

2020

# Annual Report



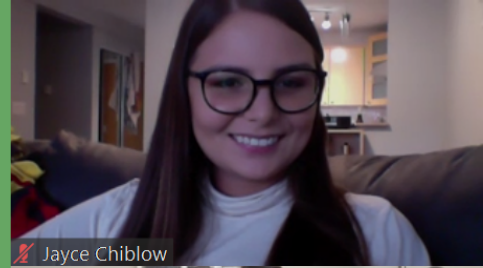
**INDIGENOUS**  
**CLIMATE ACTION!**



Diane Connors



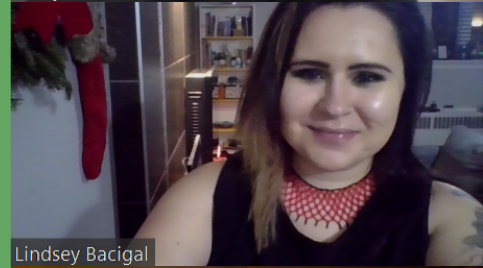
Eriel Deranger



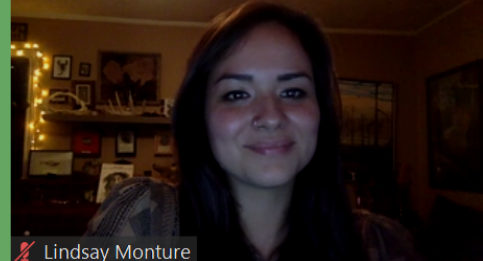
Jayce Chiblow



Kyla Pascal



Lindsey Bacigal



Lindsay Monture



Melina Laboucan-Massimo



Sheila Muxlow

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About our logo from designer, Jordan Stranger:

*"The logo's aim was to represent all Indigenous peoples of Canada. The Turtle at the top represents the Earth and Turtle Island. The red Sash forms the arms of a sacred being reaching up to the creator. Attached are seven eagle feathers to honor the Seven Sacred Teachings. In between the feathers are Trees with sacred Water inside them that brings them to life. In the center below is a Tipi and an Igloo, both home and shelter, a foundation and refuge which we all need to survive."*

© @totemdoodem

## Message from our Executive Director

Dear supporters, friends and allies,

Mussi cho for continuing to stand in solidarity and support the work of Indigenous Climate Action. 2020 was an extraordinary year and filled with countless challenges, loss, uncertainties and equal parts beauty and opportunity. I witnessed some of the darkest moments of humanity but through it all witnessed some of the most heart and spirit warming actions. Communities came together, people shared resources and we saw a dip in greenhouse gases - nature got a break and people saw their neighbours. I know many lost loved ones and my heart goes out to all of those that struggled, and continue to struggle through these times.

Like many, ICA experienced major shifts and changes as we acknowledged these uncertain times. At the beginning of 2020 we were set to build up a new team and take on so many community projects and gatherings. The ongoing pandemic, and the early uncertainty, required time to reflect on how we could still continue our work and keep our community members safe. While we had numerous setbacks and a steep learning curve in shifting our programming online, I am proud of so many of the amazing accomplishments ICA was able to achieve in such a trying time.

During 2020, we continued to build out a new team and launched some incredible initiatives, online learnings, and a brand new website! Some of the exciting initiatives we undertook in 2020 were as follows: online webinars and discussions with varying topics from responding to the pandemic, to challenging the fossil fuel industry; shifting our ICA Climate Change Toolkit Training to be online (now being piloted and refined for a full public release this year!); re-evaluating our energy sovereignty work and developing a Just Transition guide to be launched this year with Sacred Earth Solar and the David Suzuki Foundation; launching our Indigenous Youth Engagement work; researching intersectional movements; and exploring and leaning into what healing justice looks like and feels like in all of this work.

It has been so inspiring to witness how the ICA team demonstrated what it means to be dynamic and flexible in the face of adversity. It's been such an incredible experience to be able to be a part of this organization and watch it grow and change.

I would be remiss to not acknowledge and extend immense gratitude for the ICA team, the Steering Committee and the broader community for supporting my own personal journey in Healing Justice and my sabbatical in late 2020. As someone who's been here and a part of this project since the idea first found its way into being, and part of many other initiatives and projects in the decade prior, I was tired. I was more than tired, I was burned out physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually from this work. I didn't just need rest, I needed to begin the process of deep healing and re-evaluate what it means to show up in this work with healing as a central focus. Taking a sabbatical wasn't ever something I thought possible and I was gifted this opportunity and I am forever grateful.

As we enter 2021, the world is still responding to a global pandemic and our programming remains online, but our hearts, our minds and spirits are renewed to stand together in community and build a just future for our people and the planet.

Nanesti'ij lasa,

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



*“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street to a sacred bond.”*

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*

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 support existing efforts and inspire a new generation of Indigenous climate leaders building solutions centred around our inherent rights and cultures.

# About ICA



# 5 Vision, Mission & Values

## Our Vision

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

## Our 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.

## Our Values

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.

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.

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 work with various contractors and researchers for projects.



## Eriel Deranger

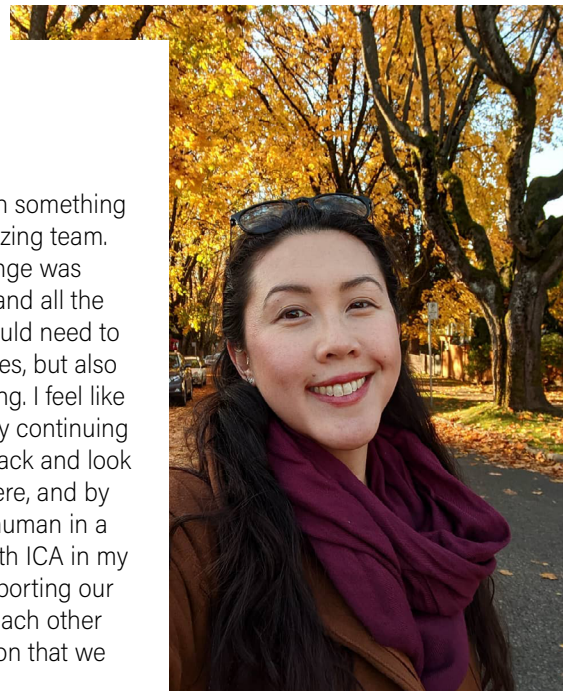
Executive Director

2020 was a year of transformation in so many ways. I think first and foremost I want to thank the ICA team, the Steering Committee and the broader community for supporting my sabbatical and allowing me to start a much needed healing journey. Working with ICA has been such a journey and last year was definitely a year to remember. As the team shifted and grew I have been so happy to see the strength of such a dynamic, thoughtful and generous team emerge. We worked hard to meet the many challenges of 2020 and learned so much along the way. As I ease myself back into work in 2021, I am excited for deepening our relationship with the Steering Committee and finding new and creative ways to connect and collaborate with so many others as we launch our programs in this new digital platform.

## Diane Connors

Director of Operations

I feel fortunate to have been able to work through something as transformative as this pandemic with this amazing team. From the start, it was apparent that massive change was coming from the global level, through our work, and all the way down to our personal lives - and that we would need to shift in ways that would not only uphold our values, but also shape the new world that was and is still emerging. I feel like we have done an outstanding job of doing this by continuing our work in virtual ways, by taking time to step back and look at where we're going and how we are getting there, and by giving space for rest, healing, and simply being human in a time of crisis. My favourite work since starting with ICA in my capacity as Director of Operations has been supporting our strategic visioning and engagement: looking to each other and to the future for the gifts of wisdom and action that we can take together.



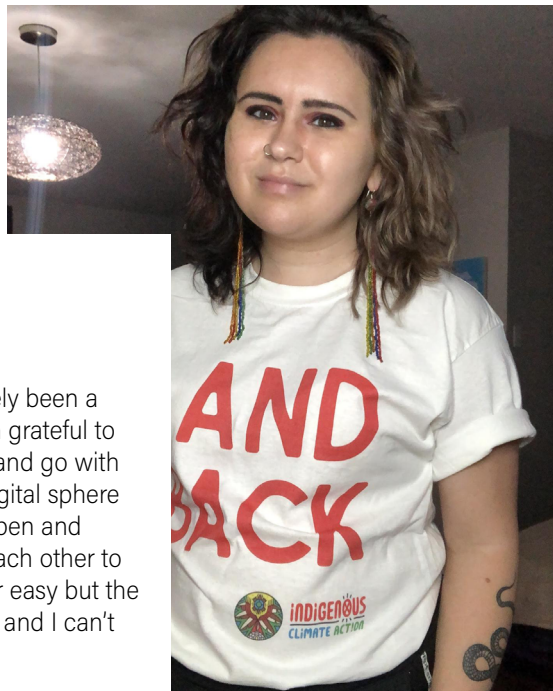


## Melina Laboucan Massimo

### Director of Just Transition & Healing Justice

This year we have seen the team grow and flourish to be able to meet the challenges, needs and gaps that we as Indigenous peoples see as impediments to having even more Indigenous climate action take place across Turtle Island. As one of the co-founders of ICA, I marvel about how the seed of ICA sprouted from a need, then a meeting, to an organization, and is now making ripples into our wider climate justice movement spaces. Even in the face of a pandemic we have been busier than ever tackling the climate crisis.

I am excited to unveil and launch the Just Transition Guide - a project that is very close to my heart as someone who started implementing solar in Indigenous communities in 2015. At first, I found it daunting when I started this research in 2012. Finding support or resources to help understand how solar implementation worked was incredibly difficult. It is my hope that the Just Transition Guide will inspire and support the implementation of more Indigenous climate solutions across Turtle Island. After we launch the Just Transition Guide, I am excited to embark on building out ICA's Healing Justice Pathway. This emerging pathway will assist Indigenous peoples in feeling more resourced and supported, which allows us to stay in this work for the long haul. The Healing Justice Pathway is an effort to combat the high rates of burnout and debilitating trauma that this work often entails. Healing Justice is Climate Justice.



## Lindsey Bacigal

### Director of Communications

What a wild year it has been! It has most definitely been a time of adaptation and Indigen-uity but I've been grateful to have a team that is willing to try out new things and go with the flow. Having to spend so much time in the digital sphere is exhausting, but I'm glad that the ICA team is open and honest about where we're at and encouraging each other to prioritize our well-being. Doing this work is never easy but the people in the ICA community are some rad folks and I can't wait to see what we build.





## Kyla Pascal

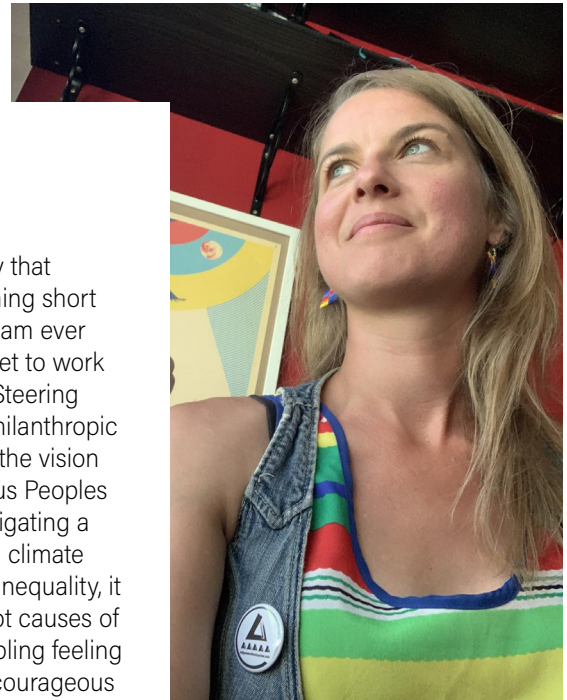
### Executive Assistant

As I look back over a year of working with ICA I'm grateful for how we adapted as a team to the changing times. The commitment to the health of the staff, the support of our communities, and continued passion for climate justice is inspiring. We continued to build relationships, strengthen our foundations, and amplify the voices of the amazing work being led by Indigenous folks across Turtle Island. I look forward to working with ICA as we continue to support the healing and support of ourselves, the land, and our communities.

## Sheila Muxlow

### Director of Development

Some say hindsight is 2020, and I'm happy to say that 2020 is in our hindsight! This year has been nothing short of profoundly challenging, yet at the same time I am ever grateful and in awe of the networks of people I get to work with. I have so much gratitude for the team and Steering Committee of ICA, fellow co-conspirators, and philanthropic allies who continue to show up and bring about the vision for a world with sovereign and thriving Indigenous Peoples and cultures leading climate justice for all. In navigating a global pandemic within the context of increasing climate chaos, racial violence, and social and economic inequality, it is crucial to invest in strategies that get to the root causes of our collective problems. It's a powerful and humbling feeling to continue through 2021 in a movement that is courageous enough to take on the legacies of colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy and lean into the work that supports just transitions, Indigenous sovereignty, and healing justice.





## Jayce Chiblow

### Community Engagement Lead

Working with ICA this past year has been an enriching experience. Despite COVID and the many pivots and shifts the team has had to make, I appreciate the team and our commitment to prioritizing wellness, teamwork, and the health of staff, Steering Committee members, the land, and our broader network. I'm grateful for the chances to continue learning from such great climate leaders within our staff, our network and Steering Committee through engagement opportunities and group training. I'm looking forward to continuing this great work for the land, Indigenous communities, Nations, peoples and our future generations in 2021!

## Lindsay Monture

### Director of Programs

This past year has given me a lot of time to reflect on the uncertainty of the times we are in, while carrying out my role as a new mother. This resulted in an overwhelming and urgent need to do whatever I can to work towards securing a better future for my daughter and the Earth. I am so grateful to ICA for welcoming me to the team and giving me the opportunity to do this work. To be part of an organization dedicated to climate justice through empowering Indigenous knowledge, rights and sovereignty, especially during a global pandemic, is an honor.

It's no doubt that COVID-19 has become a turning point for all of us to switch gears in our personal, academic and work lives. It calls for us all to grow in order to persevere, and I look forward to the continued growth of ICA, the roll-out of our programs and research projects that will empower our communities to engage in climate justice to secure a healthy and safe future for us all.



*We would also like to recognize other contractors, staff, and volunteers throughout the 2020 year:*

*Andrea Bastien (Director of Operations), Nigel Henri Robinson (Youth Engagement Lead), Jo Billows (Intersectional Movement Building Research Intern), Ashley Hynes (Environmental Research Coordinator), Rebecca Sinclair (Decolonizing Climate Policy Researcher), Suzanne Dhaliwal (Communications Assistant), Farron Rickerby (Assistant Researcher for Youth Needs Assessment), Georgia Greetham (Financial Coordinator), Jillian Crocker (Volunteer Accessibility Coordinator), Anne MacKillican (Community Engagement Volunteer), Brina Romanek (Podcast Editor), Sharon Lungo (Toolkit Curriculum Writer), Susana Deranger (Toolkit Curriculum Writer), Erika Pulfer (Toolkit Knowledge Guide Editor), Erin Seatter (Toolkit Curriculum Editor), Katie Wilson (Toolkit Designer), Howie Chong (Website Designer), Sydney Verburg (Development Volunteer), and Vanessa Sloan Morgan (Development Volunteer).*



Our work is guided by our volunteer Steering Committee (SC) with Indigenous representatives from across Indigenous lands and 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. 2020 marked the start of a new two year term for many of our Steering Committee members.

In 2020 we also began a path of strategic visioning with our Steering Committee that included seeking wisdom from storytelling sessions.

## ICA Steering Committee 2020

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Michelle Myers**  
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations



**Ellen Gabriel**  
Turtle Clan, Kanien'kehá:ka Nation

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE



**Michelle Brass**  
Saulteaux, Member of Yellow  
Quill First Nation



**Erica Violet Lee**  
Nehiyaw Nation, Thunderchild  
Cree Nation



**Susana Deranger**  
Athabasca Chipewyan First  
Nation



**Daniel T'seleie**  
K'ahsho Got'ine (also known as  
Fort Good Hope Dene Band)



**Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse**  
Cree and Mohawk



**Leslie Florence Saddleback**  
Pigeon Lake



**Brendan Campbell**  
Montreal Lake Cree Nation and  
Cowessess Cree Nation



**Bryanna R. Brown**  
Happy Valley-Goose Bay,  
Labrador, Nunatsiavut



**Maureen Gustafson**  
Anishinaabe - Couchiching First  
Nation



**Natasha Akiwenzie**  
Lac Seul First Nation



**Midori Nicolson**  
Musgamagw Dzawadaenuxw



**Christopher Reid**  
Nisga'a (Gingolx)



**Donna Ashamock**  
Cree Nation

# 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 & TRAININGS**

Uplifting our expertise and knowledge as drivers of solutions to climate change

## **AMPLIFYING VOICES**

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

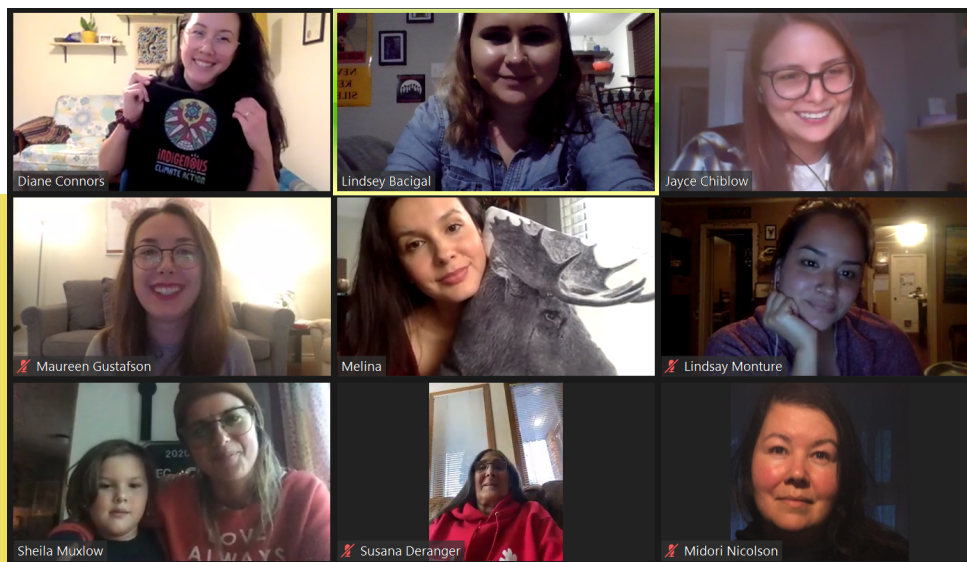
## **SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY**

Centering Indigenous Peoples, rights and knowledge in the climate discourse



## GATHERINGS

*“Strong communities are born out of individuals being their best selves.”*



- Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *Not Murdered, Not Missing: Rebelling against Colonial Gender Violence*, 2020



Due to the pandemic, ICA was not able to host any Gatherings this year. Rather, we hosted online forums, webinars, participated in virtual panels and speaking events, and interacted with our Steering Committee over various Zoom meetings. Though we prefer meeting face-to-face for our work fostering relationships and building community, we have adapted to the best of our abilities and look forward to a time where we can come together in person again.

Thankfully, we did manage to get in one face-to-face staff meeting right before the beginning of quarantine, in late February. We're grateful for having had that one get-together, as we didn't know that we wouldn't be able to see each other in person over the next year!



*“Working for environmental and economic justice is spiritual work that reaffirms our human relationship and responsibility to protect the sacredness of Mother Earth and the recognition of Father Sky.”*

- Tom Goldtooth, Stopping the Privatization of Nature presentation, 2013

## Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit

The Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit had to shift due to COVID-19. Originally, we had hoped to offer in-person train the trainer style workshops with the communities and peoples involved in the co-creation, but in order to maintain the safety of those in our network and our staff, the shape of the toolkit pivoted to online/distance learning. This change resulted in a delay in the release of the toolkit and our offering of the program itself. The toolkit will now consist of both in-person and online modifications for communities, Nations, and peoples to offer their own training in a way that feels safe to them. The program is still centered around building capacity and training folks to offer training in their community, Nation, or organization.

In 2020, our curriculum developers were able to complete both the online and in-person training exercises. Editing and design work began shortly after. In October, we were also able to offer an initial Toolkit Teaser Workshop with ICA staff and Steering Committee members to get a sense of how exercises work online. This session was an excellent opportunity to practise, but also to receive constructive feedback which we then worked into the curriculum and facilitation guide.

The Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit and training program are on track to be released and offered in 2021.



**iNDiGENOUS**  
**CLIMATE ACTION**  
**TOOLKIT**

## Research

### INTERSECTIONAL MOVEMENT BUILDING

Jo Billows joined the ICA team in August as our Intersectional Movement Building Research Intern, working to create an annotated bibliography on the history of social movements in so-called Canada over the past 50 years (1970-2020), and to gather contact information for relevant organizations and coalitions that ICA could potentially build relationships with or work with in the future. Emergent themes from this work include:

1. Key areas of potential for transformative intersectional work – workers and environmentalism, immigration and environmentalism, environmental racism and toxic imperialism
2. Limiting frameworks – limitations of a human rights framework, limitations caused by complex funding relationships, and limitations of inclusion and “diversity”
3. Theories of change – honoring a variety of contributions and ways of knowing, anti-oppressive work as intersectionality in practice and intersectionality in the archive

The full report from this research will be released in spring of 2021. With the grounding provided by this research we next aim to build out a database/network of frontline movements, environmental justice work, and associated research. We will also use this research to further our relationship building with other grassroots coalitions and bring in more voices as speakers for panels, events, and podcast episodes.

### PCF/HEHE Critical Report & Indigenous-led Climate Policy Research

ICA hired a Decolonizing Climate Policy Researcher, Rebecca Sinclair, to work in partnership with Dr. Jen Gobby to publish an Indigenous-focused critique of the Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) and A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy (HEHE). The plans were reviewed by a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peer reviewers, as well as the ICA team, from which a report detailing the critiques was compiled. The release of the report in 2021 will conclude Phase One of a two-part Decolonizing Climate Policy Project. Phase Two will be informed by an Advisory Council (AC) made up of Indigenous knowledge keepers representing the five land biomes across the territories of Canada. The AC will guide the research team through the creation of Indigenous-led climate policy work.

### INDIGENOUS ECONOMICS ASSEMBLY

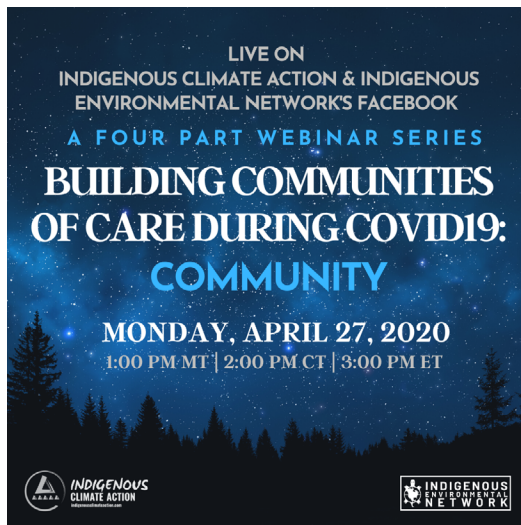
ICA and the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE) have come together in a research and development partnership to build out an Indigenous Economics Assembly for the biennial CANSEE conference in June 2021, with a goal to shape the conference discourse to effectively prioritize a collaborative, two-eyed seeing, approach to ecological economics (EE). The partnership aims to champion Indigenous voices and Indigenous-led discussions on meaningful and transformational change towards an ecological economy in so-called Canada.

Through this partnership, ICA has hired a Research Coordinator, who will work on putting together a unique Indigenous Economics Assembly, bringing in ongoing ICA projects that may prove relevant for the conference presentations, workshops, keynotes or other content. The Research Coordinator's work also includes the creation of a database of Indigenous researchers and projects doing work in relation to ecological economics, as well as promoting and disseminating the body of knowledge articulating Indigenous Ecological Economics research and practice to the conference audience and beyond. The Indigenous Economics Assembly will take place in June.

*"I think when you see an unfair situation, no matter how little you are, or how insignificant you feel, or how unimportant the world seems to think you are or treat you, I think it is possible to have your voice heard and to make a difference."*

- Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Inuk filmmaker, interview, 2016

## AMPLIFYING VOICES



As the pandemic went on, we continued to utilize webinars as a way to connect with those in our network and to speak about Indigenous rights and sovereignty. A few highlights included: [Indigenous Moose Teachings](#) and [Indigenous Bear Teachings](#) (in collaboration with Keepers of the Water, Kâniyâsihk Culture Camps, and Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre); [2Spirit Stories: Building Inclusive Intersectional Movements](#); [Anti-Canada Day](#); Just Recovery for Indigenous Women & Land Defenders (in collaboration with International Funders for Indigenous Peoples); [Fire Drill Fridays with Jane Fonda](#); [Philanthro-Activism and the Climate Crisis: Building a Just, Vibrant Future for All](#); and [the Proposed Teck Mine and the Barriers to Climate Action Posed by Canada's Oil and Gas Lobby](#) (in collaboration with CAN-RAC and Environmental Defence).

## Webinars

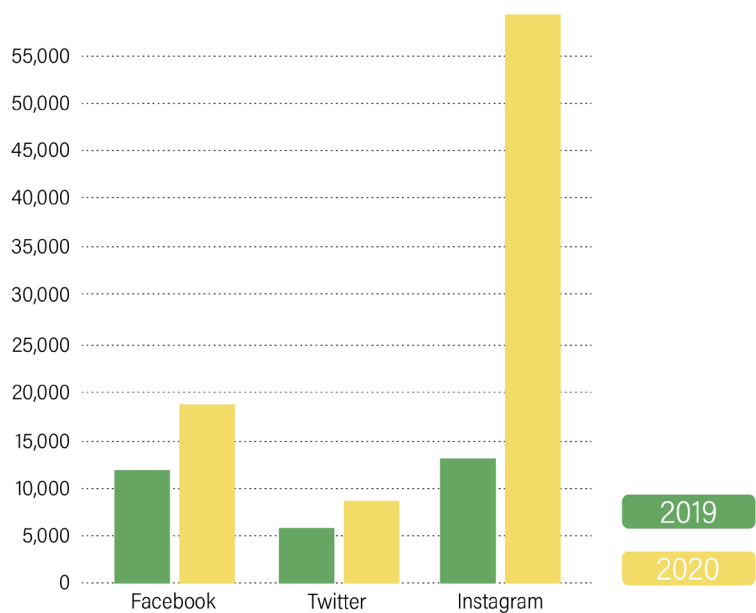
ICA hosted and participated in a number of webinars in 2020! Towards the beginning of the pandemic we hosted a webinar on [COVID19 and Indigenous Communities](#) in collaboration with Idle No More and NDN Collective fellows, Waasekom and Jesse Cardinal. From there, we then hosted four webinars in collaboration with Indigenous Environmental Network - "Building Indigenous Communities of Care during COVID19." Each webinar was built around a theme: [Caution](#), [Community](#), [Traditional Practices](#), and [Compassion](#).



## Social Media

Thank you to all of our new followers on social media this year, as we had another big year of growth! Our Facebook increased by 6,500+, Twitter by 3,000+, and Instagram by 45,000+.

We are also grateful to the collaborators we worked with throughout the year to put out some great social media series, profiling topics such as: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples; ICA's 2019 Gathering, *Bringing Our Voices Together*; a land reparations series with Refinery29; the first recipients of our Sovereignty in Action Awards; highlights from our Youth Needs Assessment; and many reshares and amplification of Indigenous Peoples' frontline fights in so-called Canada and beyond.



## Rebranding

In 2020, ICA did a whole rebrand! We hosted a logo competition and received many great entries, but ultimately chose the logo made by [Jordan Stranger](#), an Oji-Cree artist. From there, we used the colors and motifs of Jordan's design to create a whole new website, done by designer [Howie Chong](#).

## Media

We released 33 pieces on our blog/news page. Some of our most read posts were: [COVID19 Resources for Indigenous Peoples](#); [Press Release: Indigenous Youth Occupying Office of Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources](#); [Frontline Organizations Serving Indigenous Communities During COVID19](#); and [ICA Celebrates Reject Teck Win](#).

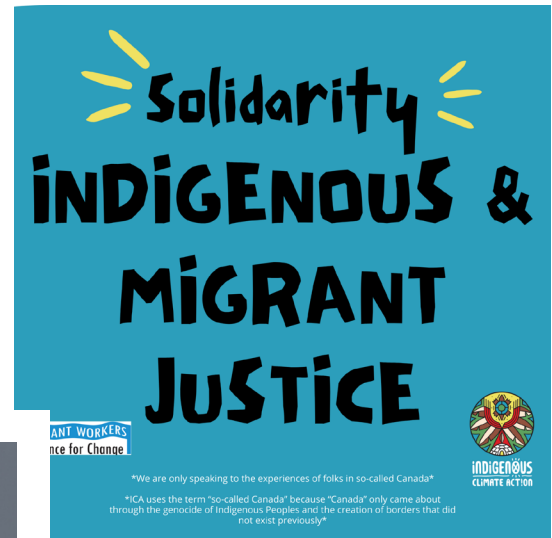
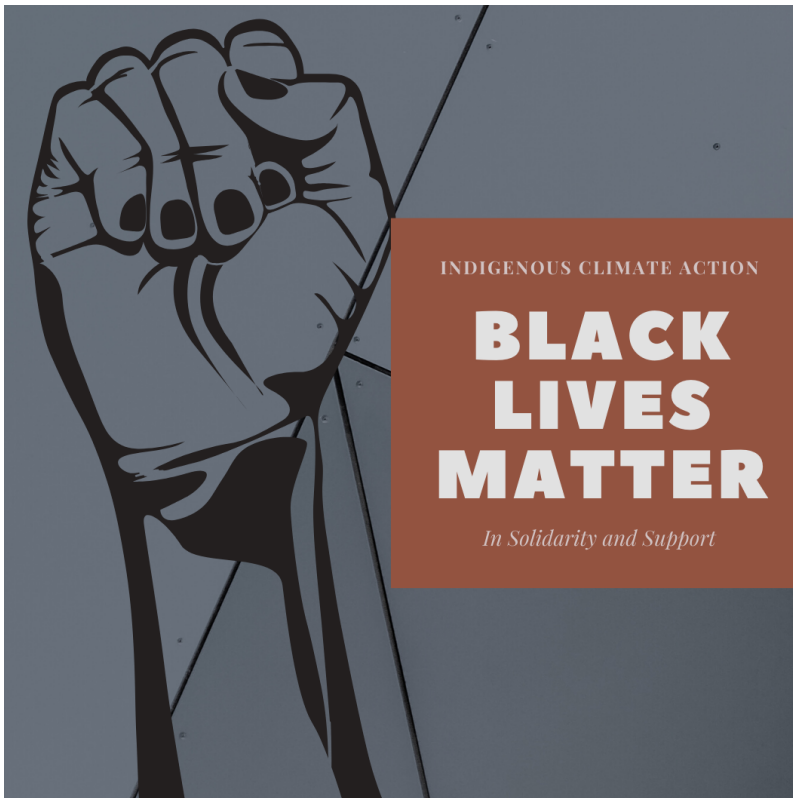
We also did interviews with various media outlets, including: the Toronto Star, Bloomberg, Rabble, CBC, Al Jazeera English, HuffPost Canada, PressProgress, and The Globe and Mail.

**News + Blog +  
Press Releases**

## Intersectionality

"Intersectionality" is a term that was first coined in 1989 by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a Black civil rights activist and legal scholar who not only introduced and developed the idea of intersectionality but is also one of the founding minds behind critical race theory and the development of intersectional feminism.

Intersectionality is the theory that describes how overlapping social identities relate to systems and structure of oppression (i.e. ethnicity, sexuality, gender, economic background, ability, economic class, etc.). Putting intersectionality into practice, ICA conducted the aforementioned intersectional movement building research and continued to strive for collective power building between oppressed communities by building awareness about our common struggles current systems of power.



Following the murder of George Floyd, the ICA staff and Steering Committee come together for a Black Lives Matter video to illustrate the need for Indigenous solidarity with Black and Black/Indigenous relatives. We also worked with our friends at the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change to create a series of social media posts diving into solidarity between Indigenous Peoples and migrants. Additionally, ICA participated in the formation of the Just Recovery Principles, providing much of the language around Indigenous rights, both as its own principle and throughout the course of the document, as a whole.

Our team is also consistently working towards improving the accessibility of our communications in order to make our content more available for disabled relatives.



# SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

*"That's how you get your rights recognized; you have to stand there and you have to be ready to go down swinging. And if you really want to win, we're going to have to stand up to them clean across the country. And if we do stand up against them, clean across the country, I know that we are going to be able to win. There's no question about it."*

- Art Manuel, ICA Panel on UNDRIP, 2016



## Solidarity

Though we were unable to travel for the vast majority of the year, ICA continued to show solidarity with Indigenous Peoples across so-called Canada and beyond. This solidarity looked like:

- monetary donations through our Sovereignty in Action Awards where we granted \$2,000 to ten Indigenous frontline organizations and collectives across the country;
- pre-pandemic on-the-ground support to Indigenous Youth for Wet'suwet'en and their occupations in Victoria and digital support for the various Wet'suwet'en solidarity occupations across the country;
- amplifying the voices of frontline Indigenous resistance through ICA's social media;
- partnering with other Indigenous organizations, collectives, and media makers;
- providing support with solar installations at the Gidimt'en Camp on Wet'suwet'en territory; and
- solidarity support for frontline organizers such as the Tiny House Warriors and communities fighting against the TMX pipeline.

# Indigenous Climate Action

## Youth Needs Assessment

2020



## Youth

### YOUTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To better understand the needs and challenges affecting youth in our community, ICA conducted a [Youth Needs Assessment](#) for Indigenous youth currently interested or engaged in advocacy work in the areas of climate justice and Indigenous rights. This project was completed as “Community-Based Participatory Action Research” (CBPAR) in collaboration with a Master’s student at the University of Oxford, Farron Rickerby.

The online survey was shared across ICA’s network and received 82 responses from Indigenous youth aged 18-30. Indigenous youth from ICA’s network participated in an online focus group to share stories of their motivations, challenges, wellness and resiliency.

The main outcomes for this endeavour were to:

- identify barriers to Indigenous youth engaged in climate and Indigenous rights advocacy work
- establish the knowledge base and skill sets of Indigenous youth engaged in advocacy work
- determine the top priorities for where ICA can educate and empower Indigenous youth.

### CARBON PRICING TRAINING

As a part of our continued dedication to supporting, building capacity with, and uplifting Indigenous youth, ICA invited youth in our network to join ICA staff and Steering Committee members in Indigenous Environmental Network’s [Carbon Pricing Training](#). The two-day training was centered on group discussion and activities geared towards learning about and analyzing market-based carbon pricing initiatives in all of their forms, including: cap and trade, carbon taxes, carbon fee and dividend, offsets, geoengineering technologies, REDD+, BECCS, forest offsets, cap and invest, payments for ecosystem services and many others.

### COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

Our Directors of Communications also hosted a Communications 101 training with Indigenous youth from across so-called Canada. This training was an introduction to communications topics such as strategizing, building narratives, digital vs. traditional media, and digital security.



## Reject Teck



At COP25 in Madrid, ICA launched the Reject Teck campaign. Teck Frontier was set to be the largest ever open pit mine, but in February 2020, after protests, press conferences, and celebrity solidarity, Teck withdrew its application for the project, cancelling itself. We want to thank all those that worked with us on this campaign, particularly UBCIC, Tiny House Warriors, and the countless frontline voices that joined with us to protest against this antiquated project.

In addition to ICA's Climate Change Toolkit, it was decided that we would also develop a Just Transition Guide, based on the work of Melina Laboucan-Massimo's Master's thesis, her research fellowship at the David Suzuki Foundation and her TV series "Power to the People." The Just Transition Guide is being developed in partnership with Sacred Earth Solar, a sister organization of ICA that works on solar implementation in Indigenous communities. Melina founded Sacred Earth Solar in 2015, beginning with the implementation of a 20.8 kW solar project that powers the health centre in her own community of Little Buffalo.

The Just Transition Guide captures stories of Indigenous communities leading the way on renewable energy, eco-housing and food security. These climate solutions also support cultural and language revitalization which ultimately allows for communities to be more resilient in the face of climate change.

## Just Transition

The guide is meant to be a resource for Indigenous Peoples to see examples and stories, learn technical information in an accessible way, and get guidance on how to move forward through a just transition to a renewable energy future. We expect the Just Transition Guide will be released in Summer 2021.

Since last fall, ICA, in partnership with Sacred Earth Solar, has been supporting the implementation of more solar installations. Together, we are working with Gidimt'en Camp on Wet'suwet'en territory on a solar project, which will be completed in spring 2021. In summer 2021, ICA and Sacred Earth Solar will also be supporting Onaman Collective in solarizing the Nimkii Aazhibikong Camp, which is an Indigenous-led culture and language revitalization camp in Ontario.





## Bianca Martin

*"I've had a great time in my interactions with ICA, and I've had plenty of opportunities to learn and grow. ICA makes an effort to be inclusive and offer safe spaces for learning through an Indigenous lens. The work they do is beneficial to all, since we're all borrowing from mother earth. It's very empowering to know how to be a climate activist!"*

## Gabrielle Fayant

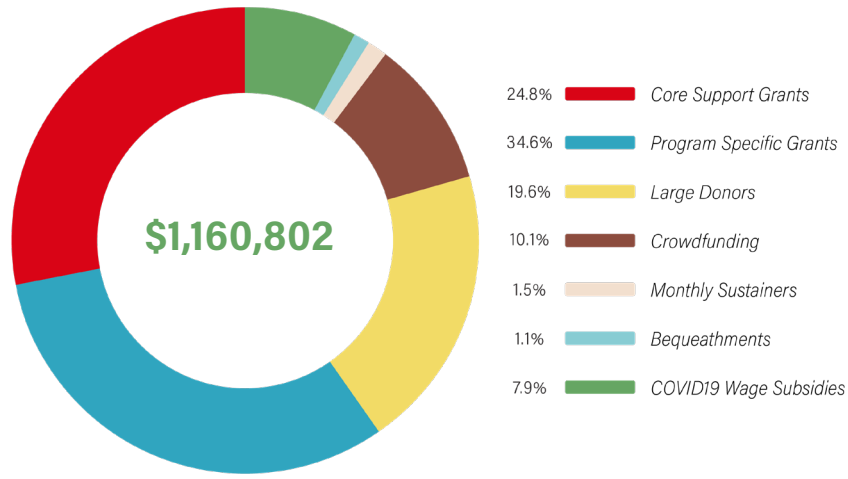
*"It's been really great to work with ICA from being recognized with a Community Award to working with ICA as a partner for a Land Back Concert. All our engagement with ICA has been really welcoming. Having support from a national platform like ICA is very encouraging at a grassroots level and encourages us to continue our work."*



## Kris Archie

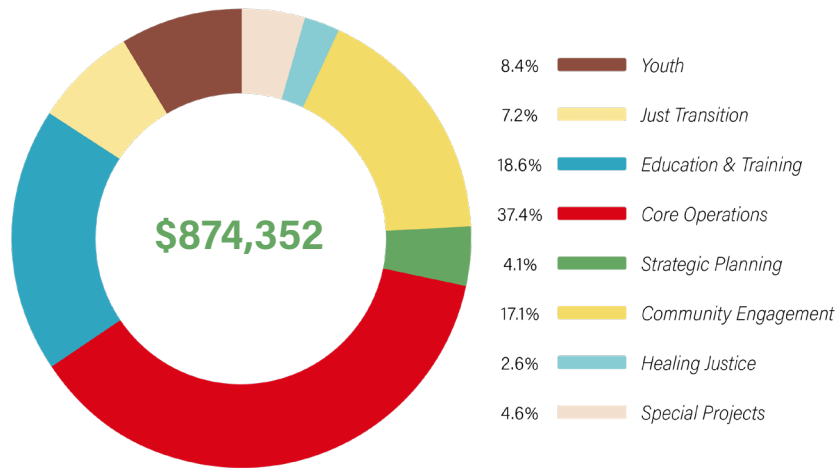
*"The Circle is proud to have ICA as a member of our national network. Their shared labour alongside Indigenous Peoples for the protection of this planet is a gift for us all. Their focused work to engage with, amplify the innovation, wisdom and rights of Indigenous peoples is needed now more than ever - in a time when ENGO's are grappling to stay relevant, focused on master narratives and seeking desperately to build relations to Indigenous communities - ICA has built a thoughtful, engaging and reciprocal movement for change. This is where the future of Climate Justice, Healing and Centering Indigenous voices will be - at home with ICA. For those seeking answers on where to put support - if you want your funds focused on sovereignty, innovation and justice - this is the movement to back."*

# Financial Snapshot



## 2020 REVENUE

Our development strategies continue to support the decolonizing of philanthropy and facilitate wealth redistribution with the support of foundations and large donors. This year also had an increase in small donations from academic groups and unions, as well as our first bequeathment! We continue to see an increase in contributions through our Teespring store and crowdfunding campaigns, and we are slowly increasing our monthly sustainers to provide critical unrestricted funds so we can be responsive to the needs of frontline community members.



## 2020 EXPENSES

This year we were able to provide honorariums to our Steering Committee members for their strategic planning support. We continued to strengthen our core operations and ensure resources are getting to the grassroots by pivoting our community engagement strategies to provide small grants to frontline groups and facilitating online input to support our programming. We also began a number of special projects, including: increased participation in international climate discussions, work around decolonizing climate policy, and exploration of opportunities for intersectional movement building.

*Net Income of Donations, and deferred Grants are carrying operations and projects into 2021.*



solidaire



Underdog Fund of



COMMON COUNSEL FOUNDATION

**URGENT ACTION FUND**  
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



## Thank You to Our Supporters

At ICA we are grateful for the support of many individuals, organizations, and foundations who support us with both social capital and monetary funds to build the vision for a world with sovereign and thriving Indigenous Peoples and cultures leading climate justice for all.

In order for us to move towards a climate just future, we must start with de-centering white supremacy culture and divesting from our reliance on fossil fuels. At ICA we are building and modeling a decolonial framework that uplifts funding principles that encourage the philanthropic community to join us in this journey and re-center relationships of reciprocity with each other and the planet.

We take a principled approach to development and partnerships and uphold our organizational values of **accountability, reciprocity and respect** in all of our work. This year we would like to honour our major foundation donors and will continue to explore opportunities for recognition of the growing number of union chapters, university groups, small businesses and individuals who want to join us in this courageous journey.



# What to Expect in 2021

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*"Our ancestors' teachings have given us strength for hundreds of years and they fought long and hard to keep our languages, culture, customs and traditions alive. Listen to Mother Earth and what all our relations are telling us in this time of climate change."*

- Ellen Gabriel, personal blog, 2012

## HEALING JUSTICE

ICA is seeking to transform extractivism in all aspects of what we do - both in our climate justice work fighting the extraction of fossil fuels, and in fighting the extraction of the very spirit of Indigenous Peoples. We seek to understand and build new ways of being that bring about restorative decolonial practices and tools that strengthen the health of our bodies and whole selves. We know this is a crucial foundation for Indigenous Peoples to thrive in a just climate future. The psychological stress of doing this hard work and living life as an Indigenous woman makes itself known through the body. The immense impact is felt intimately but goes unseen and unsupported by the wider climate movement.

Formerly Director of Programs, Melina Laboucan-Massimo is moving into the role of Director of Healing Justice. This is a brand new role in which Melina will be drawing on her own experience of stress, trauma, and healing to develop a holistic program for ICA's work - a fifth pathway for ICA. This pathway will not only influence ICA's internal operations as a team, but will also overlay our programming for youth, our trainings and gatherings, our project work for energy sovereignty and a Just Transition, and every aspect of what we do. Healing is Justice.



## **YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

ICA will start the new year with our new Youth Engagement Lead (YEL), Shay Lynn Sampson! Her work will include the development and implementation of youth-focused engagement programs that will build the capacity of Indigenous youth and support their participation in Indigenous-led climate solutions. This engagement includes: training and workshops that respond to ICA's Youth Needs Assessment, building-out of ICA's Youth Council, creating content for social media around Indigenous youth climate justice campaigns, and supporting a delegation of Indigenous youth to participate in COP26 in November 2021.

## **JUST TRANSITION**

ICA's Just Transition program will move forward in 2021 with the launch of our Just Transition Guide, and a new Just Transition Lead responsible for the development and implementation of our Just Transition campaigns. One of these campaigns is to build out training programs based on the Just Transition Guide to support renewable energy projects with community partners, and nurture strategic relationships to advance the values that are critical for Indigenous energy sovereignty. Our current community partners include the Onaman Collective and Gidimt'en Yintah in Wet'suwet'en territory.

## **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT PROGRAM**

The Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit and the program will be released in 2021!

The toolkit will consist of a stand alone Knowledge Guide, which is a comprehensive resource that all Indigenous Peoples, Nations and communities can access to learn more about climate change

and climate action. The second component to the toolkit is a Curriculum Guide that offers a step-by-step guide for Indigenous Peoples, communities and Nations to conduct an Indigenous climate action training. There will also be additional resources for facilitators to modify the material to best suit their community, Nation or organization's needs.

We will first offer a pilot cohort training with folks in the ICA network, previous toolkit coordinators, and workshop facilitators. Participants in the pilot cohort will be offering detailed and honest feedback that the ICA team will then implement into future offerings of the program. Once the feedback is implemented, ICA will be offering public cohorts of the program for Indigenous Peoples in so-called Canada. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive access to all toolkit materials and additional resources in order to allow for participants to offer toolkit trainings in their own group, community, Nation or organization.

## **INDIGENOUS-LED MEDIA**

2021 is going to be an exciting year for ICA communications because we're launching a podcast! We'll be profiling stories and teachings from Indigenous folks across so-called Canada and beyond and getting into some discussions around topics like pipeline financing and healing justice. We'll be doing our first drop of episodes in spring of 2021.

# In Closing

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2020 was a year full of unexpected changes! Though we've had to make pivots in order to fit into this new world, we've remained true to our mission. We have so much gratitude for our team, our Steering Committee, our community, and our co-conspirators across so-called Canada and beyond for making these shifts with us and supporting us along the way. 2021 is shaping up to be a great year for ICA and we can't wait to share all of the exciting projects we've been working on!

# 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

[www.IndigenousClimateAction.com](http://www.IndigenousClimateAction.com)

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