

Indigenous Climate Action

Annual Report

2019



INDIGENOUS
CLIMATE ACTION

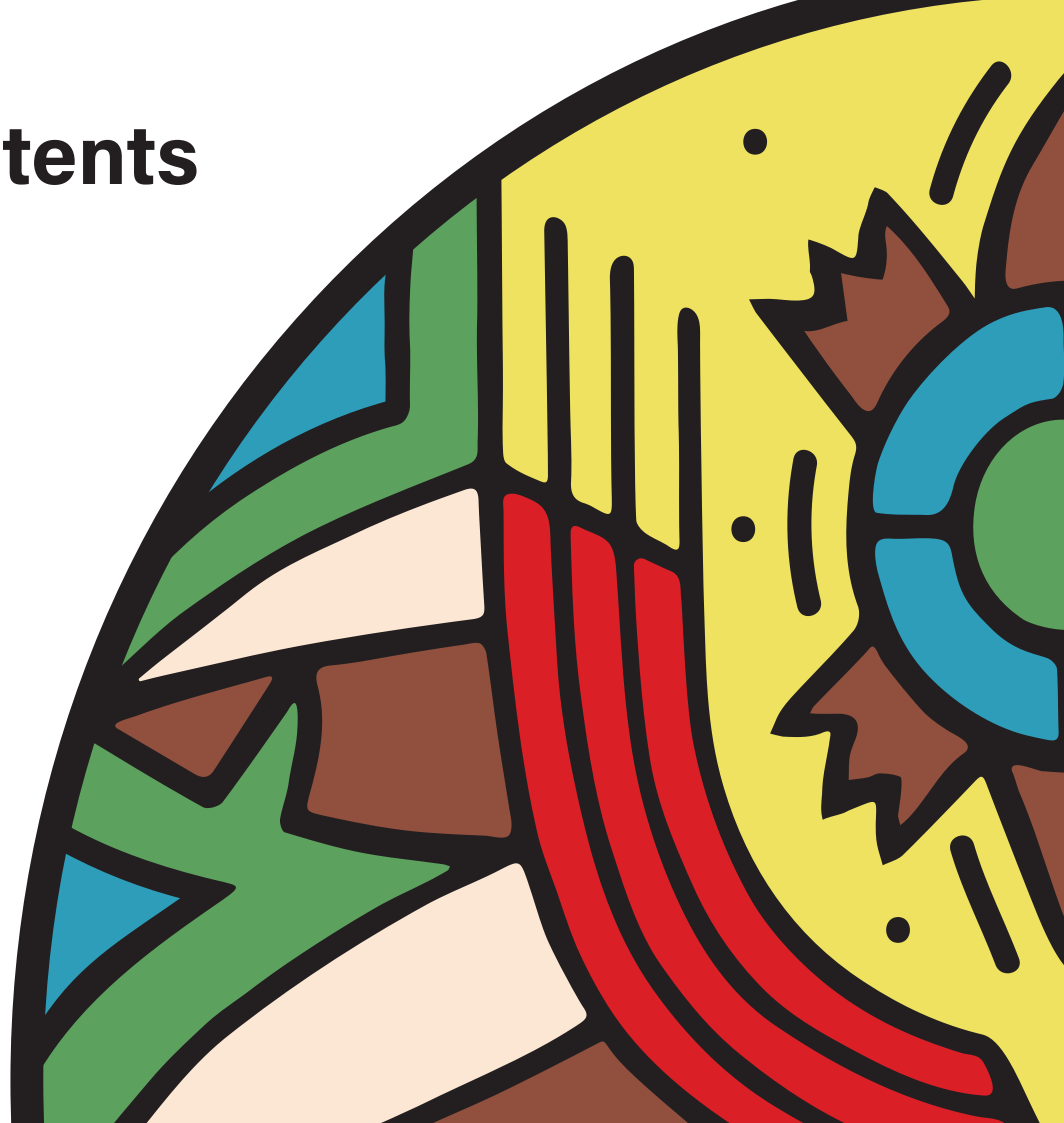
Table of Contents

Thank you for Joining us on this Journey.....	5
About ICA.....	6
Vision, Mission, Values.....	6
Meet our Team.....	7
Steering Committee.....	11
Our Pathways.....	14
Gatherings.....	15
<i>Bringing Our Voices Together</i>	15
Building Community.....	15
Resources & Tools.....	17
Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit.....	17
Research.....	17
Amplifying Voices.....	18
Webinars.....	18
Social Media.....	18
Blogs, Articles & Press Releases.....	18
Supporting Indigenous Sovereignty.....	19
Turtle Island.....	20
International.....	20
Reject Teck Campaign.....	21
Voices from our Network.....	22
Partnerships.....	24
Financial Snapshot.....	26
What to Expect in 2020.....	28
In Closing: 2020 Work.....	31
Connect with ICA.....	33

Cover image: Elder Eddie Gardner, Sto:lo, Skwah First Nation speaking at Wet'suwet'en solidarity event

Logo design: Jordan Stranger (@totemdoodem)

"Thank you for Joining us on This Journey" photo credit: Alan Lissner



Thank you for Joining us on this Journey

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) continues to not only inspire me, but fills me with hope that a better and more just future led by Indigenous Peoples is possible.

Dear friends, supporters and allies,

First off, I have so much gratitude and appreciation for the countless allies, friends and supporters of ICA. I am continually amazed at the outpouring of support for our work. I want to acknowledge that 2020 has proved to be challenging with the culmination of a global pandemic, an economic crisis and the global climate crisis. Like many others, ICA is pivoting and shifting our programs and work to meet the changing times. I am so fortunate to have an amazing team to stand behind and with the support of our partners, we continue the increasingly important work for Indigenous-led climate justice in so-called Canada.

2019 was a year of reflection and growth for ICA. We also saw some big changes in our structure with shifts in staff and the end of the first two-year term of our original National Steering Committee (SC). The National SC have been foundational to ICA and provided me with immense guidance and support in my journey as Executive Director. We are lucky to have many of the original SC members remain on for a second term along with our new and incredible Indigenous representatives from across our territories.

I am forever grateful for our Executive Steering Committee members, Ellen Gabriel, Michelle Meyers, Clayton Thomas-Muller, and Melina Laboucan-Massimo for continuing to guide our team through this transitory and critical growth period. With our Executive SC we took some space to step back and take stock of our work and map out how we are evolving. 2019 saw an increased recognition of our work, a tripling of our social media following, and the emergence of new and exciting partnerships and programs. We are now exploring new and creative ways to support our frontline community leaders, nurture our network and build new partnerships. We continue to strive to host more gatherings, develop new programs, and complete the Indigenous Worldview Climate Change (IWCC) Toolkit.

Some of our highlights of 2019 were: completing of the research component of the IWCC Toolkit and building the curriculum and distribution plans; launching our Youth and Indigenous Just Energy Sovereignty programs; hosting the Bringing our Voices Together gathering in partnership with Indigenous Environmental Network and NDN Collective; building international partnerships; supporting our amazing Indigenous youth delegations to the Climate Strikes and

COP25 in Madrid Spain; and strengthening our foundational infrastructure and philanthropic alliances to ensure the success of our vision.

None of this would be possible without a growing team.

In the summer of 2019, we brought on Sheila Muxlow, one of the original ICA co-conspirators to build from the foundation of Valine Brown and continue to nurture healthy donor relationships as the Director of Development. I am so thrilled to be working with Sheila again.

To build out our youth programming we brought on Nigel Henri Robinson as our Youth Engagement Lead. Nigel has been a part of our network since 2018 and supported a number of ICA youth delegations to attend the Youth Climate Strikes with Greta Thunberg, learn with Tiny House Warriors and build capacity for numerous youth-led initiatives. Nigel and I have had some great adventures over the years and we are excited to have him on board.

In addition, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, another of ICA's co-founders, joined the team as the Programs Director lending her years of expertise in renewables and climate justice work at [Sacred Earth Solar](#). Melina fell ill at the beginning of her time with ICA, stemming in large part from her prior experience navigating historical challenges embedded in the environmental movement. As a decolonial organization, we recognized the need to interrupt relationships of extractivism and offered her a paid wellness sabbatical to aid in her recovery. By investing in our staff we are investing in our communities. I am happy to report that Melina is doing well and back at work with us.

The ICA team continues to shift and grow into 2020 with so many new faces supporting the bold and important work that we do. I am excited by the new opportunities to grow and learn with the new team and the partners that support us. Together we can continue to model practices of reciprocity, decolonial values and relationships with transparency and trust. I have so much gratitude to everyone who has supported me and the ICA team in this journey.

Sincerely,

Eriel Tchekwie Deranger
Executive Director and Co-Founder
Indigenous Climate Action



About ICA

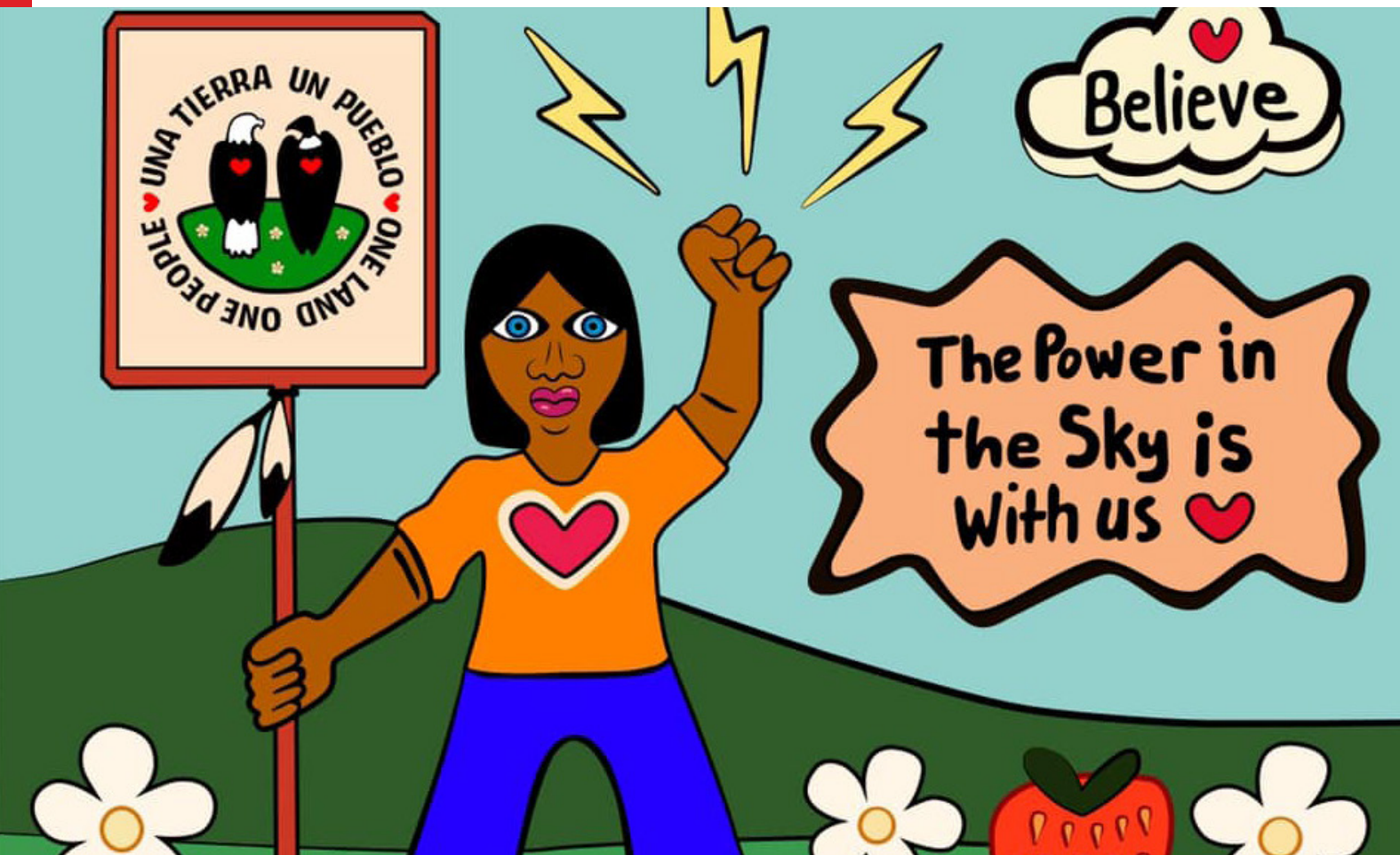
Empowering people is the most important thing. To give people that power to make decisions on their own. And that can come from experience or just common sense. But that's the main thing, is not to hold on to power but to give it away. Don't hold on to it. And when you empower people you give them more of a purpose. There is a power amongst the weak. There is a power. It's there. People know it's there.

Brian Grandbois, Movement Elder, Dene Nation

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led organization guided by a diverse group of Indigenous knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders from communities and regions across the country. We believe that Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems are critical to developing solutions to the climate crisis and achieving climate justice.

ICA works on connecting and supporting Indigenous communities to reinforce our place as leaders driving climate change solutions for today and tomorrow. We model our work and organizational structure on systems of free, prior and informed consent and self-determination. By providing our communities with knowledge and resources, we can inspire a new generation of Indigenous climate leaders building solutions centred around our inherent rights and cultures.

Art by Isaac Murdoch



Vision, Mission, Values

Vision

A world with sovereign and thriving Indigenous Peoples and cultures leading climate justice for all.

Mission

We inspire action through the development of tools and opportunities created with, by and for our communities, with the goal of uplifting Indigenous voices, sovereignty, and stewardship of the lands and waters for future generations. We value upholding what it means to be Indigenous. We believe in recognizing the diversity of Indigenous Peoples as cultures and individuals. We believe in the idea that Indigenous identity is inseparable from the lands and waters.

Values

We value Indigenous ways of being. We believe in models of decolonization, and in the importance of self-determination and sovereignty in Indigenous governance and community building.

We value Indigenous ways of knowing. We believe in upholding Indigenous knowledge systems, respecting natural laws, and using two eyed seeing - merging collective Indigenous knowledges with western science.

We value Indigenous ways of relating. We believe in using a reciprocal and relational approach, in collaborating to build power, and in prioritizing accountability to community. We believe in maintaining transparency, and ensuring that our work is accessible to grassroots community members.

We strive to ensure all our partners share and reflect our core values.

Meet our Team

Our team members are from a diverse array of backgrounds and each member brings a unique voice to our work in the areas of Indigenous rights and climate justice. We also hire local community leaders to help facilitate and organize gatherings, meetings, and workshops and work with various contractors and researchers for projects.



Eriel Deranger
Executive Director

2019 marked my second full year as Executive Director with ICA and it's been such a journey. I am thrilled by all of the amazing opportunities and experiences that working with ICA has brought. All of the new programs and campaigns in 2019 made for a full year of transitions and amazing new relationships. Saying goodbye to some of the original team members was sad but the new team at ICA is turning out to be such a force. I can't wait to continue this journey with the team and the people as we launch our programs and build towards a better future for all.



Melina Laboucan Massimo
Programs Director

As one of the co-founders of ICA I am incredibly proud of how ICA has evolved since its inception. ICA is rising to the challenge of addressing the needs that exist for Indigenous peoples in the climate justice movement. One of the pathways forward in addressing these identified gaps is developing and supporting a youth mentoring program to build capacity for Indigenous youth within communities for a stronger, more diverse climate justice movement. I am also excited to build out ICA's Energy Sovereignty program to ensure that Indigenous communities can continue to implement climate solutions to bring about a just transition. After needing to take a wellness sabbatical due to prolonged stress and the toxic environmental burden of being an Indigenous organizer for close to 20 years and returning to ICA as the Program Director (transitioning out of a Steering Committee role) - I am intent on building wellness, resiliency, and sustainability as pillars of our work ethic at ICA and in our communities. If we want to make ICA an organization that has staying power we need to honour not only the work, but the people that carry it out. I'm excited to embark on this new chapter of ICA with such a phenomenal team of new staff and programs.

Kyla Pascal
Operations Director

Kyla started working with ICA in February 2020.

It is an immense pleasure to be a part of this organization. I've been following the work of ICA for a number of years and it has been such an amazing opportunity to get to be part of it. Every week brings new relationships, valuable experiences, and wonderful teachings. The goal of my work is to build more resilient, just, and healthier communities and I look forward to continue working towards those goals with ICA.



Sheila Muxlow
Development Director

When ICA first came into the world, I used to joke that I was a #1 fan because of my commitment to the founding group as an ally and co-conspirator. As an advocate for social justice, I bore witness to the glaring gap in the climate justice movement to meaningfully resource Indigenous leadership on climate solutions, when it was clear it was Indigenous peoples who have always been leading the way on ensuring environmental protections and supporting many of us new comers to Turtle Island to decolonize our hearts and minds and align with values that affirm life and justice. When I was called in by the Executive Committee to officially join as the Development Director, it was an honour and responsibility I couldn't refuse. Although fundraising has never been my central focus, my predecessor Valine Crist provided a strong foundation to build from and I have been able to use my skills in community development and relationship building to nurture the type of philanthropic allyship ICA is looking for. It has been so heartwarming to be part of a growing network of people willing to show up in co-conspiracy for the important work that is held by Indigenous Climate Action.





Nigel Henri Robinson

Youth Engagement Lead

It is such an honour to have been called upon by Indigenous Climate Action in 2019 to participate in furthering the fight for Indigenous rights and climate justice. Some highlights for me are: travelling to so-called Ecuador to witness the Waorani people squash the government's attempt to create an oil block; the Bringing Our Voices Together gathering and travelling up to see the devastation of the tar sands alongside Indigenous folks fighting for the earth all over Turtle Island; and the Montreal climate strike where 500,000 marched together and the ICA youth delegation took the stage with the Woman's Warrior Song and chants of Land Back. COP25 in Madrid, Spain rounded out the incredible year. There is so much work to be done to ensure the birthright of those unborn and I believe Indigenous Climate Action is critical to ensuring that. I look forward to continuing our work of inspiring and empowering our communities as we work towards our collective liberation together in POWER!

Diane Connors

Programs Assistant

It has been a privilege to find myself working with an incredible team on projects and issues that I care so deeply about and that have such an elegant impact. As a non-Indigenous settler person I have been learning how to better stand in my role as an ally and co-conspirator for Indigenous rights and leadership in climate justice - and the ongoing process of decolonizing my own way of being and acting fills me with strength. I came to ICA through working with Melina Laboucan-Massimo at Sacred Earth Solar and found a powerful sense of purpose in helping hold space for healing justice and reciprocity. I was able to step more into work with ICA in January 2020 in order to better support programming pieces including the Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit, Just Transition coalition work, and other teamwork. Helping to facilitate this work and ICA's response in our changing world has proven to be very challenging and fulfilling. I feel more confident in the vision, power, and purpose of ICA's work than any other work I've been part of before!



Andrea Bastien

Operations Director
(November 2017 - April 2020)

Andrea is Otter Clan from Anishinaabe, Nehiyaw, Siksika (Kainai Aamskapi Piikani) nations, with lineage to European, Mediterranean and Middle East countries.

Andrea has experience building organizations from inception, such as Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association, grant writing/adjudication and jury positions, support youth projects/programming/workshops, and land based work, such as community gardening and restoration. Andrea is also part of the Indigenous Land Stewardship Circle in Toronto and an artist working in the mediums of music, craft and dance.

Jayce Chiblow

Community Engagement Lead

Jayce joined ICA in May of 2020.

I started following ICA's work years ago while completing my undergraduate degree, knowing that this was an organization I wanted to eventually work for. After finishing graduate school, I spent months looking for positions where the company or organization's values and principles aligned with my personal goal of supporting Indigenous peoples and communities in self-determined climate initiatives to ensure healthy, thriving communities. The patience paid off with this Community Engagement Lead position, allowing me to join a meaningful organization with a great team of people! I look forward to continue learning in this role, and I couldn't be happier to be a part of such essential work.



Valine Brown

Development Director
(November 2017 - June 2019)

K'aayhlt'aa Haanas Valine Brown is an organizer, communications professional, and devoted Haida citizen belonging to the K'aawas eagle clan. Her work is rooted in her homelands, and Valine's academic and advocacy efforts are centred around Indigenous title, rights, and responsibilities. She believes in the power of people and connection to place and she is fiercely committed to building community resilience amid the climate crisis.



We would also like to recognize other staff throughout the 2019 year: Maryel Sparks-Cardinal (former Communications Coordinator) and Dawn Morrison (former Toolkit Coordinator).

Steering Committee

Our work is guided by our volunteer Steering Committee (SC) with Indigenous representatives from across our Indigenous territories. The National Steering Committee was first developed in January 2017 and has become critical in guiding and supporting the work of ICA. It is guided by the values and pillars of Indigenous Peoples' ancestral teachings which honour Mother Earth and all our relations. The SC is based upon Indigenous customary laws and international human rights law and practices the principles of free, prior and informed consent and Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination.

The SC members agree to two year terms with the ability to reapply. 2019 marked the end of a two year term for many of our Steering Committee. This first cohort of Steering Committee members was crucial for the organization's growth and development, and we are very excited to be starting 2020 with many new Steering Committee members.

ICA Steering Committee 2019

Executive Committee 2019



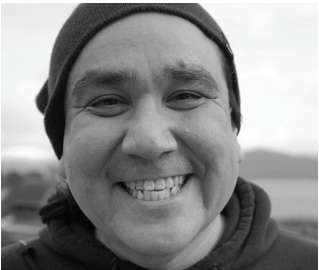
Ellen Gabriel



Michelle Myers



Melina Laboucan-Massimo



Clayton Thomas-Muller

National Committee 2019



Barbara Wilson



Chief Gordon Planes



Danika Billie Littlechild



Desmond Bull



Dominga Robinson



Dorene Bernard



Erica Violet Lee



Jesse Cardinal



Kevin Settee



Keira Kolson



Michelle Brass



Priscilla Settee



Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie



Shelley Young



Susana Deranger

ICA Steering Committee 2020

Executive Committee 2020



Ellen Gabriel



Michelle Myers

National Committee 2020



Michelle Brass



Erica Violet Lee



Susana Deranger



Daniel T'seleie



Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse



Brendan Campbell



Leslie Florence Saddleback



Bryanna R. Brown



Maureen Gustafson



Natasha Akiwenzie



Midori Nicolson



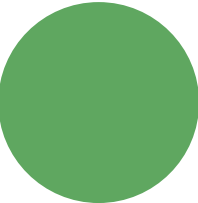
Christopher Reid



Donna Ashamock

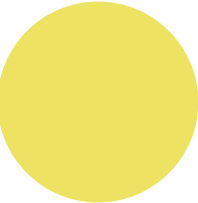
Our Pathways

Our work inspires, connects and supports Indigenous Peoples, reinforcing our place as leaders in climate change discourse and driving solutions for today and tomorrow. Our work is grounded in four main pathways:



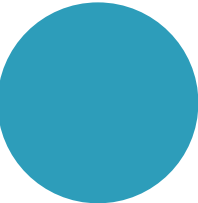
Gatherings

bringing people together to grow a land-based climate movement, build relationships and focus on supporting effective climate solutions.



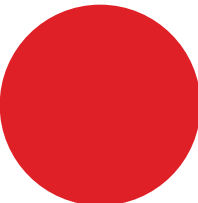
Resources & Tools

uplifting our expertise and knowledge as drivers of solutions to climate change.



Amplifying Voices

centering Indigenous Peoples, rights and knowledge in the climate discourse.



Supporting Indigenous Sovereignty

upholding our inherent right and authority to make decisions about our well-being.

Gatherings

What we are facing is overwhelming and even exhausting. We want to acknowledge that. We know this work is tiring. This work can sometimes be stressful to our families. We want to acknowledge that despite the challenges, the long hours, forgetting to eat in the day sometimes, that you show up. That you are here. That you are carrying your communities with you, you are carrying your grandmothers with you, you are carrying your little brothers with you....We've come here to connect with others and to figure out what we need to do together, collectively.

Bineshi Albert, facilitator at *Bringing Our Voices Together*

ICA Hosted Bringing Our Voices Together

Beyond our climate change workshops that help to inform the toolkit, it has become a standard practice for ICA to host an annual national gathering. As a follow up to Grassroots Grow Deep in Łue Chok Tué (Cold Lake First Nation) in Treaty 6 territory in northern Alberta, we held a cross border gathering - *Bringing Our Voices Together*. This gathering brought together more than 100 Indigenous land defenders for 6 days-of strategy and relationships and witness the tar sands operations.

This year we. We partnered with our long time ally and sister organization [Indigenous Environmental Network](#) and our new, emerging partner [NDN Collective](#) to make this one of the most powerful Indigenous climate justice gatherings to date! Our final report of the gathering can be found [here](#).

Image is of the participants of Bringing Our Voices Together. Photo by Ayşe Gürsöz.

Building Community - Meeting People Where They're At

ICA understands the importance of participating in community events and conferences in order to uplift issues for Indigenous Rights and Climate Justice. We ensured the needs and capacities of our network were visible by inviting community members to key events, and building out new relationships and strategic partners. ICA supported our staff and Steering Committee members to attend conferences, actions, strategy meetings and solidarity events regionally, nationally and internationally - including speaking on panels, providing keynote speeches, and participating in media. ICA's participation at these key events has supported our Just Transition program and budding international climate work.

Our 2019 event engagement has set us up with a strong foundation to leverage calls for a Just Transition and continue to participate in international strategies for Indigenous rights and climate justice. We look forward to deepening these relationships with our partners and Indigenous communities into 2020 and beyond.





Resources & Tools

*Truth is a seed
planted deep
If you want to get it
you have to dig.*

Katherena Vermette, river woman

Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit

Uplifting our expertise and knowledge as drivers of solutions to climate change, ICA's work is centered around co-creation of the Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit with resources and training for communities.

The "toolkit" is a multi-staged and iterative project to curate resources and best practices to inspire Indigenous Peoples to take action on climate change. Through direct community engagement, like gatherings and facilitated knowledge sharing, we are highlighting Indigenous knowledge, rights and systems that are critical in developing successful climate change strategies.

2019 marked the wrap up of our community engagement workshops to support informing the toolkit. The five workshops of 2019 took place across numerous territories including: Eagle Lake, ON, Treaty No. 3; Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, AB; Truro, NS. traditional Mi'kmaq territory.; Gathering Our Voices - Youth Toolkit Workshop, Port Alberni, BC. unceded territories of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First. Nations; and Dene Nahjo Hide Camp, Yellowknife, NWT, territory of the Tlicho (Dogrib).

In 2020 we are excited to loop back to the communities we have engaged with and share back the toolkit curriculum through a train the trainer program.



Upper left: participants of toolkit workshop given in Truro, NS

Middle left: group photo from toolkit workshop at Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, AB

Lower left: from Symposium: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy; skill share on Land & Water Re-occupation & Jurisdiction and Decolonizing Climate Futures; left to right: Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Kanahus Manuel, Rueben George, and Ska-Hiish Manuel. Photo by Billie Jean Gabriel Photography



Research

ICA recognizes that knowledge is power and we have begun to explore relationships with researchers and academics from across so-called Canada, including:

- Jen Goby: importance of Indigenous leadership in climate solutions;
- Anna Zalik: the coercive nature of Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) on the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous communities; and
- the Yellowhead Institute: [challenges to Indigenous participation in the Green New Deal](#).

We are excited to continue to expand this growing body of work, particularly with Indigenous researchers and academics.

Amplifying Voices

By supporting a growing movement of Indigenous climate justice voices we are disrupting the status quo of who the leaders of climate justice are - we are not only on the frontlines of opposition but we are some of the most powerful leaders in building climate solutions for tomorrow.

Melina Laboucan Massimo

Amplifying voices has become a critical component of the work of ICA to elevate the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in climate justice. We are continuing to build out, support and create platforms for Indigenous knowledge holders, Elders, youth and frontline land and water protectors.

Webinars

ICA hosted and participated in a number of webinars. A few highlights included: [United Nations Special Rapporteur on Toxics Visit to Canada](#), [Indigenous Peoples and UN Climate Negotiations](#), [Wet'suwet'en Solidarity](#), and [Live from COP25 in Spain and Cumbre de los Pueblos in Chile](#).

Social Media

In 2019, ICA saw a tremendous growth in our followers and supporters, making our social media, webinars, and web content even more important. We are continuing to explore new and exciting ways to take the voices of our communities to the next level by building strategic partners to further our reach and build our base.

Our followers increased exponentially in 2019. Our Facebook increased by 3,400+, Instagram by 2,500+ and Twitter by 1,600+.

Blogs, Articles & Press Releases

We released 23 pieces on our blog/news page. Some of our most popular posts focused on Wet'suwet'en solidarity, the Reject Teck campaign, and COP25. Our most read post was the story of an Indigenous woman, Vanessa Gray, who was attacked at a Trudeau rally.



Allan Lissner | Indigenous Climate Action

Indigenous youth at a #FixArticle6 event at COP25 in Madrid. Photo by Allan Lissner.

Supporting Indigenous Sovereignty

There is room on this land for all of us and there must also be, after centuries of struggle, room for justice for Indigenous peoples. That is all we ask. And we will settle for nothing less.

Arthur Manuel, *Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-Up Call*

ICA is proud to be able to support sovereign Indigenous-led strategies for climate solutions. We recognize that Indigenous protection of Indigenous lands and territories are critical climate mitigation strategies. In 2019 ICA began to explore fundraising and support for those on the frontlines of lands and waters defence.

Turtle Island

The year started off with a violent invasion of the Indigenous territories of the Wet'suwe'ten peoples by the RCMP. In recognition of this difficult time, ICA hosted a fundraising call for the Wet'suwet'en and their plight to protect their lands from the Coastal Gas Link liquid natural gas pipeline.

We also provided some financial support for the Tiny House Warriors, long time allies and land defenders, who have been blocking Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline from being build through Secwepemc Territory. In addition, we supported a delegation of youth to attend the Tiny House Camp to support efforts on the ground and learn from movement mentors like Kanahuas Manuel.

ICA also supported Indigenous youth to attend the Montreal and Edmonton climate strikes to ensure that their voices and calls to action related to Indigenous solutions to climate change were not lost around the attention given to Greta Thunberg.

We continue to explore ways to support our youth and frontline lands and waters defenders and hope we can bolster our giving in the coming years.



Reject Teck Campaign

At the COP25, we also launched the Reject Teck campaign - built around Teck Resources' application for the Frontier tar sands project, the largest ever proposed open pit mine. ICA responded to a call from concerned community members on the frontlines and organized a number of actions with leaders like Casey Camp, Elected Leader of the Ponoka Nation; Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director of Indigenous Environmental Network; and Francious Paulette, Elder of the Dene Nation, along with youth activists from all over the world.

We continued this campaign when we came home by uplifting the leadership of Smith's Landing First Nation and other organizations, like UBCIC and Tiny House Warriors who opposed the project. The Reject Teck Campaign was supported by countless allies, both at home and abroad, and frontline voices. Ultimately, Teck Resources withdrew its application for Frontier in February 2020 - a win for Indigenous rights and sovereignty and the climate!

Above: Indigenous youth in attendance at the Montreal Climate Strike while Greta Thunberg speaks. Photo by Jessica Bolduc.

Lower left: photo from trip to Amazon to build relationships with the Waorani

Right: Jane Fonda and Joaquin Phoenix pose with Reject Teck signs at a Fire Drill Fridays event in Washington D.C.

Lower right: Nigel Henri Robinson speaking at a Reject Teck event held outside of the Canadian embassy in Madrid. Photo by Allan Lissner.



International

In addition to our work here in so-called Canada we took a bold steps to participate in more International work. In April at the invitation of [Amazon Frontlines](#), Eriel and Nigel travelled to the Amazon to witness and build relationships with Waoroni peoples during the Waoroni peoples court challenge in Puyo, Ecuador.

In December, the ICA Team with support from Clayton Thomas Muller put together a media team and youth delegation to attend the 25th UN Forum Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) in Madrid, Spain. Our delegation of Indigenous youth learned about the UNFCCC processes, participated in lobbying efforts, planned and participated in actions on the inside and outside of COP and spoke on numerous panels.



Voices from our Network

ICA is able to work with amazing Indigenous activists from across Turtle Island in conducting workshops, attending events, and organizing gatherings. Shown below are just a few of the many folks we had the opportunity to work with this past year:



Jamie Felsberg

I've been actively involved with protecting and advocating for numerous causes for at least 6 years now, particularly relating to the Muskrat Falls Project which is just out my front door, on the river that I grew up on and love dearly. I have seen the destruction of a river, a food source, the beautiful environment, and even further the cultures of numerous groups of Indigenous People, firsthand. I have met lots of people through the work that I am involved with, and that work has taught me a lot and taken me many places. This past year I was able to travel to Montréal to participate in a climate strike of more than 500,000 people, thanks to ICA. I met many different people there with similar backgrounds as mine but all with their own stories and differences, challenges and situations. I learned about the struggles that they face in their regions and also from the knowledge that they had learned from them. That trip was a great experience, I made great friends and we got to partake in a week that was extremely powerful and one that I will never forget.

Danya Erasmus

Program Coordinator,
Dene Nahjo

Over the past few years, Dene Nahjo and ICA have built a supportive relationship through showing up for each other's projects and work. We partnered with ICA to host their Indigenous Climate Change Workshop in our community (Somba K'e, Denendeh), and some of our team travelled to participate in their Indigenous Strategies Summit: Bringing our Voices Together. Witnessing and participating in ICA's work has been uplifting, educational and meaningful, and we look forward to continue working together. Mahsi cho.



Casey Camp

The Indigenous Climate Action organization is a beautiful collaboration of Indigenous Women, Eriel Deranger and Melina Laboucan-Massimo, who have taken the lead in the meaningful growth of the environmental movement worldwide, with a strong emphasis on Youth empowerment as well as local education and involvement. My granddaughter and I have had truly transformative experiences both at the Bringing Our Voices Together gathering at Cold Lake First Nation and at the UN in Madrid where the ICA youth were elevating the issues from their homelands. We hope that we can experience even more with ICA!

Angelica Vincent

Angelica Vincent is a 19 year old Inuit from Hopedale, Labrador, a small Northern community along the Labrador coast. She joined the ICA delegation to the Global Climate Strike where 500,000 marched in Montreal.

To me, the experience was extremely life changing and eye opening. It led me to realize the path I want to walk in life and the things I want to try and accomplish. The strike itself was a bit rough, but I learned about how Indigenous People all deal with the same issues, and that they are not okay - like how I believed being on a boil order advisory was normal, I was wrong.



The trees act not as individuals, but somehow as a collective. Exactly how they do this, we don't yet know. But what we see is the power of unity. What happens to one happens to us all.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Partnerships

Of course ICA has not been able to do any of this work alone.

We want to thank Polaris Institute, our fiscal sponsor; Sierra Club BC Foundation, a charitable sponsor; the Indigenous Environmental Network; Sacred Earth Solar; NDN Collective; Dene Nahjo; Grassroots Global Justice Alliance; It Takes Roots; the teams at Bioneers, Rainforest Action Network and 350.org for standing up and showing what real allyship looks like; and our countless supporters and allies.

We also want to express gratitude to the countless communities and grassroots networks that have welcomed us in to witness their stories of resilience and worked in partnership to amplify Indigenous voices.

Finally, we want to acknowledge our philanthropic allies and funders, along with everyone who donated out of their pockets or signed up to be volunteers.



Upper left: Chief Cheezie of Smith's Landing First Nation speaking at a Reject Teck press conference

Lower left: From left to right: Victoria Guzman, Clayton Thomas-Muller, Melina Laboucan Massimo, Nigel Henri Robinson, Tom Goldtooth, Dawn Morrison, Eriel Deranger



Right: photo from Bringing Our Voices Together featuring Kakeka ThunderSky

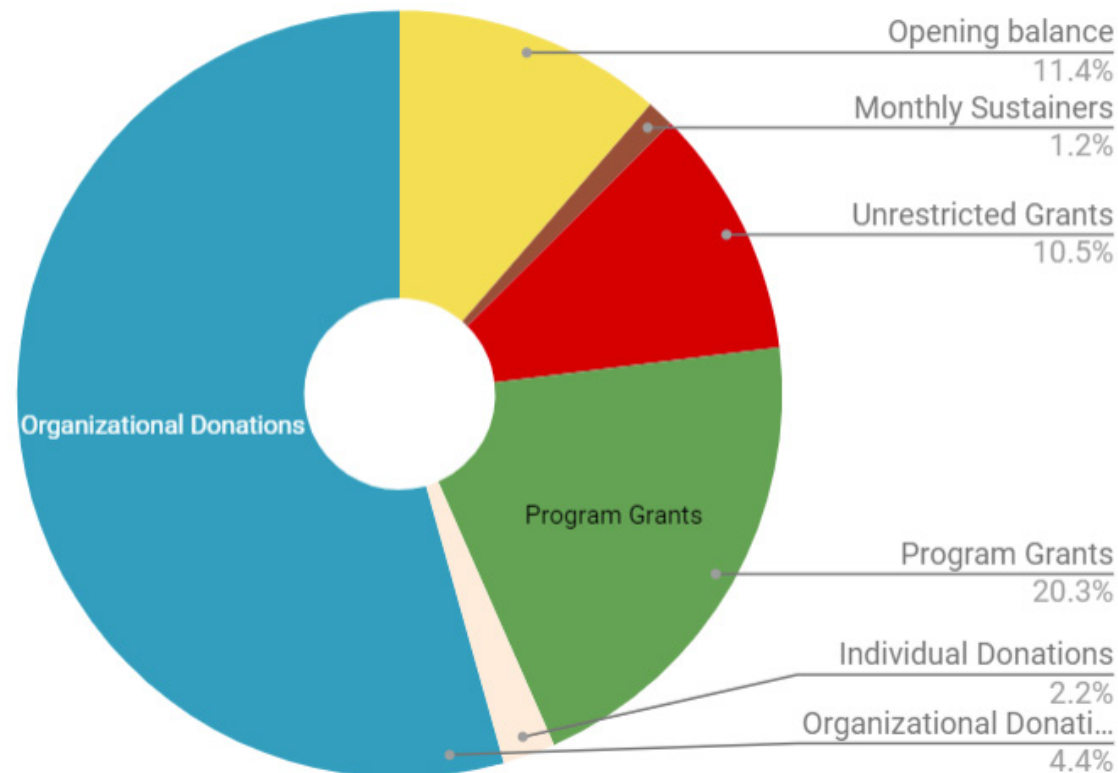


Financial Snapshot

Financial support is critical to support the important work of ICA. Former Development Director, Valine Brown, laid a strong foundation for philanthropic partnerships and throughout 2019 we have been able to continue to work with philanthropic allies and other organizations who share our values and funding principles. We have been successful in securing multi-year program grants that have allowed us to confidently defer funds for 2020.

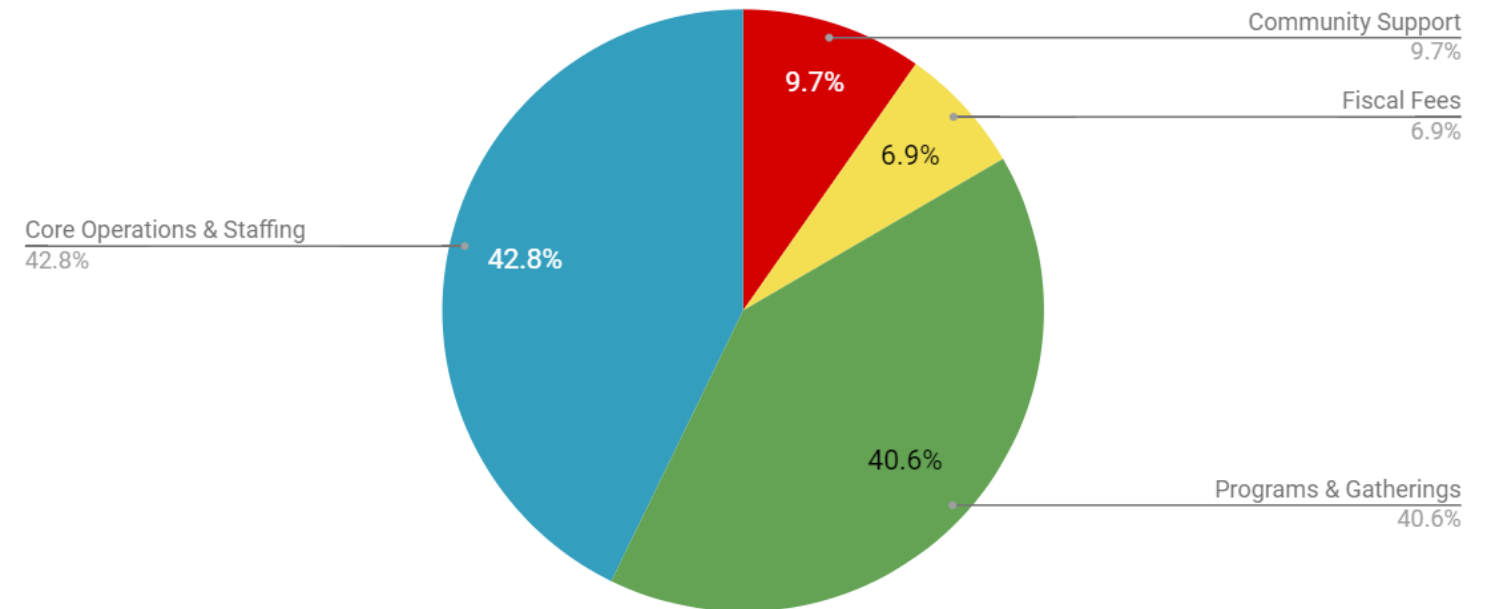
As well we have seen an increase in individual donations and monthly sustainers supporting us in diversifying our revenue and allowing us to have the resources to be nimble and responsive to the needs of our network.

Where Funds Came from in 2019 (\$626,422.43)



2019 was an active year for ICA's programs and gatherings. We were also able to provide significant support to communities by providing small contracts and upholding local protocols of reciprocity. Our core operations and staffing reflects the needs of our growing team and Steering Committee. To this end, we're always looking for more philanthropic allies to bolster our work with communities and support our organizational growth.

Where the Funds Went in 2019 (\$568,967.80)



What to Expect in 2020

2020 is going to be a big year for ICA! Here are some of our goals:

Organizational, Team & Community Health

The team at Indigenous Climate Action is embarking on an ambitious task to address the gap in climate change organizing and ensure Indigenous people are valued as agents of change and supported in contributing to a future that is both sustainable and just. We have found that there are many layers to our work that impact on our physical, emotional, mental & spiritual wellbeing. It has been a challenge to navigate the history of colonization and the internalized norms that seek to perpetuate and promote behaviours and strategies that undermine and tokenize the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Given the diversity of experiences within the ICA team, we want to take a multi-pronged approach to team health and wellbeing that meets people where they are at, with options that support them to continue to show up in this work that is generative.

We will continue to show up thoughtfully and support community health with ceremony and resources that provide comfort in these challenging times.

Youth Programming

Engaging young people is an essential part of any sustainable systems change. The longer people have to engage with transformational and inspirational information, the more opportunity they have to engage with the information and take constructive actions that bring theory into practice. Since the emergence of our network we have seen a consistent increase in the interest from our young people to participate in the opportunities that we were making available.

This year ICA hired Nigel Henri Robinson as a Youth Engagement Lead to support program development for our young people. This includes conducting a youth needs assessment, hosting trainings and gatherings, and building out a Youth Council to guide these processes and future work of ICA.

Just Recovery & Sustainable Energy Sovereignty

With the impact on the global economy from the COVID19 pandemic, we are in a critical time to be building towards the type of Just Recovery that can address the climate crisis and support long-overdue justice for Indigenous people. Our community network continues to express an increasing desire to shift away from fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reintegrate the wisdom of our ancestors, however, the gap in opportunities to participate in strategies to phase out fossil fuels and move to a low carbon economy continues to be a barrier.

Looking ahead, we are excited to leverage the expertise and experiences of Melina Laboucan Massimo with Sacred Earth Solar to support tools, resources and programs that support Indigenous-led renewable energy projects and a Just Recovery from the climate crisis.

Resources & Trainings

Free, Prior and Informed Consent are cornerstones of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and essential to upholding our rights. Information, and the sharing of information created for and by our communities is critical. The Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit has been able to address the gap in climate change information that is relevant for Indigenous community members across the territories in so-called Canada. Our toolkit highlights Indigenous knowledge, rights and systems that are critical in developing successful climate change strategies and curates best practices, including educational resources and curriculum about climate solutions, that have proven successful for Indigenous people. This resource focuses on the intersection of Indigenous rights and climate justice and promotes the opportunities that can be found in addressing the root causes of climate change.

As we embark into 2020, The IWCC toolkit will continue to be a critical power-building tool for Indigenous-led climate action as we build out an online and in community 'Train the Trainer' program, looping back to the communities who shared in the creation of this historical curriculum.

Beyond the toolkit, we'll also be creating short briefings to explain different topics around Indigenous rights and climate change in an accessible way. We are doing this through strategic research projects to give shape to knowledge and data that can help us build power for change.

Indigenous-led Media

Amplifying Indigenous voices is essential to ensuring our values and worldviews are heard within emerging strategies for climate solutions. We are looking to organize more webinars, revamp our website, work with Indigenous creators, continue to build out our social media, and put together a podcast in order to further amplify Indigenous voices and promote media created by and for, Indigenous Peoples.

Gatherings

ICA has been hosting an annual gathering since we began our work in 2016. However, 2020 has posed new challenges with a global pandemic, an economic crisis and climate change. For the time being, in-person gatherings are postponed indefinitely until it is safe. In the meantime, we are looking at other ways of engaging people collectively on Indigenous climate change issues, including through the Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit, as well as through online gatherings such as webinars and livestreams.

In Closing: 2020 Work

What a year! In 2020, we will continue to shift and pivot to the changing times to bring our resources online, launch an online toolkit training program, deepen our youth and Just Transition work, continue to expand the team and learn, learn, learn from the many Indigenous knowledge keepers, media makers, frontline land defenders and groups across so-called Canada. We're excited to continue to be a part of this amazing project, along with all of our relatives, allies and partners.

Indigenous youth at the climate strike in Madrid during COP25. Photo by Allan Lissner.





Connect with ICA

4 ways to support Indigenous-led climate action and solutions:

1. Follow ICA and share our work
2. Volunteer with the network
3. Support Indigenous communities taking climate action
4. Donate and/or become a monthly sustainer

To learn more about Indigenous Climate Action, connect with us at:

 @IndigenousClimateAction

 @IndigenousClimateAction

 @Indigenous_ca

 Indigenous Climate Action Network

 Indigenous Climate Action

indigenousclimateaction.com
info@indigenousclimateaction.com

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Ottawa, ON K2P 0G5
Unceded territories of the Algonquin, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Anishinabek