




# National Natural Resources Forum

*Empowering Future Generations  
through Self-Determination*

March 12-13, 2025

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre | Vancouver, British Columbia

**FORUM PROGRAM**



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is hosting the National Natural Resources Forum on March 12-13, 2025, on the unceded and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Under the theme *"Empowering Future Generations through Self-Determination"*, the AFN National Natural Resources Forum invites First Nations Chiefs, community members, economic development and natural resources officers, technicians, industry representatives, government officials, non-government organizations, and thought leaders to engage in facilitated dialogue, networking, and information sharing on Natural Resources. The Forum will provide the opportunity for participants and presenters to further explore and showcase supports and services for the inclusion of First Nations participation in the natural resources, energy, and forestry industries.



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## Welcome Message from the National Chief



Dear Chiefs, Delegates, and Partners,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Natural Resources Forum. This gathering brings together First Nations leaders, community members, economic development and natural resources officers, technicians, industry representatives, government officials, and policy advocates to engage in critical discussions under the theme *Empowering Future Generations through Self-Determination*.

Our lands and waters have always sustained our Nations—not only as sources of economic opportunity but as the foundation of our cultures, languages, and ways of life. First Nations must lead the conversations on resource development, ensuring that our inherent and Treaty rights are upheld and that our voices guide policies, partnerships, and sustainable practices.

This forum is an opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and advance First Nations sovereignty over our natural resources. We will explore ways to enhance First Nations participation in key sectors, including energy and forestry, while reinforcing our role in decision-making, benefit-sharing, and environmental stewardship.

As we gather on the unceded and ancestral territories of the  $x^w m \theta k^w \text{ay}' \text{em}$  (Musqueam),  $S_k w x w \acute{u} 7 \text{mesh}$  (Squamish), and  $s \acute{a} l i l w \acute{a} t \acute{a} \text{ł}$  (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, we recognize the deep responsibilities we hold as caretakers of these lands. Guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and the vision of future generations, we must continue working together to assert our rights and build a future where First Nations are not just participants but decision-makers and rights-holders in all matters affecting our lands, waters and resources.

Thank you for being part of this important dialogue. We look forward to hosting you, learning from each of you, and working together to shape the path forward.

**National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak**

Assembly of First Nations



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## FORUM INFORMATION

### **Welcome Reception – Tuesday, March 11, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Please join us for our Welcome Reception taking place in the Constellation Room (South Tower, 34th Floor) at the Sheraton Wall Centre. The reception will feature the wonderful music of Shawn Bullshields (<https://www.shawnbullshields.com>). Enjoy some refreshments, greet old friends, meet new friends and register for the Forum on-site at the Reception.

### **Forum Trade Show**

There will be a Trade Show taking place in the Junior Ballroom Foyer. Come and see the many Trade Show exhibitors showcasing natural resources products, services and organizations. There will be artisan booths as well.

### **Delegate Breakfast, Lunch and Breaks (Pavilion Ballroom Foyer)**

Please join us in the Pavilion Ballroom Foyer for breakfast, lunch and breaks each day of the Forum.

### **Recommended Guidelines for COVID-19 and Other Illnesses**

To help minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses during the Forum and to limit exposure to our Elders and communities when we return home, please refrain from attending any Forum activity if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. As good practice in large groups, we recommend that you wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer (hand sanitizer is available throughout the Forum venue).

### **Forum Venue: Sheraton Wall Centre**

The Sheraton Wall Centre is located at 1000 Burrard Street, Vancouver, British Columbia. To view floor maps of Forum spaces at this venue, please refer to page 15 of this program.

### **Simultaneous Interpretation into French**

Please note that simultaneous interpretation into French is available in the Pavilion Ballroom (Forum Plenary) and the workshop that will take place in that room during each workshop period. Please review the Program Agenda to see what sessions will have simultaneous interpretation into French. Headsets can be picked up inside the Pavilion Ballroom beside the simultaneous interpretation booth.

### **Forum Evaluation Link**

Following the Forum, the AFN will provide an email link to an evaluation form for all attendees. Your feedback will help to improve the planning of our future events, so please keep an eye out for this email after the Forum. If you complete this form electronically within one month of the end of the Forum (by April 14, 2025), you will be entered into a draw for a great prize!



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## Forum Agenda

### Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Forum Registration	Constellation Room South Tower, 34 <sup>th</sup> Floor
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Constellation Room South Tower, 34 <sup>th</sup> Floor

### Day 1 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
7:30 a.m.	Registration Open	Junior Ballroom Foyer
7:30 a.m.	Hot Breakfast	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Trade Show Open	Junior Ballroom Foyer
9:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Ceremonies</b> <i>Forum Chair: Stan Wesley, The Wesley Group</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Prayer by Knowledge Keeper Sempúlyan (Stewart Gonzales), Squamish Nation</li> <li>• Welcome to the Territory by Chief Jen Thomas, Tseil-Waututh Nation</li> </ul>	Pavilion Ballroom <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Welcome Message from National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak</b>	Pavilion Ballroom
9:40 a.m.	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Bisson, Chief Executive Officer, Assembly of First Nations</li> <li>• Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, New Brunswick</li> </ul>	Pavilion Ballroom
10:00 a.m.	Health Break	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer



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Day 1 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
10:15 a.m.	<p><b>Setting the Historical Context</b>  <i>Dr. Darcy Lindberg, AFN Council of Experts on Indigenous Laws</i></p> <p>Winter is traditionally a story-telling season. To open the Forum, we have invited Dr. Darcy Lindberg to tell the story of 'Natural Resources' in 'Canada'. Setting the stage for discussions to come, Dr. Lindberg will delve into traditional Indigenous worldviews of 'Natural Resources'; shifting populations and worldviews during colonization and the industrial age; the creation of the Canadian state and the division of authority over Natural Resources; and, finally, bringing into focus, the current context of 'Natural Resources' in 'Canada.'</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
11:00 a.m.	<p><b>Plenary Panel – Our Way Forward: Indigenous Youth Leading the Clean Energy Transition</b>  <i>Moderator: Alejandra Metallic-Janvier, Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation, Dehcho Youth Energy Council.</i>  <i>Panelists: Tiran Smallboy-Zorthian, Lead Project Coordinator, Samson Cree Nation, Indigenous Clean Energy; Ay'Den D. Abraham, Clean Energy Youth Coordinator, Frog Lake First Nation; Ariaah Raine Thomas-Ekinla, Łı'ı'dlı,ı, Kų'ę' First Nation, Dehcho Youth Energy Council; Devon Felker, West Point First Nation, Dehcho Youth Energy Council; Angus James Capot-Blanc, Dehcho Youth Energy Council</i></p> <p>Indigenous youth are at the forefront of driving sustainable, community-led solutions that empower future generations. This panel, hosted in collaboration between the Dehcho Youth Energy Council and Indigenous Clean Energy, will showcase the voices of inspiring young leaders who are shaping the future through clean energy initiatives rooted in self-determination. They will share their experiences in overcoming barriers, building capacity within their communities, and fostering a clean energy future that reflects Indigenous values and knowledge. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how youth-led initiatives are paving the way for a more sustainable, resilient, and empowered future.</p>	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer



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### Day 1 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
1:00 p.m.	<p><b>Keynote Address – A Vision for Cultural Rejuvenation, Policial Sovereignty, and Economic Self-Sustainability</b>  <i>Cadmus Delorme, Chief Executive Officer/Partner, One Hoop</i></p> <p>Join Cadmus Delorme, a Cree and Saulteaux citizen of the Cowessess First Nation, as he shares his inspiring journey from business professional to Chief of Cowessess First Nation to successful entrepreneur. With a strong focus on three core pillars – cultural rejuvenation, political sovereignty, and economic self-sustainability – Delorme offers a powerful perspective on the future of Indigenous leadership and prosperity. In this session, he will explore the significance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), the growing importance of critical minerals, Natural Resource Transfer Agreements, and the path towards true economic reconciliation. Delorme’s story is a testament to the resilience, leadership, and transformative potential of Indigenous Communities.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
1:45 p.m.	<p><b>Whose Jurisdiction is it Anyway? Revenue Sharing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>  <i>Panelists: Jeremy McKay, Minegoziibe Anishinaabe (Pine Creek First Nation); Vice-Chief Dutch Lerat, Cowessess First Nation, AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development; Brad Michael, B.Sc. LL.B Director, Secretariat of the Western Treaty Nations on the NRTA, Prince Albert Grand Council, External Consultant for the Lands &amp; Resources Department, Member of the Beardy’s &amp; Okemasis Cree Nation in Treaty 6, Saskatchewan.</i></p> <p>This session will explore the complexities of natural resources jurisdiction and revenue sharing, focusing on Indigenous governance and rights. Participants will discuss challenges and opportunities for Indigenous communities in asserting control over the lands they steward and benefiting from resource extraction. The conversation will address legal frameworks, negotiation strategies, and the importance of environmental stewardship and community involvement. Through case studies and expert insights, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how equitable revenue-sharing can foster sustainable economic development and Indigenous sovereignty.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom



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Day 1 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
2:30 p.m.	Health Break	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer
2:45 p.m.	Overview of Breakout Sessions	Pavilion Ballroom
3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions	
<b>Session #1</b> 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Energy 101: Understanding the Types of Energy and Their Uses in Canada</b> <i>Presenter: Philip Craig, Director, Nuclear Innovation Institute</i>  Join us for an informative session that provides an overview of the diverse energy landscape in Canada. This session will explore the different types of energy resources available in the country, including fossil fuels, renewable energy, and nuclear power. We'll examine how these energy sources are utilized across the various sectors such as transportation, industry and residential consumption. With insights into Canada's energy mix, policy considerations, and the growing shift towards sustainable solutions, this session is perfect for anyone looking to understand the fundamentals of energy in Canada and its impacts on the environment and economy.	Pavilion Ballroom <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>
<b>Session #2</b> 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Sustainable Forest Management: Balancing Conservation and Industry in Canada</b> <i>Presenters: Erik Piikkila, Forest and Watershed Ecologist and Forest/Silviculture Technician</i>  This session will delve into the principles and practices of sustainable forest management in Canada, highlighting the need for balancing environmental conservation with industry demands. Experts will explore key strategies for maintaining healthy, resilient forests while supporting the economic benefits of forestry. Topics will include forest regeneration, biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation, and responsible harvesting techniques. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how Canada is working to ensure the long-term sustainability of its vast forest resources while addressing the challenges posed by global environmental challenges and growing resource needs.	Junior Ballroom C





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### Day 1 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
<b>Session #3</b> 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Defining Natural Resources: Traditional and Non-Traditional</b> <i>Presenters: Bill Murdoch, First Mile Connectivity Consortium and Clear Sky Connections; Kevin Seesequasis, Beardy's &amp; Okemasis Cree Nation</i>  This session will explore the evolving concept of natural resources, distinguishing between traditional resources like minerals and forests, and non-traditional resources such as Spectrum, and Tourism. Experts will discuss the economic, environmental, and cultural significance of these resources, examining how they are managed and utilized in Canada. Special attention will be given to the increasing value of spectrum in the digital age, and the impact of tourism on natural landscapes. Join us to better understand these non-traditional resources and to add your input on other possible emerging resources.	Junior Ballroom D
<b>Session #4</b> 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Empowering Indigenous Workforce Development in Energy and Mining through Trades</b> <i>Presenters: Justin Lasnier, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT); John DeGiacomo, Executive Director, Anishinabek Employment and Training Services</i>  This presentation will showcase how different Employment and Training Agencies are driving Indigenous workforce inclusion in the energy and mining sectors through strategic, culturally responsive training programs. Sharing success stories and program overviews, attendees will learn how Indigenous students are being empowered to build sustainable careers in natural resource sectors. This presentation will share best practices in program development, community engagement, and industry collaboration to support Indigenous workforce participation in mining and energy.	Parksville Room



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Day 1 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Plenary Panel – Critical Minerals: Unlocking Canada’s Potential and Influence</b></p> <p><i>Panelists: Robert Phillips, First Nations Summit Political Executive; Darrell Beaulieu, President and Chairman, Denendeh Mining and Exploration Company; Mike Fox, Ring of Fire Project</i></p> <p>As the global demand for clean energy technologies, electric vehicles and advanced electronics grows, so does the importance of critical minerals.</p> <p>This session will explore the significance of these minerals for Canada’s economic growth, energy transition, and national security as it relates to First Nations rights holders in land management and economic participation. Attendees will gain insights into the challenges and opportunities in the extraction, processing, and recycling of critical minerals while examining the environmental and social implications of their use. Join us to learn how Canada and Indigenous Nations can meet the rising global demand while ensuring sustainable and responsible mineral development.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
4:45 p.m.	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw for Prizes</li> </ul>	Pavilion Ballroom
5:00 p.m.	<b>Day 1 Adjourns</b>	

Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration Open	Junior Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m.	Hot Breakfast	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Trade Show Open	Junior Ballroom Foyer
8:45 am	<p><b>Recap of Day 1 and Overview of Day 2</b></p> <p><i>Forum Chair: Stan Wesley</i></p>	Pavilion Ballroom



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### Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Plenary Panel – Strengthening First Nations Leadership in Forestry: A Path to Sustainable Stewardship</b>  <i>Panelists: Robert Manuel, Business Development Strategic Advisor, BC First Nations Forestry Council; Glenn Hargrove, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada</i></p> <p>This session will highlight how First Nations in British Columbia are increasing their participation in the forest sector through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, and how federal programs and departments are co-developing opportunities by, for, and with First Nations.</p> <p>The discussion will encompass opportunities to enhance First Nations participation in forestry, the integration of traditional knowledge into sustainable forest management, successful models of First Nations-led forestry initiatives and strategies for strengthening relationships between First Nations, industry, and government. This presentation will provide attendees with practical insights on how to foster inclusive partnerships, support First Nations-driven solutions, and contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous forest sector.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
9:50 am	<p><b>Plenary Panel – Financial Institutions: Pathways Forward</b>  <i>Panelists: Sébastien Labelle, CDEV, Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program; Booker Cornea, Commercial Banking Market Lead, First Nations Bank of Canada; Stuart Randell, MNP; Monika Bear Robe, Senior Manager, MNP; Carol Anne Hilton, Indigenomics</i></p> <p>This session will explore the vital role of financial institutions and innovative financial mechanisms in supporting the sustainable management of natural resources. Panelists will discuss strategies for accessing capital, building partnerships with financial institutions, and leveraging funding opportunities to advance community-driven environmental stewardship, ensuring that Indigenous rights and traditional knowledge are at the forefront of natural resource management for future generations.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
10:40 am	<b>Overview of Breakout Sessions</b>	
10:45 am	Health Break	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer
11:00 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions</b>	



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Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
<b>Session #5</b> 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Advancing Indigenous Reclamation of Traditional Forest Management Principles and Practices</b></p> <p><i>Presenters: Denise Baxter, Vice Provost Indigenous Initiatives, Lakehead University; Aisha Chohan, SINEWS Student Researcher, Natural Resources Canada; Meaghan Oosterhoff, SINEWS Student Researcher, Natural Resources Canada</i></p> <p>This breakout session will share best practices for land-based planning and how food forests can be designed and replicated in urban settings. The speakers will discuss their research which identifies, explores, and examines the intersections of colonial mechanisms and Indigenous resistance strategies that work to preserve the integrity of forest ecosystems. By centering Indigenous knowledge and leadership, this approach empowers future generations to reclaim sustainable land stewardship while enhancing local food systems, ecological restoration, and economic self-sufficiency.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>
<b>Session #6</b> 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Sustainable Mining and First Nations: Responsible Development for Future Generations</b></p> <p><i>Presenters: Tessa Latchmore, Policy Analyst, AFN Water Sector; Mallory Rose, Director of Marketing &amp; Community Engagement, Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects; Dawn Hoogeveen, Director of Cumulative Effects &amp; Technical Advisory Committee, Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects</i></p> <p>This session will explore community-led approaches to addressing cumulative effects, focusing on how traditional knowledge and collective decision-making can drive responsible development and sustainable resource management. By emphasizing the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and self-determination, we will examine the environmental, social, and economic impacts of mining on First Nations' lands and communities. The discussion will highlight the need for stronger monitoring, accountability, and innovative solutions like co-developing tracking systems for mine tailings spills. Participants will gain insights on fostering economic resilience, environmental stewardship, and collaborative governance, ensuring future generations benefit from responsible and inclusive development.</p>	Junior Ballroom C



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Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
<b>Session #7</b> 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Empowering Youth Leadership in the Natural Resource Sector</b>  <i>Presenters: Carl Braun, Indigenous Rights Advocate &amp; Impact Assessment &amp; Consultation Specialist, Ininiw Strategies; Edgard Villanueva-Cruz, CEO, Turtle Island Connection; Sanya Dua, Turtle Island Connection</i></p> <p>This session explores how Canada’s Impact Assessment Act (IAA) empowers Indigenous youth in environmental governance, aligning with UNDRIP and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles. By engaging youth in impact assessments and resource decision-making, we foster leadership, technical expertise, and the transmission of cultural knowledge. Real-world examples of Indigenous-led initiatives and youth-driven campaigns will showcase how to balance economic opportunities with environmental protection. Participants will leave with insights on best practices for building equitable partnerships, enhancing youth leadership in clean energy, and ensuring meaningful inclusion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in decision-making processes.</p>	Junior Ballroom D
<b>Session #8</b> 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>The Old Crow Solar Project and Best Practices for Clean Energy Projects</b>  <i>Presenters: William Linklater, Senior Energy Analyst, Natural Resources and Heritage Department, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Michael Ross, Industrial Research Chair, Northern Energy Innovation, Yukon University</i></p> <p>Indigenous communities across Canada are at the forefront of the clean energy transition, demonstrating leadership, innovation, and resilience in developing sustainable energy solutions. As expertise in the field continues to grow across academia, private industry, and government, ensuring that communities remain at the center of decision-making is critical. This presentation will highlight the successful development of Sree Vyaa (Old Crow Solar Project) by VGFN and explore broader learnings from projects across the North, including topics such as Community Partnerships &amp; Engagement, Capacity Building, Project Management &amp; Ownership, Lessons Learned &amp; Best Practices for addressing barriers, challenges, and opportunities. This session will provide practical, community-driven, and academic insights into what makes clean energy projects successful, ensuring that they align with Indigenous values and priorities.</p>	Parksville Room
12:00 pm	Lunch	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer



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Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
1:00 pm	<p><b>Panel Presentation – From Concept to Reality, A Case Study on Successful Partnerships: AECON and North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council</b></p> <p><i>Panelists: Desiree Norwegian, Indigenous Relations Manager, AECON; Jim Ward, Executive Director, North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC)</i></p> <p>This session will explore the transformative journey of a successful strategic partnership between AECON and the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC). Highlighting the challenges and triumphs of bringing a vision to life, the case study will focus on the collaborative efforts that ensured mutual growth, respect, and sustainability in the development of natural resources. Attendees will gain insights into how aligning shared goals, building trust, and fostering community-driven decision-making could lead to a successful partnership and long-term value for both industry and First Nation communities.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
1:45 p.m.	<p><b>Panel Presentation – UNDA Action Plan Measure 34: Indigenous Regulatory Authority</b></p> <p><i>Panelists: Donna Mandeville, Director General, Indigenous Policy and Programs Branch; Genevieve Carr, Executive Vice President, Transparency and Strategic Engagement, Canada Energy Regulator (CER); Raymond Cardinal, Indigenous Co-Chair of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the TransMountain Expansion project (IAMC-TMX); Richard Aisaican, Indigenous Co-Chair of the Line 3 Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (Line 3 IAMC)</i></p> <p>The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) 2023-2028 Action Plan is the result of two (2) years of working in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis from across Canada and is designed to recognize Indigenous regulatory authority to make decisions for federally regulated pipelines, powerlines and offshore renewable energy projects and to start a broader dialogue to recognize the right of First Nations to make decisions about development in their territories as envisioned in articles 18, 19, 29 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom



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Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
1:45 p.m.	Panelists will discuss Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations (IMARs), enhancing regulatory oversight on First Nation issues, enhancing First Nation participation in the oversight of federally regulated pipelines, powerlines and offshore renewable energy projects, and processes to recognize Indigenous Regulatory Authorities for federally regulated natural resource projects.	Pavilion Ballroom
2:30 pm	Health Break	Pavilion Ballroom Foyer
2:45pm	<p><b>First Nations Major Projects Coalition Fireside Chat</b>  <i>Presenter(s): Sharleen Gale, Executive Chair, Board of Directors–First Nations Major Projects Coalition</i></p> <p>The First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) plays a crucial role in advancing the economic and social well-being of First Nations communities by promoting their involvement in large-scale resource projects. This session will highlight how the FNMPC ensures Indigenous participation in project planning, development, and operation, leading to sustainable growth and job creation. Attendees will learn about the Coalition’s work in fostering partnerships that prioritize both economic development and environmental stewardship. By focusing on capacity-building and self-determination, the session will showcase how First Nation communities are becoming key stakeholders in the natural resource sector.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom
3:30 pm	<p><b>Plenary Panel – Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations</b>  <i>Panelists: Jay Gerritsen, Director, Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations, Nòkwewashk [No-Kwe-washk], Natural Resources Canada; Paula Pacholek, Senior Policy Analyst, Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations, Nòkwewashk [No-Kwe-washk], Natural Resources Canada</i></p> <p>An overview of the Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations (IMARs) file led by the Department of Natural Resources Canada. The session will include context on where IMARs come from, and how your Nation can participate in engagement activities.</p>	Pavilion Ballroom



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Day 2 – Thursday, March 13, 2025		
Time	Activity	Location
4:30 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, New Brunswick</li><li>• AFN Youth Council</li><li>• Prizes/Draws</li><li>• Closing Prayer by Knowledge Keeper Sempúlyan (Stewart Gonzales), Squamish Nation</li></ul>	
4:45 p.m.	<b>Forum Adjourns</b>	



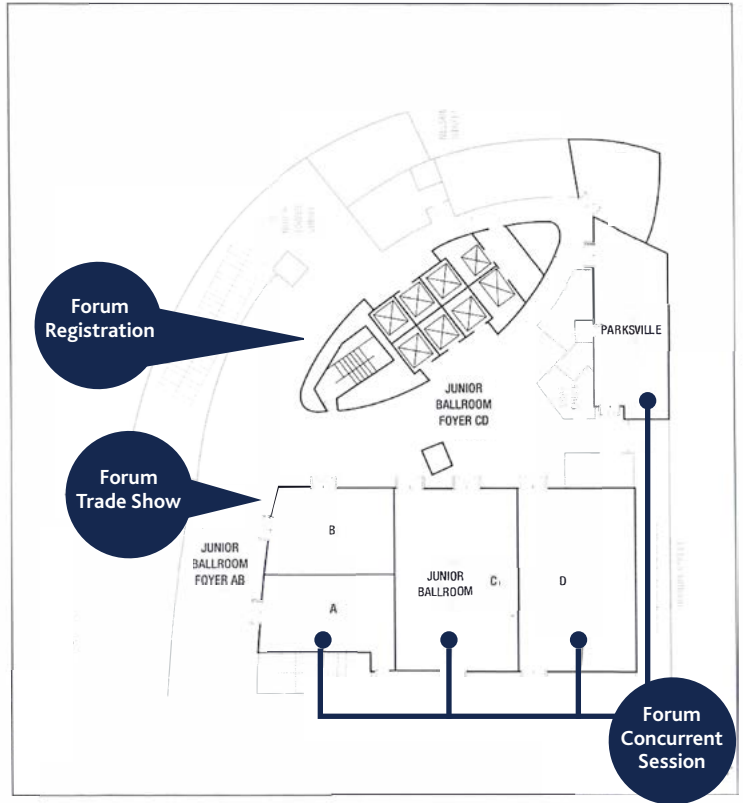
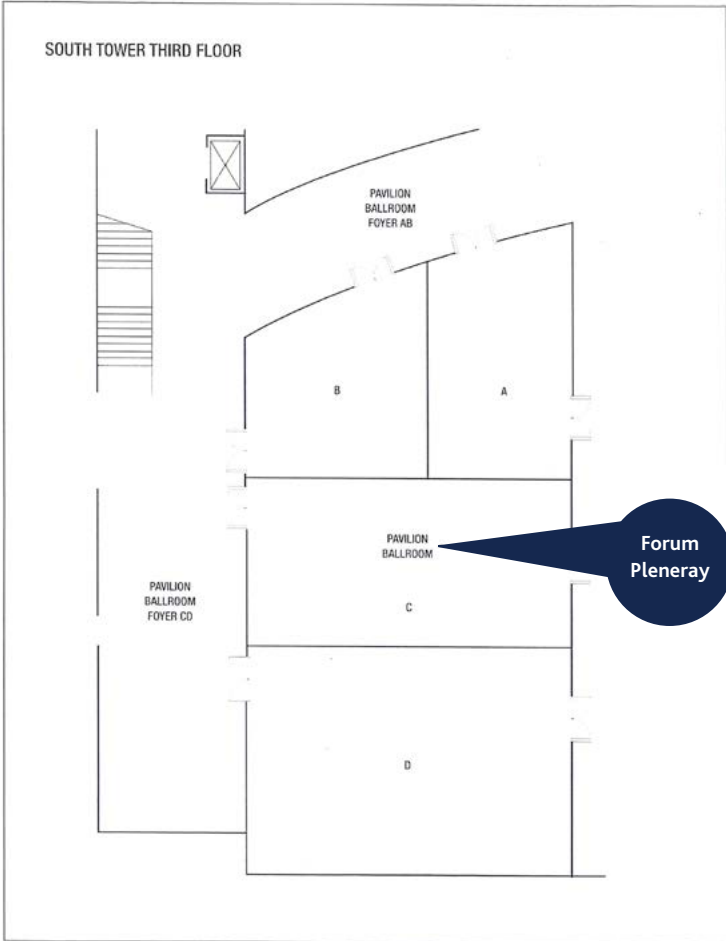


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## Floor Plans – Sheraton Wall Centre









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