



~ INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE ~
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
NATIONAL CLIMATE STRATEGY WEBINARS
JULY – AUGUST 2022

CONTEXT

At the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) July 2019 Annual General Assembly, the Chiefs-in-Assembly declared a *First Nations Climate Emergency*, recognizing that "...climate change constitutes a state of emergency for our lands, waters, animals, and peoples." This resolution (05/2019) laid out some immediate steps, including for the AFN to plan a National Climate Gathering, and to develop an AFN National Climate Strategy. The Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), with support from the AFN Environment Sector, has worked to advance this direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Between November 2020 and April 2021, the AFN Environment Sector held virtual engagement webinars to receive input from First Nations from the four directions on the climate strategy. A total of eight webinars were held, including five regional webinars, two national webinars (including one with the AFN Quad Councils), and one with AFN Staff from its different sectors. In addition to webinars, two national surveys were carried out, one in fall 2020 and the second in summer 2021.

PRIORITY AREAS

Through the Environment Sector's previous engagements on the AFN National Climate Strategy, seven opportunities for action were identified to immediately advance and support First Nations climate leadership:

1. Recognize, respect, and position First Nations jurisdiction and inherent right to self-determination as central to national climate governance.
2. Address capacity needs to support First Nations as climate leaders.
3. Ensure First Nations self-sufficiency (food, water, energy).
4. Prioritize First Nation Knowledge Systems, language, culture, and spirituality.
5. Close the natural and built infrastructure gap.
6. Ensure First Nations are equipped to respond to all emergencies.
7. Leverage the First Nations Climate Lens (FNCL) to reform legislation, policy, and programs.



APPROACH

To further advance and strengthen the AFN National Climate Strategy, the AFN Environment Sector will be hosting four new webinars on these seven priority areas as follows:

Webinar #1: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 (1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT)

- Recognize, respect, and position First Nations jurisdiction and inherent right to self-determination as central to national climate governance
- Prioritize Indigenous Knowledge Systems, language, culture, and spirituality

Webinar #2: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 (1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT)

- Address capacity needs to support First Nations as climate leaders
- Ensure First Nations self-sufficiency (food, water, energy)

Webinar #3: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT)

- Close the natural and built infrastructure gap (emergency)
- Ensure First Nations are equipped to respond to all emergencies

Webinar #4: Wednesday, August 17, 2022, (1:00-4:00 p.m. EDT)

- Leverage the First Nations Climate Lens (FNCL) to reform legislation, policy, and programs

Each Webinar will include a brief presentation to introduce the National Climate Strategy, the First Nations Climate Lens and the proposed priority area, followed by guided break-out sessions focused on elaborating short, medium, and long-term actions. Calendar invites and meeting materials will follow shortly. The webinars are open to all First Nations citizens and representatives. French/English interpretation will be provided.

For those interested in participating, please contact Graeme Reed (greed@afn.ca) or Melissa White (mwhite@afn.ca) to register.