

Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group:

Recommended actions and strategies for achieving the CleanBC diesel reduction goal for BC's remote communities



**Presented to the Province of BC
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Curated by:

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Statement of Intent

Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group's Statement of Intent:

The Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group was guided by a terms of reference developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-carbon Innovation (MEMLI, or EMLI, or the Ministry). The mandate of the Working Group was to collaborate on a broad range of matters related to energy provision and consumption in remote communities, with an emphasis on decarbonization, by:

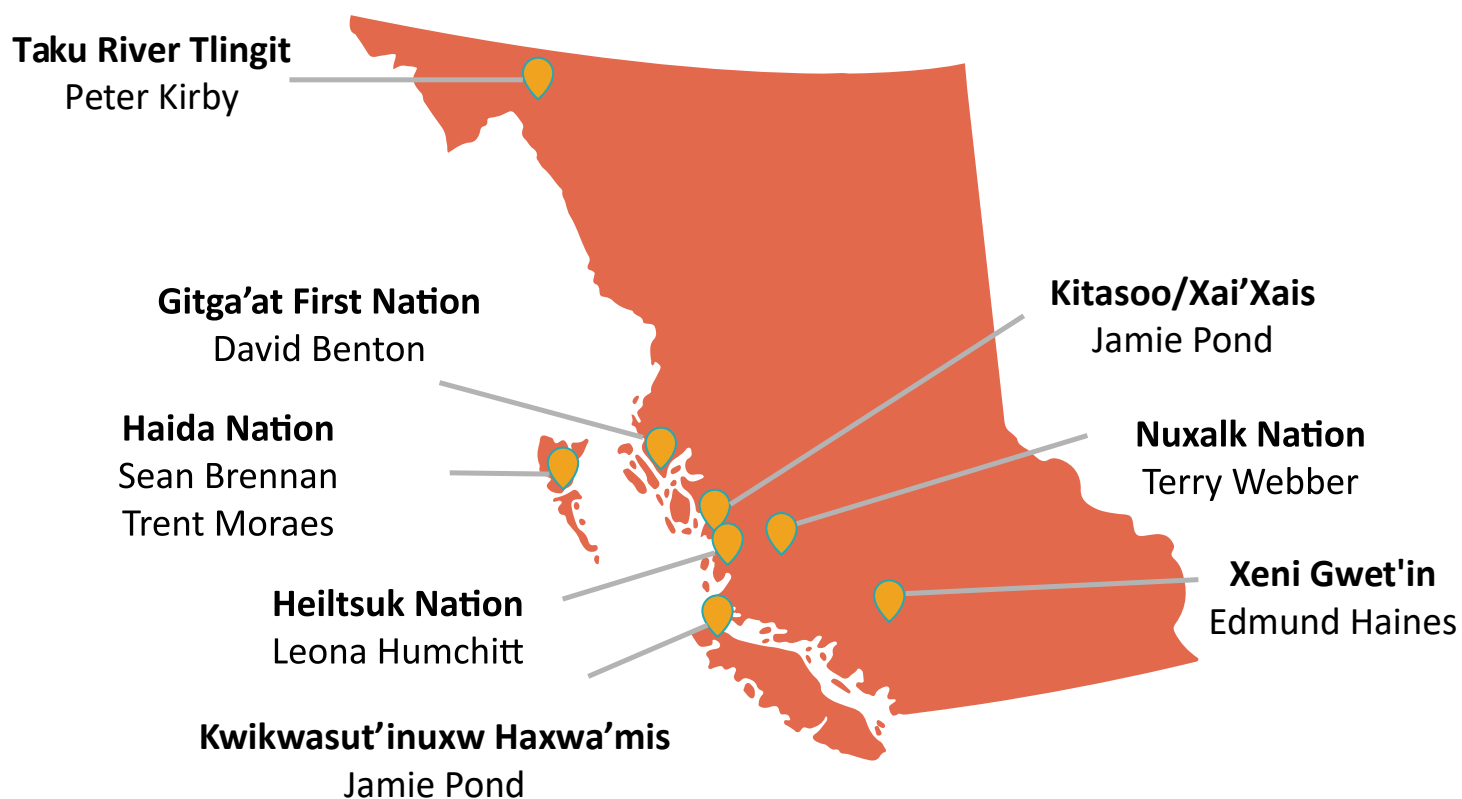
1. Reviewing and interpreting feedback from remote community engagement in order to inform energy strategies and associated programs, including funding for clean energy activities.
2. Advising on policies and programs relevant to remote communities in Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs).
3. Developing social, environmental, and economic indicators to complement the CleanBC GHG emissions reduction target.
4. Providing guidance on the implementation of ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP) standards regarding the collection, protection, use, and sharing of First Nations data in relation to the RCES.
5. Advising on text for the written strategy based on engagement and feedback, as well as other Working Group activities.
6. Providing ongoing advice on how to integrate Indigenous views and perspectives into the implementation of the RCES.

This report contains recommendations from the RCES Working Group to inform development of the Province of BC's Remote Community Energy Strategy. The remote community energy strategies contained in this document are intended to:

1. Lead to the development or refinement of Provincial policies and programs that will directly lead to the elimination of diesel consumption for electric generation and heating in remote communities by 2030.
2. Support the Province's CleanBC goal of reducing GHG emissions associated with diesel-based electricity generation in remote communities by 80% by 2030.
3. Support reconciliation commitments (UNDRIP & DRIPA) by:
 - Promoting economic development and further the Province's reconciliation commitments to Indigenous peoples.
 - Promoting economic development for Indigenous peoples.
 - Furthering the Province's reconciliation commitments.
 - Providing guidance on the collection, protection, use, and sharing of First Nations data in relation to RCES.
 - Supporting the development of a Remote Community Energy Strategy by making recommendations to the Province.

Personal Profiles

Working Group Members - Indigenous Leaders in Clean Energy:



Taku River Tlingit First Nation - Peter Kirby



Peter Kirby (Ltaduteen – Tlingit name) is a Wolf Clan (Yenyeidi) citizen of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and has lived and worked in Atlin for 25 years. In that time he has faithfully served Taku River Tlingit interests in land planning, community infrastructure, politics and negotiations, cultural development and training, and economic development. Peter's current responsibility is serving as President and CEO of the Taku Group of Companies.

With Peter's leadership, Xeiti LP ("shayckl") developed a small hydro project that went into commercial operation in 2009. That project got Atlin off diesel and has delivered clean energy to all Atlinites for the last decade and will for many more decades. Today, Tlingit Homeland Energy LP is developing a larger hydro project that will sell clean energy to help Yukon reduce regional GHG emissions.

Peter also serves on provincial and national Indigenous Clean Energy Advisory Boards and is a mentor in the Indigenous Clean Energy 20/20 Catalyst Program.

Gitga'at First Nation - David Benton



David has been the lead Energy Champion for Hartley Bay since 2008 assisting the Gitga'at First Nation in the fulfillment of their clean energy aspirations – namely to be the Greenest First Nations Village in Canada. He was adopted by the Gitga'ata's Raven Clan and given the honorary name of Meskim Biels (Red Star). In 2010 he was honoured to have been chosen to run with the Olympic torch by MEM in recognition of his being a provincial Energy Champion. David helps guide the work of Hermann Meuter, the community's Climate Action Coordinator through Coastal First Nations. Together they are working to develop a hydro based community clean energy system and one option is to produce hydrogen.

David fulfilled the role of the community's Project Manager for the BC Hydro takeover of electricity service in Hartley Bay, requiring the remediation of the diesel generator site, installation of new generating equipment and upgrades to the community's distribution lines. He likes to say they were the last community through the Province's Remote Community Electrification Program. Under his guidance Hartley Bay became the first micro-smart grid in Canada. The community has recently installed heat pumps in every commercial building and all homes.

Haida Nation - Trent Moraes



Nangkilsas, Trent Moraes, a Haida from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii and an elected member of the Skidegate Band Councillor. I am the Deputy Chief Councillor. I spent a decade in administration as the Director of Housing, Lands & Energy for the Skidegate Band Council. We helped create and maintain an Energy portfolio in Skidegate and for Haida Gwaii. A member of the First Nations Home Energy Save Advisory, First Nations Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group, Indigenous Climate Adaptation Technical working Group and Indigenous Climate Adaptation Working Group, and Chair of the Indigenous Coastal Climate Coalition.

I have helped the Skidegate Band Council study the needs of our community and islands, educated the public on the emerging technologies and energy efficiency strategies available, invested in solar hot water and solar PV for community buildings and residential. We have engaged BC Hydro on many levels and created indigenous pilot programs for BC. Our community goal is to become one of the greenest communities in BC.

Haida Nation - Sean Brennan



Sean is the Energy Coordinator in Old Masset on Haida Gwaii. From the Ts'aahl Laanaas Eagle Clan, Sean has been working towards Haida sovereignty his whole career. Coming from a forestry background Sean has contributed to writing the Haida Gwaii Land Use Plan, helped develop Cultural Feature Identification programs for industry, worked directly with government and industry proponents to ensure Haida free prior informed consent through a forum called the Solutions Table. A proud father of three, Sean loves fishing and food gathering in and around Haida Gwaii. Sean is excited to see the next era in renewable energy production on Haida Gwaii and a separation from the Islands current diesel reliance.

Heiltsuk Nation - Leona Humchitt



Leona Humchitt is an Elected Tribal Councillor for the Heiltsuk Nation of Bella Bella, B.C. She is currently employed as the local Climate Action Coordinator, as well, the Energy Champion for the Indigenous Off Diesel Initiative.

She credits her Clean Energy journey and capacity building to the Indigenous Clean Energy Leadership program. An intensive clean energy capacity building program that provides practical and applied learning about renewable energy, community energy planning, energy efficiency and conservation.

Leona is currently working locally and regionally with a peer network of Climate Action Coordinators that has representation of eight participating Coastal First Nations of B.C. They support each other and collaborate on efforts to decarbonize our coast, to transition off diesel generation and reduce transportation of fossil fuels through our ecologically and culturally significant territories.

Nationally, the Hailzaqv nation is one of fifteen remote and rural First Nations communities participating in the Indigenous Off-diesel Initiative. The Hailzaqv nation is just completed "community-led" Clean Energy Plan. As a grandmother, this work has become much more meaningful and important. We have an obligation to ensure that through climate action, we protect and preserve our collective future for our children yet to come.

It has been her honor to serve on the Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group with the Province alongside many elite First Nations leaders on climate action.

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis & Kitasoo/Xai'Xais First Nations - Jamie Pond



Jamie is of mixed heritage that includes indigenous origins and 12 years of living on reserve. Having perspectives from both indigenous and non-indigenous culture has enhanced her demonstrated history of working in project management and program development. Jamie is currently with the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation working to generate Economic Development.

Jamie is skilled in managing Government programs and projects, proposal writing, and supporting mentorship models in building local capacity. She has many years of experience working in contaminated soils projects, infrastructure, housing, climate adaptation, and clean energy projects. She is an administration professional graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Thompson Rivers University majoring in Management.

Xeni Gwet'in First Nation - Edmund Haines



My Name is Edmund Haines and I am from Xeni Gwet'in First Nations government in the Nemiah Valley of B.C. I work in the Housing department for about 3 years now, before I was in the housing department, I was in construction building homes, I'm learning lots in the housing department. I have a 10-year-old girl, some of the projects that we have going on in the valley is our solar farm in the community that was brought on by Mitchel Mayer's and her team. Before that we have been powered by generators for awhile. We are off grid from BC Hydro the start. We got phones in 2000-09-11 in the community. My community is 3 hours west of Williams Lake B.C.

Nuxalk Nation - Terry Webber



Yaw Smatmcuks! (Hello Friends). First and foremost, I'd like to acknowledge the Creator for blessing us with another beautiful day, as we say in our language.
– Yamtinilh Suts'

My Nuxalk name is Nusxlxli and my modern-day name is Terry Webber. My family and I come from the Villlage of Snxlhh here in Nuxalk Territory. I am married with 6 children (4 daughters & 2 sons) and I also have a background in Electrical and Business.

Currently, I am the Project Manager for the Nooklikonnic Run of River project which is projected to displace diesel by 70% in our Non-integrated Area. This new-modern day 2 MegaWatt RoR will complement the existing Clayton Creek RoR and Diesel Generating Station.

I also am an Elected Councillor for Nuxalk who oversees the Education portfolio work on behalf of the Nation.

In closing, I commend the Province for including the Indigenous people of this land, further, allowing us to be heard, valuing our recommendations forward and understanding the barriers we face.
Stutwiniitscw! (Thank you)





Working Group Vision & Mission

Within the context of the mandate provided in the Terms of Reference for the Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group, the group established the following Vision and Mission.

Our Vision is that:

Remote BC communities are decarbonized by 2030 to ensure a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for ourselves and our children.

Our Mission is to:

Present to the Province recommendations and strategies to end the reliance on fossil fuels in our communities. Indigenous Crown and other stakeholders will collaborate to achieve our vision of a fully sustainable, renewable, and decarbonized energy generation future



UNDRIP & DRIPA: Foundation & Commitments

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In 2007, the United Nations adopted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). In 2016, the Government of Canada fully endorsed the Declaration. The Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples are working together in consultation and cooperation to implement the Declaration. UNDRIP provides a roadmap to advance lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It outlines areas where steps must be taken to respect, recognize, and protect the human rights of Indigenous peoples and to address the wrongs of the past. The Declaration affirms that the human rights of Indigenous Peoples matter. While the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* creates a lasting framework to advance federal implementation of the Declaration in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, there are already federal initiatives underway that are guided by the spirit of the Declaration.

The RCES Working Group reviewed all UNDRIP articles and identified specific articles that are applicable to the goal of entrenching renewable energy generation in British Columbia's Indigenous remote communities. UNDRIP articles specifically related to this remote community energy strategy are noted in Appendix 3.

BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In BC, the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (DRIPA) aims to create a path forward that respects the human rights of Indigenous Peoples while introducing better transparency and predictability in the work done together. This legislation establishes a process to align BC's laws with UNDRIP. The Declaration Act also requires the Province to develop and implement an action plan to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration, and to do so in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples. To this end, the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan \(2022-2027\)](#), released March 30, 2022, includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for implementing the UN Declaration in BC. It also has 89 priority actions to advance this work in key areas over the next five years.

The four main goals in the plan are to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration over time:

1. Self-determination and self-government, including implementing Indigenous institutions, laws, governing bodies, and political, economic and social structures.
2. Owning, using, developing, and controlling lands and resources within First Nations' territories.
3. Living without interference, oppression, or other inequities associated with Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination.
4. Maintaining Indigenous cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, languages, food systems, and sciences and technologies; participating fully in the economy; and ensuring that the rights of Indigenous women, youth, Elders, children, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are upheld.

UNDRIP & DRIPA: Foundation & Commitments

Priority actions are organized around themes and goals. Some of the goals and actions, included below, mirror the strategy recommendations in this report. While these selected themes, goals, and actions are particularly relevant to this work, this list is not meant to be exhaustive.

Theme 1: Self-Determination and Inherent Right of Self-Government

Goal: Indigenous Peoples exercise and have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government, including developing, maintaining, and implementing their own institutions, laws, governing bodies, and political, economic, and social structures related to Indigenous communities.

Action 1.5: Co-develop and implement new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing and other fiscal mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples.

Responsibility/Timing: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation/2022-2027.

Theme 2: Title and Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Goal: Indigenous Peoples exercise and have full enjoyment of their inherent rights, including the rights of First Nations to own, use, develop, and control lands and resources within their territories in BC.

Action 2.4: Negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency, and administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous governing bodies. Seek all necessary legislative amendments to enable the implementation of any section 7 agreements.

Responsibility/Timing: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship/2022-2027

Action 2.7: Collaborate with First Nations to develop and implement strategies, plans, and initiatives for sustainable water management, and to identify policy or legislative reforms supporting Indigenous water stewardship, including shared decision-making. Co-develop the Watershed Security Strategy with First Nations and initiate implementation of the Strategy at a local watershed scale.

Responsibility/Timing: Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship/2022-2027

Theme 4: Social, Cultural and Economic Well-being

Goal: Indigenous Peoples in BC fully enjoy and exercise their distinct rights to maintain, control, develop, protect, and transmit their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, languages, food systems, sciences, and technologies. They are supported by initiatives that promote connection, development, access and improvement, as well as full participation in all aspects of B.C.'s economy. This includes particular focus on ensuring the rights of Indigenous women, youth, Elders, children, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are upheld.

Action 4.43: Co-develop recommendations on strategic policies and initiatives for clean and sustainable energy. This includes identifying and supporting First Nations-led clean energy opportunities related to CleanBC, the Comprehensive Review of BC Hydro, and the BC Utilities Commission Inquiry on the Regulation of Indigenous Utilities.

Responsibility/Timing: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation/2022-2027.



Executive Summary

In early 2021, the Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group was established to collaborate on a broad range of matters related to energy provision and consumption in remote communities, with an emphasis on decarbonization. The Working Group was empowered to refine a draft terms of reference and develop their own work plan.

This report is a culmination of the Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group's collective knowledge, lived experience, and Indigenous worldview as it pertains to clean energy challenges in BC's remote communities. The Working Group has provided on-the-ground, community-informed, strategic advice on what is needed to get to broad and timely implementation of clean energy systems in BC's remote communities, to reduce GHG emissions from the generation of electricity and heat, and to meet the energy sovereignty, nation building, and community sustainability goals of remote communities.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from burning diesel in BC's remote communities will help the Province and all of Canada meet legislated climate targets and international commitments under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.

The recommendations in this report emphasize that UNDRIP is the foundation for real progress. The Province of BC has committed to implementing UNDRIP by bringing the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(DRIPA\)](#) into law in November 2019. It is important that these recommendations are framed within the DRIPA Action Plan and that Ministries and organizations that are asked to implement that plan take these recommendations into account.

Leading up to the creation of Canada and since the Confederation of Canada, federal, provincial, and territorial governments have made racist and discriminatory legislative decisions that have negatively impacted Indigenous Peoples and their lands, cultures, languages, traditions, governance, and ways of being and knowing. These legislative decisions were intentional and created specifically to acquire and control the lands that Indigenous Peoples have occupied for thousands of years, since time immemorial. Although the majority of these legislative decisions were made in the 1800s, many of them are still in place today and the impacts have thundered through the generations and continue to have profoundly negative effects on Indigenous Peoples on these lands that are often referred to as Canada.

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Executive Summary

Canadian governments (federal, provincial, and territorial) have yet to critically reflect on the root of these racist and discriminatory legislative decisions and practices, and to own up to the negative impacts they have had on Indigenous Peoples in BC and across Canada. As the current generation living on these lands, we have inherited these legislative decisions and their impacts. It is vital that the current generation of government workers (elected and employed) commit to meaningful and transformative change to address these root causes, dismantle the oppressive systems they have created and continue to perpetuate, and to rebuild a more equitable and just Canada. This change must be co-developed in true partnership with Indigenous Peoples (i.e., Indigenous-led). Some attempts have been made by the current federal and provincial governments to address these discriminatory and racist legislative decisions; however, the work has to continue to go deeper and address the root causes.

The Working Group realizes that, as of the writing of this report, the world is facing the threat of a world war, a pandemic, inflation, and unprecedented climate change-related natural disasters. Typically, governments set aside Indigenous community priorities when significant events arise. However, we also recognize that there is now a will in government to ensure that the old views do not continue in the new economy, that the new economy needs to be a clean and just economy, and that this requires the full participation of Indigenous Peoples.

The Province has committed to reviewing the strategies provided. It is the Working Group's expectation that the recommended strategies will be implemented through detailed actions incorporated into a work plan, with a transparent process, clear steps, and targeted delivery dates. Remote community members will want to review progress on actions, the effectiveness of actions, and provide additional guidance and comments as needed to move towards the Vision. Remote community members will hold the government to account on implementation progress. While the Province has noted that it is committed to resourcing the development of a work plan throughout 2022/2023, the organizational structure for monitoring the implementation of recommendations is yet to be determined.

The RCES Working Group expects that a mechanism will be put in place to monitor the progress and effectiveness of these recommended strategies and actions and to make changes as necessary to achieve the Vision within the context of the larger Indigenous clean energy community.

The Indigenous Peoples who are a part of this Working Group have agreed to partner with the Province in good faith to provide transformative recommendations to address the root causes that continue to discriminate and harm Indigenous Peoples and their lands and ways of being and knowing, despite generations of willful systemic discrimination, racism, and inequity. These harms are not overlooked by the Indigenous Peoples of this Working Group, but instead, their approach is to address the longstanding injustice with strong recommendations that can lead to transformative change for current and future generations. The Working Group, through this document, provides strong calls to action for the Province as it relates to clean energy and diesel reliance that address the root causes of the systemic racism that has historically existed and continues to be perpetuated by inaction of Canadian governments at all levels. The time for transformative change is now. The Working Group believes and stands by the recommendations provided here, within this context, to lead to the improvement of quality of life for Indigenous Peoples who are reliant on diesel energy sources in their communities.

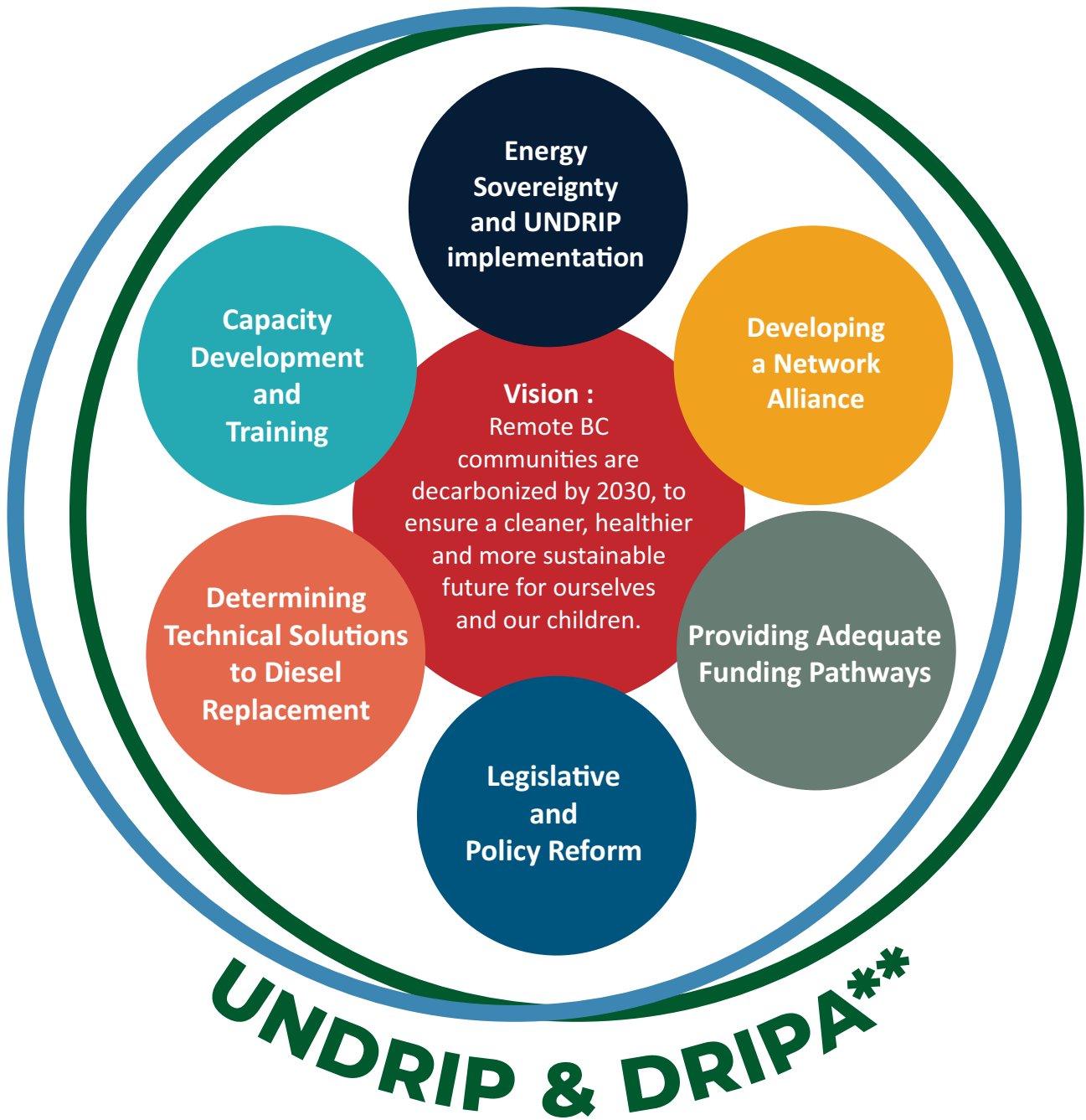


High Level Recommendations

1. Support the implementation of UNDRIP/DRIPA workshops for Indigenous community leaders. Workshops should be held to explain what these documents mean and how they empower the leaderships of First Nations. This is a critical first step to support the success of the RCES.
2. Break the CleanBC target – to reduce GHG emissions associated with diesel electricity generation in remote communities by 80% by 2030 – into incremental targets such as 60% by 2025, 70% by 2027, 80% by 2030. The Province should commit to investing a specified amount of annual revenue in remote community renewable energy, in alignment with these targets, to ensure that they are met. A proportion of general, resource extraction related, or utility revenue should be considered. Note, although the CleanBC target is to reduce GHG emissions from diesel electricity generation by 80% by 2030, the Working Group recommends a target of 100% renewable energy for all primary energy sources by 2030.
3. Transparency and reliable data are key. Measuring progress against targets requires accurate and up to date energy consumption inventories that are shared with remote communities in both BC Hydro-integrated and non-integrated areas. Operational data from existing renewable energy facilities located within communities, regardless of ownership, should be shared to inform community energy planning and subsequent projects. Current inventories are out of date and inaccurate.
4. For Indigenous communities that are not yet started on the clean energy path, the Provincial and Federal governments should invest in remote community clean energy where the first investment is a seed for greater change. While some actions can stand well on their own, others can form the basis of long term, ongoing improvement for everyone. Community energy planning is foundational to achieving these goals.
5. Decisions around achieving the Province's target and remote community goals are best supported by having the right people, in the right room, at the right time. While staff-to-staff meetings are particularly helpful in the early stages of a community's consideration of energy-related projects, decision-makers need to be directly involved at strategic points to ensure progress.
6. Recognize that while all Indigenous communities may have the same overarching goals for clean energy development, each community is unique and a one-size fits all approach must be avoided.
7. Relevant legislation and authority should be reviewed to ensure that the goals of Indigenous Communities and the Province around the development of clean energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can be effectively met.



TRC*



***Truth and Reconciliation Commission - 94 Calls to Action**

**** United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act**



Top Priorities for Each Pillar of Action

Pillar 1

The top three recommendations for **Energy Sovereignty and UNDRIP Implementation** focus on appropriate recognition, compensation, and decision-making frameworks with all Indigenous Nations, recognizing that they are legacy stewards of the land and all natural resources across the Province. New relationships between Nations, the Province, and its crown corporations and regulatory bodies that center on transparency, accountability, and honour, and entrench Indigenous community knowledge, values, and ways of knowing are required.

1. Direct BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission to meet the needs of Indigenous communities when planning and implementing energy infrastructure. First Nations are a special class of shareholders that bring the land and renewable resources from which BC Hydro (and the Province) derives its revenue. Dividends must be paid to First Nations.
2. Share revenue from external energy and transmission projects and ensure ownership of community-based energy systems to support community progress.
3. Improve consultation, power sharing, and transparency in decision-making by the Provincial government and BC Hydro by establishing a process that defines protocols for authentic collaboration and consultation. See Legislative and Policy Reform - Section 7 - delegation of authority.

Pillar 2

Priority recommendations for Legislative and Policy Reform outline the required changes to legislation, policy, and decision-making protocols of the BC Utilities Commission, BC Hydro, and the Province to remove systemic barriers for Indigenous communities and strengthen their pathway to 100% renewable primary energy sources. External experts consulted during the development of this report made four high level recommendation to improve First Nations energy sovereignty in BC. These recommendations aim to give full effect to the Province's stated commitments to climate change mitigation, greater clean and renewable energy generation and reconciliation with First Nations, as outlined in the *Clean Energy Act* and the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The recommendation (which are explained in more detail in the Pillar 2 – Legislative and Policy Reform section) are:

Pillar 2

1. Delegate the authority of the *Utilities Commission Act*, so that an Indigenous governing body (IGB) and the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) would have to work together on any energy project concerning the IGB.
2. Reform the *Clean Energy Act*, the *Utilities Commission Act*, and the *Hydro and Power Authority Act* to bring the legislation into alignment with the stated goals in the *Clean Energy Act* and *DRIPA*.
3. Create an *Indigenous Energy Act* that contains recommended reforms while also creating an Indigenous Energy Board.
4. Completely overhaul the existing First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund to support the recommendations included in this report.

The Working Group made recommendations as well. The top three of these are:

1. Reform the *Clean Energy Act*, the *Utilities Commission Act* and the *Hydro and Power Authority Act* to address the systemic barriers identified in this report and bring this legislation into alignment with the stated goals in the *Clean Energy Act* and *DRIPA*.
2. Require that, for BC non-integrated area remote communities, primary energy sources should be 100% renewable and add more Indigenous representation within BC Utilities Commission processes.
3. Align policy and priorities; BC Hydro and the Province are not on the same path with respect to clean energy projects.

Pillar 3

The priority recommendations ***Capacity Development and Training*** call for a Province-wide plan that addresses capacity-building, training, and networks at numerous levels and with varied approaches that all centre Indigenous worldviews, values, and systems of learning and knowledge. Programs must be flexible and customized to address the needs of specific Nations or regions. The top three recommendations are:

1. In partnership with Indigenous organizations, educational institutions and qualified training providers, create a plan for relevant curriculum and training program development to support clean energy projects in remote communities. In particular, build capacity so that all communities can own clean energy projects; all projects should be Indigenous-led and owned.
2. Fund the development of consultative mechanisms to foster two-way capacity development. Facilitate this by funding Indigenous communities to develop training programs, to be taken by organizations who wish to work with them, that explain their history, culture, values, and community-specific goals and aspirations.
3. Provide financial support to attend energy-related workshops and conferences. In-person engagement is key and pre-Covid Indigenous community networking conferences were very effective. Conferences can be opportunities for big picture collaboration to maximize opportunities.

Pillar 4

Priorities for ***Developing a Network Alliance*** all work toward building a strong Indigenous-led network that offers support and is accessible to all diesel-dependant communities in BC. The top three recommendations from this pillar are:

1. Connect with other organizations that can help form and support a network alliance.
2. Create an Indigenous network alliance and provide necessary capacity supports to allow full participation of all Indigenous communities in BC.
3. Initiate this network alliance of Indigenous Nations through ceremony, calling in all Nations, then the Province, then others. First Nations leadership will need to help determine future alliances.

Pillar 5

The priority recommendations for Providing Adequate Funding Pathways are centred on the principles of reciprocity, collaboration, a long-term approach with suggestions for additional revenue streams, streamlined processes, and access for all remote communities. The top three recommendations from this pillar are:

1. Share revenues from resource extraction to provide long-term, ongoing funding to reduce diesel dependence.
2. Create one adequately funded clean energy fund, with funds available on a long-term basis, as opposed to many smaller fund opportunities available only over short timeframes.
3. Design low carbon fuel legislation to provide financial credits for clean energy projects.

Pillar 6

The priority recommendations for Determining Technical Solutions to Diesel Replacement highlight the need to streamline processes and resources for clean energy projects. There are many tried and true technologies available to BC communities, with many successful case studies to guide new projects. As noted in other Pillars, commitment to providing resources (funding, capacity, and expertise) and to streamlining and expediting processes is required. The top three recommendations from this pillar are:

1. Provide resources to bring clean energy projects to reality in a timely way to increase uptake in a timely manner. There are many possible sources of clean energy in BC.
2. Amend and expedite BC Utilities Commission processes for approval of remote community energy projects.
3. Invest in capacity development – both human and financial – so that Indigenous Communities can administratively adhere and effectively respond to the regulatory needs of all levels of government and regulatory bodies.



Energy Sovereignty and UNDRIP Implementation

Context

The provincial government passed the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act) into law in November 2019. The Declaration Act establishes the UN Declaration as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This historic legislation was developed in collaboration and consultation with Indigenous partners.

The [Declaration Act](#) aims to create a path forward that respects the human rights of Indigenous Peoples while introducing better transparency and predictability in the work we do together.

This legislation sets out a process to align B.C.'s laws with the UN Declaration. The Province has developed an [action plan](#) to achieve this alignment and to provide transparency and accountability. DRIPA allows for flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broader range of Indigenous governments, as well as provides a framework for decision-making between Indigenous governments and the Province on matters that impact their citizens.

Current decision-making and funding structures for clean energy projects do not honour UNDRIP.

Principles

Two principles can guide actions taken to support this Pillar:

1. UNDRIP, DRIPA, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action provide a foundation for the Remote Community Energy Strategy. There is a history of institutionalized discrimination in the development of energy resources and the delivery of energy to remote communities. Current decision-making processes around resource allocation and development are affected by a history of distrust in processes that have typically ignored Indigenous needs and maintained the existing power imbalance.
2. The RCES Working Group is committed to recommending and supporting strategies that will form new relationships and honour and entrench Indigenous community knowledge, values, and ways of knowing.



Pillar 1 - Energy Sovereignty and UNDRIP Implementation

Recommendations

- 1.** Direct BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission to meet the needs of Indigenous communities when planning and implementing energy infrastructure. First Nations are a special class of shareholders that bring the land and renewable resources from which BC Hydro (and the Province) derives its revenue. Dividends must be paid to First Nations.
- 2.** Share revenue from external energy and transmission projects and ensure ownership of community-based energy systems to support progress.
- 3.** Improve consultation, power sharing, and transparency in decision-making by the Provincial government and BC Hydro by establishing a process that defines protocols for authentic collaboration and consultation. See Legislative and Policy Reform - Section 7 - delegation of authority.
- 4.** Implement systemic change, through recommended legislative and policy amendments, to recognize that First Nations are first, not third, tier governments in Canada.
- 5.** Use an Environmental Social Governance Indigenous (ESGI) framework – expanded to incorporate Indigenous world values and principles related to environmental stewardship – as the foundation for decision-making on energy and transmission projects.
- 6.** Revise decision-making frameworks to include criteria for community economic self-determination, pollution reduction, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, safety, and sustainable development.
- 7.** Use the proposed ESGI framework to move away from private, profit-oriented resource development, and towards sustainable and balanced resource development.
- 8.** Monitor Provincial commitments made regarding UNDRIP and DRIPA and ensure that progress is being made in a timely manner. Ensure that First Nations leadership are enabled to learn and understand how UNDRIP and DRIPA support their goals.
- 9.** Improve consultation and compensation around the siting and construction of transmission infrastructure.
- 10.** Coordinate Provincial goals with BC Hydro's goals through a clean energy project manager position to ensure that this strategy remains relevant – and is not superseded by independent actions taken by BC Hydro.





Legislative & Policy Reform

Context

Many of the recommendations in this report depend on removing barriers through systemic change. Provincial legislation, policy, and regulations; BC Utilities Commission mandates and processes; and BC Hydro's approach to energy system development all present barriers.

Principles

Three principles can guide actions taken to support this Pillar:

1. Legislation, policy, and procedures should be amended to remove barriers to the development of clean energy projects in all remote communities and support self-determination, proper consultation, revenue sharing, triple bottom line and ESGI approaches.
2. When planning for clean energy systems, Indigenous communities must be able to compete on an even playing field. Meaningful inclusion in discussions must occur from the beginning. Indigenous communities should be full partners in all clean energy systems.
3. The Working Group supports the [Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities](#) (ICEO) process, which will put First Nations front and center in the clean energy industry. Integration between the ICEO and this Working Group's recommendations would be beneficial. Revenue sharing, independent power projects, ownership of transmission lines, and transition from diesel to renewables are all under consideration.

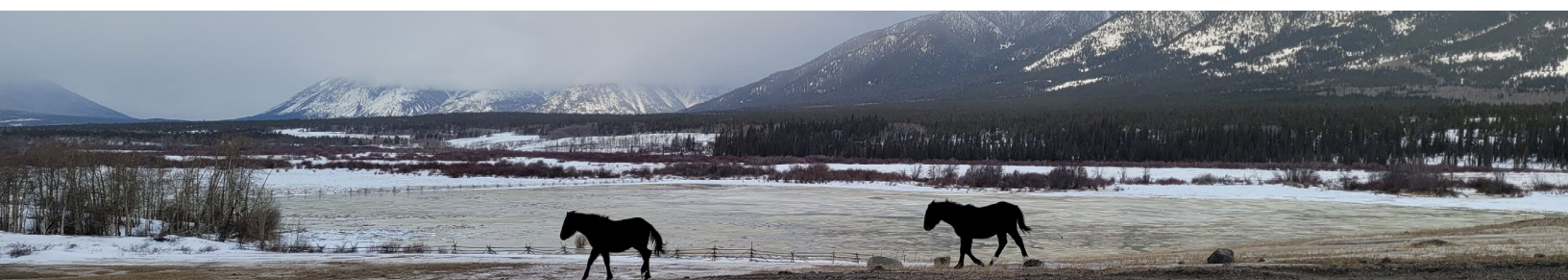
Recommendations

Suggested Legislative Reforms

The RCES Working Group determined early on that legislative enactments could help entrench the requirement to achieve remote community clean energy targets by 2030. A number of experts in the fields of law, policy, and economics were asked to suggest possible reforms.

Two key findings drove the recommendations:

- First Nations communities' ability to achieve their desired clean energy end results has been historically thwarted due to a power imbalance, and
- Whole-of-government accountability and complete funding mechanisms do not exist to ensure Provincial bodies achieve their desired clean energy end results.



Pillar 2 - Legislative & Policy Reform

The experts consulted made four key recommendations to improve First Nations energy sovereignty. These recommendations aim to give full effect to the Province's stated commitments to climate change mitigation, greater clean and renewable energy generation, and reconciliation with First Nations, as outlined in the *Clean Energy Act* and the *DRIPA*. The recommendations can be summarised as follows:

1. Delegation of Authority pursuant to *DRIPA* s 7. Cabinet delegates the authority of the *Utilities Commission Act*, so that an Indigenous governing body (IGB) and the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) would have to work together on any energy project concerning the IGB.
2. Reform of the *Clean Energy Act*, the *Utilities Commission Act*, and the *Hydro and Power Authority Act*: bringing the legislation into alignment with the stated goals in the *Clean Energy Act* and *DRIPA*.

Proposed Changes to the *Clean Energy Act*

By outlining British Columbia's energy objectives, the *Clean Energy Act* is the legislation that could have the greatest positive impact if reformed. The energy objectives presently outlined are a good first step towards cleaner energy in BC; however, the wording in the Act is not forceful enough to compel the government, BCUC, or BC Hydro to give effect to the objectives. As such, the *Clean Energy Act* could be reformed to include language that would compel the province into action towards its goals.

By defining "cost-effective" to include all social, environmental, and economic costs, this would mandate the Province, BCUC and BC Hydro to price reasonable externalities. Further, in order to balance cost factors, the calculation should account for the price of diesel before subsidies.

The following are proposed changes to the *Clean Energy Act* (changes to legislation have been added in **bold**):

Definitions:

1. **"cost-effective"** means **having regard for all social, environmental, and economic costs associated with the activity, including:**

- (a) **greenhouse gas mitigation;**
- (b) **community health and well-being;**
- (c) **environmental and ecosystem impacts;**
- (d) **commitments to reconciliation; and**
- (e) **financial costs before subsidies.**

British Columbia's energy objectives:

2. The following comprise British Columbia's energy objectives:

- (h) to **facilitate, including through financing and administrative support**, the switching from one kind of energy source or use to another that decreases greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia, **in all cases where it is cost-effective to do so;**
- (i) to **require** communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use energy efficiently, **and to support communities in this;**
- [...]
- (l) **to expedite** the development of first nation and rural communities through the use and development of clean or renewable resources, **by approving, financing, and supporting any cost-effective clean energy initiatives those communities pursue, having regard to commitments of reconciliation and in the public interest;**

The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund could also be expanded, and given greater clarity (this is dealt with in more detail in Recommendation 4) with the following change:

- 20** (3) The initial balance of the special account is an amount, not to exceed \$5 million, prescribed by Treasury Board.

Proposed Changes to the *Utilities Commission Act* and Regulations

Definitions:

1. (1) In this Act: “cost-effective” means having regard for all social, environmental, and economic costs associated with the activity, including:

- (a) greenhouse gas mitigation;
- (b) community health and well-being;
- (c) environmental and ecosystem impacts;
- (d) commitments to reconciliation; and
- (e) financial costs before subsidies.

44.1 (2) Subject to subsection (2.1), a public utility must file with the commission, in the form and at the times the commission requires, a long-term resource plan including all of the following:

(a) **how the plan is cost-effective, having regard for all social, environmental, and economic costs associated with the activity, including:**

- (i) greenhouse gas mitigation;
- (ii) community health and well-being;
- (iii) environmental and ecosystem impacts;
- (iv) commitments to reconciliation; and
- (v) financial costs before subsidies.

(b) an estimate of the demand for energy the public utility would expect to serve if the public utility does not take new demand-side measures during the period addressed by the plan;

(c) a plan of how the public utility intends to reduce the demand referred to in paragraph (a) by taking **cost-effective** demand-side measures;

(d) an estimate of the demand for energy that the public utility expects to serve after it has taken **cost-effective** demand-side measures; [...]

(e) any other information required by the commission.

[...]

(8) In determining under subsection (6) whether to accept a long-term resource plan, the commission must consider

- (a) **all** of British Columbia’s energy objectives, and **take account of them**,
- (b) the extent to which the plan is consistent with the applicable requirements under sections 6 and 19 of the *Clean Energy Act*,
- (c) whether the plan shows that the public utility intends to pursue adequate, cost-effective demand-side measures, and
- (d) the interests of persons in British Columbia who receive or may receive service from the public utility.

Discrimination in rates:

59 (5) In this section, a rate is “unjust” or “unreasonable” if the rate is

- (a) **based on a calculation that does not account for the full cost-effectiveness of the service, having regard for all social, environmental, and economic costs associated with the activity,**
- (b) more than a fair and reasonable charge for service of the nature and quality provided by the utility,
- (c) insufficient to yield a fair and reasonable compensation for the service provided by the utility, or a fair and reasonable return on the appraised value of its property, or
- (d) unjust and unreasonable for any other reason.

Pillar 2 - Legislative & Policy Reform

Proposed Changes to the *Hydro and Power Authority Act*

Powers

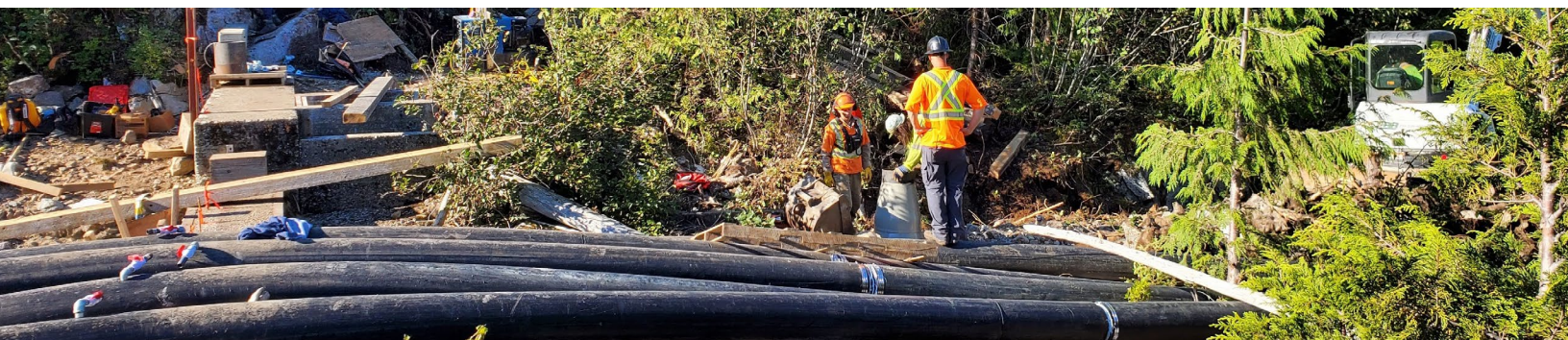
12 (1) Subject to this Act and the regulations, the authority has the capacity and the rights, powers and privileges of an individual of full capacity and, in addition, has

- (a) the power to amalgamate in any manner with a firm or person, and
- (b) any other power prescribed.

(1.1) The authority's purposes are

- (a) to give full authority and effect to British Columbia's energy objectives as set out in the *Clean Energy Act, s. 2*,
- (b) to generate, manufacture, conserve, supply, acquire and dispose of power and related products,
- (c) to supply and acquire services related to anything in paragraph (a), and
- (d) to do other things as may be prescribed.

3. Create an entirely new piece of legislation, an ***Indigenous Energy Act*** – a single piece of legislation that contains all proposed reforms, while also creating a formal administrative body, an Indigenous Energy Board. The new Act would include the reforms outlined in Recommendation 2, and improve the efficiency of the law reform process. This model could mirror the well-developed organizational precedent set by the First Nations Health Authority. This recommendation also gives full effect to UNDRIP, particularly Article 18, which states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions;” and Article 39, which states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.”
4. Undertake a complete overhaul of the existing First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF). A new and expanded FNCEBF would need a clear mandate to pursue clean energy projects that are aligned with BC's energy objectives and UNDRIP/DRIPA. It could include specific guidance as to how First Nations wishing to pursue clean energy projects can access the fund and how it will be shared amongst First Nations, as well as provide support in any administrative processes needed to access the funds. The fund must be open to all Indigenous communities in the province. While BC Hydro, provincial, and federal policies believe that funding is available for making the clean energy transition, funds are actually very difficult to access. Combining provincial and federal investment promises into one fund that would be accessible to all First Nations wishing to pursue clean energy projects would provide financial support that is effectively aligned with the current clean energy landscape.

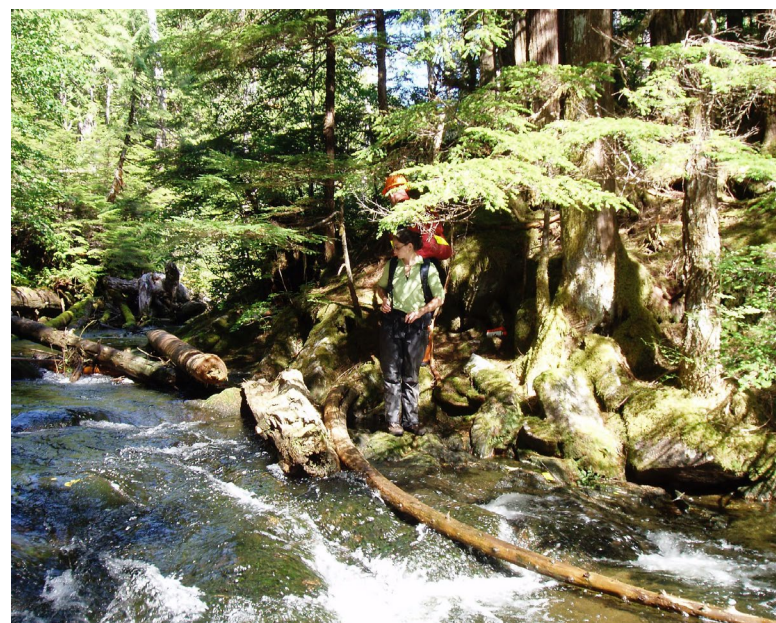


Pillar 2 - Legislative & Policy Reform

Working Group Recommendations

The Working Group as a whole made the following additional recommendations:

1. When amending legislation, policy, regulations, and decision-making protocols of the BC Utilities Commission, BC Hydro, and the Province, ensure that language:
 - mandates revenue-sharing for all development on unceded territory,
 - mandates private sector projects to move beyond a solely profit-oriented model to triple bottom line (taking externalities into account), recognizing Indigenous environmental and cultural values, and
 - aligns all policy and priorities to overcome the fact that currently BC Hydro and the Province are not on the same path with respect to clean energy projects.
2. Modify the Clean Energy Act to require that, for BC non-integrated area remote communities, **primary energy sources** should be 100% renewable.
3. Increase Indigenous representation throughout BC Utilities Commission processes.
4. Mandate the BC Utilities Commission to take externalities into account when reviewing BC Hydro applications (as noted in detail earlier in Suggested Legislative Reforms).
5. Design BC Hydro's rate structure to be in the best interest of Indigenous communities and not solely focused on the interests of ratepayers. Recognize Indigenous communities as a special class of shareholder requiring reconciliation.
6. Consider value-added opportunities for surplus energy in Indigenous communities in non-integrated areas (NIAs) including, but not limited to, hydrogen cell storage, green ammonia, aquaculture, and other value chain opportunities. It is a struggle to get own-source revenue from a government-owned monopoly such as BC Hydro.
7. Jointly review Forest and Range Agreements and the Remote Community Energy Strategy to address similar underlying concerns.





Capacity & Development Training

Context:

Typical approaches to delivering education are ineffective for Indigenous communities because they do not begin where people are at and are delivered in culturally inappropriate ways. Approaches for measuring achievement are also not culturally appropriate. Mainstream training also tends to provide one-off events and does not provide the ongoing support and development that is needed to adequately build the local capacity and ready communities for a clean energy transition. Disregarding true educational needs and offering inappropriate training that leads to failure is perpetuating discrimination and potential genocide.

Through a multitude of consultative processes, Indigenous communities in BC have emphasized the need for targeted community-based capacity development to support active participation in the clean energy economy and alignment with Indigenous cultural values. There is more work to be done than there are people ready, willing, and able to do it.

Principles:

A number of principles can guide actions taken to support this Pillar:

1. Priority actions should be selected strategically to bring all communities forward together, create long-term change, and help those already working on clean energy do their job better.
2. The proposed Network Alliance and the continuation of this Working Group (in a form to be determined) can guide the Province to ensure that these important goals are achieved.
3. Training must meet people where they are and provide a step-by-step approach to success.
4. Failure is demoralizing. Capacity building should follow a trauma-informed approach.
5. Indigenous Peoples are experts in their own land and territory. They know what needs to be done and what to do. Capacity development should help them achieve those goals.
6. Education should emphasize sustainable approaches that acknowledge benefits and impacts for the environment and economy.
7. Capacity development initiatives must:
 - be ongoing and appropriately designed,
 - be culturally appropriate,
 - provide foundational training and essential skills,
 - be Indigenous-led with a basis in sovereignty,
 - provide supportive peer networks,
 - focus on sustainability,
 - provide additional supports as needed, and
 - foster two-way capacity.

Pillar 3 - Capacity & Development Training

Recommendations:

1. In partnership with Indigenous organizations, educational institutions, and qualified training providers, create a plan for relevant curriculum and training program development to support clean energy project development in remote communities. The plan should:
 - Focus on training that is Indigenous-led and include material that addresses fundamental community and individual needs to provide a basis for success.
 - Take into account what capacity development means for Indigenous peoples and communities and include trauma-informed capacity development in foundational areas (life skills, self-esteem) as well as energy related topics.
 - Use teaching approaches that have a communal, group learning, and hands-on approach. Experiential learning is key.
 - Develop curriculum that, as much as possible, can be customized to reflect individual communities. Each capacity development initiative should start by asking what is needed for a specific community. Content and delivery should be designed so that they increase the likelihood of success.
 - Provide training in-community as much as possible. Training provided outside of communities should focus on technologies relevant to the community. If training is in centralized locations, it should consider how community members can be supported financially and socially in the communities they travel to. Supportive housing and mentorship should be provided.
 - Specify that all training should use First Nation companies and hire First Nation staff as much as possible.
2. Build capacity so that all communities can own clean energy projects; all projects should be Indigenous-led.
3. Fund the development of consultative mechanisms to foster two-way capacity development. Facilitate this by funding Indigenous communities to develop training programs, to be taken by organizations who wish to work with them, that explain their history, culture, values and community-specific goals and aspirations. Provide financial support to attend energy-related workshops and conferences. In-person engagement is key and previous Indigenous community networking conferences were very effective. Conferences can be opportunities for big picture collaboration to maximize opportunities.
4. Include mentorships and/or internships in training programs. Training in the trades remains a significant need. There is a shortage of electricians, heavy-duty operators, and human resources staff. [Tribal Resources Investment Corporation](#) is an example of a successful approach.
5. Support ongoing collaboration via the Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group, or another appropriate body, to facilitate two-way communication with non-Indigenous stakeholders and educate them on the worldview, goals, and needs of remote indigenous communities.
6. Train Indigenous community staff to understand their role and how to interact with BC Utilities Commission.
7. Indigenous communities with experience must mentor communities that are further behind – but due to staffing constraints, will likely need capacity support to do so.
8. Provide mentorship and opportunities for growth for community members through contractual agreements for clean energy projects.



Developing a Network Alliance

Context

The Working Group believes that all remote communities should rise and thrive together. This goal can be achieved in part by forming an alliance of Indigenous remote communities and Indigenous organizations that will speak with one voice. An alliance of all Indigenous remote communities will help shift energy and power structures and support systemic change.

Principles

Four principles can guide actions taken to support this Pillar:

1. Clean energy funding and project support should be non-competitive to bring all communities along together.
2. More experienced communities should mentor others.
3. An alliance can help bring Indigenous voices into ESGI frameworks (see Pillar 1).
4. Once an Indigenous alliance has been formed, other governments and stakeholders can be invited into the alliance

Recommendations

1. Connect with other organizations that can help form and support a network alliance, such as:
 - Coastal First Nations,
 - Eco Trust,
 - First Nations Leadership Council,
 - First Nations Energy & Mining Council,
 - New Relationship Trust,
 - BC Utilities Commission,
 - Province of BC, and
 - Natural Resources Canada.
2. Create an Indigenous remote community network alliance and provide necessary capacity supports to allow full participation of all Indigenous communities in BC.
3. Initiate this network alliance of remote Indigenous Nations through ceremony, calling in all Nations, then the Province, then others. First Nations leadership will need to help determine future alliances.
4. Strengthen important relationships between individual BC Hydro Indigenous Relations Managers and Indigenous communities.
5. Develop a BC Indigenous remote community website, with funded case studies, resources, and contacts, to support this alliance.
6. Create a peer support group made up of existing Climate Action Coordinator networks who can support community connections and share knowledge.



Providing Adequate Funding Pathways

Context

Current funding has competitive application processes that create capacity issues for many communities. Many funding windows are short and specific to single project phases and do not fund all the work needed to get from an idea to an operational project. Under this funding framework, project development takes longer than it needs to. There is a risk that while funding is available to support project feasibility and design phases, that funding may not be available for construction and start-up phases. Nations are committed to clean energy but significant and timely progress is not being made due to financial resource constraints. Burning diesel to create electricity and heat creates significant greenhouse gas emissions in BC, and adequate funding is needed to support communities to develop and implement clean energy projects that will help both the Province and the federal government achieve their emissions reduction goals.

Principles

Four principles can guide actions taken to support this Pillar:

1. Communities value reciprocity and not competition.
2. Collaborative approaches, that do not leave any communities out, are preferred.
3. Increased, long-term funding will lead to results.
4. The cost of administrative processes associated with competition for funds could be better spent on projects.



Pillar 5 - Providing Adequate Funding Pathways

Recommendations

1. Share revenues from resource extraction to provide long-term, ongoing supportive funding to reduce diesel dependence.
2. Create one large clean energy fund, available immediately, as opposed to many smaller funds available over short timeframes (see Pillar 2).
3. Design low carbon fuel legislation to provide financial credits for clean energy projects.
4. Seek to replicate successful projects. The heat pump incentive program is a successful example of how results can be achieved when there are enough funds to go around.
5. Increase timeframes for all funding – project or staff related – to longer than five years to reduce the administrative burden and allow for long-term planning.
6. Re-allocate Provincial budgets to support the elimination of GHG emissions from burning diesel and to create clean electricity in a timely manner. All 46 diesel-dependent communities receive 10% of the budget, but based on GHG emissions and targets, should receive 90% of the budget.
7. Improve key word searches for the Provincial funding website. It is a useful resource but hard to find if you do not have the link. Support pathfinding and ease of applying for funding at both provincial and federal levels.
8. Provide better funding for biomass projects and wind feasibility studies in particular.
9. Achieve better coordination of funding programs between all of BC's clean energy goals and agencies responsible for energy.
10. Study other successful processes, such as collaboration with the Province on cannabis agreements and gaming revenue, when considering new agreements. What lessons were learned at those tables that helped move things forward?





Determining Technical Solutions to Diesel Replacement

Context

The CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) aims to support remote communities in reducing their reliance on diesel fuel. The specific objective is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in British Columbia. First Nations own, operate, or co-partner 79 grid-tied renewable energy projects. Combined, these projects deliver 13% of BC's electricity. Most are small-scale hydro, solar, wind, or bioenergy projects. First Nations have invested millions of dollars in renewable energy projects, attracting capital independently and through partnerships with Independent Power Producer (IPP) companies. However, the 46 remote communities in BC still collectively burn approximately 16 million litres of diesel fuel each year.

Principles

A number of principles can guide actions taken to support this Pillar:

1. Getting off diesel is mandatory. Communities strongly desire an end to fossil fuel burning. Stewardship beliefs are strong in Indigenous communities and they are ready to innovate.
2. There is so much potential for renewable energy in BC. This should be the focus of the Provincial government, especially considering provincial GHG targets.
3. Better heating, less diesel dependency, and improved home energy efficiency are all key factors that are needed. These can be achieved in part through a process of comprehensive community energy planning.

Recommendations

1. Provide resources to bring clean energy projects to reality and increase Province-wide uptake in a timely manner. There are many possible sources of clean energy in BC including:
 - run of river and small storage run-of-lake,
 - solar for individual buildings, large community solar farms and batteries for storage,
 - green hydrogen,
 - wind,
 - biomass, specific to replacement of trees to ensure renewable fuel and clean combustion technology,
 - tidal power,
 - air source heat pumps,
 - water source heat pumps,
 - geothermal, and
 - waste to energy.

Pillar 6 - Determining Technical Solutions

2. Amend and expedite BC Utilities Commission processes for approval of remote community energy.
3. Invest in capacity development – both human and financial – so that Indigenous Communities can administratively adhere and effectively respond to the regulatory needs for all levels of government.
4. Develop a more collaborative approach to clean energy development between the Province and BC Hydro (as noted in Pillar 2).
5. Reform resource extraction policy and regulation. Government is still supporting oil and gas exploration and production; these efforts should be reallocated towards clean energy.
6. Compel existing clean energy generation facilities to share development, maintenance, and operating costs with the communities they are located in.
7. Amend policy around stumpage fees for waste wood removal so that this resource is directed towards biomass heating projects and not burned as waste projects. This is a priority for the Province and Indigenous communities.
8. Create programs to support newer technologies where clean energy options are very limited in communities. BC Hydro currently rejects technologies that it considers ‘unproven’ or risk intensive. If the costs for proven technologies are higher and BC Hydro requires them, they must be financially supported, including supporting marginal costs.
9. Achieve energy equity by including all communities. Currently, only around 40 communities out of 204 are active in energy development.
10. Develop and make available detailed case studies and guides on risks versus rewards for different energy systems. A true cost accounting framework (cradle-to-grave impacts) should be used in preparing these case studies.

Potential Partners

1. Existing Indigenous leadership organizations and development corporations (BC Assembly of First Nations, Coastal First Nations, First Nations Leadership Council and First Nations Energy and Mining Council) have a role in advancing clean energy. Chiefs, councils, and community members also have roles.
2. BC Hydro has a large role to play. Infrastructure is old and insufficient and new transmission grid solutions are necessary. Relationships with BC Hydro Indigenous Relationship Managers are key to achieving desired outcomes. At the same time, it is necessary for decision-makers to attend key meetings. Decisions around achieving the Province’s target and remote community goals are best supported by having the right people, in the right room, at the right time. While staff-to-staff meetings are particularly helpful in the early stages of a community’s consideration of energy-related projects, decision-makers need to be directly involved at strategic points to ensure progress.
3. BCUC’s mandate needs to support timely approvals. BCUC processes are complex and time consuming. More resources are required for Indigenous communities to fully participate in the process at the same level as major utilities do.
4. Mentorship networks will help bring all communities along together and community-based Climate Action Coordinators can really help with that.



Conclusions & Next Steps

This report contains recommendations from the RCES Working Group to inform development of the Province of BC's Remote Community Energy Strategy. The recommended remote community energy strategies and actions contained in this document are intended to lead to the development or refinement of Provincial policies and programs that will directly lead to the elimination of burning diesel for electrical and heating generation in remote communities by 2030, while supporting reconciliation commitments (UNDRIP & DRIPA). This report is the outcome of the RCES Working Group's collective knowledge, lived experience, and Indigenous worldview as it pertains to clean energy challenges in BC's remote communities. The Working Group has provided on-the-ground, community informed, strategic advice on what is needed to get to broad and timely implementation of clean energy systems in BC's remote communities, to reduce GHG emissions from the generation of electricity and heat, and to meet energy sovereignty, nation building and community sustainability goals of remote communities.

The Working Group makes the following foundational recommendations:

1. Support the implementation of UNDRIP/DRIPA workshops for Indigenous community leaders. Workshops should be held to explain what these documents mean and how they empower the leadership of First Nations. This is a critical first step to support the success of the RCES.
2. Break the CleanBC target - to reduce GHG emissions associated with diesel electricity generation in remote communities by 80% by 2030 - into incremental targets such as 60% by 2025, 70% by 2027, and 80% by 2030. The Province should commit to investing a specified amount of annual revenue in remote community renewable energy, in alignment with these targets, to ensure that they are met. A proportion of general, resource extraction or utility revenue should be considered. Note, although the CleanBC target is to reduce GHG emissions from diesel electricity generation by 80% by 2030, the Working Group recommends a target of 100% renewable energy for all primary energy sources by 2030.
3. Transparency and reliable data are key. Measuring progress against targets requires accurate and up to date energy consumption inventories that are shared with remote communities in both BC Hydro integrated and non-integrated areas. Operational data from existing renewable energy facilities located within communities, regardless of ownership, should be shared to inform community energy planning and subsequent projects. Current inventories are out of date and inaccurate.
4. For Indigenous communities that are not yet started on the clean energy path, the Provincial and Federal governments should invest in remote community clean energy where the first investment is a seed for greater change. While some actions can stand well on their own, others can form the basis of long term, ongoing improvement for everyone. Community energy planning is foundational to achieving these goals.

Conclusions

5. Decisions around achieving the Province's target and remote community goals are best supported by having the right people, in the right room, at the right time. While staff-to-staff meetings are particularly helpful in the early stages of a community's consideration of energy-related projects, decision-makers need to be directly involved at strategic points to ensure progress.
6. Recognize that while Indigenous communities may have the same overarching goals for clean energy development, each community is unique and a one-size fits all approach must be avoided.
7. Relevant legislation and authority should be reviewed to ensure that the goals of Indigenous Communities and the Province around the development of clean energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can be effectively met.

Next Steps

Additional detailed recommended actions and strategies are included in the six Pillars for Action:

- **PILLAR 1 – Energy Sovereignty and UNDRIP Implementation**
- **PILLAR 2 – Legislative and Policy Reform**
- **PILLAR 3 – Capacity Development and Training**
- **PILLAR 4 – Developing a Network Alliance**
- **PILLAR 5 – Providing Adequate Funding Pathways**
- **PILLAR 6 – Determining Technical Solutions to Diesel Replacement**

The Province has committed to reviewing the recommendations provided. It is the Working Group's expectation that these will be implemented through achievement of actions outlined in a work plan, with targeted delivery dates. Remote Communities will want to review progress and effectiveness and provide additional guidance and comments as necessary. Remote communities will hold the government to account on the effectiveness of implementing the recommendations. The Province is committed to resourcing Remote Communities to do this work. The organizational structure for this ongoing guidance is yet to be determined. As well, an inventory of current organizations working on Indigenous clean energy is a required first step to understanding the breadth of current and future partners to support this work.

The Working Group would like to see the recommendations and strategies included in this document transformed into a detailed work plan that includes specific deliverables, assigned to organizations that can achieve them, with specific timelines and budgets. The Working Group expects that a mechanism will be put in place to monitor the progress and effectiveness of these recommended strategies and actions and make changes as necessary to achieve our Vision within the context of the larger Indigenous clean energy community.

With
Thanks

Acknowledgement Letter from the Province of BC



June 6, 2022

Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group

David Benton, Gitga'at First Nation
Sean Brennan, Council of the Haida Nation
Edmund Haines, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government
Leona Humchitt, Heiltsuk First Nation
Peter Kirby, Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Trent Moraes, Skidegate Band Council
Jamie Pond, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation
Terry Webber, Nuxalk Nation

Dear Colleagues:

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation (EMLI) acknowledges receipt of the Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group's final report entitled *Recommended actions and strategies for achieving the CleanBC diesel reduction goal for the province of British Columbia's remote communities*.

EMLI staff appreciate the working group's commitment to collaborative dialogue and process, and the thoughtful contributions and time dedicated by each member. We also thank the Clean Energy Association and facilitator Chastity Davis-Alphonse for stewarding this dialogue and bringing the working group's messages forward in this report.

In early 2021 the Community Clean Energy Branch asked the RCES Working Group to provide recommendations to the Province of British Columbia to help inform our shared approach to decarbonizing remote community electricity and heating systems. The pillars and recommendations included in the working group's report are comprehensive, reflecting the breadth and complexity of solutions required to achieve our diesel reduction goals.

Each of the recommendations merit further analysis and dialogue, including through existing engagement processes such as [Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities](#). Many of the recommendations seek to address structural and systemic issues, and highlight the continued need for policy and programs to reduce barriers and support meaningful outcomes for communities.

.../2

**Ministry of Energy, Mines and
Low Carbon Innovation**

Electricity and Alternative
Energy Division

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9314, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N1

- 2 -

The Community Clean Energy Branch will be developing a work plan to track the consideration of each recommendation and will be reaching out to each working group member to discuss possibilities for continued collaboration on priority setting, the development of specific proposals, and navigating the path ahead.

Thank you again for your commitment to diesel reduction in remote communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Sean LeRoy".

Sean LeRoy, Director
Community Clean Energy Branch

cc: Community Energy Association
Chastity Davis-Alphonse



Appendices

Appendix 1: Photo Acknowledgements

FRONT COVER

Left to Right – top row:

- Eagle in the tree in the Nemaiah Valley
- Humpback whale swimming through the Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory
- The rooftop solar panel system at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay on Haida Gwaii.
- Inside Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation Big House in Gwa'yas'dums

Left to Right – centre row:

- Getting ready to open Waaps Wahmoodmx School in Hartley Bay
- Acwsalcta School in Bella Coola
- Winter sunset in the Nemaiah Valley

Left to Right – bottom row:

- The community of Hartley Bay
- Estuary in Nuxalk Nation Territory
- Youth from Hiit'aganiina Kuuyas Naay (Skidegate Youth Centre) assisting in the placement of the solar art project panels on the Haida Heritage Centre.

TABLE OF CONTENTS – North Klemtu hydro project with the installation camp and staging area

PAGE 1 – River falls in Gitga'ata's home watershed

PAGE 2 – Community feast in Bella Bella in the Gvúkva'áus Haíłzaqv (House of the Heiltsuk) to celebrate the Haíłzaqv Community Energy Plan.

PAGE 5 – **Left;** All 360 residences in Skidegate Village on Haida Gwaii were upgraded to more energy efficient heat pumps in 2017. **Centre;** Bald eagle in the trees in Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Territory. **Right;** The Atlin, BC hydroelectric facility is owned and operated by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership and brings reliable and clean electricity to the Yukon, while also providing economic development opportunities for local communities.

PAGE 6 – A solar farm was built to reduce diesel emissions (started by Michelle Myers and her team) for the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation in the Nemaiah Valley.

PAGE 7 – The Haíłzaqv Nation is practicing clean energy sovereignty and resiliency by utilizing wind, sun, earth, and water. We will create a sustainable future in accordance with our ǵvı́łás and Haíłzaqv worldview.

PAGE 9 – Header; The Atlin hydroelectric project was built in 2009 and it saves the community from burning more than one million litres of diesel fuel every year. The proposed expansion project will help further reduce the amount of diesel burned in Yukon communities. **Bottom right;** Gitga'at Chiefs 'Welcome Home' stolen Petroglyph.

PAGE 10 - Haítzaqv Climate Action Team pictured in the Gvúkva'áus Haítzaqv (House of the Heilt-suk) at a community feast they hosted to celebrate "l̓nts hákq̓m'ila wáxa" (we have all agreed) on the Haítzaqv Community Energy Plan. A critical transition to protect our homelands and waterways, for our future generations. The plan is reclaiming energy sovereignty, clean energy solutions for the Haítzaqv by the Haítzaqv.

PAGE 11 – Solar panel installations on local home roofs in Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation Gwa'yas'dums Village.

PAGE 16 - Qumkuts Village located at the mouth of the Bella Coola River, Nuxalk First Nation.

PAGE 17 – Arriving at Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation dock facing Gwa'yas'dums Village showing the Big House on the left with solar panel installation and new Health/Admin building on the right.

PAGE 18 – Horses near Chilko Lake in the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Territory.

PAGE 21 – P&L Contracting and Barkley Group installing new Carriage House and penstock pipes (draining pipes in front) at Baron Lake in Klemtu.

PAGE 22 – Left; The Atlin hydroelectric project, built in 2009 as a two-megawatt project, recently received federal funding to a 10.5 megawatt hydroelectric facility. The facility is owned and operated by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's Tlingit Homeland Energy Partnership Program and the additional power will be exported to the Yukon through a new transmission line. **Right;** Studying the river water in Gitga'ata's home watershed.

PAGE 26 – The Xeni Gwet'in First Nation's solar farm in the heart of the Nemaiah Valley.

PAGE 27 – The Nuxalk Nation's Sputc Welcome Pole.

PAGE 30 – The Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay on Haida Gwaii had the first maximum 100 kW rooftop solar panel system in BC under the standing offer program. Elders from the community's Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (SHIP) named the project Jigawaay Naay Unguu which means "The Sun on Top of the House" in the Skidegate-Haida dialect.

PAGE 32 – "The Giant" in Nuxalk territory.

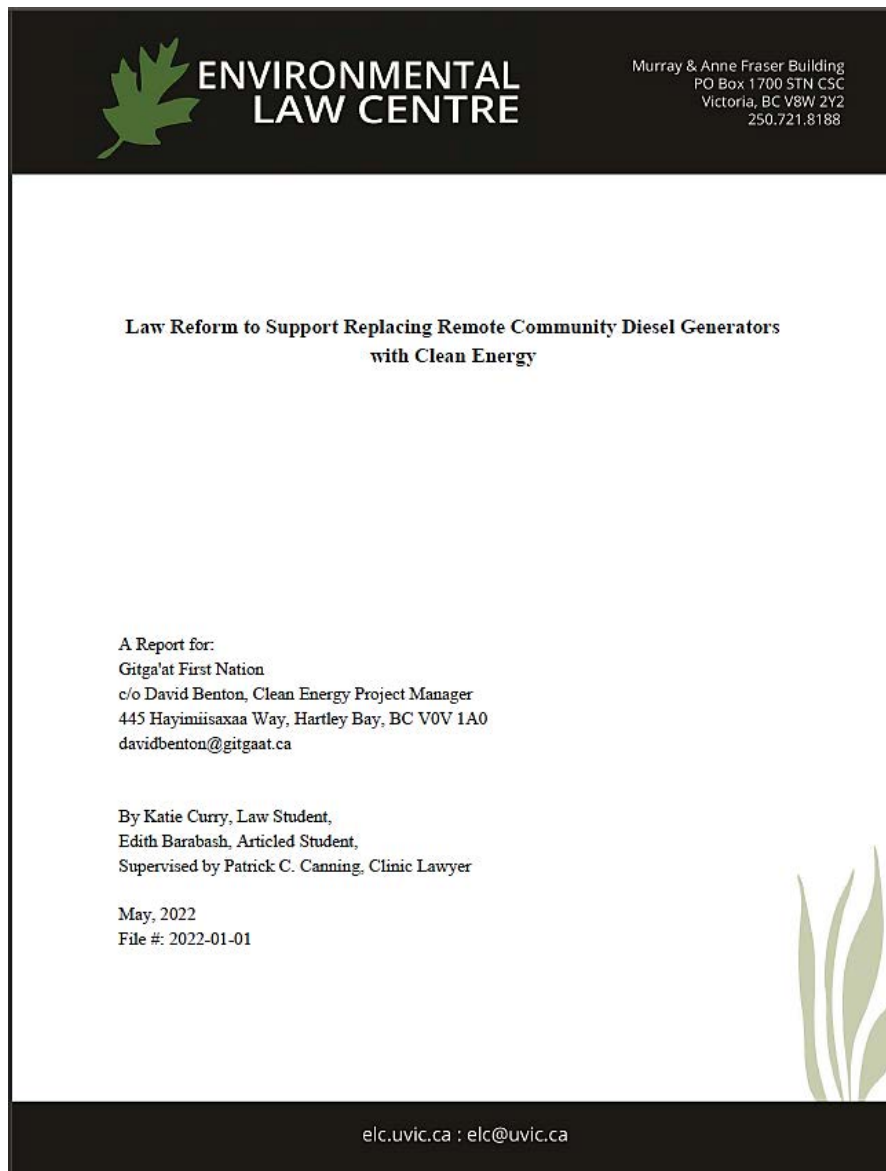
PAGE 33 - Elders Haítzaqv nínúhaqla (elders) completing the Ethelo Haítzaqv Climate Solution Survey 2. This session focused on prioritization of 12 climate solutions that were brought forward from the visioning sessions and survey 1. Our nínúhaqla shared, "we want it all" and actively voted for all 12 projects. We are proud of our community engagement process, this plan includes over 1,000 voices with a population of 2,400 Haítzaqv registered members.

Appendix 2: Proposed Law Reform – Detailed

A report was prepared for the Gitga'at First Nation by the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre regarding replacing remote community diesel generators with clean energy. The report advises on:

- 1. What changes to acts, regulations, policies and the BC Utilities Commission can compel BC, the federal government, or BC Hydro to support or provide clean energy to remote First Nations communities currently burning diesel for electricity, in particular the Gitga'at First Nation, and;
- 2. How the push for reconciliation and the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act can provide opportunity to ensure the delivery of clean energy solutions in remote First Nation communities.

A summary of recommendations from this report are included in Pillar 2 – Legislative and Policy Reform.



Appendix 3: Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference 2021

CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group

Draft Terms of Reference

Background

In 2018, the Province of British Columbia announced a climate and economic strategy called the CleanBC Plan. The Plan introduced the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES), which aims to support remote communities in reducing their reliance on diesel fuel. The specific objective is to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from diesel electricity generation by 80% by 2030.

To achieve this reduction, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low-Carbon Innovation, (the Ministry) helps coordinate policies and programs along three streams:

- 1) Capacity Building;
- 2) Efficient & Low-Carbon Building; and
- 3) Renewable Electricity.

In Spring 2020, the Ministry began engagement with remote communities about RCES through a series of one-on-one conversations. The Ministry now proposes that a RCES Working Group (Working Group) be established to help achieve the Province's GHG emission reduction goals and support the collective energy aspirations of remote communities.

The Ministry is aware that many remote communities are already significantly involved in carrying out their own strategic energy plans as Indigenous and civic governments. The proposed Working Group is not intended to interfere with this work but rather to enable the development, communication, and coordination of shared energy interests.

Mandate

The overall mandate of the Working Group is to collaborate on a broad range of matters related to energy provision and consumption in remote communities, with an emphasis on decarbonization. While the Working Group will refine the draft terms of reference and develop their own work plan, it is anticipated that the Working Group may be interested in:

- Reviewing and interpreting feedback from remote community engagement in order to inform RCES and associated programs, including funding for clean energy activities.
- Advising on policies and programs relevant to remote communities in Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs).
- Developing social, environmental, and, economic indicators to complement the GHG emissions reduction target.
- Providing guidance on the implementation of OCAP (ownership, control, access, and possession) standards regarding the collection, protection, use, and sharing of First Nations data in relation to RCES.
- Advising on text for the written strategy based on engagement feedback as well as other Working Group activities.

- Providing ongoing advice on how to integrate Indigenous views and perspectives into the implementation of RCES.

Membership

The Working Group will be comprised of representatives from remote communities in B.C., including representatives of First Nations and civic governments. Indigenous representatives will be prioritized in the composition of the Working Group to reflect the prevalence and importance of Indigenous governance within remote communities. Members will hold relevant professional experience related to decarbonizing remote community energy systems.

Governance and Decision-Making

The Working Group is designed to provide advice to the Province of B.C. through the Ministry on clean energy related issues in remote communities. The Working Group's decisions will appear as both formal and informal recommendations to the Ministry on the development and implementation of RCES. Energy activities and decisions pertaining to individual remote communities will continue to be made at the level of the Indigenous or civic government.

It is expected that the Working Group will work in a consent-based, collaborative and cooperative manner. When the Working Group is unable to reach consensus, non-consensus views will be fully considered and recorded.

Roles and Responsibilities

Working Group Members

Working Group members will be expected to be available and prepared to participate in Working Group meetings. During COVID 19, the Working Group will meet for two hours, once per month, using an online platform. If in-person meetings become practical in 2021, the Committee may revisit the schedule and logistics of these meetings.

Beyond meetings, it is anticipated that Working Group members will be asked to invest between two to four hours per month reviewing materials, corresponding with fellow members, and preparing for meetings. However, members may choose to contribute to specialized task areas, such as programs and policies in Non-Integrated Areas, and these roles may require additional commitments.

Hosts

The Working Group will be hosted by a rotating member of the Working Group. The Working Group will determine a process to identify Working Group hosts.

The Ministry is responsible for scheduling sessions, overseeing the development and approval of deliverables, managing the communication of recommendations to the Ministry.

Members

The Ministry intends to invite a limited group of remote community representatives to initiate the Working Group's activities. The first tasks will include finalizing the terms of reference and developing a work plan. Following the completion of these tasks, and at the direction of the co-chairs, an expression

of interest process will be created to invite additional remote communities to participate as members of the Working Group.

The expansion of the Working Group will ensure that diversity and inclusion considerations such as race, gender, age, and geographic origin are applied to membership. Existing members will be asked to provide input into the committee's expansion and expression of interest process.

Secretariat

Ministry staff will provide facilitation and secretariat support to the Working Group for the first meeting. A third-party will then be selected by Working Group members to provide ongoing facilitation and secretariat support. Proposed agendas, past-meeting minutes, and other documents will be circulated one week prior to meetings for review. Minutes outlining action items will be circulated following each meeting.

Remuneration

Working Group members will be provided a stipend for participation in meetings. The same rate will apply to all Working Group members and will correspond with the rate offered to members of other CleanBC advisory groups.

Travel is not anticipated during the COVID 19 pandemic. If travel is requested, Working Group members will be reimbursed for transportation, accommodation, meals and out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of their duties as Working Group members. Reimbursement rates for travel will be in accordance with the B.C. Government's Core Policy.

Term

The initial term of the Working Group is expected to be from March 2021 to February 2022. The term may be adjusted at the direction of the co-chairs.

Appendix 4: Specific Relevant UNDRIP Articles

The Working Group reviewed all UNDRIP Articles and noted that the following Articles are particularly relevant to the Remote Communities Energy Strategy:

Article 3

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 20

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 23

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 29

Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of Indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of Indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Article 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 39

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Appendix 5: Primary Input on Vision and Mission

From April 2021 to March 2022, the RCES Working Group met multiple times as a whole group, and as various sub-groups, to work through the development of the strategy. An online whiteboard program was used to capture points of discussion. When discussing the vision and mission for the group, the following comments were recorded.

Discussion

- It was clarified that the role of the Working Group is to set a strategy to help the Province meet its goals for renewable energy in remote communities.
- The Terms of Reference should be consulted to help determine Vision and Mission for the strategy.
- First Nations Climate Action Declaration (July 2019) is relevant. (Text provided in chat.)
- Referring to existing agreements with governments is helpful.
- The strategy should be a living document while being developed.

Summary of comments on Vision:

- Focus is on GHG emissions from diesel for electricity
- Focus not only on what province needs but to provide advocacy for Indigenous communities as well.
- Remote, rural communities reliant on diesel also include a few non-Indigenous communities.
- Transition BC's remote community energy production into a carbon free future, in line with global energy targets intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to climate change.
- Build capacity in rural remote communities through clean energy projects.
- Reduce impacts of climate change and increase adaptation.
- Support all rural and remote communities in eliminating diesel dependence for power production.
- Remove barriers to project implementation.
- Make electricity generation in BC's remote communities carbon free by 2030.
- Reduce GHG emissions, slow climate change, build a cleaner future.
- Be a leader in Canada on a clean energy strategy.
- Include a timeline in the vision.
- Diesel communities are substantial GHG target, substantial potential for reductions, solutions are available.
- Address the growth of communities, vision must address future energy needs.
- Coastal First Nations Declaration for Clean Energy & Climate Adaptation
- Metlakatla, Gitga'at, Kitasoo / Xai'xais, Nuxalk, Heiltsuk, Wuikinuxv, Old Masset, Skidegate, and the Council of the Haida Nation: Indigenous nations have a deep and profound relationship with the living environment around them. This relationship guides us and our responsibilities as stewards of our territory. We are dependent on a healthy environment to sustain all life and our way of living.

- The climate is changing globally at a rapid pace due to negative human behavior, primarily anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. In our climate changing world, Indigenous peoples across the world are often the first to suffer. Action must be taken immediately to ensure this injustice does not continue. Our communities must become climate resilient, adaptable, secure, and non-emitting to prepare for climate and industry related risks threatening our way of life. We must be bold, innovative, persistent in our transition away from fossil fuels.

Collectively, we commit to:

- Ensuring healthy, efficient, and culturally relevant homes and community buildings for all our members.
- Investing in sustainable energy solutions suitable for each Nation.
- Creating localized food systems to ensure food security.
- Building our communities to be climate resilient and adaptive.
- Ensuring the continuation of our inherent rights and freedom to harvest traditional food, ensuring the natural resources of our territory sustain our people for innumerable generations to come.
- Respecting and uphold human rights including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Upholding our Indigenous laws as our communities take climate action.

Summary of comments on Mission

- Should this include the Province's CleanBC target?
- Each nation has their own needs and supports and autonomy. But we also recognize we need to build on values of reciprocity, sharing on successes, challenges and overcoming barriers.
- The Mission (and the strategy) must move us from the current reality to the vision.
- Advise government and collaborate with each other, to work towards.
- Consult the terms of reference for possible strategies.
- Articulate and formulate ideas and bring forward to government.

Appendix 6: Working Group Process & MIRO Board

Background

Remote communities are off-grid settlements that rely on diesel fuel for electricity generation. There are approximately 40 remote communities in British Columbia. Most of them are served by BC Hydro, while some own and operate their own diesel generators.

In the 2008, the Province announced the intention to develop a Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) as part of the CleanBC Plan. The Plan established a target to decrease diesel consumption in remote communities; specifically, RCES aims to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with diesel electricity generation in remote communities by 80% by 2030. In addition to reducing GHG emissions, RCES is intended to promote economic development and further the Province's reconciliation commitments with Indigenous peoples.

RCES Working Group Established

In March 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Low Carbon Innovation invited five representatives from Indigenous remote communities to form the RCES Working Group (see Appendix 2 for the RCES Working Group's Terms of Reference) and hosted the inaugural meetings in March and April 2021. In May 2021, the Ministry hired Chastity Davis Consulting and Community Energy Association as a facilitation team to lead the Working Group for through a strategic planning process and create a Recommendations Report summarizing the group's work. The next few meetings focused on confirming the group's Terms of Reference and providing guidance to EMLI staff on upcoming Provincial programs and initiatives. Through the late summer and fall 2021, three additional members joined the Working Group and intense Sub-Committee work was undertaken to provide extensive input on the six Pillars of Action brought forward by the group.

Development of Recommendations Report

Between September 2021 and January 2022, various Sub-Committees met to provide deep learnings and report content on the six Pillars of Action, using a MIRO Board process to capture discussion highlights, key ideas and recommendations content. In February and March 2022, members participated in additional Sub-Committee meetings to review and revise the draft Recommendations Report.

The curation process and resulting report are the culmination of the RCES Working Group's collective knowledge, lived experience and Indigenous worldview, generously shared as it pertains to clean energy challenges in BC's remote communities.