nation discussed the Nation’s rights-based approach to climate action, rooted in language, culture, and treaty rights. He emphasized First Nations resilience against genocidal policies and underscored the importance of language and cultural survival in addressing the climate crisis. Tsuut’ina Nation, part of the Dene Nation and Treaty 7, rejects land surrender as part of treaties, framing them instead as agreements to share the land, not for unrestricted resource extraction. Crowchild stressed that climate action must intertwine with cultural revitalization, Elders’ teachings, and asserting rights. He also highlighted the Nation’s development of a [Legislation Procedures Act](#) to assert jurisdiction and self-governance, urging Nations to establish clear processes to exercise inherent rights and rebuild governance systems.



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*"Inherent rights stem from the Creator that placed Indigenous Peoples on the lands. It is through inherent rights that Nations have rights of self-determination to govern themselves, govern lands, education, families, and economies, and live in harmony with land. Inherent rights pave the way for treaty rights, which are Nation-to-Nation international agreements." - Steven Crowchild*

Carol Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River, from Indigenous Climate Action emphasized grassroots education and leadership through the [Indigenous Climate Action Climate Leadership Program](#), which has trained over 200 participants. The program equips Indigenous leaders with the tools, knowledge, and financial support needed to drive climate solutions rooted in natural law. Montour discussed the significance of engaging policymakers and advocating for Indigenous rights, critiquing the patriarchal framing of climate discourse. She urged the reconnection with nature through the ceremony, emphasizing that Indigenous ancestors envisioned this path forward as a climate solution.

Kenneth Deer of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Taskforce focused on international climate advocacy and Indigenous rights, sharing efforts to secure Indigenous representation in global decision-making, especially at the United Nations. He spoke about the ongoing struggle for Indigenous inclusion in climate discussions and the UN's Declaration on Future Generations. Deer highlighted key breakthroughs, including Indigenous inclusion in the [Paris Accord](#) and the establishment of the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform](#). He emphasized the need for procedural changes allowing First Nations to speak as governments and stressed the importance of preserving Elder knowledge for future climate action.

*"Past efforts to enlighten the UN about who speaks for the land, the animals, the birds, the fish, the wind; it is the Indigenous Peoples who are the voice of the natural world." - Kenneth Deer*

Jessie McCormick of the [First Nations Major Projects Coalition](#) (FNMPC) shared his experience with forest fires in BC and the disproportionate impact of severe weather on First Nations. He stressed the importance of First Nations asserting their rights in decision-making by building capacity—through education, knowledge, and financial resources—to reclaim displaced power. McCormick highlighted the need for projects to be guided by values, not just profit, and for First Nations to have ownership or influence over projects. He discussed tools like the [First Nations Financial Authority](#) (FNFA) and regulatory changes that support Indigenous participation in clean energy initiatives, including nuclear power. McCormick also presented the [FNMPC's National Indigenous Electrification Strategy](#), advocating for Indigenous leadership in Canada's net-zero transition. He urged Treaty partners to work collaboratively in implementing Indigenous rights.

*"Indigenous peoples are guided by humility and the world needs Indigenous Peoples to be more forceful in asserting their rights." - Jesse McCormick*

The panelists underscored the importance of integrating First Nations rights, values, and knowledge into climate action at every level. They stressed the need for First Nations to assert their rights and sovereignty in



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the climate discussion, from local to international forums. Additionally, they highlighted the significance of community-led initiatives, youth involvement, and the protection of traditional knowledge to create sustainable climate solutions for future generations.



**Photo 12: Panelists presenting on Turning Our Minds to Implementation Discussion.**

## Closing Plenary

### Closing Keynote Address

Regional Chief Andrea Paul, AFN Nova Scotia, provided closing remarks on behalf of the AFN Executive Committee. She expressed appreciation to the participants who attended the National Climate Gathering and for the First Nations sharing their inspiring and unique perspectives and solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis. She spoke about the reconnection to songs, language, and ceremonies that are tied to Mother Earth, uplifting Mother Earth, women, and the Keepers of Wisdom as the water, land, and air are the basis of their existence. She mentioned the AFN National Climate Strategy adopted by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly in 2023. Regional Chief Paul acknowledged the Knowledge Keepers, women and youth and technicians for their talents and abilities. She also acknowledged and called on allies to stand beside First Nations in working together towards climate solutions and climate action. Regional Chief Paul acknowledged the First Nations that hosted the National Climate Gathering on their Treaty 7 lands and expressed her commitment to continuing to advance climate work. Finally, the Regional Chief stressed the importance of hosting the Gathering and the urgent message that First Nations not only have solutions, but First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples are the solutions. This includes the protection and implementation of First Nations rights and responsibilities.

Xàkújághá (Minor Chief) Steven Crowchild wished the participants safe travels home and hoped that the participants received good medicines from the territories, the prairies and forest rivers. He spoke about some of the hardships happening in First Nations including grief and loss and healing through language and culture and climate work.

Elder Clarence Wolfleg from Siksika Nation provided closing remarks and a closing prayer.



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**Photo 13: Regional Chief Andrea Paul, AFN Nova Scotia, providing closing remarks.**

## Conclusion: Lessons Learned

The 3<sup>rd</sup> AFN National Climate Gathering was designed to continue the development of the First Nations Climate Lens, creating discussions centered on ensuring First Nations rights, governance, and knowledge systems are integral to climate conversations. Through keynotes, plenary panels, and concurrent sessions, the First Nations Climate Lens was showcased, highlighting First Nations as active climate leaders. Sessions emphasized the deep and sacred relationship First Nations have with the Land, Water, and Environment, demonstrating how traditional teachings and ways of life have fostered holistic living with Creation since time immemorial. These teachings remain vital to collective survival in the face of the climate crisis.

In contrast to government and industry approaches that often rely on technology and markets, presenters stressed the importance of grounding climate solutions in natural law and restoring balance with the Land, Water, and all living beings. Topics covered a wide range of issues, including accessibility, health, traditional storytelling, youth-led initiatives, emergency management, fisheries, conservation, and environmental health, illustrating the breadth of First Nations-led climate solutions.

## Lessons from the 3<sup>rd</sup> AFN National Climate Gatherings

### The Act of Gathering:

The three (3) AFN National Climate Gatherings have shown that when First Nations come together to share knowledge, experiences, and stories, it is a powerful form of climate action itself. These gatherings are living practices of intergenerational knowledge exchange, rooted in relationships, reciprocity, and respect. By listening, learning, and participating in each other's sessions, participants gain insights that they bring back to their communities, sparking local action and deeper understanding. The act of gathering strengthens the relationships between Nations, deepens connections to the Land, and fosters unity of purpose—coming together with a good mind and a good heart. Participants not only learn from each other but also from the process of being together. As we look to future gatherings, including an on-the-land component, is essential, as it grounds the learning in the very environment we are working to protect and restore the connection between Land, people, and knowledge.



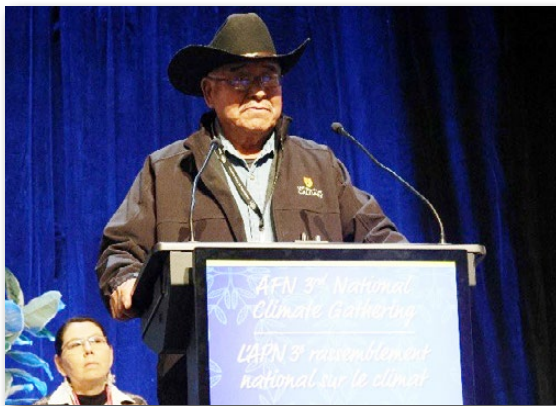
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## **Accessibility and Disability Inclusion (General Wellness):**

A second important lesson from the National Climate Strategy is the importance of an inclusive and equitable approach to climate action, directly addressing the unique challenges faced by First Nations living with disabilities. In the face of rising climate events, both natural and human-induced, it is paramount that no First Nation is left behind. There was a clear emphasis on ensuring that this lens of accessibility and disability inclusion is appropriately mainstreamed in all aspects of climate action, including the planning, implementation, and evaluation. By meeting individuals and communities where they are at, whether geographically, capacity, or culturally, climate action will be improved for all. Ultimately, it was clear that the health of the people and the health of the Land and Water are intimately tied to one another. True climate action can only be achieved when all our relatives are cared for.



**Photo 14: Elder Clarence Wolfleg providing closing prayers.**





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## Centering Intergenerational Dialogue:

As First Nations, the importance of intergenerational dialogue cannot be overstated. Empowering our young people and creating direct opportunities for discussion with Elders and Knowledge Keepers is vital to climate action. In the Youth Gathering, hosted on October 7, three key lessons emerged, underscoring the importance of this work and Youth-only spaces: (i) relationship building between youth and leadership through mentorship; ii) the importance of uplifting First Nations youth through different types of capacity support; and iii) the revitalization of language, ceremony, teachings, and culture. Each lesson reinforces the power of these spaces and the motivation to create more of them within the work ahead. Teaching our medicines, ancestral languages, and land-based practices reconnects us to the Land and our teachings, ensuring our ways remain vibrant. Continual learning and transmission of these traditions keep our nations strong, safeguarding our heritage for generations to come.

## Women and Gender-Diverse Leadership in Climate Action:

The Gathering also highlighted the essential role that First Nations women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals play in climate action. With knowledge systems that are deeply rooted in relationships with all elements of Mother Earth, their leadership offers approaches that challenge the power dynamics embedded within colonial and patriarchal systems, emphasizing relationality, care, and multi-generational stewardship. In particular, the panel presentation, *Sharing Examples of First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership*, embodied examples of healthy, forward-looking matriarchal leadership and the opportunities that it presents in climate action and support for Mother Earth. In this session, and many others, the role of spirit in climate action was actively demonstrated by First Nations women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals. By grounding ceremony, cultural teachings, and lived experiences, First Nations leadership can be matriarchal and transcending colonial and patriarchal worldviews.

## Solutions-focused:

Finally, the Gathering demonstrated the central role that First Nations play in advancing solutions to the climate crisis, not only through the myriads of topics and subject matters that were discussed but by the very nature of being First Nations. Our relationship with the natural world, knowledge systems that were passed on from generation to generation, and our experience with past crises, uniquely position us to lead discussions on climate change and shift the paradigm away from emissions towards human values, leading the shift back to our identities as full beings.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering was a unique space for First Nations from Coast-to-Coast-Coast, with powerful lessons for the national and international dialogue on climate action. We are excited to maintain this momentum as we prepare for the next National Climate Gathering, and encourage all those readers to stand behind, or alongside First Nations as they advance solutions for their Lands, Waters, and Territories.





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## ANNEX 1: CLIMATE GATHERING AGENDA

Monday, October 7, 2024 <i>TELUS Convention Centre</i>	
Time	Activity
4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Gathering Registration
7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Day 1 - Tuesday, October 8, 2024 <i>TELUS Convention Centre</i>	
Time	Activity
7:30 a.m.	Gathering Registration
7:30 a.m.	Hot Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies and Welcoming Remarks
9:30 a.m.	Setting the Context for the Gathering
10:00 a.m.	Health Break
10:15 a.m.	Plenary Presentation – Knowledge Keeper’s Circle
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Introduction to First Nations Climate Lens and Concurrent Sessions
1:15 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing a Just Transition – Indigenous-led Pathways Toward Equitable Solutions and Resiliency from Community to International Scale</li> <li>• Closing the Infrastructure Gap – Climate Risks and Adaptation Needs</li> <li>• Nature-based solutions, natural climate solutions, carbon offsets, or is it really Netukulimk?</li> <li>• First Nations Leadership in Marine Conservation – Knowledge-sharing, Capacity-building, and Pathways Forward</li> <li>• A holistic approach to addressing the climate crisis – One Health</li> <li>• Gnaaji-wiinge – Anishnaabeg Life Path Game</li> <li>• Weaving First Nations’ Knowledges in Climate Resilience-Building</li> <li>• Advancing First Nations Climate Leadership – Lessons learned and future opportunities</li> </ul>
3:15 p.m.	Health Break



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## Day 1 - Tuesday, October 8, 2024

*TELUS Convention Centre*

Time	Activity
3:30 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De la reconnexion à la protection du Territoire : témoignages des Gardiennes du Territoire de l'Université Laval</li> <li>• Centering First Nations Youth in Climate Action – Lessons from the Reconnection Vision and the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Youth Advisory Council</li> <li>• Healthy Energy Homes</li> <li>• Indigenous-led Conservation and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)</li> <li>• Strategizing Against Environmental Racism and Towards Environmental Justice and a Right to a Healthy Environment</li> <li>• First Nations, Climate Change, and Carbon Governance</li> <li>• Climate Resilience Perspectives – Navigating Laws, Policies, Proposals: the UNDA, Emergency</li> <li>• Management, and Land Back</li> <li>• Climate Risk Assessment, Resilience and Decision-making for First Nations Infrastructure and Natural Assets</li> <li>• Fighting the Flow – A Workshop on Flood Adaptation Strategies</li> <li>• Nadlii – The Rebirth of First Nation Rights and the Balancing of Power Through AI Technologies</li> </ul>
5:30 p.m.	<b>Adjourn for Day 1</b>

## Day 2 - Wednesday, October 9, 2024

*TELUS Convention Centre*

Time	Activity
8:00 a.m.	<b>Gathering Registration</b>
8:00 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Recap of Day 1 – Overview of Day 2</b>
9:05 a.m.	<b>Panel Presentation – Catalyzing Climate and Conservation Leadership</b>
10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:45 a.m.	<b>Panel Presentation – Sharing Examples of First Nations Climate and Conservation Solutions</b>
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 p.m.	<b>Introduction to Concurrent Sessions</b>



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## Day 2 - Wednesday, October 9, 2024

*TELUS Convention Centre*

Time	Activity
1:15 p.m.	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uplifting the Voices of First Nations Youth – Lessons from the Youth Gathering</li> <li>• Save Lives! Help Build an Accessibility/ Disability Climate Action Tool Kit</li> <li>• Climate Leadership 101 with Indigenous Climate Action</li> <li>• Pathways to financial certainty for IPCAs and Indigenous-Led Conservation Finance</li> <li>• Climate Change and its Impacts on Freshwater Fisheries – Challenges and Opportunities</li> <li>• Land-Based Practices, Trees, Language and Climate Resilience</li> <li>• First Nations Leadership in Energy Transition</li> <li>• First Nations Food, Nutrition and Climate Health Resiliency Funding Opportunities and Sustaining</li> <li>• Future Generations by Harnessing Traditional Knowledge: The FEHNCY Project</li> <li>• Reclaiming Narratives – A Journey in Indigenous Knowledge Revitalization and Climate Adaptation and Mobilizing Transformative Environmental Governance Through Braiding Knowledge</li> <li>• L’nu Energy Sovereignty</li> </ul>
3:15 p.m.	<p><b>Health Break</b></p>
3:45 p.m.	<p><b>Concurrent Sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming Climate Action by Incorporating Ceremony into Climate Discussions, Decisions and Actions</li> <li>• S’ancrer aux territoires et aux savoirs pour l’action climatique : Leadership des Premières Nations au Québec</li> <li>• Just Transition – Challenges and Opportunities for Youth, Workers, and Communities Working Nation to Nation</li> <li>• First Nations Approaches to Species at Risk</li> <li>• Navigating Nuclear Waste – First Nations Perspectives and Climate Change Implications in Canada</li> <li>• Addressing the costs and impacts of climate change – Tools for Restitution</li> <li>• Trailblazing Indigenous Climate Leadership – The Journey of the Hailzaqv Climate Action Team and Tools for communities to engage members in adapting to climate change.</li> <li>• Decolonizing Environmental Non-Profit Climate Advocacy – A workshop and discussion</li> <li>• Dene Nation: Uplifting Dene Knowledge in Climate Action on Fire and Water</li> </ul>
5:45 p.m.	<p><b>Return to Plenary for the Day’s Wrap-up</b></p>
<p><b>6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>Dinner and Evening Entertainment</b></p>	



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## Day 3 - Thursday, October 10, 2024

*TELUS Convention Centre*

Time	Activity
8:00 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast</b>
8:45 a.m.	<b>Recap of Day 2 – Overview of Day 3</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective Power Building for Indigenous-led Conservation and Climate Action</li> <li>• Visioning workshop to Support Rural and Remote First Nations on their Pathway to Energy Sovereignty and the Just Transition</li> <li>• Indigenous Conservation Finance – Lessons Learned from the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii</li> <li>• Leveraging Canada’s International Commitments to Elevate First Nations’ Priorities – Perspectives from Mushkegowuk Council</li> <li>• Kitchen Conversations with Authors from the For Our Future – Indigenous Resilience Report</li> <li>• Drought preparedness and resilience</li> <li>• Advocating for First Nations Climate Action at the Provincial, National, and International Levels and</li> <li>• Retaining Medical Supply Chain Resiliency in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities and First Nations</li> <li>• An Applied Case Study of Northern British Columbia</li> </ul>
10:45 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Plenary Presentation – Youth Knowledge Keepers’ Roundtable</b>
12:15 p.m.	<b>Lunch Provided</b>
1:00 p.m.	<b>Panel Presentation – Turning Our Minds to Implementation</b>
2:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Plenary and Wrap up in Plenary</b>





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## ANNEX 2: YOUTH GATHERING AGENDA

Monday, October 7, 2024 <i>TELUS Convention Centre</i>	
Time	Activity
8:00 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Ceremonies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grand Entry:</b> Drum Group – BabyFlatz &amp; Dancers</li> <li>• <b>Opening Prayer:</b> Elder Charlie Crowchild and David Menguinis, Tsuut’ina Nation</li> </ul>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Welcome, Introductions, &amp; Overview of the Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AFN National Youth Council:</b> Isaiah Bernard, Co-Chair, and Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey, Environment Portfolio Holder</li> </ul>
10:00 a.m.	<b>Setting the Context – Hearing from First Nations Youth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File Hill Qu’Appelle Tribal Council Youth Advisory Council</li> <li>• SevenGen Energy</li> </ul>
10:30 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:45 a.m.	<b>Facilitated Discussion – Climate Gathering Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Workshop:</b> Roundtable Discussion and Introductions</li> </ul>
12:15 p.m.	<b>Lunch Provided</b>
1:00 p.m.	<b>National Gathering Agenda Walkthrough and Preparation for Concurrent Session</b>
2:30 p.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
2:45 p.m.	<b>Putting Discussion into Action: Facilitated Networking Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy</li> <li>• Philanthropy</li> <li>• Professional Development</li> <li>• Academic</li> </ul>
5:00 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>





Assembly of First Nations  
50 O'Connor Street, Suite 200  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2  
[www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)