



EIPCCP

ENGAGEMENT
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

JULY 2024 / ISSUE 19

Newsletter

MIIN GIIZIS
Berry Moon, July

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, CONSERVATION, AND BIODIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Reconciling **Conservation**

Aanii, Hello, Bonjour,

As warmer days usher in a season of growth and renewal, our environmental newsletter blooms with fresh insights, initiatives, and stories to nurture and protect our land. Summer is here, and this year we are excited to engage with even more Indigenous women, girls, 2-Spirit, and gender diverse peoples in climate change policy.

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MIIN GIIZIS Berry Moon, July

This season gives us the gift of vibrant summer hues and the sweet scent of ripening berries. To the Anishinaabe Nation, Miin giizis, or the ripe berry moon, symbolizes this sweetness. As we harvest the berries, we must handle them with gentleness and care, mindful of the thorns. Similarly, we can navigate through life's challenges and enjoy the harvest.



EIPCCP: PHASE 4

The Native Women's Association of Canada has begun Phase 4 of our project, Engaging Indigenous Peoples in Climate Change Policy (EIPCCP). This project focuses on amplifying the voices and perspectives of Indigenous women, girls, 2-Spirited, and gender diverse peoples within the climate change policy landscape, recognizing the unique knowledge and experiences of these peoples. EIPCCP facilitates the integration of Inuit, Metis, and First Nations perspectives, values, lived experiences and world views into Canada's broader climate change strategy.



Blueberry River First Nations
Linear Seismic Restoration



The Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change entails of Canada’s “collective plan to grow our economy while reducing emissions and building resilience to adapt to a changing climate.” The framework identifies several **thematic areas** for collective action to address climate change including but not limited to Forestry, Agriculture and Waste, Adaptation and Climate Resilience, Clean Technology, Innovation and Jobs, and Parks and Protected Areas. Over the last three years, through EIPCCP, NWAC has focused primarily on adaptation and climate resilience. During the current phase our focus will be on Parks and Protected Areas, particularly how Canada’s target in “Conserving 30% of its terrestrial and marine areas by 2030” would contribute towards building resilience against climate variability and change.




Along with our monthly newsletters, our team is continuing to engage with community representatives, elders, youth, stakeholders, and other Indigenous organizations, through:

-  **Our annual national survey**
-  **Engagement sessions**
-  **Provincial, territorial, and regional associations**
-  **Updating our Toolkit**
-  **Primary and secondary research**

Each initiative strives to understand the roles Indigenous women, girls, gender diverse and Two-Spirit peoples have in sharing traditional ecological knowledge, and identifying what climate change adaptation strategies Indigenous women, girls, gender diverse and Two-Spirit people are deploying across Canada.



Stay updated on our project by checking out the EIPCCP website and following the Native Women’s Association of Canada on social media:

-  [**@nwac_canada**](https://www.instagram.com/nwac_canada)
-  [**Native Women’s Association of Canada**](https://www.facebook.com/NativeWomenAssociationOfCanada)
-  [**@NWAC_CA**](https://twitter.com/NWAC_CA)



The current phase will focus on Parks and Protected Areas, building climate resilience through Canada’s target of “Conserving 30% of its terrestrial and marine areas by 2030.”

To learn more about the government of Canada’s Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, click **here** or visit the Government of Canada website.



Many state-driven protectionist initiatives fail to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples by neglecting ethical consultation and collaboration with the original stewards of the land they wish to protect.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN CONSERVATION: A CRITICAL CONVERSATION

With growing awareness of environmental issues and their interconnectedness with human health and livelihoods, conservation efforts are more apparent than ever. It is not often we think of these efforts as a threat to any living beings, after all, it attempts to protect them. However, this is possible, and has been the case with the most popular conservation model globally: **protectionist conservation**. The concern lies not in the model itself, but in how the model is implemented. According to the **Indigenous World 2023 Report**, many state-driven protectionist initiatives fail to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples by neglecting ethical consultation and collaboration with the original stewards of the land they wish to protect. This can lead to violent consequences. For example, **Indigenous Tharu of Nepal** were evicted from their lands to create two national parks, a project supported by international conservation organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund. In addition, **a recent study** finds that conservation efforts that are led primarily or in partnership with local communities and indigenous peoples are **more effective**.





The Pan-Canadian Framework recognizes the resilience that healthy, biologically diverse ecosystems have against the impacts of climate change. Working with Indigenous communities and translating ***Traditional Ecological Knowledge***, the Government of Canada continues to develop scientific strategies for the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

It is indigenous women and girls who are more vulnerable in these circumstances. As the primary caretakers of families in their communities, they are faced with challenges that intersect gender, ethnicity, and culture. There are unique knowledge systems that Indigenous women and gender diverse people hold that settler-colonial science ***cannot consider*** without ethical engagement with these groups. Failure to do so only reinforces oppression, discrimination, and colonization.

This is why reconciliation is crucial to climate change policy. Indigenous people need to be a part of the discussion. Movements like Land Back, pipeline protests, and MMIWG2S+ all intersect and underscore broader discussions about colonialism, environmental justice, human rights, and sustainable development.

Conservation efforts that are lead primarily or in partnership with local communities and Indigenous peoples are more effective.





BLUEBERRY RIVER FIRST NATION: COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION – A CASE STUDY

In October of 2021, Blueberry River first Nation in B.C. celebrated **a historic agreement** that reinforced their Treaty 8 rights. Following a court ruling, the provincial government was founded to have conducted decades of natural gas development without the community's approval, leaving devastating effects on the traditional lifestyle of the community. This agreement to restore the lands places the provincial government and Blueberry River First Nation in a partnership approach to land, water and resource stewardship.

In 2023, it was decided that the First Nation will receive **\$87.5 million over three years** with opportunity for increased benefits. The community members are committed to the ecological

restoration of their lands through what is known as a "two-eyed seeing approach", weaving together Indigenous ecological traditional knowledge and Western science. They have a team of trained professionals, community members, and traditional ecological experts working together.

"This agreement is an important step toward reconciliation"

- **KATRINE CONROY**,
Minister of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development.



As per May 2024, the community has trained over 75 members in various aspects of the restoration project, including:

-  **Land, road and seismic restoration**
-  **River, stream and wetland restoration**
-  **Wildlife habitat connectivity**
-  **Native seed and nursery projects**
-  **Cultural programming to facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer**

This multi-million-dollar project not only supports the affected community members, but it advances the province's **climate change strategy**.

CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH RECONCILIATION: A PATH FORWARD

This collaboration between Blueberry River and the province of B.C. may serve as an example of how committing to reconciliation is a commitment to environmental stewardship, a commitment to biodiversity rehabilitation, and a commitment to climate action. This is why engaging Indigenous people in climate change policy is critical for creating sustainable futures. Creating a healthy, habitable world for the next seven generations.

As of this past January, there have been 27 new Indigenous-led conservation and restoration efforts across Canada, many of which with Indigenous women at the forefront. **Learn more here.**

TOOLS & RESOURCES

Beyond Conservation: A Toolkit for Respectful Collaboration with Indigenous People - IPCA Knowledge Basket