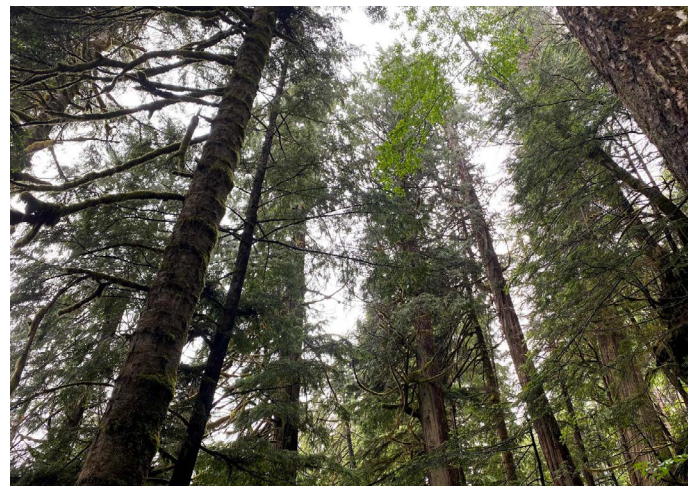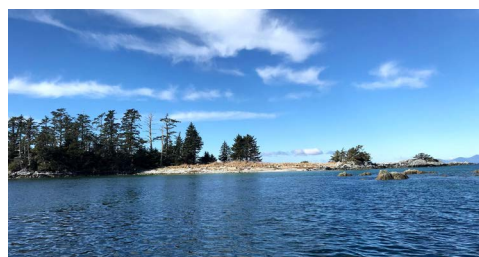# Indigenous Engagement on the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy
Summary Report

This report was prepared as we learned about the remains of 215 children found at the former Kamloops Residential School in Tk'emlúps te Secwe'pemc territory.

We acknowledge the lives of the children who didn't make it home and we honour them. We acknowledge the grief felt by their families and we honour them. We acknowledge the experiences of the Survivors and their loved ones and we honour them. We acknowledge the need for ongoing healing, truth, and reconciliation.

Every child matters.

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Introduction

Alderhill Planning Inc. (Alderhill) is an Indigenous-owned and operated planning company in British Columbia whose team specializes in Indigenous methodology, planning and decision-making methods that incorporate Indigenous protocols and ways of knowing and being.

While providing space for Indigenous voices is important, to honour and respect Indigenous voices we cannot make these perspectives fit into a colonial structure or box. This requires an ongoing commitment to listening. The Enowkinwixw process used by Alderhill asks us to challenge ourselves "to develop an integrated systems approach that benefits the human population and ecosystem as a whole." It is not enough for our partners to simply offer space for Indigenous voices and have this report written through an Indigenous lens. Those reading this report must find ways to incorporate and utilize Indigenous ways of knowing and being into all aspects of their work moving forward.

To honour the participation of Indigenous community members, leadership, Elders and youth, we have not edited or changed most of the terms used by participants. This is done with the understanding of, and respect for, the different experiences, and perspectives brought by each participant. It is important to acknowledge the level of understanding within communities as it relates to the initiatives they are participating in, and the topics they are providing feedback on. In some instances, clarification has been provided where specific organizations or programs are mentioned (e.g. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada versus Indigenous Services Canada).

It is important to respect the voices of participants, their understanding, and their perspectives without trying to interpret this information into what we, as the writers, think the report should say. To maintain the integrity of the feedback we hear, we must ensure that non-Indigenous partners do not interpret or present the feedback of Indigenous participants to form a narrative that paints government in a more favorable light that's easier for decision-makers to digest. What participants shared remains at the core of this report and in the work moving forward.

For many years, much of Alderhill's work has been to facilitate engagement with Indigenous communities as part of the Province's response to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and we do this work having the expectation of ourselves and our partners that this work will result in fundamental change. It is important for our partners to understand that providing space for Indigenous participation and engagement is not a checkbox to demonstrate that a ministry or government entity has fulfilled its mandate with respect to including Indigenous voices in their work.

As stated in the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low-Carbon Innovation mandate letter:

> *True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to working with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. The provincial and federal governments – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.*
>
> *Equity and anti-racism: Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work.*

In this way, bringing Indigenous voices to the table to hear their perspectives and concerns is only the first step. Taking what has been said and translating that into meaningful change that responds to the identified needs of Indigenous peoples is where the rubber truly hits the pavement. Sustained, flexible, and concrete action must be built into short, medium, and long-term plans that the government is required to act on so that a cohesive strategy can come to life. This is what is needed to move reconciliation forward and create responsive opportunities for communities and individuals.

Situating This Report

Indigenous peoples have the inherent right of self-determination to exercise long-established and comprehensive traditions that maintain ecological balance and the safety and holistic well-being of their citizens. Indigenous peoples have a wealth of traditional and local knowledge that must be incorporated as an important source of information for energy resiliency.

Through the BC Community Clean Energy Branch, Alderhill was retained by the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low-Carbon Innovation in partnership with Natural Resources Canada to host a series of five virtual engagement sessions in the spring of 2021. In addition to building on provincially-led engagement sessions from 2020, these five sessions were intended to gather feedback and advice from remote Indigenous communities that are currently reliant on diesel for their energy needs in order to inform program development on clean energy and focus on diesel reduction.

During the five sessions, the Alderhill team heard from participants and representatives from Indigenous communities, organizations, and governments across the province. The discussions centered around the Province's Remote Community Energy Strategy initiatives and provided an opportunity to build awareness and understand where communities are at in planning for renewable energy generation.

While invitations to participate in the sessions were sent to 26 Indigenous communities that are presently reliant on diesel as their main energy source, it should be noted that this report only reflects the viewpoints of the community representatives who attended the sessions. The report is not representative of all communities currently reliant on diesel. Despite receiving invitations to participate in these sessions, many communities remain absent from the conversation, and this is important to keep in mind while reading this report. Of note, several participants who did come to the sessions are also on the Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Working Group, a technical advisory committee of representatives from Indigenous communities working with the BC Community Clean Energy Branch in the creation of the Remote Community Energy Strategy.

The questions posed to prompt discussion at the first three sessions covered three main topics that were selected because they emerged through community engagements led by the Province in 2020 prior to retaining Alderhill to facilitate these five sessions in 2021. The three topics covered during the first three sessions were: community capacity building; housing and energy efficiency; and renewable energy generation.

The fourth session looked at questions around outcomes and emerging topics from the first three sessions: UNDRIP; food security; operations and maintenance, and community participation. Because the fourth session had a small number of participants from communities and a large number of government employees and consultants, participants suggested that session four operate differently so it was held in one large virtual circle instead of smaller breakout rooms as was done for the first three sessions.

The fifth and final session discussed collaboration and next steps, with a special focus on funding structures. As with the fourth session, due to low community participation it was suggested by participants that the session be held as a full group discussion. For the full list of questions explored in the five sessions, please see Appendix D.

In an effort to make this process as transparent and accessible as possible, participants of the sessions and those who could not attend were invited to review the notes after each session to contribute more feedback to be incorporated into the final report. Finally, once a draft report had been complete, it was sent out to all participants for their feedback before the final draft was submitted to the Province.

A common thread throughout the five sessions was the need for the Province to acknowledge and respect Indigenous self-determination, a cornerstone of UNDRIP. One way to think of self-determination is having the ability to participate, plan, and make decisions for yourself, your family, community, Nation and your land, based on inherent rights, knowledge and natural law, and without the interference of colonial policies and practices. This report is situated within a shifting political and legal reality in Canada and BC with respect to rights recognition and self-determination.

The Enowkinwixw Process

Alderhill utilizes an Indigenous planning and decision-making process called Enowkinwixw which is based on the Syilx creation story called, "How Food was Given" or the "Four Food Chiefs" story. This story explains how important it is for us to include all voices in our decision-making and tells us how to listen to each other so we can make good decisions.

Enowkinwixw is not a process in which we come together and try and figure out something new. It is a process of clarification of what we already know. There are very specific ways and protocols that we set out in the beginning of our discussion that allow us to honour one another's voices in our decision-making. Through this process, we acknowledge that we all have different perspectives, experiences, and ways of doing things, but that each voice is important.

It is also important to note that the Enowkinwixw approach maintains that existing life forms in the natural world like animals, plants, water and air, all have status, right and privileges that are equal to humans and all those benefits that humans enjoy must also be recognized and protected for the life forms that existed in the natural world before humans came to be.

The Four Food Chiefs Story

Before people came to be, there were animal people who roamed the earth. One day, the Creator came down and said to the Four Food Chiefs, "There is going to be a new being that walks this earth and I want you to figure out how this being will survive." Then he put the being between the Chiefs and left.

The Four Food Chiefs are Skemxist, Chief Black Bear who was chief of the four legged and winged animals; Siya, Chief Saskatoon Berry who was chief of all the plants that grew above ground; Spitlem, Chief Bitterroot who was chief of all the plants that grew below ground; N'tytiyixw, Chief Spring Salmon who was chief of all the animals in the water.

The chiefs all looked at the being that was left in the center and said, "This is the most pitiful being I have ever seen. How is it supposed to survive? It has an empty head and no fur to keep it warm or teeth to eat and can't even run away if it needed to."

The chiefs looked to Chief Black Bear, who was the eldest of the chiefs and said, "You're the oldest, you tell us what you're going to do." So, Chief Black Bear thought about it and thought about it. Finally, he said, "I will lay down my life for this being and it can use my body for whatever it needs to survive."

The other chiefs looked at each other and said that they too would give up their lives for this being. So Chief Black Bear laid his body on the ground and told the chiefs, "I will lay my life down now and it is up to you to sing me back to life."

Chief Black Bear laid down and the chiefs gathered around to sing their songs to bring him back to life. The chiefs finished their songs; Chief Black Bear didn't come back to life. So, all of the other animals and plants and fish and winged ones came to sing their song. And still, Chief Black Bear didn't come back to life.

All of the animal people stood around Chief Black Bear and Fly came buzzing around, trying to get past everyone and saying, "Please, let me sing my song, I want to sing my song." All of the animal people swatted Fly away saying, "Go away, no one wants to hear your song. All you do is bug people and eat crap. Go away." But Fly managed to get through the people and came to sit on Chief Black Bear's ear and there he sang his song.

Chief Black Bear rose and came back to life.

All of our laws are held in our stories and language. Our stories tell us how we must govern ourselves and make good decisions for the good of all living things. Alderhill takes its direction from these creation stories when it comes to communicating, planning and making important decisions.

This story tells us many things, but some of the most important teachings that we carry forward in this work are to ensure that we capture as many voices, perspectives and experiences as possible and to create a space that honours all of those perspectives, even if we have different perspectives. Even if we do not like each other, it is important to remember that everyone and everything has purpose and all of those perspectives are required to bring back life.

Limitations of the Sessions

The number of Indigenous communities, organizations, and governments for these sessions was relatively low, with 7-11 participants present at each session. Over the five sessions, there were 20 participants, which included three guest speakers, from 16 different communities, and one representative from the BC Assembly of First Nations. Internet connectivity remains a challenge for remote communities, and many participants were unable to use both video and audio at the virtual engagements because of limited connectivity. It was noted at each session that many of the same communities are always at these types of engagement sessions, and that more needs to be done to ensure other communities are not being left behind, and are willing and able to participate. This is in line with UNDRIP and the concept that there is 'nothing about us, without us.'

Overarching Themes

01 United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

"What does UNDRIP mean when we pursue clean energy projects in our community?"

In November 2019, the BC government became the first jurisdiction in North America to pass legislation to implement the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

Participants in the engagement sessions shared many experiences which directly translate into and reflect the government's obligation to support First Nations in pursuing their remote clean energy goals in a manner that aligns with the articles in UNDRIP.

As it relates to the actions of government, including through RCES, the BC government now formally recognizes its obligations under UNDRIP and the rights of Indigenous peoples. A number of UNDRIP articles directly apply to the perspectives and action items identified in this report, and these articles can be found at Appendix C of this report.

Clean Energy Linkages to Health and Culture

The connection between access to clean energy and First Nations' culture and health cannot be understated. When communities are locked into running diesel, paying high hydro rates, and fighting government and industry attempts to bring energy projects through their territories that can put the environment at risk without their free, prior and informed consent, this negatively impacts the health of communities and their financial resources that should be used to enhance their quality of life in ways that are sustainable and supportive of First Nations' health, social development, and economic prosperity.

Food Insecurity Impacts and Realities

For many remote communities, food security is cultural security, and both are connected to energy security. Some participants noted that reliably powering multiple freezers is required to preserve seasonal and traditional foods so that they can feed families healthy food throughout the year. Having an available stock of traditional foods is also needed for cultural purposes such as feasts and for gatherings when a community member passes away. Communities cannot be without these traditional foods; they have an Indigenous right to these foods and need them to perform cultural ceremonies.

When government and industry attempt to push projects through that have the potential to decimate traditional foods through industry spills on the land or in the sea, this is an unacceptable risk to, and infringement on Indigenous rights to harvest traditional foods.

For food that is coming from outside traditional territories, remote communities are often at the mercy of greenhouse gas (GHG) intensive systems for transporting food into communities. Whether by barge or vehicle, there is a considerable amount of energy required to transport food into remote communities. This food is often expensive, in very limited supply, and is of poor quality, including fresh food like produce.

02 Funding Structures

"We've been taught to compete with each other, judge each other, try to get as much as we can out of each opportunity. We need to be more cognizant of what each other's doing and how we achieve those successes."

Promoting Inequality and Competition

The way that clean energy projects are funded continues to be a concern for many participants. Funding opportunities that position nations and communities against one another creates competition and secrecy between groups, and is viewed as a continued colonial practice that divides communities. Communities may feel that collaborating or sharing information with other communities about their success will affect their own ability to secure funding in the future due to the scarcity of funds allocated to support communities.

As one participant noted, given that billions of dollars' worth of natural resources have been extracted from traditional territories in British Columbia, there is no excuse for the reported scarcity of funding for clean energy projects for First Nations' communities. The continued focus on funding oil and gas operations and subsidies will continue to take those funds away from clean energy innovation until priorities change at provincial and federal levels.

Leaving Communities Behind

Because the amount of funding allocated by government does not always meet the clean energy needs of remote communities, it can leave communities behind when they don't have the capacity to engage, plan, and bring a project to life. In this way, participants noted a trend of repeated disengagement from some remote communities because the actual needs of these communities are not being considered and addressed by government. Instead, the priority is furthering the government's own agenda in creating funding opportunities that may work well for some communities, but do not meet the needs of other communities who continue to fall further and further behind. Without sufficient funding, projects can remain on the sidelines for years. Community members also voiced concern around the lack of government support throughout a project, from concept to completion.

While provincial and federal governments may present obstacles for some communities moving forward, one participant shared their experience that tribal councils can also create barriers. Where a small community is part of a larger tribal council that is supposed to be representing their interests, some members sitting at the tribal council table have competing interests and won't provide funding to the smaller community, instead favoring larger communities within the tribal council's membership. In this way, the tribal council structure has impeded smaller communities from getting off diesel. Looking at this from a different angle, another participant felt that funding should go to the biggest targets where the most impact would be felt.

Without options to create and maintain energy sovereignty, nations will continue to be dependent on BC Hydro and diesel. Some participants shared that they felt BC Hydro's main priority is the ratepayers and gaining control of the energy market. In this way, some First Nations did not feel supported to manage or maintain BC Hydro run-of-river infrastructure after it was in place, and so this option was not pursued.

"I want to be self-managed and self-maintained, but if we keep on having to ask you guys for money, we're going to keep having these same conversations."

There are about 40 communities that are not connected to the provincial electricity grid, or are at the end of a line that may not be reliable. Many of them have had energy plans that have been completed by the community and BC Hydro over the years. While every community plan included a vision for a clean energy project to build business and develop stewardship, many of these plans were never fully funded, and projects have not been realized.

For communities that continue to operate full-time on diesel systems, these systems operate at full or close to capacity. In this way, communities need to have the next energy source completely ready to go before a community can come off diesel. Projects that are stalled or near completion will not be of value to the community until they are completed.

One participant shared that the continued use of a Return on Investment (ROI) calculation by decision-makers is a poor method to decide investments in clean energy, in the same way that an ROI calculation would not be presented for the development of a sewage system – it's simply accepted that it needs to be done. Unlike decision-makers, communities are not concerned with a negative ROI because the values assigned in those calculations do not reflect the weight or value of the practical benefits that a clean energy project will bring to the community.

"There are lots of government departments as well as BC Hydro that require money from remote communities. These departments should have to come up with the funding and capital, not the communities. You want more studies? You pay for the studies."

Any First Nation that will be impacted by a decision on their hydro rates when BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission are conducting rate reviews needs to be invited to the table as an equal partner. Failing to include First Nations in decisions affecting them is contrary to UNDRIP and does not demonstrate leadership in shared decision-making. Until First Nations are supported to manage their own systems, they will continue to be dependent on BC Hydro. BC Hydro needs to meet communities halfway to get off diesel.

03 Time for Change

Even for some communities that have the capacity to plan accordingly and move a project forward, funding barriers continue to present themselves in different ways. A patchwork of funding sources for a single project can result in unpredictability which can destabilize a project that is trying to move ahead. One participant shared that even when $6 million dollars was secured to launch a project, it was not the full amount required and so the project waited for years until a non-profit organization stepped in to get the project off the ground. Without the support of the non-profit organization, there wouldn't be a community energy program in that community.

"Nations are tired of being kicked aside because of one technicality."

Some participants shared that the way that funding opportunities are offered doesn't always consider the practical realities on the ground where communities need access to cash upfront to pay for things that help to get a project off the ground. Governments need to help communities pay for things prior to development, not just during and after. From putting deposits on equipment in advance, to hidden costs in renovations that were not anticipated, to government funding that only kicks in after a project is complete: government funding needs to respond to the unforeseen challenges that arise as a project moves forward. Building flexibility into the funding model would ensure a project is not stalled because the funding provided cannot be used to fix critical issues that will delay or stall progress if left unaddressed.

"There is not one of our communities who wants to have diesel and burn it in our communities. Yet here we are 20 years later and we're at the same place as we were 20 years ago. It's not right and if the RCES is just going to tinker around the edges, we're going to find ways to divert money."

For projects that have already started or ones that need upgrading, participants reported that their applications for funding have been rejected. To counter this, First Nations are getting increasingly creative in trying to fit the circle into the square, renaming their projects to match criteria for funding applications. If there is a project out there that is almost complete and has a definitive plan on reaching completion, funding should be prioritized for that project to help it cross the finish line.

One participant shared that when their community was looking for extra financing from a bank because government funding was insufficient, the loan would take 22 years to repay and the bank wanted personal guarantees from every member of Chief and Council. Because of the high amount of the loan, all of the funding for social services and roads had to be committed to the loan. A community should never have to contemplate that. As one participant noted, if Premier Horgan and Prime Minister Trudeau are not required to provide personal guarantees to secure essential services for their people, how can that burden be placed on a First Nation?

Uncoordinated Efforts by Partners

Some participants noted their experience with a lack of coordination and in-fighting between different partners who are supposed to be providing sufficient funding for projects. Instead of making communities piece together different slices of funding opportunities, governments and partners are in the best position to know what funding is available, and approach communities to understand what their needs are so that the most appropriate opportunities can be put on the table.

"While provincial and federal governments may commit to partial or whole costs of the project, nobody wants to be the first one to put the money down, so it makes it difficult."

The funding from partners must look to the long-term so that plans can be made well in advance, and annual funding opportunities should consider having intake on a biannual basis to avoid an avalanche of applications coming in at the same time. With the way funding currently works, it does not support long-term planning. The longer a project takes to develop, the higher the costs so it's important to focus on the project and get it done as quickly as possible. This means communities are trying to piece together different funding streams to try to achieve their goals, and this can be frustrating and ineffective when working on tight timelines. Combined funding pots are difficult to manage and rarely come together synonymously for the timeline required.

"It's just a puzzle and you have to fit all the pieces together."

One participant shared their vision for a better way to determine, distribute, and coordinate funding within nations, which would be having a pool of funding where all the leaders from that nation could make a case for how the funding would be spent and decide amongst themselves. Another participant noted that having an energy plan should be the highest priority for nations, and funding should be guaranteed for communities based on what is contained in their plan.

Lack of Understanding of Community Realities

Many remote communities face extreme weather conditions. When partners do not coordinate their funding to respond to these realities, communities are left to manage poor quality infrastructure. It is unacceptable for a partner to say they will fund a home at a certain price, when that price will not provide the infrastructure required to withstand the weather conditions that the community will face. It is not setting the community up for success when that infrastructure will have to be replaced much sooner than if it was built properly the first time.

Further, partners must consider and provide contingency funding for unexpected costs that occur through installation of clean energy technologies into homes. Multiple participants noted that so much of the housing stock is substandard, and installing new technologies and retrofits continues to reveal many challenges. Partners need to be aware of these realities and fund accordingly.

"Can't just put a window in dry rot."

04 Opportunities

"I would love to see more initiatives where the Province, federal government, and nations are working together, building on successes and sharing our lessons learned. There is power in partnerships."

Relationships

Many participants voiced their desire for more information sharing and collaboration between communities in order to leverage the good work that has already happened and support one another to achieve their goals into the future. This could be achieved through increasing support for cohorts or peer networks that can highlight skills and opportunities across many communities in a given region. These cohorts could help communities to quantify their needs and then find ways to fund those needs. Every community has different expertise, from technical capacity to visioning and planning skills, that can be shared to lift up others who are struggling to build their capacity. Further consideration will be given to how these cohorts would be grouped (e.g. by area of interest, by region, degree of remoteness (i.e., only accessible by boat or air), non-integrated areas, energy structures, energy technology interest etc.).

Although delayed due to COVID, four nations were about to embark on an opportunity where members from each nation go to one of the other nations to be trained in different areas, with each nation offering a different type of training. This creates strength through networking, and also helps to build contacts and relationships for future projects. It was recognized that some community members can be apprehensive about leaving their nation to seek training in other communities, but with a peer group that goes from nation to nation, they would have greater support and encouragement to participate. While the example above is specific to training, this idea was also put forward for building houses together and sharing the workload while also being able to buy in bulk, and to barge materials together to reduce costs.

"Everyone benefits from each other's knowledge."

Building relationships between nations has also occurred over many years at annual events like Our Gathering (formerly the Joint Gathering), where communities send representatives to learn and share their experiences with programs and funding for the next budget cycle.

While they are not necessarily cohort groups that would provide training as described above, some participants have also seen great success in accessing funding through groups outside of government like Coastal First Nations, Fraser Basin Council, New Relationship Trust and others.

In addition to building better relationships with neighboring communities and groups, one participant shared their success with building better relationships within their community through weekly meetings to ensure projects were on time and on budget. Coming together in a cohesive way where people can share and understand where each person is at has helped to minimize adversity and centralize climate action work in the community.

05 Training

"A concern is that with smaller remote communities, every time you add technology to a solution, you add an Operations and Maintenance cost. Those are very distinct areas of expertise and you need specific people trained in those areas. What happens when those experts leave? Ongoing training is an issue and becomes a part of your Operations and Maintenance costs. You are actually spending all that money you were trying to save."

Training is essential for any successful long-term energy plan and remains a top priority for many communities. Persistent challenges remain as new and innovative energy solutions require more unique and technical training, along with continuous professional development. Community members who are trained in a particular area may move away, get sick or injured, or find a new job, which can put communities back to square one in building the capacity for that particular job. While it may not be feasible for every community, one participant offered that their community will train two people at a time in order to mitigate and anticipate capacity shortages.

Appendix A:
Table 1 - Training, Mentorship and Opportunities

Training, Mentorship & Opportunities	Training Area	Comments
Cohort and Peer Networks	Project planning and management for energy projects	1. Job shadowing and bringing project planning skills back to community; looking at governments to step up as partners. 2. Creating a regional vision of networks with an online portal or website to share information on successful projects. 3. Consider where new cohorts need to be created (e.g. remote communities without energy plans), and where current cohorts can be expanded. 4. It should be mandatory for successful applications to be shared and accessible so that these wins can help other communities to leverage and build on success. Consider a virtual platform and in-person events like Our Gathering.
Climate Coordinator	Finding contractors using the peer network	Greater support through secured, permanent funding for positions and resources.
Local Project Manager	Project Management	Since hiring a local project manager, one participant noted a lot of success with proposals and project completion. Previously, external consultants, engineers, and contractors were involved and it was found that they favored themselves financially but communities were not aware. Bringing in a local, independent project manager helped to bring accountability and move projects forward. Hire a project manager mentor that goes from Nation to Nation to support the development of local project managers in all communities.

Training, Mentorship & Opportunities	Training Area	Comments
First Nations Ambassadors		Promote programs throughout the regions to specific communities.
Community Workshops	Demand Side Management	1. Switching out lightbulbs for high efficiency bulbs 2. Power bars with timers 3. Aerators in kitchen sinks and shower heads 4. Weather stripping doors and windows 5. "Wait til 8 Program" encouraging people to stagger their energy use to avoid peak demand that would outstrip ability to use electricity 6. Work with company to install smart meters and monitor consumption to understand usage and modify behaviour as needed 7. Include kids and youth, bring workshops into classrooms and curriculums
Opportunity: Analysis and comparison of existing projects	Policy and project analysis	Undergo analysis and comparison between similar sized projects to see where the sticking points and barriers are.
	Governance Recommendation	Consider the governance structures of partners and who communities are doing business with to make sure they have strong structures with clear policies on employment and training opportunities. When things go sideways, communities need to know what steps to take to resolve issues.
Opportunity: Create video on the benefits of sharing resources and relationships	Communications and filmmaking	Looking at doing a deeper dive on Coastal First Nations alliance as a leader in the collaborative model.
Local, regional or provincial training	Construction skills for retrofitting and maintenance	Look at bulk buying and deliveries between several remote communities, including barges.

Training, Mentorship & Opportunities	Training Area	Comments
Post-secondary	University students to build capacity in different community priority areas	Engineers were identified as a profession where internal capacity was needed. Assisting in preparing comprehensive community plans and engagement with other co-op programs.
Energy Coach	Retrofit and maintenance	Mentorship opportunities.
	Conduct energy efficiency audits	Supports communities to achieve energy goals
Auditing Support and reputable Accountants	Accounting	Auditing support can help communities understand the financial viability of projects. Use a reputable accountant to show annual and bi-annual audits to make sure communities are on track.
General Manager in communities	Project Management	Continuity support for projects given changing nature of Chief and Council members due to elections.
	Governance Recommendation	
Opportunity: First Nations Housing Fund	Mentorship and funding for housing challenges	A portion of the support includes mentorship
Opportunity: Green and Inclusive Buildings Fund	Retrofits and new community buildings	https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/index-eng.html $150 million set aside for Indigenous applicants
Opportunity: First Nations Finance Authority	Grant writing	Funding for capital projects
Red Seal Certified / Accreditations	Construction and general contracting, operations and maintenance	Electrical, clean energy and renewables, run of river, solar and wind, hydroponics for greenhouse for food security, tidal and wave energy, hydro modernization, environmental monitoring, sewer and wastewater treatment, arborists and powerline technicians, biomass, biodiesel and renewable diesel, and occupational health and safety* *Participants noted this was a very challenging course and would recommend starting out with other courses to build up knowledge before attempting

Appendix B: Session Summaries

Session 1: Community Capacity Building

In the first session, the questions focused on how to build community capacity within the framework of clean and renewable energy projects; capacity building, training, and energy self-sufficiency were discussed. The session discussion was split into three perspective groups: relationship, action, and innovation. Each group discussed different questions related to the overarching theme of community capacity building.

Relationship Group

Participants noted that the approach to capacity building programming in each nation needs to be flexible and there is no one size fits all solution; appropriate models are ones that can be adaptable to the particular situation and context of the nation. Some participants have been working on energy projects for more than 10 years and discussed how important having people on the ground, and community buy in is, to building capacity and to moving projects forward. One participant noted how important it is to have whole team weekly meetings in terms of managing large scale energy projects, "when problems come up, we're cohesive, and the bottom line is the collaborative approach - capacity building is about having everyone at the table and listening to what everyone is doing, actually listening."

Cohort training was discussed as a desirable module by some participants who noted the positive aspects of learning with peers in a group. Others noted however, that while formal cohort training may be desired, along with certification, informal mentorship training opportunities are often more successful. Additionally, it was noted that not all climate action coordinators in community are at the same career point, and they will have different needs in terms of training. One participant gave an example of a successful capacity building model, funded through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) that was just getting off the ground prior to COVID.

Four nations with energy projects underway were scheduled to travel to each of the four communities for reciprocal maintenance training opportunities. Each nation would provide training in the area that they have expertise in; not all sessions went ahead because of COVID but the training that did was enjoyed and appreciated by members. "People are excited to go to other nations and learn about other energy systems, and the fear was reduced because you aren't in a corporate group." It was noted by a few participants that not everyone wants to leave their community for training, for pre-trades for example, so alternative training programs are also needed.

One participant noted that they are just getting started in their energy project, and need all the training and help they can get, while others are further ahead in their plans and have more specific needs. The need to train and retain local people in specific areas of expertise, like solar power maintenance, and wastewater treatment was discussed.

One participant shared about the importance of involving children in the discussion around reducing energy use and about the need to be flexible with planning around education. She shared how her team showed up to a nation to give a presentation about their community's hydro project, and that the whole community had left for their summer camp out on a nearby island. Instead of rescheduling, the team went out to the island and the children in the community put on the presentation as a play. It was a great success and example of how capacity building and community building go hand in hand.

Innovation Group

Participants noted that energy self-sufficiency ties into all other aspects of self-sufficiency including food security, high levels of employment, and better collaboration between levels of government, including a departure from competitive models of funding.

In terms of working towards energy goals, participants noted that funding and cash flow determines how much or how little gets done. Limiting cash flow to particular timelines of project completion was noted as being a major inhibiting factor for success. One participant noted how in their last project for energy efficiency upgrades in homes, a minimum of $5000 in upgrades was needed for every home (in addition to the costs of the program), and that the government needs to consider moving funds around to cover those hidden costs. Participants noted that the hidden costs of repairs, the increasing prices of construction supplies and planning for energy projects including demand side management programming, made planning for energy projects increasingly difficult. "The costs are just going to keep going up, but we don't have the money. We have good intentions but if we don't look at all the hidden costs we can possibly encounter, we could be in trouble." It was noted that the quality of housing stock makes energy efficiency upgrades a significant planning challenge.

Program flexibility and ongoing mentorship and training were noted as important, non-financial ways the government can support communities in their energy goals. Participants noted that people at different life stages will benefit more from things like childcare support. Additionally it was shared that Clean BC programming seems to be working well, however there could be more success if multiple projects are supported in tandem, instead of one at a time. A frustration that was raised from one participant was that even when the government had promised $6 million for an energy project, it wasn't enough and only when Fraser Basin Council stepped in, was the community able to proceed. While some clean energy projects would like to proceed, without funding in full, can never be realized. The participant noted that that money sat for years.

Action Group

Participants in this group spoke about the need for all levels of government to take responsibility and start finding solutions for climate change on a large scale. It was noted by multiple participants that the burden cannot be placed on small communities to solve these wide scale problems, and that nations are working hard to address climate change at the community level. One participant noted that for the nation they work for "the capacity to find the capacity is not even here" noting that people are overwhelmed with the volume and scale of work, there isn't room to think about capacity building. The participant felt that the government needs to help, if the goal is truly to become energy self-sufficient and get off of diesel. There was discussion around how communities are stretched so thin, and yet the government programs are being reduced. Communities are doing all they can, but they need the government to come to the table and make them the priority, instead of industry.

"We need the government to stop working with industry and start working with the community".

One participant noted that education to support capacity building is key; young people need to have easy access to training in the energy sector. Capacity affects programs and funding; it was noted that communities need support the whole way through to ensure that projects survive.

Training was another topic discussed by the action group. It was noted that communities have found success in working with university students on comprehensive community plans, and on other co-op programs; not only to work together on projects, but as a way to have more people understand the realities of rural remote communities. Participants discussed that training for solar installation and solar water tanks is an area of interest; it was emphasized that training needs to focus on local people, who will hopefully stay in community to maintain energy projects.

A few participants noted the need to consider not only getting the initial project off the ground, but the long-term costs associated with operations and maintenance, as well as the capacity required to keep these projects running. One participant noted that for heat pump installation, any time there are any issues, they need to bring someone in because there is no tradesperson in the community. Training local people in the skills needed to support energy projects, as well as having local project managers to oversee the project in the long term, are two important aspects of capacity building and training identified by the group.

Session 2: Buildings and Energy Efficiency

In this session, the main topics discussed were buildings and energy efficiency. A presentation on demand side management was given, and participants chose breakout groups for perspective discussions.

Demand Side Management (DSM) Presentation-Benefits and Program Challenges:

The presenter discussed many of the immediate cost savings benefits of demand side management, particularly when a remote community is reliant on BC Hydro. The presenter gave DSM ideas such as changing out lightbulbs, power bars with timers, aerators in the shower heads and sinks, as well as weather stripping doors and windows. A program called 'Wait until Eight' has been used to encourage community members to delay the use of energy to avoid peak demand.

The presenter also discussed a community's recent experience installing heat pumps in every building of the community, and so far, it seems that community members are experiencing lower energy bills. The CleanBC Indigenous Community Heat Pump Incentive is funded through the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation at 80% and was supported by BC Hydro (20%) up to a maximum of $200,000. Some of the challenges of this program were in the hidden costs of upgrades needed for buildings, and that the funding was released after installation. Some participants questioned whether the heat pumps will make a difference in the long term, and if they will change other habits, like the use of the air conditioning.

Relationship Group

Participants in this perspective group discussed the impacts to community when there are problems with housing. It was noted that housing is a complex issue; and there are multiple people involved, including housing heads, building managers, and now climate action coordinators. Fixing electricity or plumbing troubles requires hiring a person in that trade, and that person may or may not be in community, then you have to think about payment and different bands have different policies. It was noted that communities on reserve have different needs and that not all contractors understand this. One participant noted that their community has adopted their own building code specific to the weather conditions of their community. Others noted the importance of government funding high quality, environmentally considerate housing.

"If you ignore the water and the snow, it's a big issue. We miss all types of opportunities there. Funders need to be tied into those codes. Not good for INAC (ISC) to say "we're giving away 80K to build a home. We need to think about the cost of building high-quality homes. Homes that last, not that you have to rebuild every couple of decades."

Energy efficiency is a priority in communities, particularly around costs associated with energy usage. it was noted however that it is sometimes a priority that gets lost or skewed amongst other priorities; and this include seasonal priorities such as the fishing season. It was said that the upcoming BC Hydro rate review has had less engagement than in the past, which is a concern. Participants also discussed how challenging the housing situation is; there are many hidden costs that can hinder people from making upgrades. The linkage between housing and building capacity for the clean energy sector, was also noted; people are needed in community but also that they need a home to live in. Ways to engage community members in energy efficiency were also discussed: mentorships, idea sharing, and awareness campaigns were noted, as well the ability to monitor electricity usage through smart meters. Participants noted the importance of programming geared toward youth.

Innovation Group

Participants in this perspective group discussed what an ideal program for energy efficiency in community would look like. It was noted that any program needs to improve quality of life and contribute to reduced emissions. One participant discussed how their community has been energy independent for the past 40 years, and it is their goal to stay that way, especially as their community continues to grow. A hydro modernization project, solar grid, battery bank, and solar island are all energy projects that the community is working on and towards. It was noted that they have had success for funding from GBI and Fraser Basin Council as well as ISC, however finding funding for their modernization project was a real challenge and has taken 10 years. Given this, they have found the funding through multiple different sources. One participant discussed the success they have had with pilot projects around housing upgrades. A handful of people were trained, and then 10 buildings were selected for hydrometer installation which has benefited demand side management. Participants emphasized two key pieces, having local people trained to do the work and having community buy in.

It was requested that Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation consider funding a structure similar to Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities (CERRC) where nations visit each other to do training. It was noted that there is so much additional value in networking, and building relationships between communities, and it can help strengthen training attendance. Peer group settings are more comfortable and inviting to people.

Participants also discussed the state of housing in their communities; it was expressed by several participants the frustration of being met by government with competitive funding structures for housing renovations. Participants do not want competitive funding structures, even the communities who are often successful in getting funding; participants want to see all nations have safe and healthy housing. One participant noted that their housing stock had been built on poisonous fumes that were spilling into homes, and all had to be demolished. Many noted a dire discrepancy between the housing quality in remote communities and housing 'down south.' Participants expressed how one set of renovations can lead to huge costs, as there are so many issues that present themselves once renovations have begun. One participant proposed that nations work together to help each other build houses either through labour or financially, and to think of transporting materials in bulk together through coordinated barging efforts.

Participants discussed the importance of having someone in a dedicated climate action coordinator position who is able to find contractors, using the peer network, someone who understands the realities of doing a project in a remote community. "Having that focused attention can help towards more program success."

Resources

Green and Inclusive Community Buildings: https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/index-eng.html

CleanBC Indigenous Community Energy Coach: https://betterhomesbc.ca/indigenous-coach/

Session 3: Renewable Energy Generation

This session was developed around the topic of renewable energy generation.

Presentation on the Indigenous Off Diesel Initiative (IODI):

The presenter opened with a quote from Chris Henderson that there is power in partnerships, and imparted words from her Auntie 'take good care of the land'. The presenter showed this video: 'Haíłzaqv Climate Action Engagement Video 1' https://youtu.be/PoK_NjzV11o

The presenter then discussed the impact of the Nathan E. Stewart tugboat running aground in a culturally sensitive area of Haíłzaqv territory impacting clam beds, a sustainable food source for millennia, with over 20 species, and spilling diesel into the territory. This incident mobilized the nation to apply to the federal Off-Diesel Initiative as a way to protect the land, water, and resources from future impacts.

The presenter discussed the importance of having the community on board in this project, and developing clean energy literacy amongst community members, emphasizing that the community knows what is happening and knows what to do to protect the land and water. She noted the project uses an online platform called Ethelo, and has also employed tools like Facebook live, email surveys. She also noted the relationship building value of doing a cultural orientation with Ethelo and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

Relationship Group

The participants discussed how involving the youth in clean energy literacy is so important; one participant noted that in their experience with creating a clean energy plan, community buy-in is vital to their success, and that leaders of these projects should not underestimate their community's knowledge. It was noted that this often takes more time, but the end result is stronger. It was additionally noted that programs and initiatives need to be community led, not organization or consultant led. Communities know the capacity they have for projects, but outsiders are often just there to make money and will leave the community behind once they are paid.

Participants noted that some programs (NRT, FBC, FCM) are being oversubscribed and this makes it more challenging to find funding. Building and maintaining trilateral relationships was emphasized, as was strategic relationship building. There was a desire to know more about how Indigenous juries for competitive funding processes decide who gets the funding. Some participants noted that funding for projects often feels like a hurry up and wait process, and that there should be more flexibility around projects at different stages. Concern was expressed by participants upon hearing that an RCES program has been oversubscribed and then undersubscribed. Participants noted that the same communities show up to all the same events, and wonder if other communities are feeling discouraged. It was suggested that application structures be adjusted to accommodate communities who weren't successful in a first round of funding by having rollover applications. Participants requested to understand why some communities were unsuccessful with the RCES applications. It was discussed that the IODI program is enjoying some success because communities apply to the program and then access funding once in the program, rather than having to apply with a specific project or idea.

One participant discussed natural energies, wind and sun. It was said that in the participant's language there are so many names for the wind, and that the north wind was dominant and bullied his way to create the ice age, with help from the red cod and halibut. It was mentioned how interconnected the environment is; some community members can tell what kind of salmon stock are going to return based on the color of the salmon berries.

Innovation Group

In this group, renewable energy generation approaches were discussed. Participants named climate change as the biggest and most imminent threat to their communities, and that because of this the funding needs to be there to support innovative technologies, even if they are more expensive. It was noted that BC Hydro is one of the biggest obstacles for community's achieving clean energy goals. One participant expressed that GHG reductions are good but not the end target. People need quality of life and government programs need to consider how they contribute to improved quality of life. Another challenge to achieving energy goals is sustainable funding that goes long term.

Participants talked about the necessity of nations owning their own energy, and being able to monitor energy usage. One participant discussed the seasonal changes in power supply from their run of the river project- that spring and summer have strong power, but the demand is much higher in the winter months.

Nations are doing and thinking about so many different clean energy projects: dams, run of the river system, biomass, and solar were discussed, and some participants are thinking about BC Hydro's electrification plan, and what the risks are.

Action Group

The action group discussed what it would take to get renewable energy generation happening in communities.

One participant noted an important differentiation between demand side management activities like solar panels on buildings, or heat pump installation, and renewable energy generation to support an entire community. This participant noted that they have had long term challenges to getting a hydroelectric project going, explaining that delays add costs to project, and that politics amongst government agencies include BC Hydro and ISC resulted in their community losing an opportunity for a hydroelectric project. Money had been sourced through multiple funders, and still the community was short of the money it needed. The government didn't have the money, and the banks wouldn't finance the project.

Participants discussed the First Nations Finance Authority as an entity to source financing for capital projects. It was explained that the same return on investment criteria that might be applied to projects through BC Hydro or BCUC, should not be applied to communities looking to create renewable clean energy to power their communities. Clean energy systems should be looked at in the same way sewer systems are looked at: a basic necessity for the community.

One participant noted that the capital costs to build 1 megawatt of power is different than 2 or 3. They explained that the costs are incremental but not exponential, but the costs of being a remote community add up fast, and both governments' and banks are apprehensive to support these types of projects. The costs are compared to energy projects for non-reserve or non-remote communities and this can make the costs appear extraordinarily high. It was noted that costs are not fixed and constantly shifting and increasing.

Participants noted that once a project is selected, it needs to be fully funded. The competitive funding model was rejected by multiple participants, and they explained that all communities need to be supported where they are at. One participant shared that for an energy project it was expected to take 22 years for the community to repay the loan, but the banks requested personal guarantees from chief and council. "Maybe a chief will put their name on it if Horgan and Trudeau would. How can you put that burden on a first nation? We are not going to do it." Participants shared that they are feeling more hopeful that government is moving in the right direction for funding.

Participants discussed funding structures, and that the stage gated model is not always effective. Funding can be needed prior to the first stage, not during and not after. Participants noted that there are often problems with paying people using traditional funding models, because communities do not have capital to lean on in the beginning. It was expressed that all funders are trying to be the last ones to come to the table with funding and this hurts projects.

Session 4: Emerging Topics

At Session Four, emerging topics were discussed which included UNDRIP, food security, operations and maintenance, and community participation. Additionally, cohort models and peer training networks were discussed. In this session, the conversation was held in one large virtual circle and there were no breakout sessions.

Food Security and Energy Sovereignty

Participants stated the direct link between energy security and food security. Without energy to power fridges and freezers there is no food security. Therefore, energy security is also key to cultural security, ensuring that communities have access to cultural foods throughout the year is important, especially for events and ceremonies. Participants also noted that being in a remote community necessitates having more freezers to store food in, as there are limited or no grocery stores. There is fear of what will happen to power reliability as climate change continues to impact these communities. One participant explained how their community relies on fresh produce to be barged in twice a week- it's GHG intensive, the supply is limited and of poor quality, and there are financial implications for people who take time off of work to purchase the food. They noted that localizing food systems addresses all of these challenges.

Participants explained that energy security is really about Nations being in control of their own future and not subject to BC Hydro's or the Provincial and Federal governments agendas. Participants also spoke of the implications of transporting oil and diesel through traditional territories and the risk that poses to food and cultural security. Nations are in constant battle with industries, such as LNG, to stop them from putting their territories at risk; these constant battles with industries detracts from the community's ability to move energy projects forward.

One participant stated that they are constantly working on the government's agenda, instead of on their own. Government needs to support communities' agendas, not the other way around.

"We've been fighting the whole time trying to get our agenda, we wouldn't have gone after heat pumps if the program had a clean energy system that would meet our needs."

Another participant noted how there is limited interest and funding available for new technologies; when nations are interested in innovative technology like tidal energies, how can they move the conversation forward if funding is geared towards status quo technologies?

Operations and Maintenance

There was discussion around the need to consider and plan for operations and maintenance, for one participant, their community was considering a complex clean energy system as an alternative to hydroelectric, only to realize that the hydroelectric project became more cost-effective at year 26. Communities need to consider the long-term costs associated with operations and maintenance and try to build capacity around this. One participant shared that they try to train two people, in case someone is sick or away. It was also noted that different types of energy technologies are going to require different types of training-often ongoing. The government should consider how they can support operations and maintenance training in the long-term.

Community Participation

Participants noted that virtual engagement is challenging, and the invitations do not always reach the right person. One participant suggested that participation in engagement be part of the funding process. Our Gathering (formerly the Joint Gathering), an ISC annual event, was noted as a well-attended conference by nations, and that something similar where communities can learn about funding opportunities in provincial revenue streams may be beneficial. It was again noted the importance of mentorship and also of having engagement be nation led. One participant shared however that sometimes there are politics within Indigenous governance structures that prevent one nation or band from participating in a program. It was recommended that regional ambassadors be established to extend information to communities, especially the non-integrated areas, who may be 100% reliant on diesel. Another participant noted the success of CFN in training and mentorship of climate action coordinators.

Thinking about Cohort Models

In general, participants see value and benefit in the cohort model, and expanding the Coastal First Nations Climate Action Coordinator program; there is also room for improvement and expansion to work with more nations. There is a strong desire to move towards building trust and working in partnership with other nations. Participants noted that for hundreds of years colonialism sought to fragment nations, encouraging secrecy, judgement, competition and a scarcity mentality. There was a strong rejection of competitive funding structures amongst participants; reiterating that this type of competition is a colonial mechanism used to reinforce a scarcity mentality.

There are communities willing and open to sharing their successful funding applications with others, and this is a model that should be replicated. One participant expressed that successful communities should be required to share their applications online so other communities can benefit and learn. It was recommended that funding structures be rooted in peer networks; cohorts could help the communities quantify the needs, to understand the needs, quantify fiscally, and then find ways to fund those needs.

Participants expressed some thoughts around how cohort models could be expanded: by area of interest, by region, degree of remoteness (i.e., only accessible by boat or air), non-integrated areas, energy structures, energy technology interests. There was some debate as to whether grouping communities based on singular technology interests might be limiting. It was also expressed that all information be accessible and distributed to communities whether or not they are participating in the cohort networks. One idea is through the use of a digital catalogue that is readily accessible. One participant noted that they feel CFN could function as a central hub and cohort network with smaller cohort groups within that framework.

"We don't have all the same needs and if one nation needs this, and they are shovel ready they should be prioritized, and if one nation needs consultation or community input they should be funded at that level."

Session Five: Collaboration and Next Steps

The final engagement session looked at collaboration and next steps between government and Indigenous communities in the context of RCES, with a special focus on funding structures.

The Province presented to participants on what they had heard from participants, and explained where they are at in terms of thinking about governance models, suggesting that a shared decision making committee between the Province, federal partners, Indigenous representatives, and non-governmental organization representatives may be a possibility.

Participants shared the need for local governance structures to be strong, and to have clear policies on employment and training, to avoid misallocating funds, as well the benefits of having financial audits. One participant noted that when looking at a community's history of project completion, it is important to consider who was leading the project. As shared previously, nations with local project managers tend to see greater success in application and project completion than those led by consultants. It was shared that money allocated to the remote communities energy program is for all remote communities who rely primarily on diesel, but this program is focused on Indigenous communities because they are the majority of the remote communities. Participants shared frustration about the funding process, including the amounts available and the process for distribution, and that their preference is to put the funds in a shared bank account and let Indigenous communities decide on distribution.

Some participants recommended that clean energy plans need to be the baseline for communities; these plans should be funded first, and other projects after. The plans establish community direction and vision. Multiple participants supported the idea of the initial cohort group being communities who do not have clean energy plans, and create the initial request for proposals from there:

"Make the offer to those communities to be part of that cohort and tell them funding will be available to do the work of creating the plan. They can access the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (MIRR) capacity dollars (usually $40,000 per community) and have EMLI fund any short fall through the capacity allocation (the $1.3 million for 3 years). The first 'delivery agent' RFP should be for identifying those communities, forming the cohort, supporting the communities by accessing funding and assisting in plan development and community engagement."

Conversely however, it was noted that having an energy plan does not mean having an energy solution. Financing is a challenge as banks do not fund remote First Nations communities without untenable securities. The participant noted that conversations around energy systems are often looked at from the perspective of the return of investment, but should be looked at from the perspective of basic community infrastructure, this reframing reflects the value of an energy system not as a money making venture, but as a community necessity.

Making Good Funding Decisions

Participants fundamentally rejected the competition model of funding, and the idea that there is limited money available. It was confirmed by participants that there is money; there have been billions extracted from traditional territories, but it is a question of priorities, and the government is choosing to not fund these programs adequately. The government needs to match funding to the goal of 80% diesel reduction by 2030. Communities are done with being pitted against each other, and are done with the scarcity mentality imposed by colonial government systems.

Participants voiced frustration that the integrity and commitment of communities to stewardship of their territories is constantly in question. One participant stated that "There is a lack of belief or true understanding that chiefs and communities want this. There is not one of our communities who wants to have diesel and burn it in our communities." Communities want to be self managed and explained that if they continue asking government for basic needs, these goals can't progress. Another participant explained the challenge with criteria for projects to be "new and innovative" projects but their community was new and innovative 40 years ago; when they needed help to upgrade their system, they were rejected from application processes. Funding needs to be approached practically, if a community is close to their goal, fund them. The priority should be on getting projects completed. Rejecting projects because they are already in progress is not acceptable.

Participants expressed frustration in the government assigning the problems and solutions and budgeting without First Nations. With the small number of remote communities on diesel (40), budgeting should be simple, especially if the provincial and federal government work together. Participants also spoke to the need to have Indigenous representatives on decision making boards for funding. Others spoke of creating large online database with successful funding applications, and examples of energy guides and other resources. Participants also made note of the success of cohort models in solution sharing between communities.

Appendix C:
Applicable UNDRIP Articles for Clean Energy Projects

- States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities (Article 8(2)(a));

- Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions (Article 18);

- Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic, and social systems or institutions, and 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 (Article 20(1));

- Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress (Article 20(2));

- 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 (Article 21(1));

- States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions (Article 21(2));

- 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 23);

- Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution, or when this is not possible, just, fair, and equitable compensation for the lands, territories, and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damages without their free prior and informed consent (Article 28(1)); and

- 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 UNDRIP (Article 39).

Appendix D: Full List of Questions from Five Sessions

Session 1

Tradition	• What do you think of when you think of community capacity and renewable energy? • What do our stories and teachings say? • What are community strengths? • What are barriers to building capacity? • What are our community energy priorities? • What does it look like for Indigenous knowledge to be recognized and incorporated in capacity building?
Relationship	• What relationships are needed for communities to help build capacity to reduce emission? • Who needs to be involved in capacity building? • How do folks feel about cohort training versus training for individuals; formal training or informal mentorship; training within community or travelling to access training? Is certification important? • Do you have priorities for people/groups when it comes to developing community capacity and training? For example, for existing staff, new employees, youth, etc? • How can we make training more accessible? • hat creates a safe and enjoyable learning environment? (examples of programs, institutions, organizations that do this well)
Innovation	• What would it look like for your community to have energy sovereignty/ self-sufficiency? • In terms of reducing emissions and community energy goals, what will it take to get from where you are now to where you want to be? • Beyond direct funding for salary positions, what other ways can government reduce barriers and keep projects and people going for longer? For example, flexibility, housing, mentorship, childcare access, wellness support, training opportunities, networking, other... • What provincial programs have worked well and why? • What provincial programs haven't worked well and why?

Action	• What actions do we need to take to build capacity? • What types of staff capacity are needed by communities to move clean energy projects forward? (ex. Renewable energy literacy/technology expertise, project management, grant writing, other?) • What new positions are needed in your organizations? • How can existing initiatives be better supported? • What types of training have worked well for your community in the past? • How much salary support/hiring support is needed? • If salary support is possible, should it be for a full-time energy coordinator, or a contribution to a more general position? What does capacity funding absolutely need to include to have to make it work? • What would be nice to have, but could be an element where compromise is made? • What would make it a non-starter or not successful?

Session 2

Tradition	
	• What is important to remember when we make plans for our buildings?
	• What do our stories and teachings tell us about our homes and gathering spaces?
	• What do we need to consider when we think about the seasons and buildings and energy efficiency?
	• What previous programs have been accessed? Barriers? Successes?
	• What is important in a home?

Relationship	• Who is impacted when there are problems with buildings and energy efficiency?
	  -How are they impacted?
	  -What do they need?
	  -Who do we need to hear from?

	• Is energy efficiency a priority in community? To what extent?
	• Who needs to be involved in the conversation around energy efficiency, and how can we increase awareness?
	• What has been your experience with the energy coach model? -Does it reduce administrative burden on communities? What more can be done?

	• How much is energy efficiency on the minds of community members?
	  -Are there other priorities?
	  -Are there things we can do to help get people on board?

	• What relational support would help raise awareness?

Innovation	• What does an ideal program to address buildings and energy efficiency look like?
	  -What are the priorities?
	  -Who is involved?
	  -Are there timeline considerations?

	• Have you engaged in energy efficiency strategies in the past?**
	• To what extent are communities thinking about combining retrofits with cosmetic upgrades, and how can energy efficiency upgrades be planned with cosmetic upgrades?
	• How much of these other upgrades are taking place?
	• Are communities interested in training and capacity building associated with energy efficiency work?
	• What types of data sharing for the current building stock and future plans would be helpful for communities?
	• What can we do to facilitate future planning around energy efficiency? Example: data sharing, etc.
	• What supports are needed to ensure new construction is energy efficient?

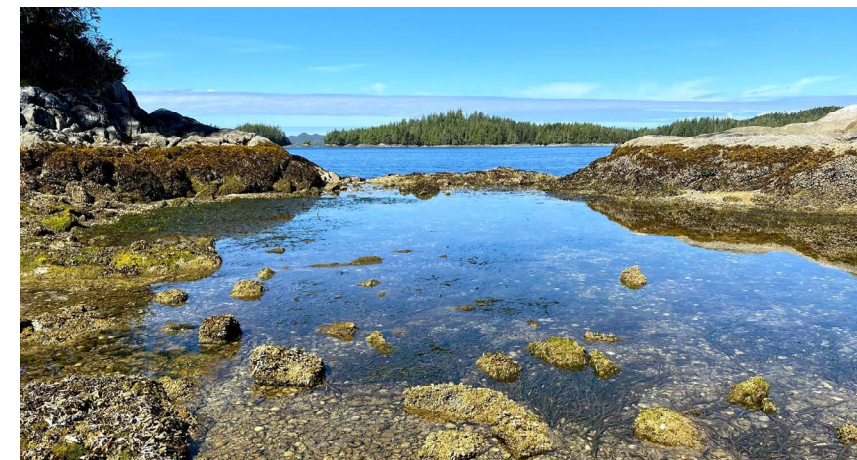| Action	

	• What are the actions we need to take to address buildings and energy efficiency?
	  -Short, medium, long term considerations?
	  -Is there a model that we can look to?

	• What have we tried that doesn't work?
	• Where are greatest needs in making homes and buildings more energy efficient?
	• What supports are needed to make existing homes and buildings energy efficient?
	• What are communities trying to achieve through doing energy efficiency projects?
	• Is there feedback on the Indigenous Community Energy Coach program – critiques/improvement suggestions/things that have worked well?
	• Do you know your community's energy demand usage?** -What types of monitoring and data are important to have?

*** participant questions*

Tradition	• What do you think of when you think of 'renewable energy'? • What do our stories, laws, and teachings tell us about the energy in the land, water, air, sun? -Are there seasonal considerations? • What values are important in funding program governance and decision making? • What are barriers to pursuing renewable energy generation? • Recognizing that not all communities are at the same stage of project development, how can we best meet and support all communities where they are currently at?

Relationship	• In your community, who do we need to hear from in regard to renewable energy generation?
	  -Are there impacts on people that we haven't considered?
	• For funding programs that use a delivery agent (like New Relationship Trust or Fraser Basin Council) how would you like to work with that organization and the program funders?
	• What kinds of delivery agents are preferred?
	  -What services should they provide?
	  -How should activities be distributed between funders, delivery agent, consultants and the community?
	• What works well and what doesn't work well when working with delivery agents?
	  -What considerations do we need to think about specifically for remote communities?
	• What relationships do we need to build to achieve our goals for renewable energy?

Innovation	• Ideally, what does Renewable Energy Generation look like in your community?
	  -What are the priorities?
	  -Who is involved?
	  -Are there timeline considerations?
	  -Where does government (federal and provincial) fit in?
	• What do you think are the top two obstacles to your community achieving desired clean energy and GHG reductions?**
	• In terms of reducing emissions/clean energy goals, what will it take to get from where you are now to where you want to be?
	• What have you done and what are you planning in terms of renewable energy generation?
	• What is the biggest deterrent to applying for clean energy funding?**
	• Competitive funding programs are looking at new ways of decision making, what types of processes would you like to see more of? For example, Indigenous juries, staged funding that is accessed as certain deliverables are met?
	• What are the challenges with competitive funding programs?
	• What should we be working towards in terms of funding structures in the long term?

Action	• What actions do we need to take to develop renewable energy generation?
	  -What are the short, medium, long term considerations?
	  -What have we tried that doesn't work?
	  -Is there a model we can look to?
	  -What action does the government (federal and provincial) need to take to help you? short, medium, long term?
	• What are the must haves in a funding program for renewable energy projects?
	• Funding for large projects is limited and programs are competitive in nature. How can decisions be made to support as many communities as possible?
	• What are the strengths and weakness of funding programs that offer stage gated funding (funding "unlocked" as deliverables are met)

*** participant questions*

Tradition	• What do you think about when you think about moving forward in getting off diesel and towards clean energy knowing that some communities are not part of these discussions?
	• What do our stories, teachings, laws, protocols tell us about working with each other?
	  -About working with other nations?
	  -Are there protocols that we should be considering?
	• What comes to mind when you think of food security and clean energy?
	  -What do our laws and teachings tell us about planning for food security?
	• What do you think of when you think about energy sovereignty?
	  -What do our laws and teachings tell us about planning for energy sovereignty?
	• When we're thinking about our environment, energy and food security are there seasonal considerations that we need to be aware of? Protocols?

Relationship	• In the context of carrying on with these conversations about getting off diesel and incorporating more clean energy, ideally, who would be there, and what do those relationships look like? • What are good ways to include everyone? -What is the role of government (federal and provincial) in supporting more participants to come to these discussions? • What relationships are important when we think about food security in the context of clean energy? • What relationships are important when we think about energy sovereignty? • How can we support people in our communities for long term planning around operations and maintenance of clean energy projects?

Innovation	• What innovative ways can we reach out and connect with communities who aren't here?
	• In an ideal future when carrying on with these conversations, who would be there, and what would that look like?
	  -Are there timeline considerations?
	  -What has worked well in the past?
	  -Where are there gaps?
	• What is the role of government (federal and provincial) in supporting more participants to come to these discussions?
	• What is the role of government (federal and provincial) in supporting clean energy project operations and maintenance?
	• How are food security and energy sovereignty related? Can one support the other?
	• It's 2030 and our communities are energy independent, what did we do right to get there?

Action	• What actions do we need to take to include communities who aren't here?
	  -What are the short, medium, long term considerations?
	  -What have we tried that doesn't work?
	  -What action does the government (federal and provincial) need to take to help? short, medium, long term?
	• How can we create lasting partnerships with more communities starting today?
	• It's 2030 and the operations and maintenance of our energy projects are functioning well- what actions did we take in 2021 to get there- what role did government (provincial and federal) play?
	• What actions do we need to take to work towards food security and energy sovereignty?
	• What are our priorities?
	  -Are there models that have worked well?
	  -Are there lessons we have on things to avoid?

** participant questions

Session 5

1. We have a fixed amount of funds and we want to allocate them in a good way - how can we best do that?

2. What do we do when we need to make a difficult decision regarding funding?
   a. Ex: because of the limited nature of the funds, in the past this has meant funding a smaller number of communities with more money OR funding a larger number of communities with less money - is there another option that we are not considering?

3. What types of governance models are desired?

4. What should the intake process look like?
   a. Open intake?
   b. Bi-annual intake?

5. Who should be included in funding decisions?
   a. Indigenous Jury?
   b. Use cohorts as a decision making body?
   c. Other?

6. Sometimes fixed funding means not being able to fund construction in full - what are the implications of this?
   a. What are the options?
   b. Is there another piece of the project lifecycle to prioritize?

7. What can be done to ensure that communities are prepared to oversee projects?
   a. Beyond the proposed cohort and peer network model what other capacity building supports are needed?

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