



EIPCCP

ENGAGEMENT
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

AUGUST 2023

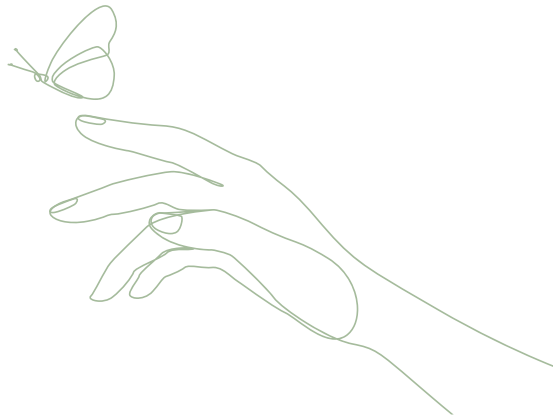
Newsletter

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, CONSERVATION, AND BIODIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

FUNDING

Opportunities for Indigenous-Led Climate Solutions

Written by *Hannah Patrie*



Read an excerpt of a poem written by Kerry Reed-Gilbert (Wiradjuri) inside. This written work beautifully expresses the similarity between Indigenous women and Mother Earth.

Check out an [Interactive Map](#) for funding opportunities for climate action in your region.

On page 5





One Mob, One Land, One People

She is Mother Earth.
She is the land of Oz
She is country, she is family.
She is you
She nurtures and loves, she's there
when your tears fall
She laughs with you when you're
happy and the stars shine bright.
She is your spirit of place, your
mother, your land
She walks with you and your
shadow guiding the way
Her love for you is the glue that
holds you together
Your connection to country is your
spirit of place.
Seek her on that road you travel a
mother's love has no boundaries
Unselfish in her giving her devotion
is never ending
She is you and you are her no
matter what road you travel
Hold your head high for you are
who you are. Proud strong...

An excerpt of a poem written by Kerry
Reed-Gilbert (Wiradjuri).

Like a maternal figure, this planet—our home—endlessly nurtures us through every stage of life. Mother Earth heals us when we are sick; she steadily nourishes our every need; she provides a haven at times of chaos; and she is the ultimate source of life.





As extensions of her entity,
women embody many of these
same qualities—qualities that
others depend on. Indigenous
women are givers of life,

“ *It can be
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pillars of strength, providers
of love and compassion. They
are keepers of the water and
gatherers of sacred medicines.
And, in many ways, they are
healers. Women are a key
element of Indigenous culture
and community; and indeed,
if it were not for their altruism,
generational prosperity would
be impossible.

For all these reasons,
Indigenous women have long
been honoured as sacred
members of community. For
centuries, they have been
valued as Traditional Knowledge
Keepers because of their insight
to Mother Earth’s workings.
Thus, they have often been
responsible for deciding how
land, resources, and sacred
medicines are to be harvested
and used.

Yet, despite this long-known
fact, Indigenous women
continue to face many barriers
in accessing resources and
other supports necessary to

take action on climate change
or to be involved in decision
making – especially in self-
determining ways.

It can be a difficult process
to access funding for climate
initiatives. Most funding results
in short-term support, which
can greatly impede the potential
of Indigenous-led projects.
Furthermore, a meaningful
inclusion of Indigenous Peoples
in climate policy and decision-
making remains limited,
especially so for those who
are women, children, Two-
Spirit, and gender-diverse. This
significantly restricts Indigenous
Peoples’ agency over their lands
and their climate experiences.

Other barriers also make it
difficult for Indigenous Peoples
to initiate climate action. These
include remote locations,
compromised utilities, poverty,
intergenerational traumas and
subsequent impacts specific to
our Peoples.

So, while there is vast potential
and enthusiasm within
Indigenous communities to
address climate change, there
are far too many obstacles
preventing them from achieving
large-scale impacts.

The good news is that the
Government of Canada is
taking steps in the right
direction to resolve such
disadvantages. One example
of this is **the Indigenous
Climate Leadership Agenda**.
This agenda is invested in
the **self-determination of
Indigenous communities** and
the **support of Indigenous-
led climate solutions**. It
is directed by national and
regional First Nations, Inuit,





The goal is to create realistic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in climate spaces, including specific opportunities for Indigenous women, children, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse (IWC2SGD) People, so as to finally bridge the gap that currently restricts their capacities.

and Métis governments and representative organizations like the Native Women's Association of Canada. It is also supported by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). Engagement sessions are taking place until spring 2024, after which a proposal will be made to federal decision-makers on how to act upon short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations put forward in the agenda. **The goal is to create realistic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in climate spaces, including specific opportunities for Indigenous women, children, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse (IWC2SGD) People, so as to finally bridge the gap that currently restricts their capacities.**

In the meantime, we want to do our part to support IWC2SGD People in taking on climate initiatives and realizing their potential as environmental leaders, activists, and innovators. We recognize the barriers our Peoples have faced in climate spaces. But we also recognize the resiliency, wisdom, and value our Peoples continue to bring forth despite such difficulties.

To this end, we have created a resource hub (see below) of existing funding and opportunities and opportunities that we encourage you take advantage of. We believe that IWC2SGD Peoples have the solution to climate change, and our hope is to support you in your journey.

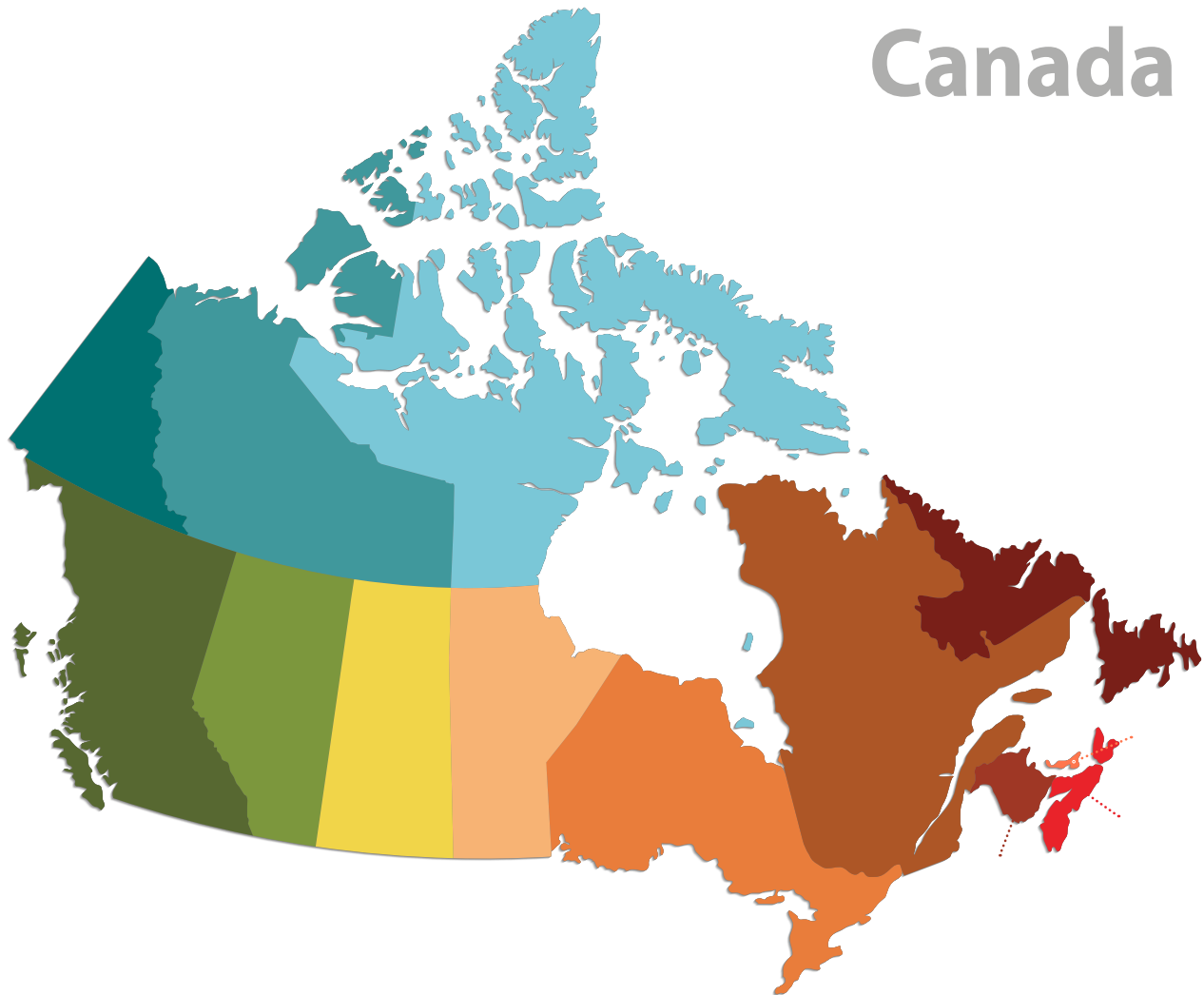




Funding opportunities and grants through the Government of Canada



Click to see funding opportunities for climate action in your region.



Funding opportunities and grants through the Government of Canada



New funding opportunity for Toronto area