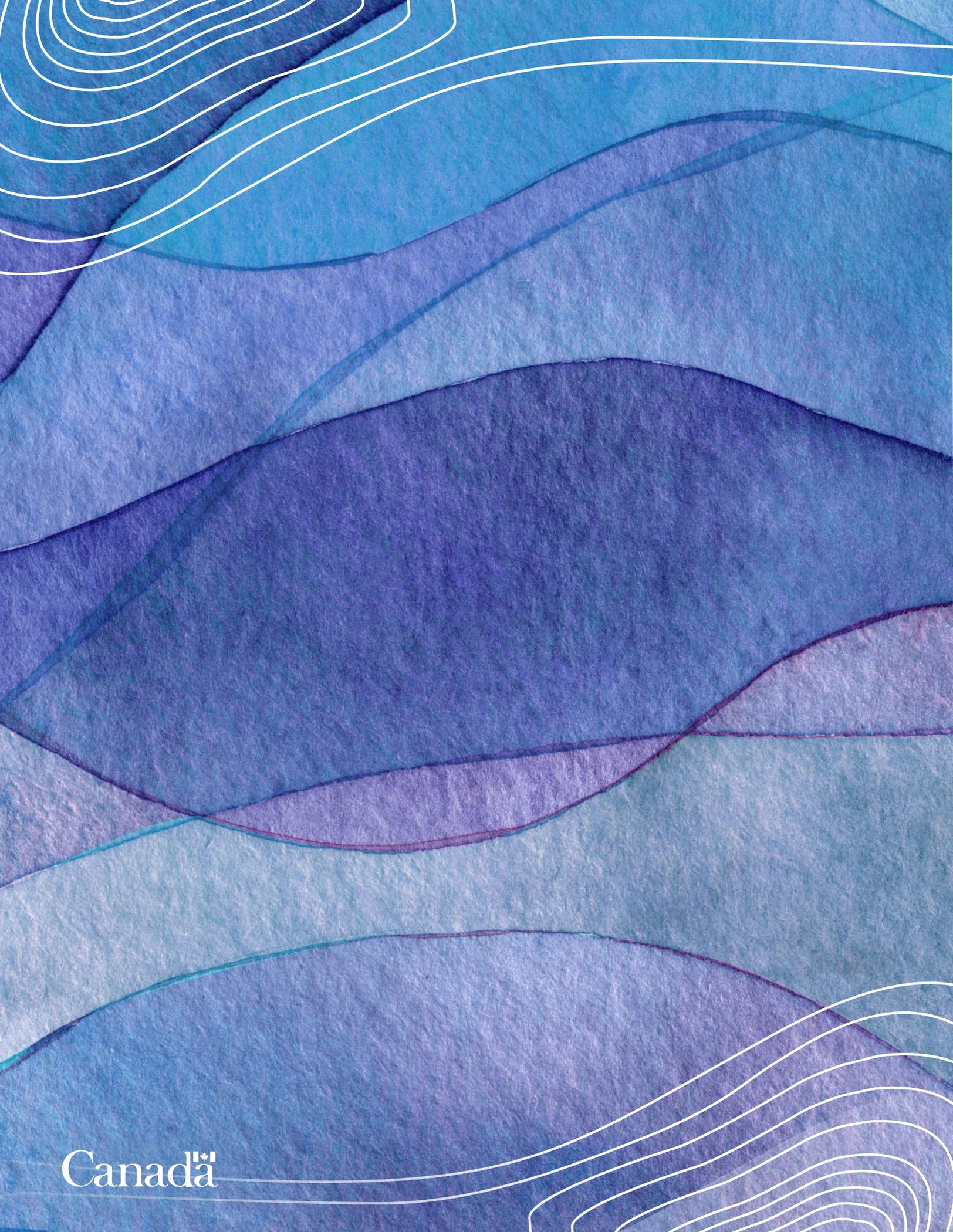


Canada



Joint Committee on Climate Action Annual Report to the National Chief and the Prime Minister – 2021





Canada

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Executive Summary

In 2021, the emergence of new, more transmissible variants of COVID-19 capped off an already challenging year across Canada that undoubtedly impacted the work of the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA). The systemic inequities faced by First Nations were compounded by the combined impact of natural disasters influenced by climate change (in particular those in British Columbia), the ongoing health pandemic, and the discovery of thousands of unmarked graves at former residential institutions. These combined factors reinforced the JCCA's assertion that there is a need for a wholistic and multidimensional response to climate change that recognizes the interconnected nature of all living systems. At the same time, a renewed focus on addressing the underlying causes of these forces emerged as the Government of Canada released an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the AFN released the Healing Path Forward.

The JCCA continues to serve as a unique forum for equitable discussion between First Nation representatives and federal officials on the inclusion of First Nations knowledge and priorities in federal climate policy and programming. Over the last four years, the JCCA has channeled First Nations' technical advice on real and meaningful approaches to position First Nations as leaders of climate action, as well as ways to conduct federal engagement that is inclusive, meaningful, and adequately resources First Nations with the capacity necessary to undertake collaborative planning and participation in decision-making. These mandates were strengthened as new electoral processes – a federal election and an election of the Assembly of First Nations National Chief – reaffirmed climate change as a central issue. National Chief Archibald articulated a clear call for First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership in the Healing Path Forward, and the Government of Canada reinforced the importance of going further and faster in its Speech from the Throne. Similar dynamics were occurring internationally as the United Kingdom's Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidency called on all countries to strengthen their efforts to reduce emissions.

This report documents our journey through the fourth year of collaboration, describing our shared strategies, and some challenges, for accelerating positive, rights-based climate outcomes. The report contains three sections:

1. [Introduction from the Co-Chairs](#)
2. [Towards First Nations Climate Leadership – 2021 Action](#)
3. [Our Path Forward](#)

The report opens with a message from the JCCA co-chairs, providing a short update on the JCCA as well as an overview of the current context facing First Nations and others living in Canada, highlighting not only the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the JCCA, but also the progress that has been made on climate action over the course of 2021.

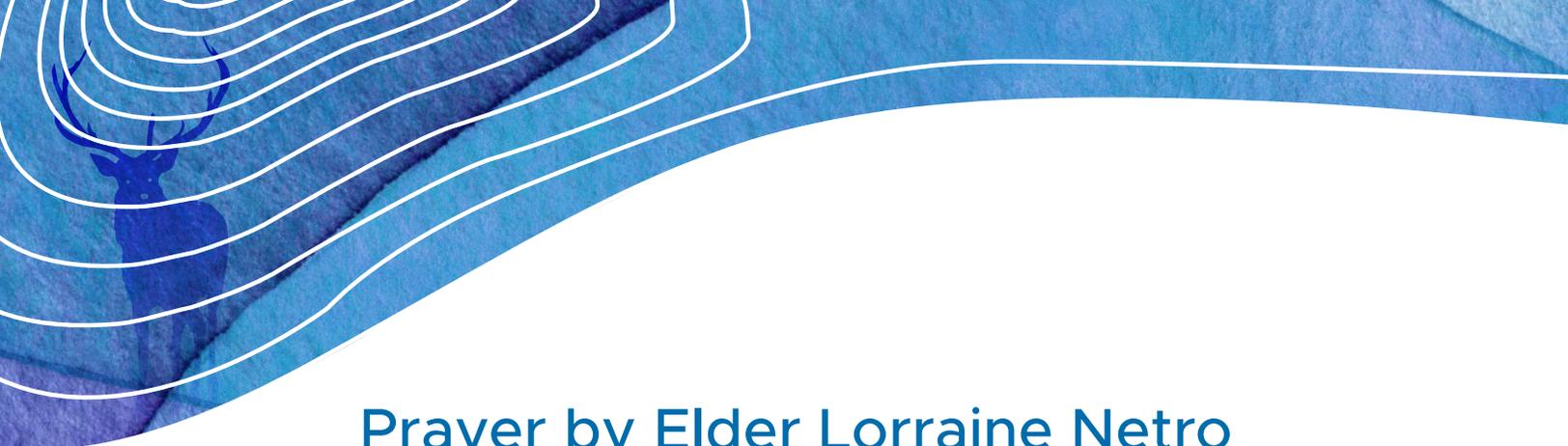


The second section, Towards First Nations Climate Leadership, summarizes the main activities in 2021 and discusses progress against the five main priorities that JCCA identified in 2020. The final section, Our Path Forward, identifies priority areas for the long-term objectives of the JCCA, charting five specific priorities:

- Accelerate First Nations’ full and effective participation in clean growth and climate change programs, including in the National Adaptation Strategy.
- Advance the development of First Nations Climate Leadership through meaningful dialogue with First Nations.
- Monitor and evaluate progress on First Nations Climate Leadership and the full and effective participation of First Nations in climate change programs.
- Develop new communication tools, including a stand-alone website, to improve transparency, accountability, and engagement throughout JCCA activities.
- Embed an intergenerational and intersectional dialogue on climate change in all JCCA activities.

These areas of work reflect ongoing and emerging opportunities for the JCCA and joint climate action. As these areas continue, there remain more opportunities to advance self-determined climate action for First Nations. Through the JCCA, both the Assembly of First Nations and the Government of Canada demonstrate their continued commitment to partnership-driven climate solutions, where First Nations are recognized and empowered as leaders of climate action.





Prayer by Elder Lorraine Netro

Gwich'in from Old Crow

Hai' Cho K'agwaadhat/thank you Creator God, we give you thanks for this day.

We acknowledge our Knowledge Keepers, Our Leaders, Youth, Men, Women and all who are in our circle continuing this good work. We pray for peace in our world.

We acknowledge the Sacred Lands, Animals and Waters. We acknowledge the traditional Territory of the First People's land on which we stand.

We hold up in prayers and acknowledge the Residential School Survivors, the Babies being recovered and the Inter-generational Survivors.

Hai' Cho to our Ancestors for caring for these lands since time immemorial so that we can live in a good way. Let us be mindful that we carry on our teachings to serve our people. Today, we ask that we do our work with a good mind, good heart, and a good spirit.

While we continue to face many challenges in our homelands, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Climate emergencies and the biodiversity crisis has become more intense for all of our people in Canada where it continues to bring more severe emotional distress, uncertainty and displacement for our people and animals. Our emotional, mental health and well-being continues to suffer as a result. Working in true partnership with all levels of Governments, incorporating Traditional Knowledge with a First Nations Lens will forge a clear vision moving forward with self-determination, decolonizing our attitudes will strengthen our way through this immense challenge.

We pray for love, courage, and commitment for all of our Leaders and Decision Makers to be mindful of the urgency to make the bold decisions, together we are on this journey, that will impact us and all future generations to come.

Mahsi' cho K'agwaadhat, jidii tthak diiyeenjii gwiinzii nahtsii

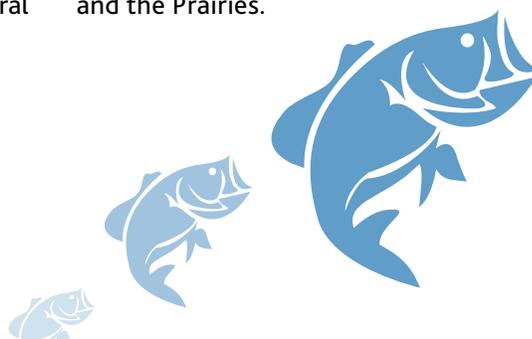
Thank you, Creator God, for making everything good for us.

Introduction from the Co-Chairs

Since 2017, the First Nations-Canada Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) has served as a unique forum where First Nations representatives and federal officials come together to discuss the inclusion of First Nations in federal climate policy and programming. The JCCA is a key channel to provide First Nations with a direct link to obtain information and provide input on federal climate policy. The JCCA also provides technical advice on real and meaningful approaches to position First Nations as leaders of climate action, as well as encouraging inclusive, meaningful, and adequately resourced First Nations' engagement that emphasizes collaborative planning and participation in decision-making. The JCCA is co-chaired by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Its membership includes each regional AFN affiliate, as well as up to seven different government ministries, including Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Infrastructure Canada, and Natural Resources Canada.

Over the years, the JCCA has taken a significant investment of time for the development of an Ethical Space. Ethical Space is an approach to weaving Indigenous and Western knowledge systems which was coined by Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe. This is a space in which each knowledge system does not need the other to be validated and provides an open, safe space to design, develop, and work together in harmony. This Ethical Space is framed by a joint recognition of First Nations inherent and treaty rights, agreements, and other constructive arrangements, the application of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, Canada's Constitution, and Canadian jurisprudence. An Ethical Space also demands that JCCA members are dedicated to strengthening relationships amongst themselves, developing a better understanding of the traditions, conventions, and structures that influence their work. JCCA members are working to operationalize the concept of Ethical Space within all their activities. In so doing, a list of Guiding Principles has been developed to inform how to cultivate good relations between federal and First Nation representatives (Annex 1).

For 2021, the emergence of new, more transmissible variants of COVID-19 capped off an already challenging year across Canada and impacted the work of this Committee. The systemic inequities facing First Nations was highlighted by the combination of natural disasters influenced by climate change (notably the extreme heat, fires, and floods experienced in British Columbia), an ongoing fight with the health pandemic, and the discovery of thousands of unmarked graves at former residential institutions. Beginning with the discovery at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, these discoveries exposed a hidden truth in Canada's colonial structure, all the while First Nations wrestled with the immediate and ongoing intergenerational trauma of having loved ones attend these institutions. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated this trauma, resulting in the disproportionate effects for First Nations across Canada, particularly through the exposure of the vulnerabilities in the healthcare system. Throughout the summer of 2021, wildfires took hold throughout northwestern Ontario, the British Columbian interior, and the Prairies.





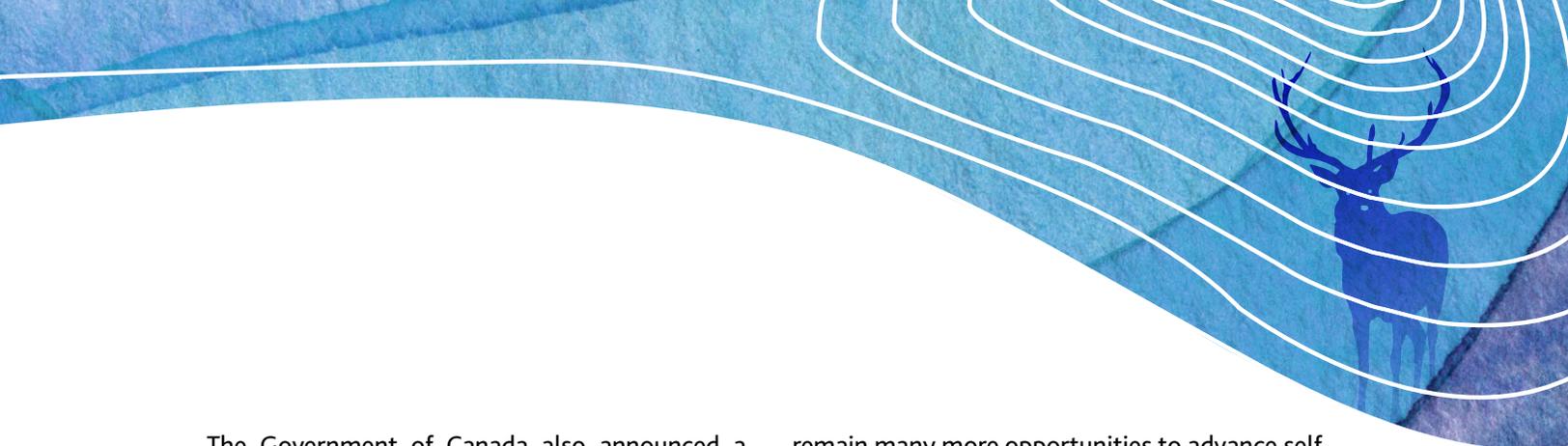
Many First Nations called for the declaration of a state of emergency. Six (6) First Nations in Ontario, eleven in British Columbia, five in Manitoba and two in Saskatchewan, had to be evacuated from their communities, displacing thousands of people. This situation reinforced the JCCA's assertion that there is a need for a wholistic and multidimensional response to climate change that recognizes the interconnected nature of all living systems. At the same time, a renewed focus on addressing the underlying causes of these forces emerged as the Government of Canada released an updated [Nationally Determined Contribution](#) (NDC) and the AFN released the [Healing Path Forward](#).

The AFN has continued to make progress on the development of an AFN National Climate Strategy, as mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly's [Declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency \(2019\)](#). This progress was advanced through the commitment within the *Healing Path Forward*, which clarified that this means "addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and its structural drivers, in order to rebalance the relationship with all of creation." The updated NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - which included a target to reduce emissions by 40 to 45 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 - is a substantial increase of ambition beyond [Canada's original NDC](#).

The JCCA's work was also adjusted to account for the year's electoral processes. Climate change was on the forefront of Canadian and First Nations minds as voters participated in both a federal election and the election of a new National Chief, RoseAnne Archibald - the

first woman to hold such a position. Central to these elections was the reaffirmation of the climate imperative. National Chief Archibald articulated a clear call for First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership in the *Healing Path Forward*, and the Government of Canada reinforced the importance of going further and faster in its [Speech from the Throne](#). Similar dynamics were occurring internationally as the United Kingdom's Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidency called on all countries to strengthen their efforts to reduce emissions.

In June, the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* received Royal Assent, legislating Canada's target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Act establishes a legally binding process to set five-year national emissions-reduction targets for 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045, as well as develop credible, science-based emissions-reduction plans to achieve each target. Each target will be based on the best available scientific information and Indigenous Knowledge, and reflect Canada's international climate-change commitments. The Act includes a statutory requirement to consider UNDRIP when setting the emissions-reduction target, and thereby establishes a critical association with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which Parliament also ratified in June 2021 (**see Box 1**). The Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act also requires the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in the development of Emissions Reduction Plans, as well as the ability for First Nations to provide submissions into the plan.



The Government of Canada also announced a series of commitments including, but not limited to, advancing a net-zero electricity grid by 2035, reducing oil and gas methane emissions by 75 percent from 2012 levels by 2030, and capping and reducing oil and gas sector emissions at a pace and scale needed to achieve net zero by 2050. Canada worked with AFN and other Indigenous representatives to advocate strongly for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their participation in the UNFCCC process by championing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in negotiations on international carbon markets (Article 6). Canada was also pleased to work with First Nations to secure a three-year work plan for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, as well as a renewed mandate for its governing body – the Facilitative Working Group – that comprises equal membership of, and decision-making power by, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Parties to the UNFCCC.

Building on this progress, we are using this Annual Report to outline the JCCA's steps over 2021, ranging from the creation of federal decision-making guidance to the co-creation of a path forward for the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda. But even with all of this progress, there

remain many more opportunities to advance self-determined climate action for First Nations in a manner that contributes to Canada's adaptation objectives, 2030 GHG emission reduction target, and transition to net-zero emissions by 2050. Through the JCCA, both the Assembly of First Nations and the Government of Canada demonstrate their continued commitment to partnership-driven climate solutions, where First Nations are recognized and empowered as leaders of climate action.

Members of the JCCA are excited to continue working together to further our collective responses to the climate crisis this year, and for many years to come.

Tonio Sadik – Senior Director, Assembly of First Nations

Douglas Nevison – A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada





Towards First Nations Climate Leadership - 2021 Actions

Building on the momentum from 2020, the JCCA continued to advance approaches to operationalize the contributions of First Nations climate leadership in Canada's climate policy. This work is grounded in the commitment to "position Indigenous Climate Leadership as a cornerstone of Canada's strengthened climate plan (SCP)" and "partner with First Nations to set an agenda for climate action and a framework of collaboration." It involves expanding on the First Nations Climate Lens to highlight the interconnections between decarbonization, decolonization, and First Nations self-determination.

In its 2020 Annual Report, the JCCA set out five areas of focus for 2021:

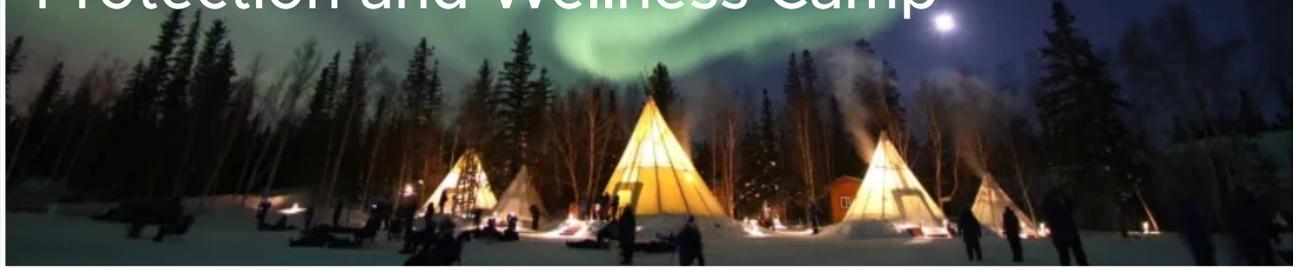
1. Advance First Nations' full and effective participation in clean growth and climate change programs, building on the Best Practices Guide;
2. Ensure Canada's climate solutions build on First Nations Climate Leadership and promote its full inclusion in emerging climate actions;
3. Promote the meaningful participation of First Nations in the carbon pollution pricing system;
4. Monitor progress on First Nations Climate Leadership and the full and effective participation of First Nations in climate change programs; and,
5. Foster intergenerational and intersectional dialogue on climate change

While each area was advanced over the course of 2021, there have been varying levels of progress towards these collective objectives, in part, because of the limitations of working remotely, the added pressure on First Nations caused by the COVID-19 health pandemic, and in certain instances, the consequences of extreme climate events. Work also paused during the 2021 electoral period, consistent with the requirements of the caretaker convention for federal officials.

Through a structured approach, the JCCA is taking steps to translate these areas of focus into concrete, on-the-ground changes for First Nations. Doing this in a virtual space is not always easy, but thankfully early investments in developing an ethical space based on strong relationships between JCCA members, and an evolving understanding of the respectful interaction of Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems, has enabled progress to continue through these challenging times, although at a slower pace.

REGIONAL CASE STORY

Dene Nation: On-the-land Covid Protection and Wellness Camp



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dene Nation launched an on-the-land healing camp to provide a safe space for those experiencing homelessness and substance abuse. The camp was established following engagement with the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation and working together with a local advocate for the homeless, Michael Fatt, of the Crazy Indians Brotherhood. With nearly 350 unhoused people in Yellowknife, the site was supplied by Aurora Village, an Indigenous-owned camp. Accommodating 25 guests, the wellness camp offers amenities such as tipis for residential quarters, a kitchen and dining hall, laundry facilities, along with outdoor and indoor gathering spaces.

The goal of the healing camp is to combine Indigenous cultural education with traditional interventions in a combined wilderness setting to implement a community-led, land-based wellness program for unhoused people from an urban setting. Instead of trying to Indigenize colonial public-health interventions, the wellness-camp takes a self-determination approach to healing that was designed by local experts and Knowledge Keepers.

On-the-land activities include looking after and running 60 dogs in teams, setting nets, jigging for fish through the ice, snaring rabbits, hunting, and snowmobiling. There are also teachings of traditional skills such as toboggan making, sewing of parkas and mitts, and making of Dene and Inuit tools. Upon request from their guests, the camp staff designed alcohol management and harm reduction programs and those who do not consume substances during the day are offered employment by Dene Nation and Aurora Village. To date, approximately 20 people have been employed at the camp. In addition, camp staff have helped individuals find treatment centres, employment, and residences in Yellowknife.

Through an evaluation process and data collection, the on-the-land wellness camp successfully combines Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural healing for the well-being of Indigenous Peoples that can be applied to other urban wilderness areas and vulnerable communities. The wellness camp was successful for many reasons and despite running during the COVID-19 pandemic, not a single guest contracted the virus. This effort was supported by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Stanton Territorial Hospital, where patients were released and transported to the healing camp. The City of Yellowknife has recently offered to assist Dene Nation to reach out to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work in similar areas to collaborate and work together to extend funding the healing camp beyond March 31st, 2022.

As First Nations people, the connection between climate change and wellbeing is interwoven and reinforces the relationship that a healthy and thriving environment creates healthy communities and people.



1. Advance First Nations' full and effective participation in clean growth and climate change programs, building on the Best Practices Guide.

The last four years of collaboration between First Nation representatives and federal officials focused on opportunities to advance First Nations' full and meaningful participation in federal climate action, with a special emphasis on ensuring accessibility of climate-related funding opportunities. Progress made to date and the accumulation of our collective reflections on stronger approaches have been captured in a series of guidance for federal departments and decision makers, such as the Best Practices Guide published in the [2020 Annual Report](#). In 2021, the JCCA picked up on this progress, supported by commitments in the Strengthened Climate Plan to "... work with First Nations ... to co-develop decision-making guidance that will ensure all of Canada's future climate actions help advance Indigenous climate self-determination."

Decision-making Guidance

The JCCA contributed to the development of the parameters of the decision-making guidance (DMG), ensuring its alignment with previously developed guidance. The DMG is intended to support federal departments, the Privy Council Office, Finance Canada, and the Treasury Board Secretariat in orienting federal climate actions and programming towards self-determination objectives and the empowerment of Indigenous climate leadership. The implementation of the guidance across federal decision-making processes is ongoing as departments are working on aligning federal practices.

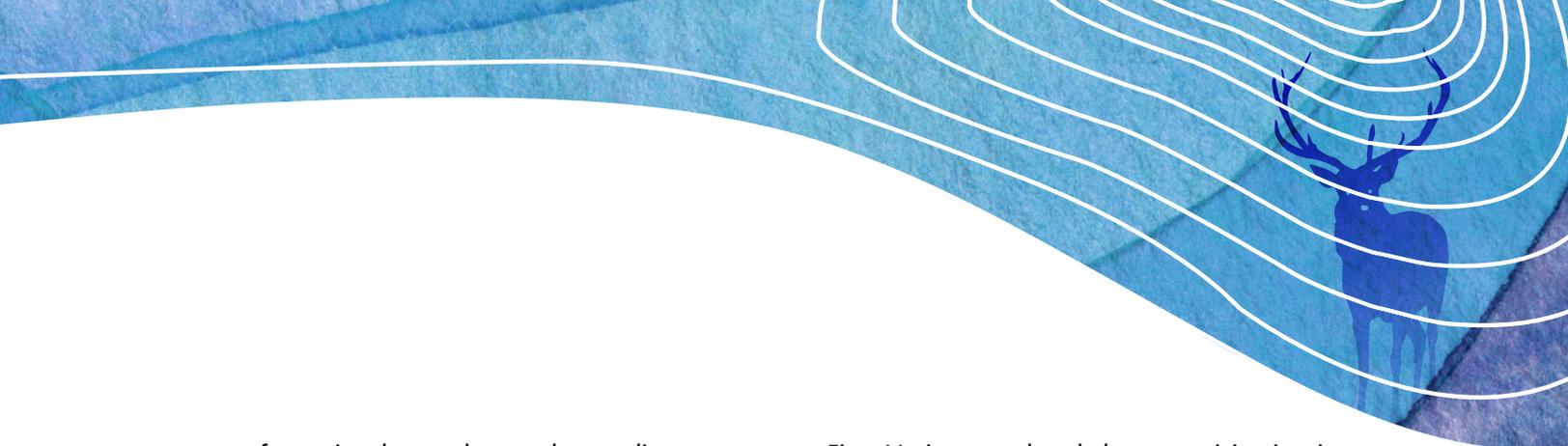
As a set of inclusive-by-design principles, the DMG is one of many tools that supports the broader First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda and the move towards self-determined climate action. It does not replace the active participation of First Nations, but instead supports federal officials in institutionalizing better relationships with First Nations and reflecting the best practices in their work, thus alleviating engagement pressure on First Nations. Furthermore, the DMG does not detract from the need to explore more effective means of working with First Nations.

First Nations' access to federal support continues to be fragmented through a plurality of programs, each with their own objectives and terms and conditions. This situation makes it difficult for First Nations to plan and prioritize their needs holistically at the national, regional and local levels. The JCCA intends to explore alternative means of delivering federal support, which includes ensuring consistency with First Nations-led climate strategies and plans, and improving data on First Nation access to funding opportunities.

National Adaptation Strategy

Another important discussion topic for the JCCA was the Government's new commitment to develop the first-ever National Adaptation Strategy (NAS). Beginning in June, ECCC officials had a robust discussion with the JCCA, outlining opportunities to work with First Nations, embedding First Nations rights, leadership, and knowledge systems throughout the framework.

Following the federal election, five Expert Advisory Tables were convened and tasked with developing advice for the Government on



transformational goals and medium-term objectives. In parallel to this process, the JCCA explored the creation of a working group to support the development of the NAS framework, including opportunities to have direct discussions with First Nations rights—and title-holders. These efforts were a prerequisite to ensuring JCCA's contributions to the NAS in 2022.

Climate Plan Implementation and Program Development

Transparency and information-sharing remained an important priority for the JCCA. Members observed that engagement with First Nations is generally left to the specific federal department responsible for each of Canada's climate measures, with some exceptions. With over 30 new initiatives of interest to Indigenous Peoples across nine departments under the Strengthened Climate Plan (SCP) alone, the launch of concurrent engagement activities is presenting coordination challenges for First Nations and federal officials due to a diversity of timelines, objectives, processes, audiences and depth of existing relationships. In particular, the accelerated roll-out of some initiatives, while consistent with the urgency of undertaking climate actions, can impede meaningful engagement with First Nations despite best intentions.

First Nations have been adamant that they lack the capacity and resources to participate in the large number of engagement activities, each with their own communication channels and objectives. This situation contributes to engagement fatigue

as First Nations need to balance participation in engagement opportunities with the overall needs of their Nations. It also requires First Nations to provide input, sometimes the same input, into a plurality of processes and departments in order for it to be considered across Canada's climate measures. This situation has had a net negative impact on First Nations' agency and has contributed to maintaining long-standing structural barriers.

While the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) provided assistance in establishing capacity funding at the Assembly of First Nations and regional affiliates, First Nations members indicated this funding was insufficient to account for the additional initiatives launched under the SCP. Consistent with self-determination objectives, First Nations members have been calling for a comprehensive understanding of engagement plans to prioritize limited resources and coordinate within their networks.

While recognizing that additional measures will be required to fully address this challenge, this year federal members regularly incorporated whole-of-government briefings on the implementation of the Strengthened Climate Plan in the JCCA's activities. They also provided First Nations members with the timelines of upcoming engagement activities, as well as identified departmental points of contact for First Nations. Federal officials also created the [Federal Funding Placement](#), which centralizes information on federal climate programs of interest to First Nations.





2. Ensure Canada's climate solutions build on First Nations Climate Leadership and promote their full inclusion in emerging climate actions

In recognition that the most effective means of supporting First Nations' mitigation and adaptation actions is to empower climate actions by and for First Nations, and in response to the inherent limitations of federally driven approaches (including those predetermined, federally designed funding programs), the JCCA has been working for several years on a parallel concept of First Nations-led climate priorities. Over the last two years, this has focused on the elaboration of First Nations Climate Leadership, a vision that promotes a new way of thinking about climate solutions, and a paradigm shift towards the positioning of First Nations climate priorities and leadership at the core of climate action. This work was captured, for the first time, in the Strengthened Climate Plan, by committing to " ... [invest] in the agency of Indigenous Peoples and communities, supporting Indigenous-led and delivered solutions, equipping Indigenous Peoples with equitable resources, and ensuring appropriate access to funding to implement self-determined climate action."

First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda

As 2021 began, the JCCA picked up on the substantial work completed in 2020 and focused on developing an agenda for climate action and a framework for collaboration, hereafter referred to as the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda (FNCL Agenda).

Based on discussions at the JCCA, the FNCL Agenda will provide a roadmap, consisting of recommendations, policy directions and concrete deliverables, to ensure that federal climate policy:

- 1) Is respectful and supportive of First Nations' exercise of self-determination and constitutionally protected rights;
- 2) Empowers First Nations' meaningful involvement in national climate governance; and,
- 3) Ensures appropriate federal support for First Nations, consistent with Canada's fiduciary obligations to First Nations.

JCCA members agreed that political accountability is essential to the success of joint development, leading to the creation of a governance structure led by our respective leaderships, the National Chief and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

A draft governance framework was identified to guide future co-development activities. The framework is grounded in the recognition that First Nations' successful response to climate change is inseparable from a legal and policy environment that is free of barriers, enabling in nature, and attuned to First Nations' worldviews. It is not meant to replace the development or implementation of climate strategies and actions by and for First Nations, nor is it meant to replace federal climate initiatives established across departments. Rather, the agenda will provide a roadmap to address the root causes of barriers to the exercise of First Nations' self-determination in the climate space and solutions to



surpass barriers. The pillars of the model include AFN and ECCC leadership and oversight, a steering committee responsible for developing the agenda's content and strategic direction, oversight of co-

development by the JCCA, implementation of solutions and outcomes for First Nations, as well as dialogue with First Nations rights-holders, communities, and governments.

Central to these efforts is the recognition that solutions must be inherently place-based, driven by community-level objectives, and reflective of regional, social, cultural, and spiritual differences. This process must evolve in tandem with First Nations' exercise of climate leadership and self-determination, reflecting evolving practices and worldviews, as well as connect to other related federal processes such as the NAS and the National Infrastructure Assessment. As a results-oriented and evolving collaboration framework, the FNCL Agenda will also inform the implementation of Canada's statutory requirements to engage with First Nations under the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act.

First Nations Perspectives in International Climate Policy

As part of updating its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement in 2021, Canada became the first jurisdiction of the G20 to directly include the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples in its submission, contributing to the inclusivity of Canada's climate policy. This initiative also illustrated the importance of mobilizing Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing, including the First Nations Climate Lens, in Canada's national response.

The JCCA supported the creation of the First Nations' annex in Canada's Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDC) and enabled First Nations to bring their perspectives into the chapeau paragraphs on Indigenous Climate Leadership of Canada's NDC submission (**Annex 3**). The JCCA, in particular the First Nation members, collaboratively wrote these sections. In the annex, the AFN brought attention to First Nations-led climate solutions such as the First Nations Climate Lens and interconnections to health and mental wellness, language revitalization, energy, food security, water, biodiversity, and conservation. The inclusion of First Nation perspectives in this document opened new ways of collaborating with Indigenous Peoples on climate change by dedicating space for the direct expression of First Nations priorities, worldviews, and rights. This initiative builds on the recognition that the expression of First Nations knowledge systems is inseparable from the active participation of First Nations in federal climate policy.



Box 1

On June 21, 2021, Bill C-15, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* received Royal Assent and came into force. This Act provides a roadmap for the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples to work together to implement the Declaration based on lasting reconciliation, healing, and cooperative relations. It requires the Government of Canada, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to:

- take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration;
- prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the Declaration's objectives; and
- table an annual report on progress to align the laws of Canada and on the action plan.

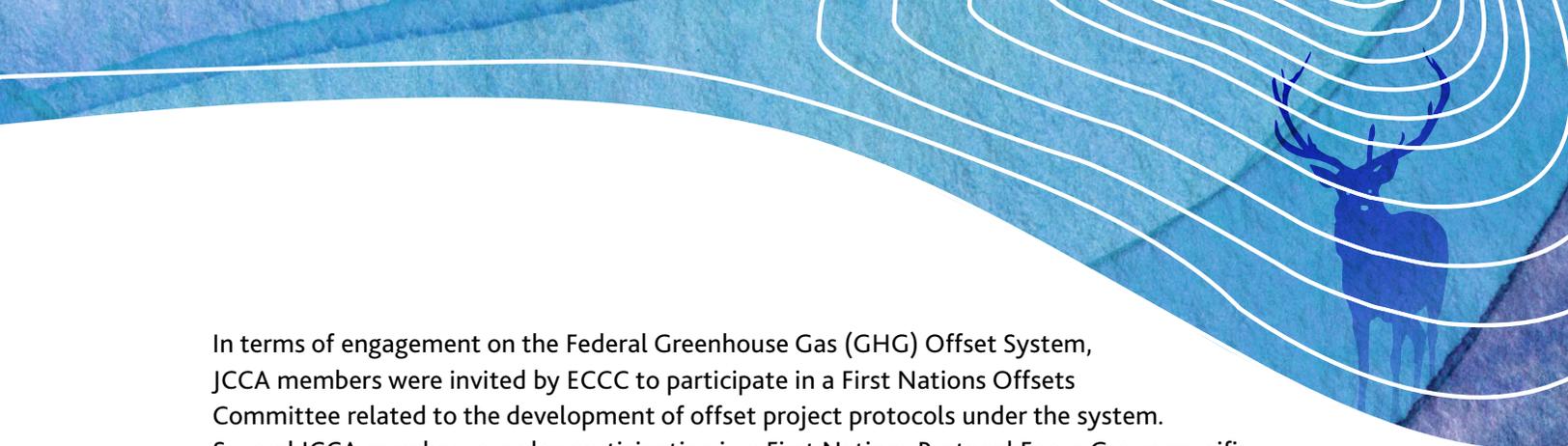
Additional information is available on the website of [Justice Canada](#).

Box 1. *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

3. Promote the Meaningful Participation of First Nations in the Carbon Pollution Pricing System.

First Nations have continuously raised significant procedural, substantial, and equity concerns with respect to Canada's approach to carbon pricing. In 2020, these concerns were determined to be out of scope of the Federal-Provincial/Territorial (FPT) 2020 Interim Report on Carbon Pricing. Environment and Climate Change Canada, in cooperation with the AFN and JCCA, thus embarked on a process to create a First Nations-specific report. The specific report was originally targeted for publication in winter 2021 in parallel with the expert assessment of carbon pricing published by the Canadian Institute of Climate Choices. However, the finalization of the First Nations-specific report was significantly delayed, and eventually postponed indefinitely, due to a number of factors, including contracting timelines to get community level data, and the federal election. Despite not being finalized, information collected in the development of the First Nations-

specific report was used to inform federal policy decisions on the Pan-Canadian Approach to Carbon Pollution Pricing 2023–2030 (Carbon Pollution Pricing 2023-2030), which was published in August 2021. However, First Nation representatives of the JCCA did not feel that the updated Carbon Pollution Pricing 2023-2030 responded to ongoing concerns they have raised since 2016. As a result, the effectiveness of the First Nations-specific report, the ongoing good-faith involvement of First Nation representatives, and the inability for federal officials to address key First Nation concerns, has raised foundational questions for First Nation representatives, including whether carbon pricing should continue to be included as a JCCA item. First Nation representatives are willing to restart these areas of discussion when federal officials are in a better position to engage discussions aligned with the UN Declaration.



In terms of engagement on the Federal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Offset System, JCCA members were invited by ECCC to participate in a First Nations Offsets Committee related to the development of offset project protocols under the system. Several JCCA members are also participating in a First Nations Protocol Focus Group specific to the development of the Improved Forest Management federal GHG offset protocol. This group involves First Nation participants with specific interest or expertise in offset projects and will gather perspectives and experience to inform the development of the protocol. The need for capacity building for interested First Nations to participate in offset projects has been identified, and ECCC is beginning work to help increase capacity. Offset projects can represent opportunities for First Nations communities and organizations to earn revenue from activities that mitigate climate change and which may also offer other environmental co-benefits for wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

4. Monitor progress on First Nations Climate Leadership and the full and effective participation of First Nations in climate change programs

A priority of the table is to monitor the progress on the implementation of Canada's climate plan and outcomes for First Nations. In particular, the JCCA seeks to generate knowledge on barriers to accessing programs, disparities in support available for First Nations across regions, and the use of best practices to mitigate these barriers.

Observation from federal program data

Building on analysis completed in 2020, more recent available project-level data was analyzed to reflect the unique realities of First Nations in federal climate action funding. Data for this analysis was obtained from the [Climate Action Map](#), a publicly available database of funded climate action projects by the federal government. Only partial data was available for 2021.

First Nations received over \$683 million since the inception of the Pan-Canadian Framework, in 2016. There have been a total of 859 First Nation projects supported by 29 federal programs, representing 465 unique First Nation recipients (which include more than just communities,

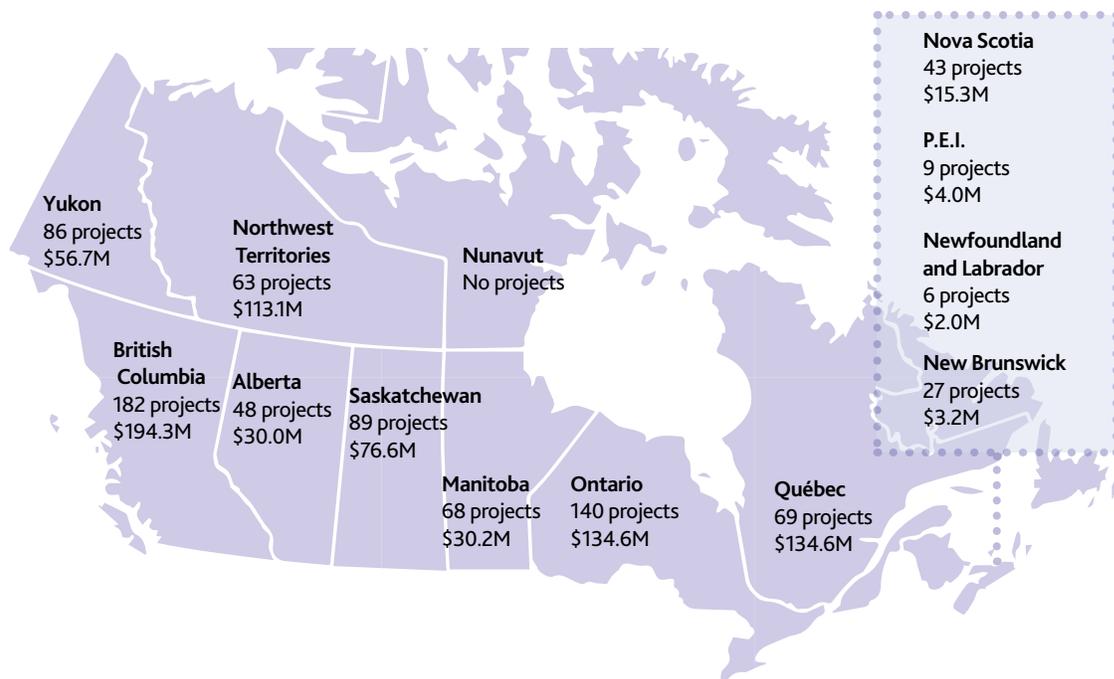
such as research partners, tribal councils, treaty organizations, etc.) The funding provided to First Nations represents approximately 13 percent of the total federal funding provided for adaptation activities, and 1.5 percent of total mitigation funding. **Figure 1** provides a regional breakdown, and **Table 1** shows examples of projects that have been supported to date. This data does not include resilient infrastructure projects on reserve.

As of May 2021, out of the 637 First Nation communities in Canada, 43 percent (274) had received direct federal funding for at least one climate project. When accounting for funding to tribal councils, treaty organizations, and other regional organizations that First Nation communities are represented by, an additional 16 percent of First Nations indirectly benefited from federal funding. Five years after the launch of the PCF, 41 percent of First Nations had not accessed federal support. This may be explained by the fact that, as a single individual is often responsible for the entirety of climate-related work in regional and local organizations and governments, the complexity of the current program ecosystem can act as a significant barrier to First Nations climate action.

First Nations partners have been explicit

that, in practice, a proponent looking to undertake comprehensive climate action is likely to have to apply to multiple programs, each with its own set of eligible expenses, to receive piecemeal funding for different elements of their projects. This challenge is exacerbated in low-capacity communities, where there may not be enough staff to complete the multiple proposals necessary or where more pressing priorities, such as health or housing, prevent communities from building capacity on climate. Further, competing with high-capacity proponents who can undertake large-scale projects limits the success rate for smaller, capacity-building projects, which

in turn maintains communities in a state of lower capacity. Federal programs, particularly those initiated announced in Budget 2021, have sought to respond to these challenges by introducing targeted program allocations for Indigenous peoples as a key tool to address competitiveness concerns and improve the accessibility of programs. As of September 2021, there were 26 targeted programs open for Indigenous proponents, and, of these, five were targeted towards First Nations specifically. Fifteen (15) additional programs included Indigenous allocations or prioritization.



(Figure 1) Data source: Climate Action Map. Available online. Fifty-three (53) programs from 13 federal departments, covering 4849 projects funded between 2016-17 and 2021-22 (Q1). Does not include infrastructure investments on reserve. Information on ISC-funded resilient infrastructure on reserve that supports reconciliation is available here: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1526995988708/1526996020578>.



Under \$200,000 (66% of projects)	\$200,000 to \$1 million (20%)	Over \$1 million (13%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning (floods, infrastructure, coastal erosions, permafrost thaw, emergency management, contamination of country food, health and diseases, ice roads, harvesting, extreme precipitations, wildfires) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex clean energy projects between 100 kW and 700 kW (geothermal, wind turbines, micro-grid, biomass, solar). Community-wide efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major adaptation projects (new road for winter access, erosion protection of shoreline)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local policy development, governance and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education (e.g. creation of targeted curriculum) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major clean energy projects >700 kW (biomass, hydro, wind and solar farms)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy planning, feasibility studies and small-scale clean energy projects, e.g. <100 kW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionally coordinated capacity building and planning (e.g. floodplain mapping) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major retrofits (community buildings)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection, climate monitoring, education, Indigenous knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institution building Implementation of adaptation planning (e.g. drainage systems, shoreline protection, resiliency of water systems, winter road access) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National capacity for policy, engagement, coordination and institution building

(Table 1) Table 1 provides examples of Indigenous climate projects supported by the Government of Canada.

Improvements to data analysis

Throughout the process of collecting data, the JCCA explored avenues to gain a more granular understanding of federally funded First Nations projects and climate outcomes for First Nations. However, these efforts have been impeded by inherent data limitations and new challenges:

- Data specific to unsuccessful proposals is not readily available in most instances. Anecdotal evidence suggests that as much as three out of four First Nations-led proposals are generally unsuccessful, resulting in the important loss of time and resources for proponents. For First Nation representatives, understanding why specific applications were unfunded would be valuable to build capacity and increase the number of projects resulting in meaningful impacts for rights-holders.
- The JCCA is concerned with ensuring respect for the privacy and ownership of data by First Nations project proponents, which poses inherent limitations on the disclosure of comprehensive project-level information and outcomes. New models of data collection will need to be explored to enable this level of analysis in the future.



- The perspective gained from available data remains federally oriented, and does not leave sufficient room for the expression of First Nations knowledge systems. The JCCA is mindful of time

and resource commitments associated with the expression of Indigenous knowledge, and wants to ensure that future activities will be efficient and effective in this regard.

5. Foster Intergenerational and Intersectional Dialogue on Climate Change

The JCCA is committed to building opportunities to include the voices of youth, women, and Elders in its work. While this was a challenge unmet in the context of COVID-19 and virtual meetings, the JCCA remains convinced that the representation of these perspectives is essential to remaining responsive to First Nations' realities on the ground.





REGIONAL CASE STORY

Kluskap's Cave Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)

In January of 2021, the first property in Nova Scotia was purchased for an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). IPCAs are areas of land and water where Indigenous Nations and communities have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems and re-establishing cultural connections. First Nations have a relationship, both physical and spiritual, with the land, skies, and waters – and IPCAs elevate rights and responsibilities to care for the Earth through our laws, governance, and knowledge systems. IPCAs also provide opportunities to build relationships based on reconciliation.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs is leading the IPCA Project funded through the federal Challenge Fund. Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) is leading the initiative in Unama'ki on behalf of the Assembly. A number of engagement sessions were held in 2020 with Unama'ki Elders, youth, and other Knowledge Holders. At the sessions the concept of IPCAs, their relevance in Unama'ki, and identification of a priority site were discussed. Information gathered at these meetings and through interviews were used to prepare the Tan Telot' ik Report ("How We Are Doing Now"), providing guidance for the establishment of IPCAs in Unama'ki and a vision for an IPCA centered around Kluskap's Cave.

Kluskap's Cave or Kluskapewiktut is considered the centre of the universe by Mi'kmaq, and Kluskap is an important teacher in Mi'kmaq stories and legends.

A number of features in the vicinity of Kluskap's Cave are important to the Kluskap story and a 5,000-ha area of interest has been identified. The area of interest also contains an international important bird area (IBA), a federal marine Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), a provincial wilderness area, provincial crown lands with active forestry and mining licenses, a wildlife management area for seabirds, and habitat for culturally significant and at-risk species. UINR is using a land and seascape approach with connectivity to other protected areas and the use of nature-based climate solutions.

Community engagement is ongoing and will be essential for the long-term care of the Kluskap's Cave IPCA. UINR Earth Keepers will play an important role through education and monitoring. Creation of the IPCA will recognize Mi'kmaq rights and embrace Mi'kmaq values – values that will help to conserve Mother Earth, renew relationships, and fight climate change.



Path Forward: Actions for 2022

1. Accelerate First Nations' full and effective participation in clean growth and climate change programs, including in the National Adaptation Strategy.

As the implementation of federal policies and programs continue, the JCCA will work on prioritizing and accelerating First Nations' full and effective participation.

- The implementation of the Best Practices guide and the Decision-Making Guidance will be important tools to help federal officials reflect the learnings of the JCCA into their departmental activities.
- Moving into 2022, a priority for the JCCA is the incorporation of First Nations Climate Leadership into the National Adaptation Strategy. With a targeted release of winter 2022, the JCCA will play a critical role in supporting the incorporation of First Nations perspectives and promoting a direct dialogue with First Nations in the elaboration of adaptation actions.
- The JCCA seeks to ensure that First Nations are equipped with the information they need to contribute to and benefit from, as full and effective partners in Canada's climate action. Starting in 2022, First Nation members will receive updates on the work of government departments beyond those that focus solely on Indigenous issues. This is part of the larger effort to promote transparency, mutual understanding, and strengthened capacity.

2. Advance the development of First Nations Climate Leadership through meaningful dialogue with First Nations.

The First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda will be a key mechanism to continue advancing self-determined climate action and First Nations-led priorities, with implications for federal climate policy, programs, and decision-making. The JCCA expects to dedicate a significant amount of its time to the agenda.

- In 2022, the Agenda's governance model will be completed. Subject to the approval of the FNCL Governance Framework by the JCCA's respective leaderships, a steering committee will be formed to begin the development of recommendations on FNCL engagement, a roadmap to self-determination for First Nations, and the implementation of solutions.



- Central to this initiative is the direct engagement between the federal government and First Nations rights- and title-holders, based on their priorities and desired pace. The JCCA will support the fostering of new relationships at the regional and local levels.
- These discussions will also be linked to other governmental climate priorities to avoid undue consultation burden on First Nations, and ensure they contribute to whole-of-government efforts to improve First Nations' involvement in federal climate policy.

3. Monitor and evaluate progress on First Nations Climate Leadership and the full and effective participation of First Nations in climate change programs.

The JCCA will explore how it can track progress over multiple years on First Nations Climate Leadership with indicators that are meaningful to First Nations to provide a clearer picture of community-level outcomes, including access to federal funding opportunities.

- To address the barriers that First Nations face when applying to federal funding programs, there is a need to understand which applicants have been excluded from the funding and why. Whether this be capacity, or other restraints, it is important to understand the root causes of why First Nations are not able to access federal funding on climate, as well as the scale of available federal funding relative to First Nations' climate-related needs. The JCCA will be working with federal departments to explore ways of tracking the status of unsuccessful applications, with a view of addressing accessibility challenges.
- The JCCA will seek to gather information on First Nations' perspectives on how they have been engaged on federal climate policy and programs, either positively or negatively. This line of inquiry will contribute to the reflection of First Nations knowledge systems in federal climate actions, and will be needed to ensure that the best practices are being taken into consideration in support of the full and effective participation of First Nations.
- Concerning the privacy implications of the data analysis, the JCCA will be exploring these implications to best respect First Nations' privacy and data sovereignty throughout the data collection and analysis process.





4. Develop new communication tools to improve transparency, accountability, and engagement throughout JCCA activities.

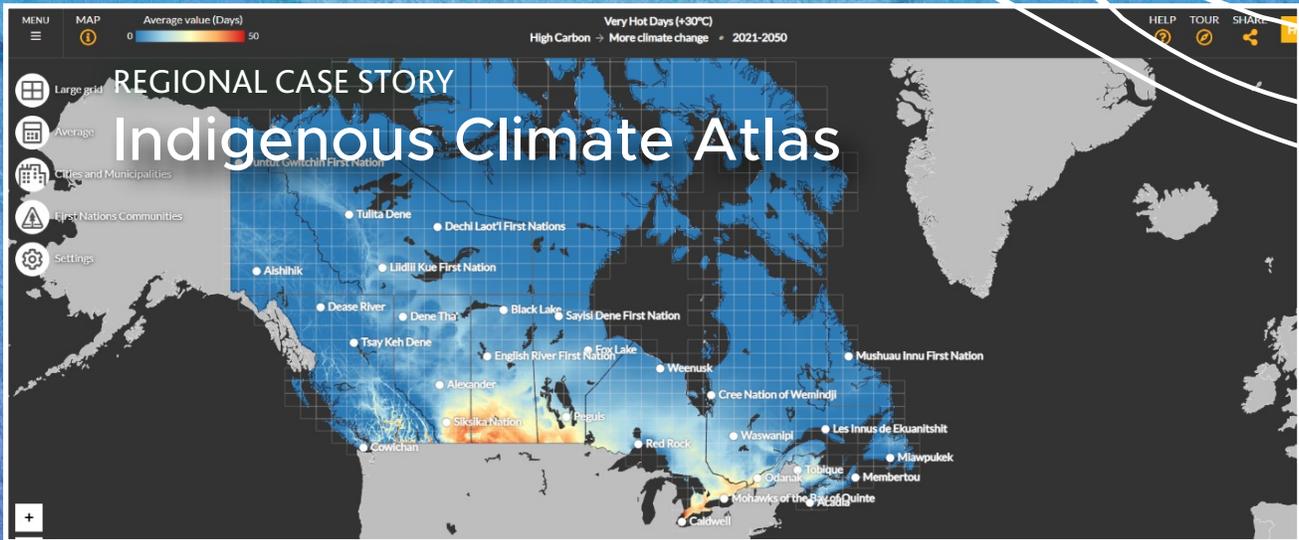
Building on the success of the public release of the 2020 Annual Report, the JCCA is keen in developing communication tools to share its important work with a larger audience of First Nations and federal officials, as well as seek input on JCCA activities.

- The JCAA will prioritize the development of a microsite, co-managed by the AFN and ECCC and housed on the AFN website. The JCAA microsite will improve the transparency and accountability of the table, while supporting engagement on JCCA activities, where relevant. The website will house information on the JCCA, its activities and Annual Reports, as well as other climate-related information of interest to First Nations. Development of the website will be ongoing throughout 2022 with a tentative release later in the year.
- The [Federal Funding Placemat](#) will continue to be updated throughout 2022 as new programs relevant to First Nations become available, and a web version is now available. This is just the beginning of the JCCA's communication efforts, and discussions will continue to determine what other tools would help advance First Nations' access to climate-related information, contributing to the development of capacity and First Nations climate leadership.

5. Embed an intergenerational and intersectional dialogue on climate change in all JCCA activities

The JCCA continues to be committed to the inclusion of youth, women, and Elders in its work and will explore approaches to uplift the voices of these groups throughout 2022. Building on the previous year's focus on Ethical Space and intersectionality, the JCCA intends on its work to reflect the diverse natures, perspectives, and realities of First Nations.

- Both the AFN and ECCC will seek to draw connections with existing intergenerational forums and youth networks, ensuring that youth, women and Elders' perspectives are adequately represented.



University of Winnipeg's Prairie Climate Centre (PCC) – in collaboration with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and many other partners – launched an Indigenous knowledge component of their interactive Climate Atlas (www.climateatlas.ca). The Atlas visualizes projected climate change impacts (including temperature, precipitation, and other variables) between now and the end of the century. The launch introduced new data for all 634 First Nations communities, 53 Inuit communities and the Métis homelands across Turtle Island. The goal is to bridge the gap between Indigenous knowledge systems and western science to address climate change.

When the Climate Atlas was first established, it focused on settler communities in Canada. However, researchers at the PCC wanted to decolonize the map and focus more on Indigenous place names and territories. The interactive map also includes films, videos and articles on climate action initiatives being undertaken by Indigenous Peoples (including the Assembly of First Nation's National Climate Gathering in 2020) that includes the perspectives of youth, women, and Knowledge Keepers and Elders.

The Indigenous knowledges component has been years in the making and was done in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, including AFN's Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the

Environment ('ACE') and network of regional climate change coordinators. It is an interactive tool that will help Indigenous leadership understand and prepare for the changes that will happen in their communities and showcases the incredible Indigenous-led climate solutions taking place from coast to coast to coast.

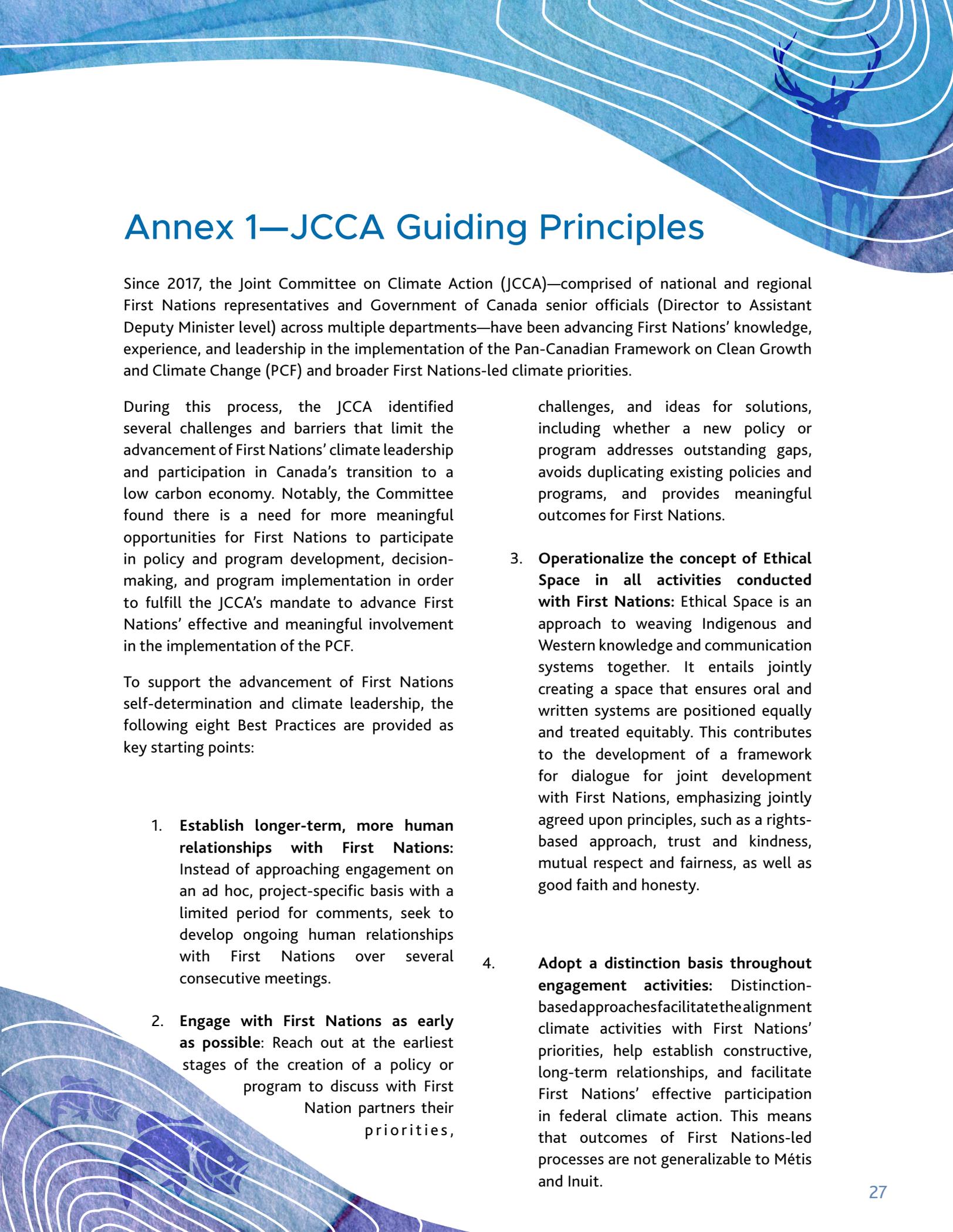
By braiding Indigenous knowledges and western science, the Climate Atlas is useful for adaptation, land-use planning, risk management, and networking with communities. First Nations will continue to be leaders in climate change and by sharing our stories and knowledge, will help each other to build Indigenous climate resilience.



Concluding Remarks

The work of the JCCA continues to develop in a positive direction, consistent with the mandates given by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and federal ministers. First Nations members and federal officials recognize that achieving true reconciliation in the context of climate change will require sustained efforts, and both acknowledge in good faith the ongoing challenges identified throughout this report. Through cooperation, respect, and mutual understanding, First Nations and federal representatives commit to taking transformative action in addressing the climate crisis, seeking to achieve Canada's 2030 GHG-reduction target, contribute to Canada's resiliency to the changing climate, and to the transformations required to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The JCCA remains committed to supporting First Nations as climate leaders, and ensuring their full and effective participation in federal climate actions.





Annex 1—JCCA Guiding Principles

Since 2017, the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA)—comprised of national and regional First Nations representatives and Government of Canada senior officials (Director to Assistant Deputy Minister level) across multiple departments—have been advancing First Nations’ knowledge, experience, and leadership in the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) and broader First Nations-led climate priorities.

During this process, the JCCA identified several challenges and barriers that limit the advancement of First Nations’ climate leadership and participation in Canada’s transition to a low carbon economy. Notably, the Committee found there is a need for more meaningful opportunities for First Nations to participate in policy and program development, decision-making, and program implementation in order to fulfill the JCCA’s mandate to advance First Nations’ effective and meaningful involvement in the implementation of the PCF.

To support the advancement of First Nations self-determination and climate leadership, the following eight Best Practices are provided as key starting points:

1. **Establish longer-term, more human relationships with First Nations:** Instead of approaching engagement on an ad hoc, project-specific basis with a limited period for comments, seek to develop ongoing human relationships with First Nations over several consecutive meetings.
2. **Engage with First Nations as early as possible:** Reach out at the earliest stages of the creation of a policy or program to discuss with First Nation partners their priorities,

challenges, and ideas for solutions, including whether a new policy or program addresses outstanding gaps, avoids duplicating existing policies and programs, and provides meaningful outcomes for First Nations.

3. **Operationalize the concept of Ethical Space in all activities conducted with First Nations:** Ethical Space is an approach to weaving Indigenous and Western knowledge and communication systems together. It entails jointly creating a space that ensures oral and written systems are positioned equally and treated equitably. This contributes to the development of a framework for dialogue for joint development with First Nations, emphasizing jointly agreed upon principles, such as a rights-based approach, trust and kindness, mutual respect and fairness, as well as good faith and honesty.
4. **Adopt a distinction basis throughout engagement activities:** Distinction-based approaches facilitate the alignment climate activities with First Nations’ priorities, help establish constructive, long-term relationships, and facilitate First Nations’ effective participation in federal climate action. This means that outcomes of First Nations-led processes are not generalizable to Métis and Inuit.

- 
5. **Determine the right scope of engagement and ensure modes of collaboration align with the preference of First Nation partners:** Starting with an internal determination of the scope of engagement, potential barriers, and alignment with past discussions with First Nations partners, the next step is to reach out directly to First Nations and ask whether a proposed area of work aligns with their self-determination efforts, including any climate-related priorities.
 6. **Ensure engagement leads to meaningful outcomes:** Meaningful engagement is not an outcome in itself, rather it is oriented towards an outcome that enables substantive and incremental changes to programs, policies, regulations, or legislation.
 7. **Create decision-making and engagement opportunities throughout**
the lifespan of the initiative: Embed funding in policies and programs to support First Nations' capacity to participate in the governance of climate initiatives on an ongoing basis, and ensure adequate Government of Canada resources and staff to implement meaningful engagement opportunities.
 8. **Make room for First Nations' knowledge systems and legal orders in engagement and governance structures:** Efforts should not seek to integrate First Nations knowledge systems directly into federal climate policy and program development, rather it should institutionalize opportunities for First Nations governance and federal governance to come together to engage in joint policy development and decision-making.

As a starting point, the JCCA recommends that federal officials invest the time and capacity to develop long-term relationships with First Nations. These long-term relationships are essential given the timing of recent mandate commitments: meeting and exceeding 2030 GHG-reduction targets, setting a path towards net-zero emissions by 2050, and transitioning away from diesel by 2030. Guided by the Best Practices, these commitments are renewed opportunities to ensure that First Nations are positioned as active drivers and agents of change, contributing knowledge, experience, and leadership vital to understanding and building climate resilience in Canada.





Annex 2—First Nations’ Nationally Determined Contribution Submission

First Nations’ annex

First Nation Elders and knowledge holders have been raising their voices for decades, expressing concerns about the changes in species migration, inconsistent weather, irreversible impacts to the land, and the imbalanced relationship between humans and the environment. These changes are now being recognized by international and national reports, highlighting the irreversible warming trends, identifying that Canada’s climate has warmed by 2.3 °C since 1948 and will warm further, on average, at about double the magnitude of warming globally. While these trends disproportionately impact First Nations, akin to the disproportionate impacts caused by COVID-19, it is clear that climate efforts must incorporate and address the systemic inequities and gaps that have resulted from the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization, land dispossession, and assimilationist policies.

In recognition, First Nations are increasingly responding to these concerns, calling for rapid decarbonization to meet the target of the Paris Agreement. One such example is the Vuntut Gwitch’in First Nation (VGFN), in Old Crow, Yukon, whose declaration, entitled “[Yeendoo Diinehdoo Ji’ heezrit Nits’oo Ts’ o’ Nan He’ aa](#),” translates into “After Our Time, How Will the World Be?” Building on this momentum, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs-in-Assembly declared their [own climate emergency in 2019](#), recognizing that “... climate change constitutes a state of emergency for our lands, waters, animals, and peoples.” The declaration stresses urgent and transformative climate action that reduces emissions in Canada in line with guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and reaches net-zero emissions by 2050, while simultaneously addressing income inequality within First Nations as part of the mobilization for a just transition. First Nation climate strategies are currently being developed in [British Columbia](#), [Yukon](#), and the [Atlantic region](#).

To better understand this reality, and advance First Nations climate solutions, the AFN has developed the concept of a First Nations “Climate Lens” (Figure 1). This Lens challenges conventional conceptualizations of First Nations as “vulnerable” populations and “passive recipients” of climate impacts. Indeed, our unique connections to the land, water, air, and non-human beings have enabled us to live reciprocally and in balance with all of Creation, providing a unique source of strength, understanding and resilience. The Lens is based on an alignment of three concentric spheres of activity to help bring into focus the relationships between First Nations’ climate impacts, climate action, and the broader climate context.[1] It stresses the fact that First Nations are climate leaders and, as such, are active drivers of positive change. First Nations solutions span a breadth of realities and expertise, including [health and mental wellness](#), [language revitalization](#), [energy](#), [food security](#), [water](#), [biodiversity](#) and [conservation](#), [2] offering a unique opportunity to advance multidimensional, intersectional, and interrelated solutions.



Chapeau paragraph (in the main NDC submission)

The climate crisis necessitates immediate, transformative action built on the recognition, respect, and safeguarding of First Nations governance, rights, and jurisdiction, advancing the Government of Canada's commitment to positioning First Nations climate leadership as a cornerstone of its climate efforts.

Consistent with the Paris Agreement's call to respect, promote and consider Indigenous rights when taking action on climate change, the Government of Canada is committed to renewed nation-to-nation, Inuit-to-Crown and Government-to-Government relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation, based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. The Government of Canada also supports without qualification the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and supports Indigenous approaches and ways of doing by acknowledging Indigenous Knowledge systems as an equal part in policy development, programs, and decision-making. For the Government of Canada, supporting self-determined climate action is critical to advancing Canada's reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, as is the leadership of Indigenous Peoples to achieve the foundational transformations required to address and mitigate the consequences of climate change.

The compounding and interconnected impacts of climate change, socio-economic inequities, and historical and ongoing impacts of colonization already have and will continue to have a disproportionate impact on Indigenous Peoples' social, cultural, spiritual, and physical well-being. To support Indigenous Peoples in adapting to the changing climate and contributing to national decarbonization efforts, the Government of Canada will continue to partner with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation to position Indigenous climate leadership as a cornerstone of Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan and ensure that federal initiatives support Indigenous Peoples' climate priorities and ambitions. As the main pillar of this partnership, Indigenous climate leadership means investing in the agency of Indigenous Peoples and communities, supporting Indigenous-led and delivered solutions, equipping Indigenous

Peoples with equitable resources, and ensuring appropriate access to funding to implement self-determined climate action. With a diversity of unique experiences and knowledge related to the environment and climate change, the voices of Indigenous women, youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA, and persons with disabilities are an essential part of climate leadership and action. See Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan, [Canada's 2020 Report on Climate Science 2050](#), the [Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Result's 2018 report](#), and Annex 3 for more details on Indigenous climate leadership and Indigenous climate priorities.



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