



Assembly of First Nations

# National Climate Gathering Report

*Driving Change, Leading Solutions*

10-7-2020



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## Acknowledgements

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Ta'an Kwächän and the Kwanlin Dün peoples who so graciously hosted the March 2020, National Climate Gathering, in Whitehorse, Yukon. This important meeting place is a traditional home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island and we are honoured to have had the opportunity to bring together First Nations experts, leaders, youth, women, knowledge keepers, academics, and professionals to discuss and honour the land and environment. We would like to express our deep gratitude to Elder Chuck Hume and Elder Shirley Adamson for their opening and closing remarks and leading the ceremonies, as well as recognize the beautiful welcome reception by the Dakhka Khwaan Dancers, and to Harold Tarbell and Norma Kassi for facilitating.

We wish to express our gratitude to the following dignitaries for their attendance and insight shared at the National Climate Gathering: Dr. David Suzuki, Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, Yukon Senator Pat Duncan, Minister Pauline Frost, and Commissioner Angelique Bernard. We are extremely grateful to all the speakers and concurrent session presenters who shared their knowledge, insight and personal experiences through speeches and presentations.

The guidance and support received from the Assembly of First Nations National Office as well as the AFN Yukon Regional Office was vital for the success of the Gathering.

We are appreciative to all participants at the National Climate Gathering for their contributions. We acknowledge the financial support of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as, Parks Canada.



## Executive Summary

On March 3 and 4, 2020, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) held its first National Climate Gathering (the Gathering) in Whitehorse, Yukon, on the traditional territory of the Ta'an Kwächän and the Kwanlin Dün. Well over 300 First Nations experts, leaders, youth, women, knowledge keepers, and professionals, gathered to discuss the most urgent crisis of our time – climate change. The Gathering was designed to act on the Chiefs-in-Assembly Resolution, *Declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency (Resolution 05/2019)* and offer a uniquely First Nations-perspective on climate impacts, risks, and opportunities at a local, regional, national, and international level.

The Gathering offered an opportunity to show that, despite the disproportionate risks, First Nations possess a deep and holistic understanding of the root-causes of the climate crisis. This way of understanding and interacting with all of creation positions First Nations as active leaders in the drive to avert catastrophic climate change. In this light, the Gathering sought to achieve a better understanding of how the climate crisis is accelerating and exacerbating existing challenges facing First Nations (e.g., increased flooding, forest fires, biodiversity loss, etc.), as well as to examine and discuss solutions from across the country in a multi-dimensional, interconnected, and interrelated way.

Sessions were as diverse as the list of participants and were delivered through an assortment of media ranging from keynote addresses, plenary panels, over 20 different concurrent dialogue sessions, and an evening of films and videos. The Gathering was developed based on the concept of a “First Nations Climate Lens” – a means to emphasize the inseparability of the climate crisis from the daily lived experiences of First Nations. This concept was explored during the Gathering through panels, stories, photos and video presentations.

For First Nations, a healthy environment is the foundation upon which all other facets of life depend: health and well-being, language and culture, water, food security, education, economy, and infrastructure.

*The AFN Environment Sector, in partnership with Plenty Canada, South Nation Conservation, and Forests Ontario, has worked to plant Indigenous culturally significant trees, plants and medicines in the Ottawa area including red spruce, butternut, and white birch in accordance with traditional methods of planting, which recognize the cultural significance of each individual species and their contribution to maintaining and restoring Mother Earth. This work was guided by the traditional teachings and knowledge of internationally renowned Elder, Larry McDermott (Algonquin from Shabot Obaajiwän First Nation).*

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This unique opportunity tangibly demonstrated the interconnectivity across a broad spectrum of environmental issues and linkages between sectors typically characterized as peripheral or only indirectly linked to climate action. In an effort to display our full commitment to First Nations' sacred responsibilities to care for and steward Mother Earth, attendees were offered digital agendas and other information to reduce waste and, in lieu of conference "swag," a contribution was made to support the planting of culturally significant trees, plants and medicines in the Ottawa area.

The Gathering was facilitated by Harold Tarbell, a member of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, and Norma Kassi, citizen of Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation and member of the Wolf Clan. Opening ceremonies were led by Elder Chuck Hume, citizen of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and Elder Shirley Adamson, member of the Wolf Clan and citizen of the Ta'an Kwach'an of the Tagish Kwan.



## Introduction

This report, entitled the National Climate Gathering Report: Driving Change, Leading Solutions (the Report), reflects on the presentations, discussions, experiences and knowledge shared at the Gathering. It aims to inform the scope and direction of First Nations climate leadership, the development and finalization of an AFN National Climate Strategy, and to set the stage for a second National Gathering anticipated in late 2021.

Current approaches to climate change are failing, as emissions and inequalities continue to grow. It is time that the interrelationships between the three 'Cs' – colonialism, capitalism, and carbon – are exposed, and First Nations take their rightful position as leaders and drivers of climate solutions. To do this, we outline three components of a First Nations Climate Lens:

- Context
- Impacts
- Action

Together, these components bring broader issues into focus to enable meaningful conversations about how First Nations solutions can re-frame the climate conversation and lead to transformative and systemic change.

The magnitude of the environmental challenge that we face requires a transformational shift in the approach that is taken in Canada and around the world. Through the organization of the Gathering, including the Call for Proposals process that led to much of the content shared at the Gathering, we sought to actively reframe climate discourses away from a focus on “technological solutions” and “market-based mechanisms” towards a framing that emphasizes the centrality of First Nations

governance, rights, and knowledge systems. To do this, the Call for Proposals invited a wide array of sessions, including oral presentations, workshops, and technical sessions, organized around key themes connected to the First Nations Climate Lens. Over 40 proposals were received and reviewed by a selection committee, the majority of which were organized into the Conference agenda (Annex 2).

### *A short note on the climate problem:*

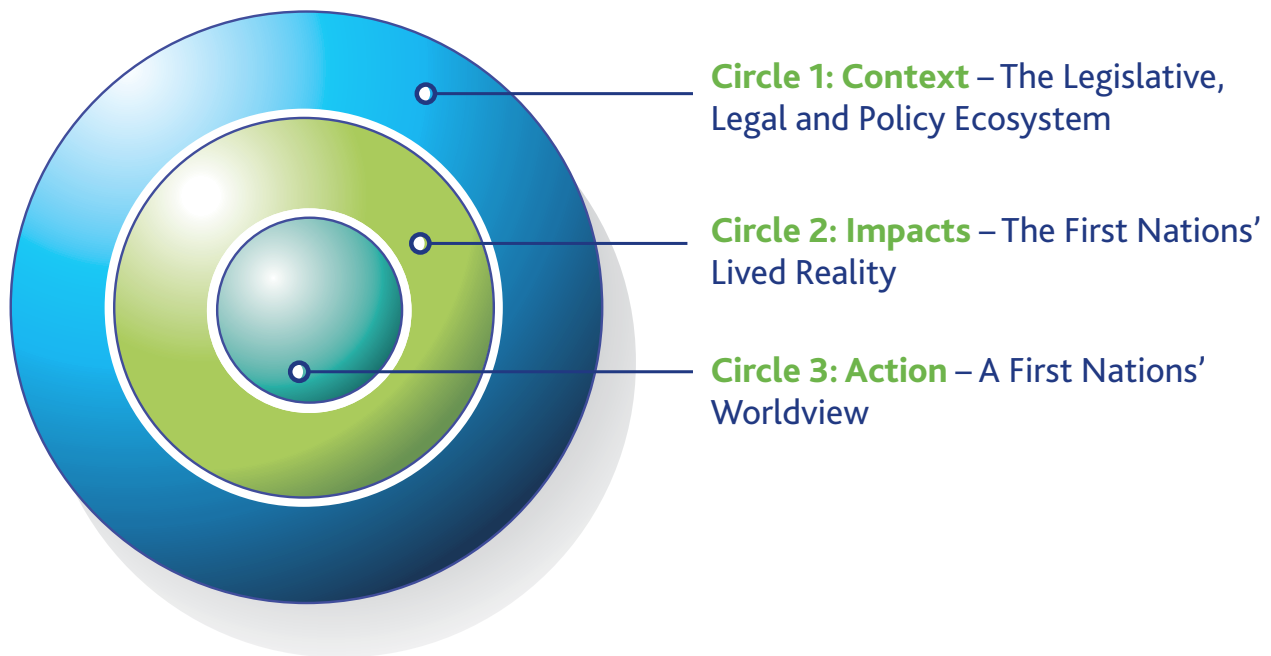
1. *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that we have less than ten years to avoid locking in a future where our children face the irreversible effects of catastrophic climate change.*
2. *In Canada, irreversible warming trends have now been confirmed, identifying that Canada’s climate has warmed by 2.3°C since 1948 and will warm further, on average, at about double the magnitude of warming globally.*
3. *This comes as no surprise as First Nations knowledge keepers have been raising their voices for decades, sharing the changes that they are observing: changes in species migration, weather, and irreversible impacts to the land, such as erosion. While Canada is not currently projected to meet its 2030 targets.*
4. *There is hope that the current federal government will meet its commitment to “exceeding current 2030 targets and developing a plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050”.*
5. *We hope that this report and the subsequent work on the National Climate Strategy will offer a unique opportunity for Canada to correct its course in order to address this growing emergency.*

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Sessions spanned the breadth of realities and expertise, including health and mental wellness, emergency management, energy, food security, biodiversity and conservation, and offered a unique opportunity to challenge the false dichotomy between the economy and the environment. Based on these discussions, and with the input and support of the AFN’s Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), a discussion paper describing the First Nations Climate Lens was circulated and presented in Plenary on Day 1.

This Report is organized in a fashion similar to the Climate Lens conceptualization, which emphasizes three concentric circles as shown in Figure 1.





### **Circle 1: Context – The Legislative, Legal and Policy Ecosystem**

For First Nations, climate action is a rights and responsibilities based activity that occurs within a legislative, legal, and policy context. This stems from our inherent jurisdiction over our lands and territories, as well as our affirmed right to self-determination. The broader ecosystem for this includes the federal government’s commitment to pass legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, and the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, as well as Indigenous-specific jurisprudence and the protections afforded to First Nations by the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

### **Circle 2: Impacts – The First Nations’ Lived Reality**

In Canada, climate conversations often disregard the historical legacy of colonization, which has included relocating First Nations, forcibly removing children from their families and placing them in Residential Schools, and prohibiting the use of traditional languages and practices, among other atrocities. Climate change exacerbates many of the resulting impacts of colonization, including those relating to mental health and well-being, poverty, poor housing, food and water insecurity, and the erosion of rights, culture, and access to lands. The lived reality of First Nations needs to be understood and incorporated into analyses of the distribution and experience of climate-related impacts. In this regard, addressing the climate crisis cannot be separated from the broader project of First Nations self-determination and reconciliation.

### **Circle 3: Action – A First Nations’ Worldview**

First Nations-led solutions are multidimensional, interrelated, interconnected, and grounded in First Nations law, knowledge, language, and governance. The core of a First Nations worldview is an understanding that we are one with the land. This recognition lays the foundation for a set of legal principles and orders that, while unique to each individual First Nation, represent natural, spiritual, and environmental law. It is this sacred responsibility that continues to guide how First Nations interact with, protect, and respect Mother Earth.





## The Gathering

The following information provides a descriptive overview of what transpired at the Gathering. Any errors or omissions remain our responsibility (please let us know). However, the contents of each presentation at the Gathering – most of which is available online at [events.afn.ca](http://events.afn.ca) – remains vested with a respective presenter.

## Pre-Gathering Events (March 2, 2020)

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

### Youth Gathering:

- In collaboration with the AFN Youth Council, a preparatory Youth Gathering was held for all youth delegates attending the National Gathering. Efforts were made to create a welcoming and supportive space for youth to feel comfortable with the content being presented at the Gathering, as well as to prepare for a Concurrent Session on Day 1, hosted by the Youth Council.
- The day included an inspired keynote presentation by Councillor Calvin Waquan from Mikisew Cree First Nation focusing on heart-centered leadership; an intergenerational discussion between Elders and Youth facilitated by Dr. Deborah McGregor, Hilary McGregor, Jayce Chiblow, and Marian McGregor; and an interactive workshop hosted by the Prairie Climate Center that included training and a video-making initiative that was applied to aspects of the Gathering.

- Some thought-provoking quotes were shared:
  - “Everybody thinks ‘what can I do about climate change?’ We have to make action within ourselves and make lifestyle changes. A small pebble tossed in the water can create waves that affect all of society” – *Councillor Calvin Waquan*.
  - In sharing the teachings of *Shkagmigkwe* (reciprocity), Hilary McGregor offered some important lessons: “Mother Earth cares for us and we, in turn, care for her. Treat everything in creation with respect; take only what you need. When you have more than you need, you share.”



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- "If it wasn't for the land, I wouldn't be Gitxsan – our languages were born from that land. Everything came from the earth. Without it, I am not me. Protecting the land isn't about keeping the land alive, it's about keeping us alive." – *Brett Huson, Gitxsan and member of the Prairie Climate Center.*
- To close the session, AFN Youth Council Co-Chair, Rosalie Labillois, shared an Eagle Song in preparation for the next stage of work.



**Canadian Center for Climate Services (CCCS) and AFN Regional Climate Change Coordinators:**

- A half-day meeting was hosted to discuss the services provided by the CCCS and available climate data resources and services. This enabled an informed discussion on climate-relevant information for First Nations across the country, and how future relationships can be developed to support First Nations climate leadership.

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):**

- The AFN Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group (CWD WG) held its inaugural in-person meeting on March 2nd, 2020. It was attended by Chiefs, technicians, and youth from across the country in accordance with guidance from the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) and Chief's Committee on Health (CCOH).
- Participants discussed how First Nations and the provincial or territorial governments in each region have been working together to address the threats posed by CWD, developed an outline for the AFN CWD position paper #58/2018, and advanced a complimentary communications strategy to help raise awareness and mobilize action in combating the spread of the disease.
- Each of these objectives were achieved, and an initial work plan for moving these activities forward was agreed upon. Additional opportunities for partnership and funding will also be explored.

**Evening Reception**

A welcoming reception was hosted at the Coast High Country Inn to welcome delegates to the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on the evening prior to the official start of the Gathering. Following appropriate protocols, the Dakhkha Khwaan Dancers shared several welcoming songs with the delegates in attendance.



## Day 1: Summary of Proceedings (March 3, 2020)

*Keynotes, Plenary Panels, and Side-Sessions*

### Opening and Welcome Speeches

Day 1 opened with a number of ceremonial dances from the Dakkhka Khwaan Dancers followed by an opening prayer offered by Elder Chuck Hume, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. The prayer was followed by a description of the clan-based protocols in this region required to ensure the protection of land and resources, by Elder Shirley Adamson, Wolf Clan and Ta’an Kwach’an. Using a story about the work of Crow, she shared a teaching about the role of stories, songs, and language to transmit historical knowledge to each other, citing the importance of holding gatherings that offer space to share and learn from one another.

Following the opening protocols, introductory remarks from dignitaries, including a local welcome from host Chief Kristina Kane on behalf of Ta’an Kwach’an and Kwanlin Du’un, as well as Grand Chief Peter Johnston (Council of Yukon First Nations), were given to officially begin the Gathering. The Honourable Pauline Frost (Minister of Environment, Health, and Housing, Government of Yukon) and Senator Pat Duncan, Senate of Canada, shared their greetings and support on behalf of their respective governments.

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*“We have to walk the talk and show the integrity.”*

*Regional Chief Kluane Adamek*

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*“We are not facing a climate change issue; we are facing a people issue.”*

*Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm*

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AFN Regional Chief (Yukon) Kluane Adamek wrapped up the welcome speeches by acknowledging participants and reflecting on the impacts of climate change on First Nations youth, Elders, and culture. She called for urgent actions to address the climate crisis, highlighting the role of First Nations as leaders in climate action.



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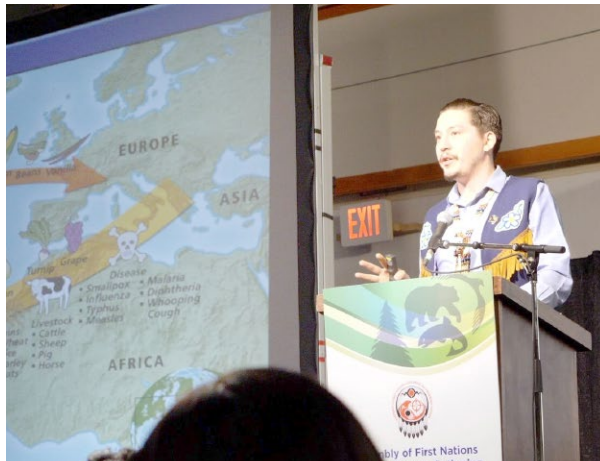


*Opening Keynote Address: Setting the Context*

**Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

In his keynote address, *Going in Circles: the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Fifth World*, Chief Tizya-Tramm masterfully wove together the last 529 years of history to carefully disassemble the assumptions guiding the neoliberal “economic” agenda and “homo-economicus” to expose their unbalanced and problematic worldview.

Shifting gears, he juxtaposed these worldviews with the “indigenuity” of Indigenous Peoples’ worldviews, technology and innovation, sharing stories of his ancestors and their tools and knowledge that enable them to live in a reciprocal balance with the land. He summed up his address by describing climate change as a “people issue,” calling on all of us to look into our past to see our future: a future where we are all part of the solution.



*Morning Plenary Panel: Framing a First Nations Climate Lens*

**Regional Chief Kluane Adamek (Yukon Region), Ann Gladue-Buffalo (CEO, AFN Alberta), Dr. Tonio Sadik (Director of Environment, AFN), Graeme Reed (Sr. Policy Advisor-Environment, AFN)**

This session introduced the concept of a First Nations Climate Lens, how it was used to organize the Gathering’s agenda and its relation to the broader framing of climate “action,” including the AFN National Climate Strategy.

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*“What you are doing here is very important and I appreciate that. We need meetings like this to spread the knowledge and hear the stories in a good way.”*

*Elder Shirley Adamson*

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Regional Chief Adamek opened the discussion with an overview of events that led to the framing of a First Nations Climate Lens, including the declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly in 2019 and its direction to develop a National Climate Strategy based on two broad objectives: immediate climate action that reduces emissions in Canada by 60% below 2010 levels by 2030; and addressing income inequality within First Nations as part of the mobilization for a Just Transition.

The First Nations Climate Lens challenges the conventional conceptualizations of First Nations as vulnerable, passive recipients of climate impacts, by situating First

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Nations as leaders, knowledge keepers and active drivers of climate action. To describe the First Nations Climate Lens, the panelists split up the presentation by describing three concentric circles:

- **Circle 1: Context – The Legislative, Legal and Policy Ecosystem:** Dr. Sadik discussed the overarching context that First Nations-related climate action takes place in, referencing the UN Declaration, the TRC Calls-to-Action, and the Calls-for-Justice from the MMIWG Inquiry.
- **Circle 2: Impacts – The First Nations’ Lived Reality:** Mrs. Gladue-Buffalo discussed how colonialism and capitalism have compounded the climate risks experienced by First Nations, including impacts on way of life, culture, health and socio-economic conditions, among others.
- **Circle 3: Action – A First Nations’ Worldview:** Mr. Reed emphasized the multidimensional, interrelated, interconnected nature of First Nations climate solutions that are grounded in First Nations’ law, knowledge, language, and governance.

The panelists concluded the session by highlighting important next steps, such as the need for follow-up discussions, the creation of an AFN National Climate Strategy and the presentation of the national strategy to Chiefs-in-Assembly at the upcoming AFN Annual General Assembly (July 2020). They emphasized the importance of grounding this experience in a strong connection to communities and the need to create a space for everyone to have a voice, to be heard and contribute to the process.

*Lunchtime Keynote Address*

**Dr. David Suzuki**  
(David Suzuki Foundation)



Dr. Suzuki, in his address, echoed and corroborated many of the messages shared by earlier speakers, joking that Chief Tizya-Tramm stole his notes. Quickly after such pleasantries, Dr. Suzuki walked the audience through the current shift to the Anthropocene Era – an era when humans are physically altering the planet and affecting all life. Based on this unprecedented moment, he lamented the human-created concept of the “economy” and how many Nobel Prize winners furthered the drive for profit at any cost. He thanked the teachings and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples, calling for a new way of seeing the world based on a respectful, reciprocal, and balanced relationship with Mother Earth. To close, Dr. Suzuki stressed that drawing on the multiple ways of knowing – both science and Indigenous knowledge systems – is the only way we can fulfill our responsibility to protect those that do not have a voice in our current political system: nature and children.

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*“Clean air, clean earth, clean water are sacred. These are the fundamental basis for all human beings and everything else on the planet. Cities, borders, corporations, religion are human constructs, we can change them. The laws of nature cannot.”*

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*Dr. David Suzuki*

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*Afternoon Plenary Panel:  
First Nations Climate Leadership*

**Khelsilem Tl'akwasik'an (Deputy Chair of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Climate Action Task Force), Eriel Tchekwie Deranger (Executive Director, Indigenous Climate Action), Elder Larry McDermott (Executive Director, Plenty Canada), Rosalie Labillois (Co-Chair, Assembly of First Nations Youth Co-Chair)**

This session focused on the role of First Nations as leaders in climate action, highlighting the tactics and strategies employed by leadership, Elders, women, youth, and activists. The discussions ranged from the historical context to the involvement of youth and women, and strategic partnerships and capacity building.

Elder McDermott opened the discussion by reflecting on the role that Elders have played in influencing international and domestic climate discussions. He cited several examples: the use of Wampum Belts in response to former Minister Jean Chretien's White Paper, hunger protests at the League of Nations, and participation of First Nations' leaders in the lead up to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, climate, and desertification in Brazil. In recent years, he cited the Albuquerque Declaration and refusal from Canada to include the UN Declaration in the preamble of the Nagoya Protocol. Despite all this progress, he draws hope from the youth and the recognition that we already know the science. We just need to connect our spirit, our hearts, and our minds together.

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*"We have learned that everything is connected."*

*Rosalie Labillois*

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*"When the world learns to practice gratitude and reciprocity every day, the veil will be lifted."*

*Elder Larry McDermott*

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The session continued with Rosalie Labillois sharing her reflections on the importance of having youth and women involved in the climate discourse. Rosalie spoke about the challenges of navigating a colonial system that was not built for First Nations, but then shifted into the teachings shared with her about the connection between ceremony, natural law, language, and First Nations' responsibility as stewards of the land and water. In response to the impact of patriarchal system on our relationships, she stressed the importance of restoring the role of women and youth, while also holding up the role of men; only then can we restore balance with one another, and with the land.

Khelsilem began his discussion by expressing a need to identify priorities and strategic partnership to address the climate crisis, highlighting experiences from the Squamish Nation and their efforts to negotiate for increased power – a mixture between control and influence. Sharing these lessons, he brought attention to the concept of "cathedral thinking" in order to take immediate action even if we do not know the result of the climate crisis. He closed by noting that climate strategies rarely give control and influence back to First Nations; only then can we set the standards sufficiently high to take concrete immediate action.

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*“The climate crisis is here, even if we do everything the scientists tell us, we will still feel the impact.”*

*Khelsilem Tl'akwasikan*

To finish the first round of comments, Eriel Tcheukwie Deranger echoed many of the previous comments and shared the reality facing her nation, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, and other Treaty 8 First Nations as they witness the unrepairable damage from extractive industries. To build resistance to these industries and the ongoing efforts of colonization, she cautioned the audience to avoid repeating these mistakes and instead look to reconnection with each other and our relatives in the natural world. She outlined why gathering – the act of coming together, exchanging information, trading products, and working in solidarity – is an act of climate resilience. These solutions require us to embed Indigenous values into our governance systems, building systems for future generations.

In summary, the panelists (re)emphasized the leadership role for First Nations in addressing the climate crisis by drawing on examples of self-determination, governance, and land protection. The panel concluded with a call to action to join one another and fight collectively



for our future generations and the need for immediate climate action to end the climate emergency.

**Concurrent Session Highlights**

In addition to the plenary activities, three sets of Concurrent Sessions ran on Day 1 including an evening session. While this resulted in long days, it provided an opportunity to explore the scope and diversity of action that First Nations are leading to fight the climate crisis.

The limited scope of this summary report has proved challenging to meaningfully reflect the tremendous breadth and depth of these important sessions. A summary of key highlights is provided below, however, we encourage our readers to refer to the Online Program found at [events.afn.ca](http://events.afn.ca) where each presentation and accompanying materials are available for further review and consideration.

The following offers key themes and highlights from the sessions:

- **Youth voices and advocacy:** Based on the Youth Gathering, members of the AFN Youth Council facilitated an interactive workshop to discuss what meaningful engagement in climate action looks like, share stories from their Elders and knowledge keepers at home and discuss the interconnection between land, rights, culture and First Nations-led solutions. Others presented case-studies of youth-led, community-based projects at the regional and national scale, such as Dakota Norris' presentation on Future Xchange and their work to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth together to discuss climate policy and Indigenous knowledge systems; and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador's Sustainable Development Institute and their climate action ambassador program.

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*“The earth is our relative – the entire universe is one and the same with who we are.”*

*Eriel Tchekwie Deranger*

- **Mental wellness, health, and a rights-based approach to disability inclusion:** Multiple sessions spoke to the importance of considering climate as an intersectional, health-based situation. An important discussion, led by Dominique Ireland and Chief Byron Louis, stressed the importance of fully including First Nations’ persons with disabilities in the development of climate activity planning, capacity building and climate-solutions – asking participants: “What would a fully accessible First Nations climate activity plan look like?” A second panel, Climate Change, Emergency Management, and Me, discussed how First Nations are responding to emergencies related to climate change and its impacts to physical health, food security, land-based projects, and, ultimately, mental wellness.
- **First Nations’ right to self-determination:** Climate action and decision-making is intricately linked to the right of self-determination. Leadership, in what is currently known as British Columbia, was a theme of several sessions, including the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Climate Action Task Force; the Tsleil-Waututh Nation’s Climate Change Program; and the work of the First Nations Leadership Council to advance the development of a First Nations Climate Change Strategy. Other examples, including the session entitled Indigenous Climate Change Futures, shared Anishinabek teachings, insights and perspectives that offer guidance in tackling climate change and how we can move toward a self-determined climate change future.

- **Marine and terrestrial Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs):** Recognizing that conservation is itself climate action, these sessions sought to re-centre the climate conversation on First Nations-led conservation initiatives in both the marine and terrestrial environments, while simultaneously addressing the nexus between nature-based conservation approaches, including wildlife health, species at risk and sustainable development. IPCAs, based in an Indigenous world-view, were shared as a comprehensive solution to support First Nations and Canada in achieving their respective conservation/biodiversity goals and commitments, in addition to achieving positive outcomes in sustainable development, socio-cultural wellbeing and enhancing climate resiliency.
- An evening session drew on a diversity of voices and examples of IPCAs at different stages of implementation, to support capacity development, create knowledge sharing opportunities, and foster collaboration. A second session led by First Nations marine experts and panelists from Oceana discussed the implications of climate change on marine environments, sharing lessons for the First Nations climate strategy.

These summaries provide only a glimpse into the quality of presentations and sessions that were held on Day 1 of this Gathering. More can be found at [events.afn.ca](https://events.afn.ca).





## Day 2: Summary of Proceedings (March 4, 2020)

### *Morning Plenary Panel: Reinforcing First Nations Climate Leadership*

**Eli Enns, Iisaak Olam Foundation; Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull, Eeyou Istchee; Councillor Calvin Waquan, Mikisew Cree First Nation, Indigenous Clean Energy.**

This plenary session built on the momentum from Day 1 to actively illustrate practical examples of First Nations climate leadership, drawing lessons from the First Nations Climate Lens and the experiences of each First Nations panelist.

Eli Enns opened the sessions with a teaching from the Nemiah Valley, in British Columbia, sharing that climate action must be guided by sacred urgency as humans re-learn how to work with nature to support Mother Earth. In sharing this, he spoke of the vital role conservation plays in environmental protection vis-a-vis climate action. He used the creation of the Meares Island Tribal Park, its history of land repatriation to the Nuu-chah-nulth from the Pacific Rim National Park, and their success of leveraging funds from federal, provincial, and municipal governments as an example of the multiple co-benefits that Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) can provide.

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*“You want to protect every type of surface. That is important to us. But when we look at our territory, we see a grocery store. We are subsistence hunters – we shop outside of the grocery store.”*

*Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull*

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*“Economy is a word that is misused and abused. For Indigenous philosophies, it is about maintaining healthy economic relations with the land. We seek to cultivate abundance in the land so future generations inherit abundance.”*

*Eli Enns*

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In doing so, he highlighted how IPCAs can be an olive branch to the dominant society to rethink economic growth and diversification.

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull began by acknowledging the role of female leadership at the Gathering and in climate advocacy, noting the appropriateness of such leadership on this life-giving issue. She shared the experiences of the Cree Nation Government’s efforts to create the 300,000sq. km protected area known as Eeyou Istchee. In her discussion, Deputy Grand Chief Gull referenced how strong partnership, the history of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement and the acknowledgment of First Nation rights and jurisdiction, as well as the fusion of Indigenous knowledge systems and science led to the successful completion of the project. Through the creation of a Cree version of the Plan Nord, Eeyou Istchee leadership sought to decide how development was managed in their territory in order to protect the land as a legacy for future generations.



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To end the session, Councillor Calvin Waquan opened with a video showing his town of Fort Chipewyan, in Alberta. He shared his experience as a member of Mikisew Cree First Nation and reflections on how the impacts of unchecked industrial activities in the Oil Sands have led to the erosion of access, quality and quantity of traditional foods and significant environmental degradation in his community. Despite this history, he spoke of how the negotiation of economic benefits has enabled his community to build climate and energy resiliency through an array of climate initiatives, including a solar power project, community gardens, compost facility and sustainable food projects (green house, hydroponic, aquaponic and traditional food processing/preservation), among others.

*Morning Keynote Address*

**Jonathan Wilkinson, Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Minister Wilkinson updated the audience on two key campaign promises from the election: to exceed 2030 targets for greenhouse gas emissions and define a pathway through which Canada will achieve net zero emissions by 2050, and to achieve ambitious biodiversity targets and nature-based climate solutions through a commitment to protect 25% of the land and ocean by 2025. The Minister did not take questions.

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*“We are going to come together; we are going to lead. We need to come together for our youth. We need to come together to do this.”*

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*Norma Kassi*

*Afternoon Plenary: Affirming Work within the Strategy*

**Lisa Young, Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources; Cole Sayers, New Relationship Trust; Ashley Daniels, AFN Youth Council Manitoba; Norma Kassi, Vuntut Gwich’in First Nation.**

This session focused on how a First Nations Climate Lens can be integrated into broader climate action initiatives. The panelists shared various ideas, including the need to focus on land-based education, nature-based solutions, restoration of natural and traditional laws, collaboration and a holistic approach to climate action.

Norma Kassi opened the session with a call to action for Indigenous-led research, asking participants to support youth resiliency and connections to land through land-based education. She stressed the importance of centering natural and traditional laws, ceremonies, and spiritual connections with Indigenous Peoples from around the world. She closed with a renewed call for emergency and pandemic preparation.

Building on the call for leadership, Cole Sayers shared his experiences supporting First Nations clean energy in British Columbia with over 100 clean energy projects currently operating in his province. He spoke about specific projects, including three run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects in Clayoquot Sound and a Cariboo Biomass Project, but raised concerns regarding the province of British Columbia undervaluing and overlooking First Nations-led projects. Instead, he suggested, they are investing in unsustainable major energy projects – the Coastal Gaslink Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Site C Dam – at the expense of First Nations. To close, he stressed the importance of investing in current alternatives and a critical resetting of our relationship with community-led power.

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After some eloquent reflections on internalized colonialism that made her question her voice and role in climate conversations, Ashley Daniels spoke of the importance of youth voices. She hoped that all youth would realize that their voices are essential in taking action and mentoring our future nations. She was appreciative of the space and emphasis given to youth voices in the Gathering and called on others to do the same.

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*“Go back to the Mother and say, ‘I love you.’ Give back in positive affirmation, build communities.”*

*Ashley Daniels*

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To close, Lisa Young shared some early experiences from a Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) conference where she first witnessed the disconnect in conversations between federal officials and First Nations, as First Nations emphasized the connection between heart and mind. Through a description of “two-eyed” seeing, she spoke of how to value both science and Indigenous knowledge systems. This approach defines science as a tool that can support our climate or environment-related efforts. To illustrate this, Lisa shared some background on Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and the critical role that they play in re-establishing connections with land, language, and culture. The land will tell you what it needs, once you do this.

**Concurrent Sessions Highlights**

In addition to the plenary activities, two sets of Concurrent Sessions took place on Day 2. This continued the momentum of sharing the scope and diversity of First Nations climate-action. Again, due to space considerations, we encourage each reader to refer to the Online

Program found at [events.afn.ca](http://events.afn.ca) where each presentation and accompanying materials are available for further consideration. Key highlights from each session are provided below:

- **Indigenous-led firefighting:** A special cross-continental session was hosted on traditional burning practices in the countries currently known as Australia and Canada. The session was opened and closed by Warren Foster Sr. and Jr. with the incredible performance of songs on a traditional Digeridoo. The session focused on highlighting local First Nations-led firefighting efforts, featuring experiences from Yukon First Nations Wildfire (YFNW), Tahltan First Nation, and Indigenous-led fire management in Australia.
- Chad Thomas (YFNW) shared their experiences working to inspire and give First Nations youth the strength to be leaders, teaching both heart and integrity. Victor Steffansson, an Indigenous fire management expert from Australia, focused on the relationship with the land, or Country, and what it can teach you. He spoke of the benefits of training and interacting with Country for its role in rebuilding kinship relationships and contributing to social benefits such as employment and culture, and health and wellness.
- **Indigenous knowledge and science:** A number of sessions highlighted the role of Indigenous knowledge, science, and innovation in developing solutions

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*“BC says our projects are not economical. It is structural discrimination built on systemic discrimination. We can’t have relationships based on ‘power over’; it has to be ‘power with.’”*

*Cole Sayers*

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to the climate crisis. One such session focused on highlighting a geo-visual interface, known as the Coastal Impacts Visualization Environment (CLIVE), which enabled membership and leadership from Lennox Island First Nation, on PEI, to visualize climate change futures and enable communities to respond appropriately to risks in a changing climate. Another session highlighted the efforts led by Kluane First Nation (KFN), in the Yukon, to understand sudden changes in their territory, refocusing the narrative on the stories and wisdom of local people, rather than science. Through conversation, images and video, this highlighted KFN’s perspective and lessons on how to adapt to a changing climate, in collaboration with the Prairie Climate Centre (PCC). A third session featured federal efforts ([www.climatedata.ca](http://www.climatedata.ca)) to develop an accessible portal for climate information that can tailor products for First Nations users and decision-makers.

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*“In all the sessions I attended one commonality was the land: If we don’t maintain that relationship with the land, the government can move in on it and develop it. I encourage everyone to reconnect.”*

*Lisa Young*

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- **First Nations leadership in species protection, conservation, and health:** Two sessions on Day 2 focused broadly on the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation and its connection to First Nations led efforts in species protection, conservation, and management and recovery. The first session brought together First

Nations leaders to discuss their efforts and share experiences related to the implementation of programs, policies and provisions under current Species at Risk Act (SARA) legislation. The second focused on the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Canada, its potential impacts on First Nations and efforts to address this growing threat. The session included a discussion of the implications of CWD and how wildlife health is managed across Canada regarding the implementation of the proposed Pan-Canadian Approach to Wildlife Health, building on the pre-Gathering meeting (described above).

- **Adaptation, nature-based solutions, and First Nations self-determination:** Sessions in this thematic area focused on highlighting First Nations-led adaptation efforts on the ground and internationally, including the Climate Adaptation Project, a Climate Monitoring Project, a Pollinator Project, an Emergency Management Program led by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq Nations, and several community-based adaptation projects with First Nations in Treaty 6 and 10, in Saskatchewan. Other sessions focused on the multiple ways that First Nations can retain or exercise jurisdictional powers over their traditional lands, including political action, Indigenous law, common law, and direct action. In the international context, federal efforts on the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) were shared, noting how First Nations-led nature-based solutions can inform a new rights and responsibilities approach to “adaptation.”

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**Evening Event: Climate Change Film Screening**

From coast to coast to coast, First Nations are experiencing, observing and living with the realities of climate change, and many local communities have turned to video as a way to document and share their knowledge. This evening of films and short videos showcased stories of change, resilience, activism and hope from across the lands, waters and homelands of our diverse Nations. A special presentation from Kluane First Nation was featured.

The evening events wrapped up with a series of short speeches and a song shared by Rosalie Labillois.



**List of Films shared at the Film Screening:**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Norma's Story (Gwich'in, Yukon)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Elder Dave Courchene (Ojibway, Manitoba)</i></li> <li>3. <i>Indian Island First Nation (Mi'kmaq, New Brunswick)</i></li> <li>4. <i>World out of Balance (Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief)</i></li> <li>5. <i>Glaciers, Lakes and Rivers (Kluane First Nation, Yukon)</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water Ceremony at COP 25 (Indigenous Climate Action, International)</i></li> <li>7. <i>Indigenous March at COP25 (Indigenous Climate Action, International)</i></li> <li>8. <i>Lubicon Culture Camp (Lubicon Cree, Alberta)</i></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. <i>Facing Climate Change (Tsleil-Waututh Nation, British Columbia)</i></li> <li>10. <i>Montana First Nation (Plains and Wood Cree, Alberta)</i></li> <li>11. <i>Wind Power (Cowessess Saulteaux First Nation, Saskatchewan)</i></li> <li>12. <i>Water Song (Elsipogtog First Nation, Mi'kmaq, New Brunswick)</i></li> <li>13. <i>The Next Thousand Years (Kanaka Bar, British Columbia)</i></li> <li>14. <i>Meechim Project (Garden Hill First Nation, Oji-Cree, Manitoba)</i></li> <li>15. <i>Beyond Climate (Haida, Heiltsuk, Nisga'a, British Columbia)</i></li> </ol> |
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## Conclusion: Lessons Learned

This Climate Gathering was designed to represent a practical expression of the First Nations Climate Lens. The breadth and depth of keynotes, panels, and concurrent sessions clearly reinforced this framing, demonstrating how First Nations are actively demonstrating climate leadership. In so doing, conventional conceptualizations of First Nations as vulnerable canaries in the proverbial coal mine, or passive recipients of climate impacts, were not only challenged, but entirely rejected. Instead, panelist after panelist spoke to how First Nations’ unique connections to the land, water, air, and non-human beings have enabled us to live reciprocally and in balance with all of Creation since time immemorial, and how those teachings are foundational to our collective survival in this Climate Crisis.

The magnitude of the Climate Crisis will require a transformational shift in the approach that Canada and the world take to address climate impacts. Current approaches are failing, as emissions and inequality continue to rise exponentially – abated only momentarily due to the COVID 19 pandemic, which took concrete shape in Canada only days after the Gathering.

It is time that the interrelationships between the three “Cs” – colonialism, capitalism, and carbon – are exposed, and that First Nations take their rightful places as leaders of climate action and climate solutions. In recognizing this leadership, the following themes stand out as important lessons learned from this Gathering that will inform the ongoing development of the AFN’s National Climate Strategy.

- **It’s a People Problem, not a Climate Problem:** As keynote speaker Chief Dana Tizya Tramm shared, we are not facing a climate problem, we are facing a people problem. This framing introduces multiple levels to the climate conversation – whether socio- political, individual, or collective – but also highlighting the interconnectivity of climate action with our health and well-being. Many speakers shared in this perspective – on both of people and of the land – and how these relate to one another.



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Connections that embody such a framing, such as the One Health initiative, could be beneficial to support people connecting with climate action. Chief Tizya Tramm’s brilliant elucidation of this perspective was captured on film and is available online in its entirety as an outcome from the Gathering.

- **Our Connection to Mother Earth:** Since time immemorial, First Nations have had a cultural, spiritual, and social connection to Mother Earth – the land, water and air that makes up our planet. Speakers highlighted this connection and spoke to the variety of ways that this has been passed down through generations in the form of First Nations legal orders (a common understanding of natural, spiritual, and environmental law), plant and animal knowledge, language and culture, as well as Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Climate action cannot be fragmented or compartmentalized - it must center on Mother Earth, on the land - and must recognize how we are a part of and interconnected with every aspect of the environment. These are teachings that are embodied in a First Nations’ identity and provide a basis for moving forward effectively.
- **Challenging the ‘Mitigation-Adaptation’ Dichotomy:** First Nations have been monitoring and adapting to environmental change since time immemorial. While climate change has accelerated the rate of environmental transformation, the adaptation required in response to the changing climate represents a form of ‘colonial déjà vu’ that highlights how the impacts of climate change are inseparable from our lived realities, whether due to climate change or the

ongoing legacy of colonialism. For this reason, the conventional mitigation-adaptation dichotomy, which typically characterizes mainstream responses to climate change, rarely considers the complexity and multi-dimensional nature of First Nations climate solutions – such as living on the land, a focus on food sovereignty, locally generated power systems, and many other specific possibilities. Given the interconnections between the sectors and systems upon which First Nations rely (e.g., health, food, energy, transportation, etc.), this false dichotomy must be challenged to enable an acknowledgment of holistic, integrated, and systems-based solutions that get at the existential threat that is climate change.

- **Centering Youth Voices:** Speakers – young and old – recognized the need to not only educate, but to empower youth in the protection and preservation of Mother Earth. Stories from various youth and Nations were shared that spoke about the environment and what changes have been seen. In seeing these changes, youth are advocating and becoming inspired to re-learn and teach traditional trapping, hunting, skinning, and fishing techniques, as an aspect that reflects the reciprocal relationships that exist between people and the planet. As youth adapt to the ever-changing world and, for some, the concept of ‘walking in two worlds,’ they are determined to find a way to strike a balance between the environment and the economy. Comments included the recognition that “We have to be better than we were yesterday,” asking “How do we build, grow, and adapt?” All efforts must recognize and support these voices as the basis of what our planet will become.
- **Community-led Planning:** Given the diversity of First Nations and their ancestral territories, individual First Nations are most-appropriately positioned to develop and prepare emergency management systems, pandemic responses, and community plans.

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It is crucial that First Nations not only have a community plan, but also a broader plan that addresses the specific needs of the region, while recognizing the potentially unique challenges that may be faced more locally. Nothing has demonstrated this more profoundly than the COVID-19 pandemic that followed almost immediately after the Gathering. Sustained capacity and resources remain critically important in supporting community-led planning and the resulting self-sufficiency that has now become so necessary in a post-COVID environment.

- **The Wisdom of the Elders:** Many Elders spoke of the need to take action now. Relying upon their years of experience, ways of knowing, and connection to the land, they spoke about the importance of keeping a connection to Mother Earth and listening to the changes that we are seeing in not only the weather patterns, but in the behaviour of the animals. The change in migration and mating patterns of fish and wildlife over time are key indicators of changes that are taking place more broadly in our climate. While these changes are taking place around the globe, they are seen in the specialized and localized observations that take place on-the-ground and in each specific 'place.' First Nations are uniquely positioned to make these observations based not only on our connection to the land, but because these connections typically go back to time immemorial and are passed on by Elders and knowledge keepers to future generations. We must honour this knowledge and, if the present-day climate crisis teaches us anything, recognize that we ignore it at our peril.

By all accounts, this Gathering was not only a huge success, but also an important step in advancing First Nations climate leadership - but it is only the beginning!

We will continue to develop a First Nations Climate Lens through our engagement with the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), as well as centering First Nations leadership, women, youth, knowledge keepers, and experts from the four directions in all of our work. This will support the eventual creation and adoption of an AFN National Climate Strategy at an upcoming Assembly – be it virtually or in-person, which is still to be determined, in 2021.

The work and knowledge shared at the National Climate Gathering has inspired us deeply, and we hope that the work of monitoring, mitigating, and adapting to climate change can be furthered and built on by and in each region. The main objectives of the Gathering were to bring together those working on or interested in climate change to discuss the climate crisis at hand, provide space for and to amplify First Nations-led solutions and knowledge, all the while honouring and prioritizing knowledge keepers, youth and women's voices for their contributions of knowledge, connections, and stories of Mother Earth.

*We are sincerely thankful for what you have shared with us.*



## Annex 1: Gathering Feedback and Direction

This was the first National Climate Gathering organized by the AFN. While well-over 90 percent of participants expressed strong satisfaction with the Gathering based on an exit survey, there were a number of lessons learned – or “beacons of teachings,” as was coined at the event – that will inform future work and efforts, including planning for another National Climate Gathering in late 2021.

Based on the survey responses, along with the internal reflections of staff and organizers, these can be organized in several broad themes:

- **Duration and Location:** Overwhelmingly, participants were not happy with the short duration and long days of the event, especially for Elders. To remedy this, participants suggested the addition of one or two days be added to a future agenda, with repeated break-out sessions, more opportunities for participants to network and dialogue, more on-the-land and practical activities, the addition of a poster session, and more space for co-creation/implementation of new ideas and actions. This being said, the full event did span four days – with a pre-event day of focused sessions and an evening reception, two full Gathering days that ran from 9:00 AM to past 8:00 PM, and a final day coach excursion in what turned out to be a typical freezing Yukon winter day – which could, however, be reorganized to better reflect participant feedback.
- **Logistics:** There were a number of recommendations for future logistical considerations, including increasing the quantity of food and the source (e.g., more traditional foods), improving Wi-Fi accessibility and communications, adding a social activity (such as a gala), improving the organization of break-out sessions to enhance inclusivity, and providing live-streamed capabilities to improve remote accessibility.
- **Content and Approach:** Improvements to the overall content and approach of the Gathering could be made by having more time for questions, breaks, and networking. There was also an interest in more on-the-land experiences and using more innovative convening methods as an alternative to panels and keynotes.
- **Follow-up:** Participants identified some potential follow-up items for consideration as we seek to maintain momentum towards the next Gathering, including coordination among other AFN-related events, the development of a common statement to frame the outcomes of the Gathering, and the creation of a repository of best practices.

These and other comments form the basis of planning for a future event. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to reflect on their participation at this Gathering and are thankful for the overwhelming expression of satisfaction with what transpired over four days in Whitehorse.



## Annex 2: Climate Gathering Agenda

### GATHERING AGENDA

The Assembly of First Nations National Climate Gathering will bring First Nations experts, leadership, youth, women, knowledge keepers and other professionals from across Turtle Island to work on the most urgent crisis of our time – climate change. The Gathering will seek to articulate a First Nations “climate lens” through a diversity of panel presentations, workshops, video screenings, and outdoor activities.

Monday, March 2, 2020		
Time	Event	Location
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Youth Gathering</b>	Town Hall Room Best Western Gold Rush Inn
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Gathering Registration</b>	Convention Centre Foyer Coast High Country Inn
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Welcome Reception</b>	Ballroom (A&B) Coast High Country Inn

Day 1 – Tuesday, March 3, 2020		
Time	Event	Location
8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>	Convention Centre Foyer Coast High Country Inn
8:00 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast (Provided)</b>	Convention Centre Plenary
9:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Ceremonies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dakhká Khwáan Dancers</li> <li>• Elder Chuck Hume, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations</li> </ul>	Convention Centre Plenary
9:15 a.m.	<b>Welcoming Addresses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from Local Chiefs</li> <li>• Regional Chief Kluane Adamek (Yukon)</li> <li>• Representative from the Yukon Cabinet, Minister Pauline Frost</li> <li>• Senator Pat Duncan, Senate of Canada</li> </ul>	
9:55 a.m.	<b>National Gathering Objectives and Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harold Tarbell, Facilitator</li> </ul>	



Day 1 – Tuesday, March 3, 2020		
Time	Event	Location
10:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Keynote Address: Setting the Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation</li> </ul>	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>	Convention Centre Plenary
10:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary Panel: Framing a First Nations' Climate Lens</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Chief Kluane Adamek (Yukon)</li> <li>Ann Gladue-Buffalo, AFN Alberta</li> <li>Dr. Tonio Sadik, Director of Environment, Assembly of First Nations</li> <li>Graeme Reed, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment, Assembly of First Nations</li> </ul>	
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch (Provided)</b>	
12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch Keynote Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. David Suzuki</li> </ul>	Convention Centre Plenary
1:00 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions #1</b>	
	<b>1. Indigenous Climate Action Planning</b> <i>Presenters: Joyce Williams, Chair of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Climate Action Task Force; Khelsilem, Deputy Chair of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Climate Action Task Force</i>	Convention Centre Plenary <i>(Simultaneous Interpretation Available)</i>
	<b>2. Youth Leadership on Climate Action: Stories from Quebec and Yukon</b> <i>Presenters: Dakota Norris, FutureXchange; Michael Ross and Karine Labrosse-Lapensée, First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI)</i>	Room A Coast High Country Inn
	<b>3. Climate Change and the Right to Self-Determination: Leadership from British Columbia</b> <i>Presenters: Chief Judy Wilson, First Nations Leadership Council; Chief Leah George Wilson, Erin Hanson and Bridget Doyle, Tsleil-Waututh Nation</i>	Room B1 Coast High Country Inn



Day 1 – Tuesday, March 3, 2020		
Time	Event	Location
	<b>4. Adaptation and Monitoring: Stories from Ontario</b> <i>Presenters: Geneva Kejick, Grand Council Treaty #3; Kathleen Ryan and Elisha Jones, Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office; Ryan Lauzon, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation</i>	Room B2 Coast High Country Inn
	<b>5. Meeting the Sacred with Being Human</b> <i>Presenter: Lee Crowchild, Tsuut'ina First Nation</i>	Boardroom Coast High Country Inn
2:15 p.m.	<b>Health Break</b>	Convention Centre Plenary and Foyer, Coast High Country Inn
2:30 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions #2</b>	
	<b>1. First Nations Youth Perspectives on the Climate Crisis</b> <i>Presenters: AFN Youth Council Representatives</i>	Convention Centre Plenary <i>(Simultaneous Interpretation Available)</i>
	<b>2. Indigenous Climate Change Futures</b> <i>Presenter(s): Dr. Deborah McGregor, PhD. Anishinaabe-kwe (Whitefish River First Nation), Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice; Hillary McGregor Anishinaabe (Whitefish River First Nation), Indigenous Sport &amp; Wellness Ontario; Jayce Chiblow, Bsc, MES, Anishinaabe-kwe (Garden River First Nation); and, Marion McGregor, BA, B.Ed. (Anishinaabe Nookmis)</i>	Room A Coast High Country Inn
	<b>3. Climate Change, Emergency Management and Mental Wellness: A Discussion</b> <i>Presenters: Dr. Brenda Restoule, First Peoples Wellness Circle; Mary Deleary, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation; David Diabo and Nelson Alisappi, Assembly of First Nations</i>	Room B1 Coast High Country Inn
	<b>4. "Leave No One Behind": A First Nations Rights Based Approach to Disability Inclusion and Solutions to Climate Action</b> <i>Presenters: Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band; Dominique Ireland, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Youth Council; Marie Frawley-Henry, Assembly of First Nations</i>	Room B2 Coast High Country Inn



Day 1 – Tuesday, March 3, 2020		
Time	Event	Location
	<b>5. Climate Change Adaptation: Energy Saving Measures and Capacity Building Amongst First Nations</b> <i>Presenter: Brad Spence, ECO Canada</i>	Boardroom Coast High Country Inn
3:45 p.m.	<b>Return to Plenary</b>	
4:00 p.m.	<b>Plenary Presentation: First Nations Climate Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khelsilem TI'akwasikan, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw</li> <li>• Eriel Deranger, Indigenous Climate Action</li> <li>• Elder Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada</li> <li>• Rosalie Labillois, AFN Youth Council</li> </ul>	Convention Centre Plenary
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner (Provided)</b>	Convention Centre Plenary
6:00 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions #3</b>	
	<b>1. Fisheries and Marine Climate Change</b> <i>Presenters: Alexandra McGregor, Assembly of First Nations; Dr. Robert Rangeley, Oceana Canada; Sam Bullock, Dene Nation; Patricia Saulis, Maliseet Nation Conservation Council</i>	Convention Centre Plenary (Simultaneous Interpretation Available)
	<b>2. First Nations Leadership in Conservation: Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)</b> <i>Presenters: Curtis Scurr, Assembly of First Nations; Wesley Johnston and Donna Sinnett, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Eli Enns, Iisaak Olam Foundation; Matt Munson, Dene Tha' First Nation; Steven Nitah, Thaidene Nënë; Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull, Cree Nation Government; Tracy Anne Cloud, Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn</i>	Room A Coast High Country Inn
	<b>3. Adaptation = Resilience = Sustainability: First Nations Emergency Management Regimes in a Climate Changing World</b> <i>Presenter: David Diabo, Assembly of First Nations</i>	Room B1 Coast High Country Inn
	<b>4. Climate Change – Investment Implications</b> <i>Presenters: Leanne Flett Kruger and Mark Fattedad, Institutional Management, Jarislowsky Fraser</i>	Room B2 Coast High Country Inn
8:00 p.m.	<b>Adjourn Day 1</b>	



**Day 2 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>	Convention Centre Foyer Coast High Country Inn
8:00 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast (Provided)</b>	Convention Centre Plenary
9:00 a.m.	<b>Recap From Day 1</b> • Harold Tarbell, Facilitator	Convention Centre Plenary
9:05 a.m.	<b>Plenary Presentation: Reinforcing First Nations Climate Leadership</b> • Eli Enns, Iisaak Olam Foundation • Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull, Eeyou Istchee • Calvin Waquan, Mikisew Cree First Nation, Indigenous Clean Energy	Convention Centre Plenary
10:15 a.m.	The Honorable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>	Convention Centre Plenary and Foyer, Coast High Country Inn
10:45 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions #4</b>	
	<b>1. Indigenous-Led Firefighting: The Case for Traditional Burning Practices</b> <i>Presenters: Chad Thomas, Yukon First Nations Wildfire; Chief Rick McLean, Tahltan Band; Elder Chuck Hume, AFN Elder, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; Pierre Krueger, Penticton Indian Band</i>	Convention Centre Plenary <i>(Simultaneous Interpretation Available)</i>
	<b>2. Telling Climate Change Stories Using Geo-visualization: The Case of Lennox Island First Nation, Epekwitk (PEI)</b> <i>Presenter: Charlie Greg Sark and Andrew MacDonald, University of Prince Edward Island</i>	Room A Coast High Country Inn
	<b>3. First Nations Adaptation: Experiences from Mi'kma'ki</b> <i>Presenter: Cheyenne MacDonald, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq</i>	Room B1 Coast High Country Inn



Day 2 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020		
Time	Event	Location
	<b>4. Climate Change and the Right to Self-Determination: A Legal Perspective</b> <i>Presenters: Erin Linklater and Drew Mildon, Woodward &amp; Company LLP; Linda McDonald, Liard First Nation</i>	Room B2 Coast High Country Inn
	<b>5. Nature Based Solutions and First Nations Leadership</b> <i>Presenter: Marie-Caroline Badjeck, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>	Boardroom Coast High Country Inn
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch (Provided)</b>	Convention Centre Plenary
1:00 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Sessions #5</b>	
	<b>1. First Nations Leadership in Species at Risk Protection, Conservation, Management and Recovery</b> <i>Presenter: Curtis Scurr, Assembly of First Nations, Tara Goetze, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>	Convention Centre Plenary <i>(Simultaneous Interpretation Available)</i>
	<b>2. Indigenous Knowledge, Science and Understandings of Environmental Change: Stories from Yukon's Kluane First Nation</b> <i>Presenters: Grace Southwick and Elder Dennis Dickson, Kluane First Nation; Pauly Sias, Dän Keyi Renewable Resource Council; Ian Mauro and the Prairie Climate Centre team.</i>	Room A Coast High Country Inn
	<b>3. Using Climate Information: Building Resilience by Working Together</b> <i>Presenters: Brian Sieben, Canadian Centre for Climate Services</i>	Room B1 Coast High Country Inn
	<b>4. Chronic Wasting Disease and First Nations Action</b> <i>Presenter: Benjamin Green-Stacy, Assembly of First Nations</i>	Room B2 Coast High Country Inn
	<b>5. Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Planning: Stories from Saskatchewan</b> <i>Presenter: Dr. Robert Patrick, University of Saskatchewan</i>	Boardroom Coast High Country Inn



**Day 2 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
2:30 p.m.	<b>Health Break</b>	Convention Centre Plenary
2:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary Presentation: Affirming Work within the Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Young, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Judith Sayers, President, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council</li> <li>• Rollin Baldhead, AFN Youth Council</li> </ul>	Convention Centre Plenary
4:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks/Closing Protocols</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Chief Kluane Adamek (Yukon)</li> <li>• Dakhká Khwáan Dancers</li> <li>• Elder Chuck Hume, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations</li> </ul>	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Gathering Adjourns</b>	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner (Provided)</b>	Convention Centre Plenary

**CLIMATE CHANGE FILM EVENING**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Convention Centre Plenary**

From coast to coast to coast, First Nations are experiencing, observing and living with the realities of climate change and many communities have turned to video as a way to document and share their knowledge. This film evening will showcase stories of change, resilience, activism and hope from across the lands, waters and homelands of our diverse Nations.

*Light snacks and refreshments will be served*

**Thursday, March 5, 2020**

Time	Event	Location
8:00 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast (Provided)</b>	Location TBD
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Elder's Tea – Drop In</b> <i>Please drop in for lunch and Elder's Tea throughout the day</i>	Library Coast High Country Inn
9:00 a.m.	<b>Coach Leaves Convention Centre for Local Tour (TBC)</b>	
2:00 p.m.	<b>Coach Returns to Convention Centre</b>	