

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON THIS JOURNEY

Dear relatives, friends, and supporters,

As we land in 2022 we have much to celebrate and be grateful for, especially the continued support of so many communities and allies in advancing climate justice for Indigenous peoples and for all. The ongoing Covid19 pandemic is still impacting the everyday work of ICA and many others and our hearts go out to all families who have experienced sickness and lost loved ones over the last couple of years. Despite the grief, isolation, and ongoing challenges, it was so inspiring to witness the love, community care, and strength of our peoples.

We truly are witnessing Indigenous renaissance. There is a marked increase in the recognition and implementation of Indigenous peoples' rights, culture, and ways of being across all sectors, including climate justice. There is now a growing chorus of support for Indigenous frontline resistance to continued colonization, land theft and out of control climate change seen within numerous victories including the canceling of the [KXL pipeline!](#) The strength of Indigenous rights are further supported by the calls to action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the MMIW inquiry, and the unmasking of the atrocities of residential schools and our lost children found in mass graves across so-called Canada. Our people are in a strong position to ensure our challenges, voices and actions no longer go unheard.

We are rising up to be the leaders our ancestors envisioned, and it is our responsibility to honor all those before us and all those that come after us.

Climate change continues to threaten our planet, our communities, and the health and well-being of all peoples. We know that we need to be addressing the climate crisis from a more holistic vision that includes the root causes - colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy and patriarchy. Degrading the climate crisis to a mathematical equation to be solved with spreadsheets and technologies further separate us as part of living ecosystems. ICA has continued to influence the broader narrative on climate change to disrupt false solutions through amplifying numerous Indigenous struggles, movements and expertise.

Our ICA social media following continues to increase every year allowing us to support the amplification of the amazing work of our communities.

We know that amplifying our voices is only part of the work. Last year we leaned into sharing resources to ensure sustainable work on the frontlines. This included supporting frontline land defenders within the network of [Building Movements in Defense of Life](#); supporting community members on the frontlines at Wet'suwet'en opposing the Coastal Gas Pipeline; and supporting the completion of a [solarization project](#) with the [Nimkii Aazhbikong \(Onoman Camp\)](#).

With the ongoing pandemic we continued to lean into virtual offerings - from webinars to online gatherings and trainings. We hosted two major virtual gatherings: the [Indigenous Economics: Reclaiming the Sacred conference](#) and the [Youth in Just Transition gathering](#) and officially launched public trainings with our long anticipated [Climate Leadership Toolkit!](#)

One of the biggest events of 2021 was the ICA delegation to [COP26 in Glasgow](#), Scotland. This was one of the largest ICA cohorts and we leaned into our Healing Justice pathway to improve the experience for our delegation. We also leveraged the international attention to deepen the understanding of colonialism as a root cause of climate change; led the Global Climate March; held a divestment demonstration at JP Morgan Chase in Glasgow; and honoured our people with a water ceremony and an event to highlight the ongoing crisis of murdered and missing Indigenous relatives with an international memorial event.

We also were grateful to have collaborated on a numerous publications with various organizations and groups: [The Climate Emergency & the Colonial Response](#) - Yellowhead Institute; Indigenous rights are a counterforce to the climate crisis. Developing our Indigenous resources and research is critical to being able to showcase the amazing work of our communities. Last year, we exposed the gaps in proposed Canadian climate policies with our Phase 1 [Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada report](#) and launched a sneak peek report [The Risks and Threats of 'Nature-based Climate Solutions' for Indigenous Peoples](#). In addition, we co-released two reports with the [Indigenous Environmental Network](#), [Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon](#) - highlighting the strength of land defense in keeping carbon in the ground, and [Hoodwinked in the Hothouse: Resist False Solutions to Climate Change](#) - highlighting the many false solutions impacting people and the planet.

We also were grateful to have collaborated on numerous publications with various organizations and groups: [The Climate Emergency & the Colonial Response](#) - Yellowhead Institute; [Indigenous rights are a counterforce to the climate crisis](#) - The Breach; and [Canada's Trans Mountain Pipeline is 'genocide against my people.' Why it's 'climate suicide' for insurance companies](#) - The Toronto Star.

We know that our youth are the one inheriting the future and strengthening our investment in our young people is critical for sustainable climate action.

Throughout 2021 we explored a variety of ways to support our young people with our [Youth Wellness Honorarium](#), recruitment for our [Youth Leadership Council](#) and extending support for our [Youth Engagement Lead Shay Lynn Sampson to be on the frontline](#) in her territories of Wet'suwet'en. I have been incredibly inspired to learn from, and celebrate the incredible intelligence and courage that inspires all of us to stay in this work for the long haul.

Overall, 2021 was a year of deep transformation for ICA with new team members, pathways, programs and an internal structural shift. The new structure at ICA includes "pods" to support the growing and different bodies of work including the Heart & Soul (community advisory councils), Stewardship (high level leadership and development), Inform & Connect (community engagement and communication), Nourishment (operations and financial management) and Explore & Blossom (Education, Training and research) pods. [Read more about our restructure and new team members here.](#)

None of this could have been done without the continued support and generous contributions of so many of our friends and allies. We look forward to continuing to walk together in this journey for climate justice.



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



ABOUT ICA

“Colonialism caused climate change”

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led climate justice 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 we know it is essential to have Indigenous leadership to bring us along a pathway for climate justice.

ICA works on connecting and supporting Indigenous community members 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.

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

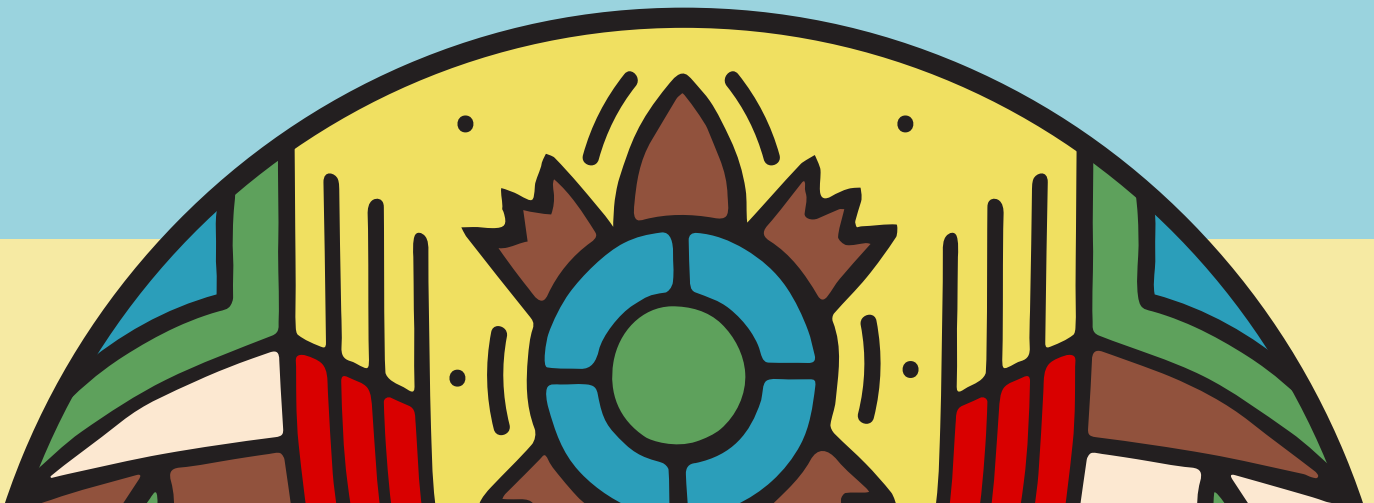
- **Vision** - A world with sovereign and thriving Indigenous Peoples and cultures leading climate justice for all.
- **Mission** - We inspire action through the development of tools and opportunities created with, by and for our communities, with the goal of uplifting Indigenous voices, sovereignty, and stewardship of the lands and waters for future generations.
- **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.



MEET OUR TEAM



Executive Director, Eriel Tchekwie Deranger is a Dënesų́tiné mother from the [Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation](#) (ACFN) and the Executive Director and co-founder of [Indigenous Climate Action](#) (ICA), an Indigenous-led climate justice organization in so-called Canada. Deranger is a member of the International [Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change](#), and sits on various boards including [Bioneers](#), [It Takes Roots Leadership Council](#), [Climate Justice Resiliency Fund](#) Council of Advisors, and [WWF Canada](#); and was a founding member of the [Global Indigenous Youth Caucus](#).

Deranger's work focuses on Indigenous rights and building intersectional dialogue between Indigenous rights, climate justice and other social justice movements. She is recognized for her role as the spokesperson for her community (ACFN) in the international [Indigenous Tar Sands Campaign](#) and developing the [Tar Sands Healing Walk](#). This included developing one of the first Indigenous rights-based divestment movements; lobbying government officials in Canada, the US, the UK

supporting and leading mass mobilizations against the fossil fuel industry & climate change; and bringing international recognition to issues in her territory with celebrities and politicians alike.

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Senior Director, Melina Laboucan-Massimo has worked on climate justice, Indigenous sovereignty and women's rights for over 20 years. Melina is Lubicon Cree from Northern Alberta, Canada. She is a co-founder at Indigenous Climate Action as well as the founder of [Sacred Earth Solar](#). Melina is the inaugural Fellow at the David Suzuki Foundation where her research focused on Climate Change, Indigenous Knowledge and Renewable Energy. She is the Host of a new TV series called Power to the People which profiles renewable energy in Indigenous communities.

Melina holds a Master's degree in Indigenous Governance at the University of Victoria with a focus on Renewable Energy. Melina has studied, campaigned and worked in Brazil, Australia, Mexico, Canada and across Europe focusing on resource extraction, climate change impacts, media literacy and Indigenous rights & responsibilities.

Melina also works on the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women after the suspicious death of her sister Bella whose case still remains unsolved.

Melina currently serves on the boards of [NDN Collective](#), [Seeding Sovereignty](#) as well as the Executive Steering Committee of [Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise](#).

Lubicon Cree



Executive Assistant, Nhattan Nguyen (he/him) was born and raised in Tiohtià:ke (Montreal). Second generation Vietnamese to traditional unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk), his family fled the aftermath of the war in their country. Nhattan started at Indigenous Climate Action in June 2021.

Fluent in both English and French, Nhattan has almost 10 years of experience in organizing and movement photography, supporting the participation and collaboration of various communities in environmental decision-making and advocacy, from helping youth challenge the status quo at UN climate negotiations to working with frontline and grassroots activists fighting for Indigenous rights and racial justice. He was recently the Operations and Outreach Coordinator at Climate Action Network.

When not working or indulging in baking therapy in his kitchen, you can find him out and about on trails or rivers, cycling, running, skiing, skating, or paddling!

Second-generation Vietnamese to Kanyen'kehà:ka territory



Associate Director, Sheila Muxlow is a queer, cis-femme, white settler born and raised on the territories of the Ts'elxwéyew' Tribe of the Sto:lo Nation in a place anglatized to become known as Chilliwack. Her family is a mix of Dutch, Irish and English lineages who benefited from the lands and resources provided by colonial Canada to white farmers. Sheila came to racial justice work during her time as a student at the University of Ottawa studying International Development and Globalization. She cut her teeth in the climate justice movement when she moved to Amiskwacîwâskahikan, Treaty 6 territories in 2006. Bearing witness to the harms caused by white supremacy in the environmental movement, she has been a friend and co-conspirator in the creation of ICA and an organizer for social justice rooted in values of community care, sovereignty, and collective liberation. Her role of Associate Director is very much one of allyship with a clear mandate to support processes that uplift Indigenous leadership and nurture relationships that ensure ongoing support for the work of ICA to continue in a good way.

Non-Indigenous Ally & Co-conspirator



Development Coordinator, Cherie Island is nehiyaw from Treaty 8 northern Alberta and second generation Filipina. She resides in amiskwaciwâskahikan and takes every opportunity to visit the river and the nearby mountains.

She is a proud auntie of five and a plant mom to over 100 plants!

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation



Operations Director, Diane Connors (she/her) grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, near the valley of the North Saskatchewan River. She grounds her identity in her two grandmothers, one from Glasgow and one from the Hong Kong area. She has an Undergraduate degree in Art and Design and a Masters of Resource and Environmental Management. Diane's projects in her studies focused on using art to communicate environmental and social issues, and design as a tool to structure community collaboration and idea sharing.

Diane has worked with several non-profit and civil society organizations over the last ten years on work relating to environmental protection, international development, activism and advocacy, and knowledge sharing/convening. She has focused on youth leadership, climate change and sustainability, Indigenous rights and sovereignty, and community engagement from the grassroots to the United Nations. She is honoured to be using her skills in allyship and solidarity with Indigenous leaders in the environmental movement, and feels privileged to support and learn from everyone at ICA.



Director of Programs, Lindsay Monture (she/her) is Kanienkehá:ka (Mohawk), Turtle Clan from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. A graduate of York University with a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies, Lindsay has worked in media arts in many different capacities for over 10 years. All of her work engages her passion for the arts, culture, language and education. Her desire to work with Indigenous communities has been enriched through opportunities working with arts and culture non-profit organizations such as Kaha:wí Dance Theatre, Native Earth Performing Arts, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Maoriland Film Festival, Revolutions Per Minute, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Oneida Language and Cultural Centre, and the Woodland Cultural Centre.

Lindsay is also an advocate for social justice, Indigenous rights and sovereignty and has dedicated her time and skills towards organizing in her community and supporting community acts of resistance

Turtle Clan from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory



Finance Director, Georgia Greetham, is of mixed-colonial and Mohawk ancestry. For over 20 years, Georgia has been providing financial, administrative, and organizational leadership to a range of organizations (including private sector, first nations' governments, and the non-profit and charities sectors) focused on environmental conservation, land planning & stewardship, sustainable development, health and wellness, and community development. She has lived and worked extensively in the Yukon, in the territories of the Southern Tutchone, Tagish, and Tlingit peoples, and on the West Coast, in the unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples.

Mixed European/Mohawks of Tyendinaga





Research and Policy Analyst, Rebecca Sinclair (Merasty) is a nêhiyaw-iskwêw, wife and mother of three, and is originally from Barren Lands First Nation (Treaty 5) and a member of Little Saskatchewan First Nation. She moved to Winnipeg, a guest on Treaty One territory, to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Native Studies from the University of Manitoba. Rebecca holds multiple positions in land defence, cultural revitalization, research, and is a part of multiple boards. Actively reclaiming her native language, Rebecca pursues higher learning that comes from the land and through learning alongside knowledge keepers and Elders. Her childhood spent on the land in northern Manitoba, has shaped her understanding and guided her efforts to protect and preserve the great gifts of our sacred Earth.

My mothers side from Barren Lands First Nation, My father's side Cross Lake First Nation and I am a member of Little Saskatchewan First Nation



Community Engagement Lead, Nickita Longman (she/her) is a Saulteaux woman from George Gordon First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts - English degree from First Nations University of Canada, and continues to grow her writing portfolio as a freelance writer. Nickita's interests are rooted in Indigenous literature, gardening, Indigenous sovereignty, defunding the police, and the Land Back movement. Currently, she lives, works, and organizes as a guest in Winnipeg, Treaty 1 Territory and is looking forward to creating and maintaining meaningful relationships with Indigenous-led movements across Turtle Island.

Saulteaux woman from George Gordon First Nation

Climate Leadership Lead, Jayce Chiblow (she/her) is Anishinaabe from Garden River First Nation, Ontario. She has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology and a Masters of Environmental Studies. Jayce's Masters research was conducted in her community where she brought together youth, community leaders, and knowledge keepers in a workshop-style gathering focused on climate action through an Indigenous food sovereignty lens.

Garden River First Nation





Just Transition Lead, Jacob Crane is a citizen of the Tsuut’ina Nation, Alberta, Canada. He first joined the climate justice movement in 2015 after hearing about the No Dakota Access Pipeline and the struggles that the Standing Rock Sioux tribe was experiencing by the state. It also brought him back to the Idle No More movements that swept across so-called Canada in 2012.

Tsuut’ina Nation

Youth Engagement Lead, Shay lynn Sampson (she/they) comes from the Gitksan Nation and grew up in the village of Hagwilget on unceded Gitksan Lax’Yip in so-called Northern British Columbia.

Shay lynn became involved in climate justice organizing during her time as a student at the University of Victoria in campaigns such as Divest UVic and People over Profit. They were one of the five Indigenous youth arrested on the final night of the cumulative 17-day re-occupation of the BC Legislature steps in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en, an ancient ally of the Gitksan.

Shay lynn has been living on Wet’suwet’en Yintah defending the land, and protecting the waters of her relatives. Shay lynn is also an artist, poet, aunt, sister, and daughter. She is passionate about protecting her culture as a young Gitksan person so that her niece and baby brother can grow up with the beauty of their nation.



Gitksan Nation

We would also like to recognize other contractors, staff, and volunteers throughout the 2021 year:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Heather Milton Lightening | Ashley Hynes | Erin Blondeau | Amber Bernard |
| Jamie Bourque-Blyan | Sarah Hanson | Ayanna Clappis | Takaiya Blaney |
| Morningstar Derosier | Lindsey Bacigal | Kayah George | Maggie Powless-Lynes |
| Ashley Hynes | Ruston Fellows | Brina Romanek | Carole Monture |
| Kyla Pascal | Pearl Gottschalk | Farron Rickerby | Leora Gansworth |
| Jodi Koberinski | Dr. Gerda Kits | Dr. Jen Gobby | Christiana Guertin |
| Keara Long | Beze Gray | Dr. Deborah McGregor | |



STEERING COMMITTEE

Our volunteer Steering Committee (SC) is made up of Indigenous representatives from across Indigenous territories north of the Medicine Line. First developed in January 2017, the SC has become critical in moving the work of ICA forward in a good way. They inform ICA's work with critical guidance rooted in the values and pillars of Indigenous Peoples' ancestral teachings which honour Mother Earth and all our relations. The SC is inspired by practices 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.

2021 marked the second year of a two year term for many of our Steering Committee members.

Executive Committee



Donna Ashamock
Cree Nation



Michelle Brass
Quill First Nation

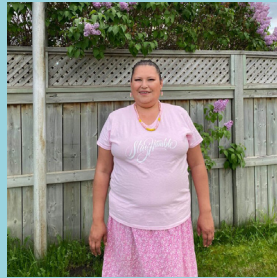


Daniel T'seleie
K'ahsho Got'ine (also known as
Fort Good Hope Dene Band)

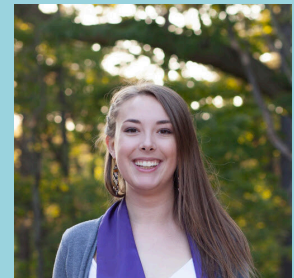
National Committee



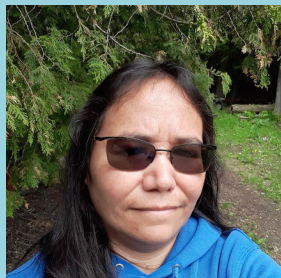
Michelle Myers
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations



Leslie Florence Saddleback
Pigeon Lake



Maureen Gustafson
Anishinaabe - Couchiching
First Nation



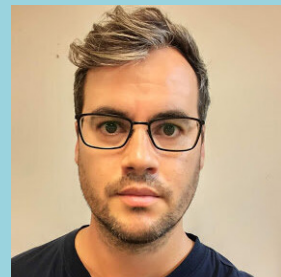
Natasha Akiwenzie
Lac Seul First Nation



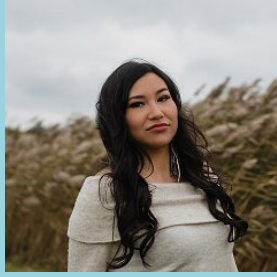
Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse
Cree and Mohawk



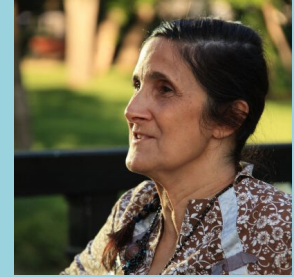
Ellen Gabriel
Kanien'kehá:ka Nation



Christopher Reid
Nisga'a (Gingolx)



Erica Violet Lee
Thunderchild Cree Nation



Susana Deranger
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation



Brendan Campbell
Montreal Lake Cree Nation and
Cowessess Cree Nation



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



Midori Nicolson
Wadzidalaga,
Musgamagw Dzawadaenuxw

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 five main pathways:

● SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

Providing resources and support to respect sovereign strategies upholding Indigenous inherent rights and authority to make decisions about what's best for our people and territories

● HOSTING GATHERINGS

Bringing people together to build a network of Indigenous communities, nations, organizations and allies to strengthen relationships and take meaningful action on climate change.

● PRODUCING RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Uplifting our expertise and knowledge to share information and build capacity within our communities to take action as leaders on solutions to climate change.

● AMPLIFYING VOICES

Producing compelling media and communications that center Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights, knowledge, and worldviews within climate change narratives and strategies.

● HEALING JUSTICE

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 extraction of the very spirit of Indigenous Peoples.

“Indigenous Sovereignty arises from Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, belonging to each Indigenous nation, tribe, and community. Traditional Indigenous knowledge consists of spiritual ways, culture, language, social and legal systems, political structures, and inherent relationships with lands, waters, and all upon them. Indigenous sovereignty exists regardless of what the governing nation-state does or does not do.”

- Indigenous Environmental Network

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

At ICA we know that Indigenous sovereignty is a core goal for many of our communities. This is most recently being articulated in the movement for LAND BACK and carried across many sectors for climate and environmental justice.

We respect and honor the self-determination and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples in asserting independent strategies to protect the health of their communities and Mother Earth. We know that holding the sovereignty of our peoples throughout all our work is critical to ensure that we don't replicate systems of tokenism, extractivism and pan-Indigenous ideologies.



SOLIDARITY

In 2021 we leaned into allocating resources and creating ways to show solidarity for communities via our Amplifying Voices and Healing Justice pathways. We are using our social media accounts as creative ways to support and respond to numerous requests from members of our network to amplify their calls to actions and frontline movements. In addition, we are continuing to work with the Building Movements in Defense of Lives network to support numerous frontline communities. We are also very proud to have been able to support a sovereign youth delegation to COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.



GATHERINGS

Nurturing and hosting space for and by Indigenous peoples is a critical pathway for our work. The environmental and climate movement has been historically white and middle class and we are breaking this mold by hosting Indigenous environmental and climate experts in spaces for Indigenous peoples.

2021 offered a time for us to experiment with what felt safe and nourishing in both online and in-person events. We have hosted and attended numerous events strengthening relationships for Indigenous-led strategies to address climate change.

INDIGENOUS ECONOMICS: RECLAIMING THE SACRED

JUNE 10 - 12, 2021

ICA partnered with Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE) to offer a three-day virtual conference Indigenous Economics: Reclaiming the Sacred. The conference welcomed keynote speakers Terrylyn Brant, Dr. Deborah McGregor, Dawn Morrison, and Jess Housty and supported over 430 registrants and 200 attendees. Panels and workshops were led by Indigenous leaders, practitioners and scholars to redefine ecological economics from an Indigenous perspective. Visit our [YouTube](#) channel for recordings.



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SAVE THE DATE

Indigenous Economics -
Reclaiming the Sacred: Unpacking
Ecological Economics from an
Indigenous Perspective

June 10 - 12

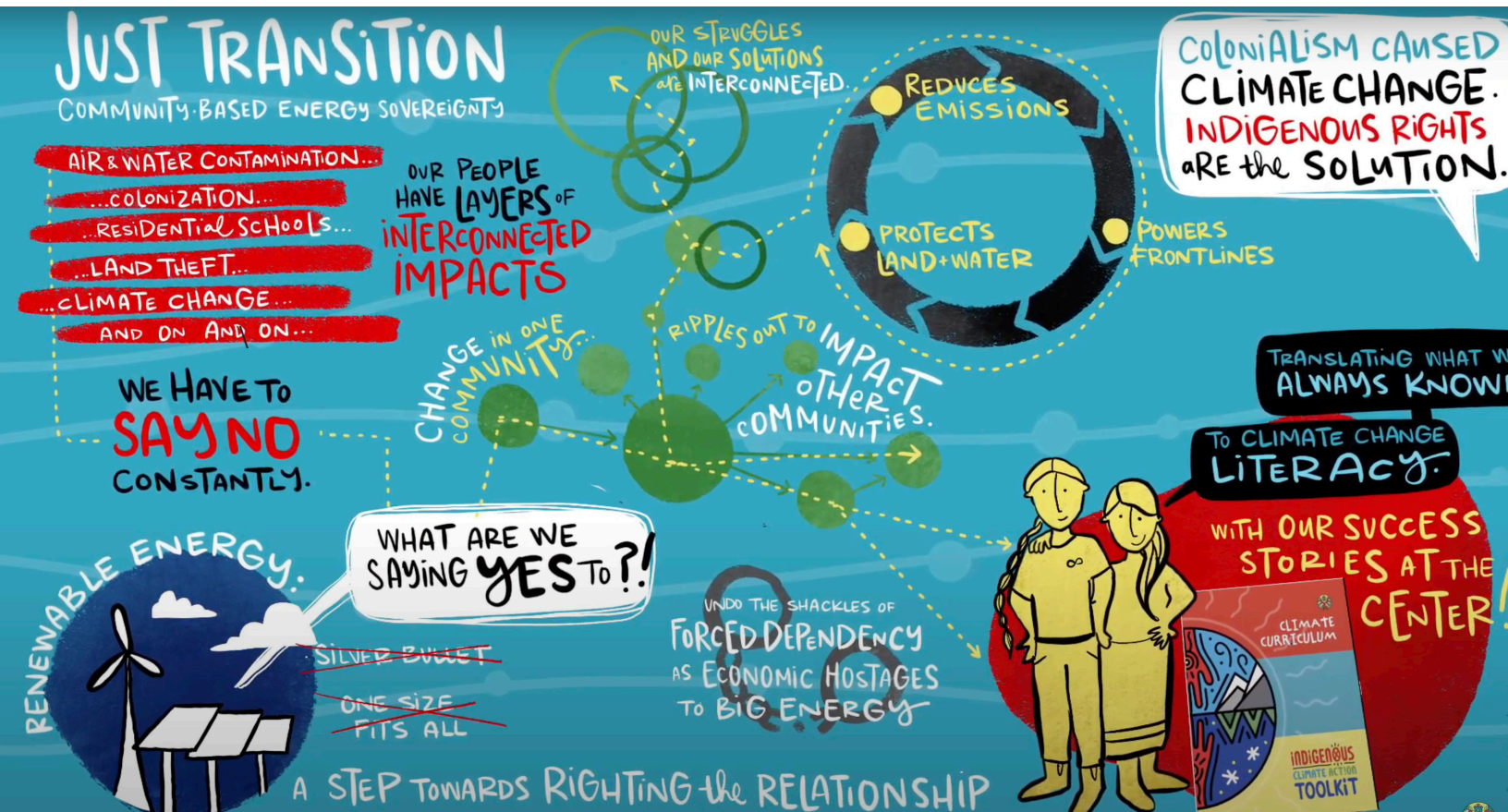


“Having the ability to really challenge people in the way that we think is a hard place to be, because that can sometimes be met with like doors closing or a no, or people in their rigid way of thinking, getting upset or feeling a certain type of way. You need to keep being persistent of what your goal and what your vision of Just Transition is and your place in that story.”

- Jordyn Burnouf, Métis Nation- Saskatchewan

YOUTH IN JUST TRANSITION CONFERENCE DECEMBER 11 & 12, 2021

We hosted our first-ever “Youth in Just Transition Gathering” on December 11 & 12, 2021. The programming was offered over Zoom conferencing and ran for 3.5 hours each day, and we had 42 registered attendees. The gathering brought together Indigenous youth participants and speakers/panelists of all ages to inform youth about the Just Transition movement and the part they could play in reclaiming and reconnecting with the land and bringing clean energy to their communities. Participants were given the opportunity to listen and learn about what our speakers are working towards and have accomplished so far, how they got to where they are, along with how the participants can start their own Just Transition journey.



“Our identities as Indigenous peoples are inextricably tied to the lands, waters, and ecosystems we come from. As the climate crisis continues to worsen, our communities are experiencing increasingly dramatic changes that disrupt our life ways and our rights, despite the fact we are least responsible for it. We are recognized as stewards of 80% of global biodiversity, yet we remain relegated on the sidelines of COP negotiations and in setting policy and climate action. Our delegation is here to join the global Indigenous movement to challenge false solutions, like carbon markets, that allow ongoing extractive capitalism and colonial narratives that continue to invisibilize us, erode our rights and do little to functionally address the climate crisis or reduce global emissions. We need real actions that address the root causes of the climate crisis and we need them now.” - Eriel Deranger

UNFCCC COP26 - GLASGOW, SCOTLAND **OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 12, 2021**

ICA sent our largest delegation to date, supporting over 20 change-makers and sovereign community leaders to influence the International Climate Gathering and hold the Nation States to account for Climate Justice.

We joined forces with other Indigenous-led groups and allies to ensure respect for Indigenous rights and sovereignty are at the centre of global climate solutions and confront false solutions such as Nature-based Solutions, Carbon Markets and the proliferation of energy sources like fossil fuels and nuclear power.

We leveraged the international attention to honour our missing relatives and expose colonialism and capitalism as root causes to the climate crisis.



“Very well done. You enlighten us in such a good way. Strong spirit and an even stronger will to make the world a better place! Thank you so much. I love ICA more than words can do justice!” - Program Participant

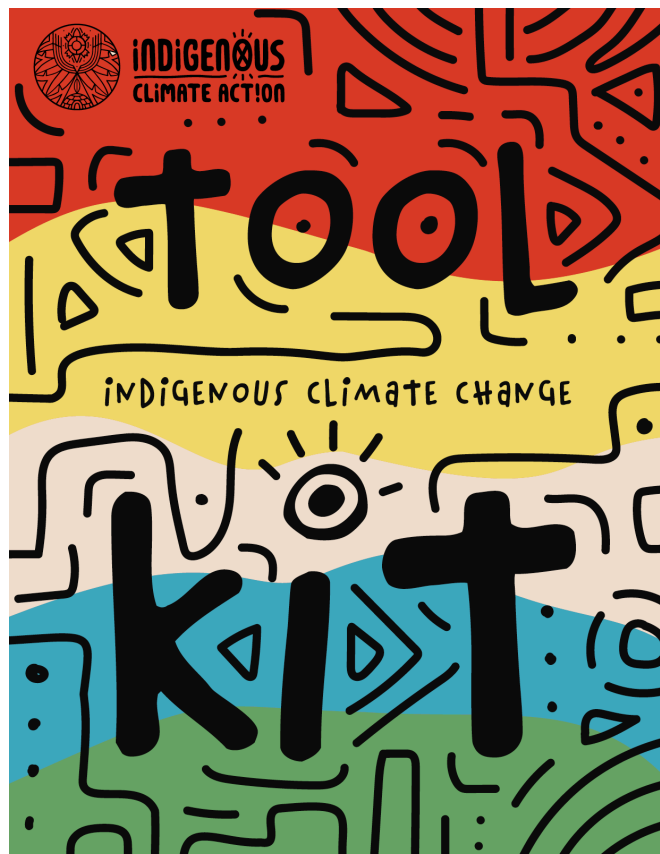
RESOURCES & TRAININGS

Resources and Trainings by and for Indigenous peoples are critical for nurturing our power as Indigenous leaders in climate action. We know the process is just as important as the outcome and center methodologies that include community knowledges and two-eyed seeing to bring about timely and accessible information relating to climate justice and Indigenous rights. Throughout 2021 ICA explored and completed a series of research projects and finalized our Climate Leadership Program.

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT & CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit is a resource available to all Indigenous peoples, communities, Nations and organizations. This popular education toolkit is used as the foundation of ICA's Climate Leadership Program (formerly known as ICA's Toolkit Program) that aims to build capacity and inspire action for Indigenous-led climate action and strategies. In 2021, the toolkit and [Climate Leadership Program](#) was in its final stages of development with a focus on piloting the trainings to ensure quality content for online delivery. We launched our first public cohort in the Winter of 2021 with 15 participants from across so-called Canada.

Indigenous peoples, communities, Nations and organizations can make a request through our [Toolkit page](#) on our website to receive a hard copy, an electronic package, or both.



“Wahkohtawin, Màmawi pikiskwéwin, there are many Nehiyewan words that describe how we must work in the natural world. Solutions are before us - through the land and through the teachings of reciprocity.”

-Rebecca Sinclair, Director of Education and Programming ICA

RESEARCH

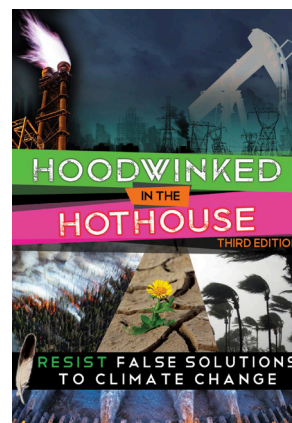
We recognize the value of uplifting our communities, our knowledge and ways of being as critical data for developing policies, processes and tangible climate solutions that we can all benefit from. Historically, our knowledge is framed as anecdotal and excluded from traditional research, not only invisibilizing Indigenous peoples from research but also making it inaccessible and understood. Additionally, these policies fail to identify the root causes of climate change. At ICA we are intentional about translating our research to be accessible to wider networks of Indigenous peoples, communities, Nations and organizations through webinars and social media engagement.

2021 was a big year for research at ICA. We kicked off with the release of Phase 1 of the [Decolonizing Climate Policy](#) in Canada, which offers a critique of the Pan-Canadian Framework and Healthy Environment and Healthy Economy. The research has focused on the exclusion of Indigenous peoples, knowledge and rights from existing climate policy and processes, while simultaneously strengthening justification for Indigenous leadership in climate change management and policy. This project is guided by a youth research intern Sarah Hanson, and an Advisory Committee to support future research work aligned with on-going climate policy. The Advisory consists of representatives from the 5 biomes that make up the territories of so-called Canada as well as a Youth representative.

In addition, the research team worked in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation, Future Earth and Christiana Guertin to examine and expose the risks with current climate strategies that are being coined as “Nature-based Solutions” within the international climate justice movement. A sneak peek report [“The Risks and Threats of ‘Nature-based Climate Solutions’ for Indigenous Peoples”](#) was released just ahead of the UNFCCC COP26 and featured interviews with Deborah McGregor, Kyle Whyte, Graeme Reed and Eriel Deranger.

“Nature-based solutions have a high likelihood of just being land theft.” - Kyle Whyte

Our research team also played a critical role in the [Reclaiming the Sacred Conference](#), the ICA delegation to COP26 in Glasgow supporting and exploring research partnerships with the Indigenous Environmental Network and Oil Change International and the release of the [Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon](#) report - highlighting the importance of supporting land defenders as a climate solution; and we worked closely with numerous coalition partners to produce [Hoodwinked in the Hothouse](#) - a set of resources exposing false solutions and demanding climate justice.



“Global trends influenced by the climate crisis and growing divestment campaigns are seeing investors move away from oil and gas projects like the TMX pipeline. There are now increasing environmental, human and Indigenous rights legal cases, including from my own nation, that make projects like TMX not only morally questionable, they are becoming legally risky. This poses serious challenges for projects like TMX because like all commercial projects they need insurance to begin construction and operation. This is a major problem for Canada and their newly acquired tar sands pipeline.” - Kayah George

DIVESTMENT

Indigenous peoples contribute billions of dollars to the Canadian economy annually but, we have been historically left out of the policies, processes and sector development since so-called Canada's inception. This has resulted in the development of dirty oil and gas economies on stolen Indigenous lands and territories that have detrimental impacts on our lives and rights, as well as the climate crisis.

In 2021, ICA began to work in coalition with a growing divestment movement in so-called Canada. At ICA we believe that knowledge is power and building the capacities of our communities to advance their visions of tomorrow is critical across all sectors. We also know that putting pressure on investors, insurance companies and banks to move their money from fossil fuel projects is critical to address climate change and that ensuring that money and resources are reinvested to uplift decolonial infrastructure is essential to climate justice. Indigenous rights and rights based strategies to divestment are critical for our communities and ensuring we can close the gap on exclusion and begin to determine our own sovereign pathways forward.

Last year, we began the process of forming an Indigenous Divestment working group to support the development of Indigenous-led divestment strategies, demands and tactics. By participating in the national coalition spaces for divestment in so-called Canada we continue to hold space for Indigenous peoples and voices. Throughout 2022 we will be deepening our Divestment program with research, resources, campaigns and increased Indigenous participation in growing divestment movements.

In 2021 we also supported the work of Kayah George to put pressure on the insurance companies supporting the Trans Mountain Pipeline, which resulted in a victory of over 15 companies denying coverage for the project.



AMPLIFYING VOICES

Similarly to our Gatherings, the visibility of Indigenous peoples and voices to challenge the status quo of climate solutions is critical. By ensuring that our people are speaking for ourselves is a critical pathway for the success of our work. We are disrupting the mainstream narrative of a white middle class climate movement by amplifying the voices and visions of our people as leaders in the climate movement.



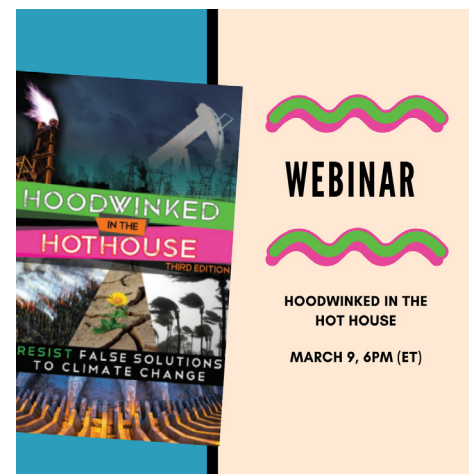
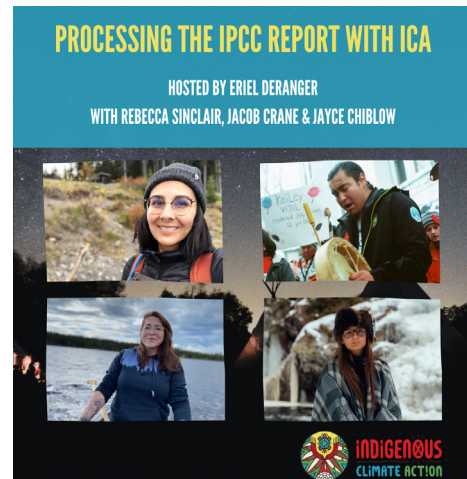
The protection and preservation of Indigenous rights and culture is becoming an undeniably critical component of developing climate solutions that will help humanity achieve solutions to the crisis we are all locked in together. Therefore, full recognition and implementation of the rights of Indigenous peoples will be critical to us achieving true climate justice.

KXL IS
CANCELED!
#NOPIPELINES



WEBINARS

Webinars have been a critical tool to uplift the learnings and experiences of ICA and the networks we are in service too. In 2021 we covered a variety of topics including but not limited to, Indigenous economics, Indigenous Peoples and the UNFCCC, decolonizing climate policy, divestment strategies and the importance of taking a stand against false climate solutions. Check out our [youtube channel](#) to see more!



SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

Our social media presence continues to be scrappy and at times over the past year, our team has had all hands on deck to share our updates. We welcomed almost 3,000 new Facebook followers, 12,000+ Instagram followers, and 6500+ Twitter followers. We concentrated our communications efforts at key moments - like Indigenous Peoples Day - and the build up of our [presence at COP26](#). Much of the team played an active role in our extensive coverage during their time in Glasgow. This paid off, as we saw our average website visits jump from the average of 7K a month to 12,711 in the month of November alone! Outside of COP26 content, visitors showed interest in our [Indigenous Economics conference](#), our work in [Decolonizing Climate Policy](#), and our [Podcast page](#). Mahsi cho for all the support and amplification on our channels that allows us to grow.

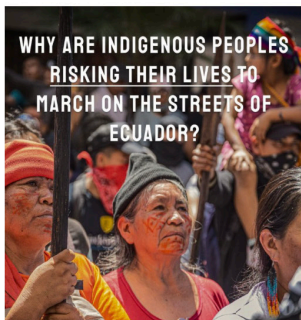


About [What's New](#) What We Do



Take Action

News + Blog



ICA stands in solidarity with Ecuador's Indigenous Movement.

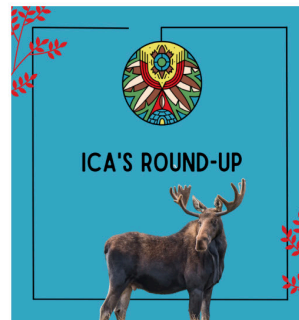
Jun 24, 2022



Envisioning ICA's new structure: From seeds to flowers

Jun 20, 2022

"This was once a seed. Carried in the minds and hearts of the people." 2021 was a year of deep transformation for



Weekly Round-Up, May 7 2022

May 7, 2022



Farewell message from Shay Lynn

May 7, 2022

BLOGS, ARTICLES, & PRESS RELEASES

Our blogs section of our website is our most updated, lively space outside of social media channels. It is where we house timely, longer content that gives insight to where ICA stands on current issues. Some of our most read blogs last year were [Ariel Deranger's reflection on our 215](#); our solidarity blog to [support Wet'suwet'en land defenders](#); a reflection on [ICA's delivery of the Toolkit program with youth](#); and the [Divestment from an Indigenous Leadership Perspective Webinar](#). Our commitment to [COP26 updates through our blogs page](#) proved to be a powerful tool in connecting our communities to the conference and that was evident in the increase of visitors to our pages in November of last year. Insights on our blog traffic help affirm our work and last year was a great reminder to us that while we are on the right track, there is still so much work to be done and shared.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Although ICA's focus has been to build capacity with Indigenous community members, we have found ourselves aligning and working alongside numerous other groups led by racialized and marginalized people. Further as a women-led organization, we are often brought into strategies and conflicts that center around gender justice and the importance of ensuring the values of intersectional feminism as we show up in the climate justice movement. To date, we have nurtured partnerships with groups like Grassroots Global Justice, It Takes Roots, Black Indigenous Liberation Movement, Migrant Justice Alliance, No One Is Illegal and numerous others who work at more regional and grassroots levels. There is an urgent need for a broad based alliance and education about anti-oppression and the intersectional elements of our respective communities due to the common forces of white supremacy, colonization, capitalism, and patriarchy. We are holding this work as critical and have plans to further engage in intersectional movement building in 2022.

INDIGENOUS
CLIMATE ACTION

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
ATLANTIC REGION (NS, NB, PEI, NL)

ARE YOU AN INDIGENOUS YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-29? DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ICA'S YOUTH PROGRAMMING TO HELP SUSTAIN YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE JUSTICE ADVOCACY WORK ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND?

APPLY NOW!

YOUTH

Engaging Indigenous youth has always been critical to our approach for building power and uplifting Indigenous leadership. 2021 marked a special time for us as we were able to respond to the findings of the [Youth Needs Assessment](#) and support the lead of Shay Lynn Sampson on the frontline of Wet'suwet'en territories. Further, we began the process of outreach for our Youth Leadership Council with the support of a Youth Advisory Council; we hosted a Youth in Just Transition virtual gathering; we supported youth delegates to attend COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland; and we launched our Youth Mental Health Wellness Honorariums in partnership with our Healing Justice program.

PODCAST

With the pandemic going into its second year, ICA took on a new adventure in Amplifying Voices with the release of a podcast. The goal of the podcast was to continue bridging relationships while building up the Indigenous rights movement and continue a movement built in connection and learning in times when we were unable to gather in person. We released our first season in 2021 and covered topics such as how to cancel a pipeline, respecting the moose, bear teachings, youth arts and activism, and the founding of ICA.

The podcast team was created with the help of Lindsey Bacigal, Brina Romanek, and Morningstar Derosier.

JUST TRANSITION

Climate Justice demands that a Just Transition incorporates Indigenous rights and sovereignty. At ICA we have partnered with Sacred Earth Solar to support small-scale solarizing for community groups on the frontlines of pipelines and Indigenous culture revitalization. This past year we wrapped up two projects with the Gidim'ten community and the Nimkii Aazhibikong culture camp. We continue to build out resources with a Just Transition Guide that we hope to share in 2022 as a powerful resource to support more Indigenous communities that are interested in shifting to renewable energy sources.



A graphic design for a podcast. It features the text "INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION" in red and green, with a stylized "i" and "A". Below this is "POD" in large red letters with a yellow and blue circular graphic inside the "O". To the right is a pink speaker icon. At the bottom right, on a blue background, is the text "SEASON 2 DROPS IN ONE WEEK!" in yellow.

“Healing justice is a framework that recognizes the impact of trauma and violence on individuals and communities and names collective processes that can help heal and transform these forces. In a system and society that actively targets Black, Brown and Indigenous bodies with violence, oppression and terror, it is critical to build movements that fight for and achieve justice for all people. This justice includes healing, well-being, and not only surviving, but thriving. Resiliency and healing are strategic - we need everyone in our movements to have access to healing from trauma and violence as it strengthens all of us and all of our movements.” - Melina Laboucan-Massimo

HEALING JUSTICE

The Healing Justice Pathway has been moving forward at a committed and steady pace that allows us to deeply listening to, and reflect on, the needs of our staff and communities. We put the theory of our work into practice by responding to the needs from the Youth Needs Assessment and offering a Youth Mental Wellness Honourarium for our young people on the frontlines. Our team also worked closely with Melina Laboucan-Massimo and Pearl Gottschalk to feature numerous public discussions on the topic and the importance for the climate justice movement to understand and support healing as critical to our strategies to address climate change.



PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships play a critical role in all areas of our work, and we are so grateful to the many connections and relationships that support us to work in a good way. We specifically want to recognize the BIPOC-led networks and organizations for collaborating with us in our efforts for climate justice, including but not limited to: Indigenous Environmental Network, Native Movement, NDN Collective, Keepers of the Water, Nimkii Aazhibikong, Gidim'ten Camp, Dene Nahjo, Migrant Justice Alliance, BIPOC2COP, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and It Takes Roots.

Further we want to thank the teams at the Canadian Society of Ecological Economics (CANSEE), Alberta EcoTrust, David Suzuki Foundation, Future Earth, Bioneers, Rainforest Action Network and 350.org for aligning with us at critical moments.

We want to thank our fiscal sponsor the Polaris Institute, and our charitable sponsors: Environmental Funders Canada and Sierra Club BC Foundation. As well, The Circle of Philanthropy for welcoming us into their Partners in Reciprocity Program and continue to be aligned with us on decolonizing philanthropy and creating more spaces for philanthropic allyship with Indigenous peoples.



ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

As an Indigenous-led organization, we are conscious of how the process is just as important as the outcomes. In 2021 we strengthened the ways in which we collaborate as a team to find a balance of both productivity and personal care. We have been able to uplift our values to build a new organizational structure that uplifts more Directors and encourages processes that embody a decolonial approach to further empower staff to take leadership and accountability on our various projects.

We survived the pandemic by prioritizing online gatherings with our Executive Steering Committee, Steering Committee, and Advisory Boards. We worked closely with talented facilitators and knowledge holders including Kris Archie, Issac Murdoch, and Tasha Spillett-Summer to bring in the wisdom of the lands and waters with storytelling and skills sharing and to improve our abilities for collective work planning.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Our work is supported by a variety of revenue streams including Foundations, Large Donors, and Monthly Sustainers. This diversity provides us with a strong foundation to remain in the work for the long haul.

ICA's finances are reflective of the growing support for Indigenous leadership in climate solutions and importance of resourcing Indigenous communities in climate justice. As we strengthen our infrastructure and expand our offerings we continue to plan for long-term financial sustainability to ensure our organization is resourced to remain in the work for the long haul.

We are grateful to find security in the ongoing support of philanthropic allies and individual donors that have made it possible for us to achieve our mission to support Indigenous Climate Leadership. We have identified Major Donors as folks who have contributed more than \$10,000. Your support and trust attests to the importance of ICA's work in the world at this time.

\$2,119,250

REVENUE



- Monthly Sustainers (2.24%)
- One Time Donors (4.26%)
- Special Events/Crowdfunding (0.57%)
- Large Donors (25.14%)
- General Support Grants & Agreements (33.32%)
- Program/Project Specific Grants & Agreements (34.39%)
- Misc Income/Merch Sales (0.07%)

EXPENSES

ICA's expenses are reflective of our growth and the plans we have to blossom with more community programs and strategic campaigns. This year we saw a growth in unrestricted funds which allowed us to be more flexible and responsive in meeting the needs of our communities, including maintaining our practice of ensuring community solidarity for more folks on the grassroots and frontlines defending against the root causes of the climate crisis.

\$1,602,278

EXPENSES



- Amplifying Voices + Podcast (9.26%)
- Core & Governance (37.68%)
- Climate Leadership Program (8.98%)
- Youth Programming (11.62%)
- UNFCCC - COP26 (13.23%)
- Decolonizing Climate Policy (5.11%)
- Gatherings (2.58%)
- Healing Justice (5.35%)
- Just Transition & Divestment (6.20%)

“I can’t think of a group better placed than ICA to bring a robust Indigenous voice to the climate conversation in this country and beyond. The ripple effect of their work will continue for generations, and as a settler, I’m honored to support ICA. As a private donor, I hope my commitment to this organization can inspire others to redistribute resources towards ICA as it rightly deserves.” - Aurore Fauret

SOME OF OUR DONORS

ICA’s team is tremendously grateful and humbled by the continued financial support of individuals, families, groups, foundations, and organizations. Thank you for being in relationship with us, trusting us to do the work, and co-conspiring for Indigenous-led climate solutions!

We would like to extend our gratitude to private donors who liberated their wealth to sustain Indigenous-led work (AF, SA, JW, HH, MS, ZF). We would also like to acknowledge the foundations and organizations (including the ones we did not get in touch with in time to confirm their logos) who all work toward decolonizing philanthropy and forging new spaces of reciprocity and abundance.



Everywoman’s Leadership Regranting Fund of



Anonymous Donor Advised Fund at



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2022

ICA will offer expanded support for Indigenous leadership in climate justice! We will continue to grow as a team with new staff and leadership who bring a robust background of community and climate organizing to their work. With more capacity and experiences on deck, we look forward to blossoming in our new organizational structure and strengthening our connections to each other and our Heart and Soul Pod who provide invaluable guidance and advice for our organization and programs.

We anticipate deepening our relationships with other BIPOC-led networks, white co-conspirators, and philanthropic allies while remaining true to our vision and mandate for Indigenous-led climate solutions for all. We will complete research reports on the risks of Nature Based Climate solutions, Indigenous-led Divestment campaigns and Phase 2 of Decolonizing Climate Policy leading Indigenous-led solutions. We will continue to listen to our communities and respond with new research to inspire and inform for climate justice.

Our Climate Leadership training will reach more community members and be expanded with a Train the Trainer module and additional curriculum supporting us to respond to community requests for trainings both online and in person.

We will continue to amplify Indigenous voices and strengthen our engagement strategies. Our media will feature more Indigenous community members working to protect and revitalize the lands and waters. Our gatherings - both online and in person - will bring us together to build stronger connections and radical imagination about the future that is possible.

- 🔴 **HEALING JUSTICE** We will be strengthening this pathway throughout all of our work by hiring a Healing Justice manager to steward us forward. We will continue to invest in our network's capacities for somatic care, mental well-being and spiritual strength. We will explore expanding external offerings like the Youth Mental Wellness Honourarium to support more Indigenous Peoples on the frontlines of the fight for climate justice.
- 🟡 **YOUTH PROGRAMMING** We will be launching a Youth Leadership Committee to add to our Heart and Soul Pod and strengthen our engagement with Indigenous Youth throughout ICA's programming. We will continue to prioritize youth engagement within our programs and events and work with our Youth Engagement Lead to centre youth experiences and work toward mobilizing more participation from younger generations in climate justice work.
- 🟢 **RESOURCES & TRAININGS** We are expanding our training team! This means more public trainings on a variety of climate justice topics. We will further develop our ICA Climate Leadership Toolkit to support expanded capacities for climate justice across so-called Canada! We will continue to explore ways to incorporate additional curriculum that aligns with Just Transition, Divestment, Healing Justice, and Intersectional Movement building.
- 🟠 **INDIGENOUS-LED MEDIA** Stay tuned for an updated website with more resources available for Indigenous-led climate action! We will continue to add to our existing list of podcasts and webinars, as well as expand our blog contributors to community members doing frontline work.
- 🟦 **GATHERINGS** We will continue to put the health of our communities first, while exploring a balance between in person and online gatherings. Expect to see us in Egypt at COP27 this year as well as other key events that support growing the climate justice movement and uplifting the value and importance of Indigenous rights and sovereignty!

CONNECT WITH US

Follow ICA and share our work

Volunteer with the network

Support Indigenous communities taking climate action

Donate and/or become a monthly sustainer



[@IndigenousClimateAction](https://www.instagram.com/IndigenousClimateAction)



[@IndigenousClimateAction](https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousClimateAction)



[@Indigenous_ca](https://twitter.com/Indigenous_ca)



[youtube.com/c/IndigenousClimateAction](https://www.youtube.com/c/IndigenousClimateAction)



[linkedin.com/company/indigenous-climate-action](https://www.linkedin.com/company/indigenous-climate-action)

IndigenousClimateAction.com

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Ottawa is the Unceded territory of the Algonquin nation

Indigenous Climate Action is fiscally-sponsored by the Polaris Institute, a registered non-profit organization in Canada and a 501(c)(3) organization within the United States.



COLONIALISM CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE



INDIGENOUS
CLIMATE ACTION

