



Save the Date

October 29, 2021 : 1pm-4pm

**Indigenous Guardian Programs
&
Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas**

In the afternoon of October 29th 2021, from 1-4pm, after the conclusion of FNEMC's separate morning workshop session on the Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework as it relates to the Canada Navigable Waters Act, FNEMC in partnership with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative will host an additional 3-hour, virtual workshop with the goal of advocating and supporting First Nations in advancing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and Indigenous Guardians in British Columbia.

In February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau agreed to be partners in protecting nature, by supporting Indigenous led conservation efforts. In August 2021, the government of Canada made its largest federal investment in Indigenous led stewardship by announcing \$340 million in new funding to support Indigenous Guardians' initiatives including the development of a National Guardians' Network, as well as the establishment of IPCAs.

The Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI) is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to advancing the role of Indigenous Nations in deciding the future of their territories. By calling for the establishment of IPCAs in Canada and to resource existing and new Guardians programs in the provinces, ILI has delegated senior advisors to promote the campaign in British Columbia to ensure that the province moves the federal mandate forward and that Guardian programs and IPCAs are mandated in British Columbia. Goals of the workshop will include:

- Raising awareness of IPCAs and Guardian initiative concepts.
- Highlighting the potential for IPCAs and Guardians in restoring Indigenous Nations' rights to manage, protect and benefit from their territories, while looking at how existing models have provided a broad range of social, cultural and economic benefits to Indigenous communities.
- Highlighting the importance of IPCAs and Guardians in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and other environmental issues.
- Discussion on the existing barriers preventing meaningful recognition and support for IPCAs and Guardians.
- Discussion on addressing those barriers to advance IPCA and Guardian support and recognition in BC.
- Discussion on accessing resources for developing and implementing IPCAs and Guardian programs, and how to apply pressure for sustained funding moving forward.

- Discussion on key principles and recommendations required for advancing legal recognition and support for IPCAs and Guardians in BC.

We invite you to stay after the morning session workshop to listen, learn and support this essential endeavor and critical step in Nation building. FNEMC will develop a discussion paper to be shared in advance of the workshop. Zoom links and preparatory materials will be provided closer to the date. To register, please e-mail mark.blom@fnemc.ca