



BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan Development Progress Update

March 12, 2021

Introduction

In 2019, First Nations leadership passed resolutions calling for the development of a BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (the “**Climate Strategy and Action Plan**” or, the “**Project**” or, the “**Strategy**”) (UBCIC Resolution No. 2019-02: “Climate Emergency and BC First Nations Climate Emergency Plan” and BCAFN Resolution No. 04/2019: “Climate Emergency and Support for the Development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy”). The First Nations Leadership Council (the “**FNLC**”) has been mandated to develop the Strategy. In February 2021, additional resolutions were passed supporting the development of the Strategy (FNS Resolution No. 0221.15: “BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (BCFNCSAP)”).

The objective of the Strategy is to identify strategies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to strengthen Indigenous climate leadership in BC, to reduce vulnerability to impacts, and to build capacity, understanding and resilience in First Nation communities. The Strategy is intended to help guide climate responses while also communicating to governments and partners of priority areas. This will, in turn, remind governments and partners that climate action is possible only when co-created with First Nations in ways that protect and strengthen Title, Rights, and jurisdiction, and when Indigenous Knowledge and unique connections to territories are respectfully acknowledged and thoroughly incorporated in all aspects of climate planning and action.

Update on Project Deliverables

Areas	Deliverables	Status
1) Engage First Nations and relevant partners	Deliverable 1: First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan (“BCFNCSAP”) workplan.	Complete
	Deliverable 2: First Nations Climate Action Technical Advisory Group convened, include: TOR and Annual Progress Report.	Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for Expression of Interest with TOR distributed in January 2021. Appointment finalized in February 2021. • Progress Report submitted to Province March 15, 2021.

	Deliverable 3: First Nations regional online sessions and individual meetings with First Nations, elders, women and youth representatives.	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional virtual sessions held on Feb 5, 12 and 16, 2021. FNLC Project Team to continue meeting with First Nations, Elders, women and youth representatives throughout development.
	Deliverable 4: Briefings for FNs in BC developed.	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing note and public communications documents distributed in January 2021 to First Nations in BC announcing project, providing development plan and outlining collaboration/engagement activities. FNLC Project Team provided updates at the FNS, UBCIC and BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly meetings in February and March 2021.
2) Strategy and Action Plan	Deliverable 5: BCFNCSAP developed and approved.	Outstanding
	Deliverable 6: Final Report, including key actions for BCFNCSAP implementation	Outstanding

Detailed Development Update

A Development Plan for the Strategy was submitted to the Province on January 28, 2021. For more detail on the Strategy’s development framework, including Project phases, please refer to the submitted Development Plan.

The FNLC has completed its preliminary development work as part of the first phase of development. As part of this phase, the FNLC:

- Hosted a Climate Emergency Survey (the “**Survey**”) in August and September of 2019 to identify First Nation perspectives on impacts, concerns, barriers and priorities regarding climate change;
- Hired a Project Manager in December 2020;
- Drafted and distributed public communications documents announcing the start of development of the Strategy, including a description of Project workplans and engagement activities in January 2020;

- Prepared a development and engagement framework for the Strategy and presented this to First Nations in BC at respective FNLC Chiefs-in-Assembly meetings throughout February and March 2021;
- Prepared for, conducted and assessed information gathered from the Strategy’s regional First Nation Community Engagement Sessions held on February 5, 12 and 16, 2021; and
- Convened and established a First Nation Technical Advisory Group (“**TAG**”) in February 2021 with diverse representation from First Nation communities across the province as well as representation from Elders and/or Knowledge Holders and First Nation women and youth. For more information on the TAG, please see the “TAG Terms of Reference” in **Appendix “A”**.

We are currently in the second phase of development, focused on preparing and completing a first draft of the Strategy. In doing so, the FNLC is collaborating with the TAG and First Nations in BC to develop a vision, guiding principles, and outline for the Strategy. This includes engagement with First Nations leadership, staff, First Nations and/or climate organizations, and academics/experts with knowledge in the climate context.

The first draft of the Strategy will be prepared with the information gathered from engagement and collaboration activities, the Survey data, as well as policy review and research conducted by the FNLC Project Team. The first draft will be shared with the TAG and First Nations in BC for review and feedback.

Feedback gained from the first draft will be incorporated to produce a second draft. The second draft will again be shared with the TAG and First Nations in BC for review and feedback. Based off of comments received, the FNLC will prepare a final version of the Strategy to present to Chiefs in their respective FNLC Assemblies for approval via resolutions in June and September of 2021.

Once endorsed, the Strategy will be publicly distributed. The FNLC and the FNLC Project Team will present the Strategy to partners, including the Province. It is essential that the content of the Strategy is implemented in climate action and planning. Once endorsement and public distribution are complete, the FNLC will work with interested partners to discuss and identify steps for implementation.

For more detail on the status of Project development please see the previously submitted Project workplan at “Updated Workplan” in **Appendix “B”**. Adjustments have been made to the original workplan in light of development progress.

Note that the development, collaboration and engagement activities are subject to slight change in light of prospective discussions between the FNLC Project Team and TAG, including TAG advice on development and delivery of the Strategy.

COVID-19 Considerations

COVID-19 introduced sudden impacts to Indigenous peoples around the world, including First Nations in BC. As such, the development of this Project has been adjusted to reflect the current context of this pandemic. If COVID-19 cases continue to rise, it may be required to postpone currently scheduled engagement and collaboration activities. As a result, Project development and delivery may be delayed.

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
BC FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION TECHNICAL ADVISORY
GROUP

Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

In early 2019, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (“**UBCIC**”) and the BC Assembly of First Nations (“**BCAFN**”) passed resolutions calling for the development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (the “**BC Climate Strategy and Action Plan**” or, the “**Plan**”) (UBCIC Resolution no. 2019-02: “Climate Emergency and BC First Nations Climate Emergency Plan” and BCAFN Resolution no. 04/2019: “Climate Emergency and Support for the Development of a BC First Nations Climate Change Strategy”). The First Nations Summit (“**FNS**”) also passed a resolution supporting the establishment of an Interim Committee on Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels to develop an action plan to assist First Nations in BC with their efforts to address and combat climate change (FNS Resolution No. 1019.13: “Establishment of a First Nations Summit Committee on Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels”).

The BC Climate Strategy and Action Plan will identify priorities and actions to strengthen Indigenous climate leadership, to reduce vulnerability to impacts, and to build capacity, understanding and resilience in First Nation communities. The Plan will align with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s recommendations, reduction targets and will establish the importance of ensuring that climate planning protects traditional ecological knowledge. The Plan will incorporate Indigenous Knowledge to help guide climate emergency responses to current and projected climate issues while also communicating to governments and partners of priority areas.

2.0 Designation

The advisory group shall be known as the BC First Nations Climate Action Technical Advisory Group (“**Technical Advisory Group**”).

3.0 Mandate

The Technical Advisory Group is an advisory body to the FNLC which will exchange information and provide recommendation and advice to support the development of the BC Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

The Technical Advisory Group is not a consultative body. First Nation governments as Title and Right holders to their traditional territories have specific laws and protocols regarding their climate change initiatives that must be acknowledged and respected.

4.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Group is to support the development of the BC Climate Strategy and Action Plan, including feedback on the content of a first, second and final draft of the Plan.

5.0 Composition

The Technical Advisory Group shall be composed of 5 members along with supporting FNLC staff representing different regions in BC. Membership shall, at the minimum, strive to include:

- (1) Elder and/or Knowledge Keeper;
- (1) Self-Identifying First Nation woman; and
- (1) First Nation youth.

Technical Advisory Group members are technical experts who hold expertise in areas of climate change and Indigenous Knowledge that can span a variety of sectors and areas of knowledge. This knowledge will complement the development of successful First Nation adaptation and mitigation measures in response to climate issues.

While members are appointed because of their expertise, they do not represent a specific constituency. Members are expected to bring views on their range of experience(s).

The FNLC and Technical Advisory Group members may mutually agree to invite non-member specialists as well as representatives from other organizations to participate in meetings in order to provide their expertise as required. These experts may be drawn from a variety of fields.

The Technical Advisory Group will be chaired by one technical staff member from the FNLC organizations (the “**Chair**”). The Chair is intended to preside at all Technical Working Group meetings in order to assist in having members fulfil their responsibilities. The role of the Chair is to report Technical Working Group activity to FNLC leadership. Additional functions of the Chair will include creating agendas, monitoring milestones and any other coordination required as part of the Technical Working Group initiatives.

6.0 Appointment

Membership is made by appointment of FNLC Executives and is intended to include diverse representation from BC First Nations, including youth, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and women, as well as experts with knowledge on climate change and/or First Nations.

An initial Call for Expression of Interest (the “**Call**”) will be distributed through FNLC staff, providing a minimum of 2 weeks for Technical Advisory Group membership submissions. Nominees can self-nominate or provide recommendation for a nominee or nominees. The Call will include a request that all nominees provide a letter of interest outlining their expertise and experience(s). Additional sources may be sought, including reviews of web-based information (i.e. LinkedIn, Company Websites, etc.), as well as any other information that may assist in making appointment decisions.

7.0 Term of Appointment

Technical Advisory Group members shall be appointed for a 6-month term or until the completion of the BC Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

8.0 Meetings

8.1 Frequency of Meetings

The Technical Advisory Group shall hold meetings as required to carry out its mandate and responsibilities. Members are required to meet a minimum of 3 times within the term of appointment. Additional meetings may be scheduled as required.

8.2 Agenda

The agenda for Technical Working Group meetings shall be created by FNLC technical staff in consultation with Technical Working Group members.

8.3 Recording of Meetings

FNLC technical staff shall keep a record of minutes from all Technical Working Group meetings, including feedback, recommendation, and/or advice as well as any other related discussions and commentary.

Once the agenda is approved, the agenda will be distributed to all Technical Working Group members as well as appropriate leadership and staff as needed.

9.0 Honorarium

A reasonable honorarium for all Technical Working Group members and experts shall be fixed by FNLC technical staff at a rate between \$250 and \$500 per meeting. The rate will depend on length of the meeting scheduled.

10.0 General Provisions

10.1 Secretariat and Administrative Support

Secretariat and administrative support is provided by the BC Climate Strategy and Action Plan Project Manager.

Appendix B – Updated Workplan

WORK PLAN FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Phase	Categories	Activities / Deriverable	Start Date	End Date
Phase 1	1. Preliminary Development	1.1 Hire a project Manager/consultant	2020-11-01	2020-12-03
		1.2 Prepare a workplan	2020-11-15	2020-12-15
		1.3 Prepare a development and engagement plan	2020-12-03	2021-01-28
		1.4 Convene and establish a First Nations Climate Action Technical Advisory Group	2020-11-30	2021-03-02
		1.5 Public communication announcing the starting phase of the FNCCSAP development (via email, websites, social media, in-person, etc.)	2020-11-15	2021-01-08
		1.6 Updates from the FNLC during their respective Chiefs meetings	2020-11-01	2021-03-04
		1.7 Prepare for and host regional community engagement sessions	2020-12-03	2021-02-16
Phase 2	2. Draft #1	2.1 Draft outline, including a vision, guiding principles, goals, strategies and action items for the Strategy	2020-11-23	2021-03-29
		2.2. Prepare an engagement summary report from the Project's community engagement sessions	2021-02-05	2021-03-22
		2.3 Prepare a first draft based on survey, documented resources, and ongoing engagement/collaboration activities	2021-02-16	2021-03-31
		2.4 Discussion session(s) with the First Nations Climate Action Technical Advisory Group re Draft #1	2021-03-09	2021-04-09
		2.5 Engagement with FNs leadership, staff and organizations to discuss First Draft (webinars/workshops, individual meetings, email, etc)	2021-03-22	2020-04-09
Phase 3	3. Draft #2	3.1 Prepare a second draft based off engagement/collaboration feedback from first draft	2021-04-09	2021-04-16
		3.2 Review of second draft (First Nations Climate Action Technical Advisory Group, FNs leadership and FNs staff, and other interested partners)	2021-04-16	2021-04-26
Phase 4	4. Endorsement and Public Distribution	4.1 Prepare a final version of the Strategy based off feedback from the second version, including an executive summary and a graphic	2021-04-26	2021-05-07
		4.2 Present the Strategy to FN at Chiefs-in-Assembly meetings and seek approval via resolutions	6/2021	9/2021
		4.3 Present the Strategy to government and other relevant partners (once endorsed)	2021-10-01	2021-10-31
		4.4 Identify steps for implementation	2021-05-07	ongoing