



**FNMPC, BCBC and FNCI announce a Coalition in support of action to urgently address global and domestic climate change that achieves a just and prosperous British Columbia**

**November 28, 2022 (X̱məθḵəyə̱m (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Territories/Vancouver, B.C.)** – Today, the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC), First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI) and the Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC) announce a growing Coalition that supports action to urgently address climate change and achieve a just and prosperous economy for British Columbia.

The Coalition is a committed and growing group of Indigenous and business leaders, Nations, companies, organizations, and communities that possess the expertise and capacity to invest and build necessary infrastructure and export B.C.'s bounty of low carbon natural resources, food, and energy products. These are products the world needs and wants to buy from our province.

“On the heels of COP 27, which I attended in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the Coalition is calling for increased urgency in making substantive progress on the transition to a lower carbon economy,” **said Chief Sharleen Gale, Chair of the First Nations Major Projects Coalition.** “The road to net zero runs through Indigenous lands. Net zero targets will only be achieved through partnerships with Indigenous communities and achieving this will take a commitment to providing sources of affordable capital and access to the capacity we need to make free, prior, and informed business decisions.”

“We know that fully mitigating the worst effects of climate change requires us to act locally and globally. COP 27 confirmed we need more urgency and purposeful action and collaboration with international jurisdictions supported by practical and nationally aligned policies and partnerships,” **stated Susannah Pierce, Chair of the Business Council of British Columbia and Country Chair, Shell Canada and GM, Renewables and Energy Solutions Canada.**

“This broad coalition formed today has the means and commitment to collaborate to get results through action, not talk, that, when aligned with governments, can immediately and substantively reduce global emissions, while sustaining a prosperous society at home. In doing so, this puts BC on the map as a dependable low carbon supplier and technology provider of choice, while creating meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous partners and the conditions to invest in the necessary infrastructure and technology that accelerates BC emissions reductions across the economy and society as we move together to a net zero future,” **added Pierce.**

“First Nations-led solutions are needed to reach Canada’s—and the world’s—climate action goals, and to achieve economic and environmental reconciliation for our communities. We must begin to implement these solutions, to replace poverty with prosperity and to recover the climate,” **stated Crystal Smith, elected Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation and a founding leader of FNCI.**

“Decolonization and decarbonization go hand-in-hand. We know that our communities and homelands are not isolated from the rest of the world, so we must act both locally and globally. We have many valuable things to bring to the global table and we have an obligation to do this. We cannot look back and wonder why we did not act more bravely.”

The committed Coalition of leaders will develop and release a priority action plan early in 2023. It will look to governments of all levels to collaborate with it on the policies and supports needed to act now. In doing so, it will seek to realize shared goals to: address climate change globally and within BC and Canada; advance meaningful reconciliation and partnership, including the means that enable equity ownership by Indigenous companies and communities; and enable economic prosperity to protect a sustainable environment and measurably improve affordability and our quality of life now and for future generations.

### **About the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC)**

The First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) is a non-profit organization comprised of 90+ Indigenous communities that span across Canada. FNMPC members recognize that we are stronger together and was established to promote the shared interests of our members. Advancing major projects is the core of FNMPC's service delivery. FNMPC's technical team is active in supporting our member communities with tools, capacity supports, and advice related to corporate structures and benefit sharing models, as well as tools to promote environmental protection and impact assessment. For more information, visit [www.fnmnpc.ca](http://www.fnmnpc.ca)

### **About the Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC)**

Now in its 56th year as the premier business organization in British Columbia, the Business Council of B.C. is a non-partisan organization made up of over 200 leading companies, post-secondary institutions and industry associations from across B.C.'s diversified economy and in every region of B.C. The Council produces exceptional public policy research and advocacy and convenes sectors, governments and Indigenous Nations in support of creating a competitive, and productive economy for the benefit of all British Columbians. For more information, visit [www.bcbc.com](http://www.bcbc.com)

### **About First Nations Climate Initiative**

The First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI) is an Indigenous-led collaborative forum dedicated to fighting climate change; alleviating First Nations' poverty; restoring ecosystems in First Nations' traditional territories; and, enabling Indigenous people to be leading actors in the decarbonized economy. By bringing together First Nations, other governments, climate experts, industry and other key stakeholders, FNCI is accelerating the development of climate solutions and growing economic opportunities for First Nations. The FNCI was founded in 2019 by the Haisla Nation, Metlakatla First Nation and Nisga'a Nation, and Halfway River has recently become a signatory to the Initiative. The FNCI invites participation from all First Nations—and all others—who share its vision. For more information, visit <https://www.fncionline.com/>.

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## Climate Reality and Opportunity – The BC Coalition for Action and Sustainable Prosperity

**We** are a broad, committed, and growing group of Indigenous and business leaders, Nations, companies, organizations, and communities that possess the expertise and capacity to invest and sustainably and safely build necessary infrastructure and facilities, transport people and goods, and export B.C.'s bounty of low carbon natural resources, food, and energy products that the world needs and wants to buy from our province.

Critical minerals, metals, forest products, commodities, food, and energy exports from B.C. are on average half the greenhouse gas intensity of those from competing jurisdictions. To reduce global emissions and create prosperity we need timely access to markets. This requires decision-making that is focused on inclusive and transparent outcomes, not on endless process. As demonstrated in B.C.'s most recent fiscal update, export sectors pay the bills through taxes, royalties, and by generating high wage jobs across the province. The sectors also develop and deploy innovative technologies, pay local taxes, contribute to community development, and have the expertise and commitment needed to operate to the highest ethics, responsibility, and sustainability standards on the planet.

On the heels of COP 27, the parties agree to advance British Columbia and Canada as global and local solution providers on climate, and that more urgent and coordinated action is required to meet our goals. Together we must support opportunity for Indigenous peoples as equal participants in our economy and society while creating greater prosperity and an improved quality of life for all British Columbians. Senior levels of Government, industry, and Indigenous partners must advance practical and immediate outcomes that garner results today. Our relentless focus must be on acting to get low carbon products to global markets, particularly in the Indo Pacific, and enable regulatory certainty to do so to compete with other nations that have the same aspirations.

Together we can fundamentally accelerate the pace and substance of these critical climate transitions, build the necessary infrastructure, and develop new technologies. We can and want to produce the broad basket of low carbon and new energy sources such as hydrogen. We also need to build the supporting smart infrastructure to pave the way for a cleaner more inclusive future in this country and province as we move to a net zero economy. This will require focused prioritization, collaboration, policy supports, clear regulatory timeliness, which doesn't cut corners, and ways to de-risk technology development and its adoption to enable us to act together as low carbon competitors and solution providers.

Fundamental to this success and opportunity for all B.C. and those that invest and live here is our commitment and belief that commercial terms and access to capital, including federal loan guarantees that support Indigenous ownership. We also assert that meaningful capacity support for Nations is essential for enabling the full participation of Indigenous peoples in the economy and realizing reconciliation.

**Therefore,** this unique and committed coalition of leaders will develop and release a priority action plan early in 2023. We will look to governments of all levels to collaborate with us on the policies and supports needed to act now. In doing so we seek to realize our shared goals to address climate change globally and within BC and Canada; advance meaningful reconciliation and partnership, including the means that enable equity ownership by Indigenous companies and communities; enable economic prosperity to protect a sustainable environment and measurably improve affordability and our quality of life now and for future generations.

Achieving these goals requires a more focused approach. It requires speed to decisions, replacing uncertain long duration regulatory processes with greater certainty to achieve sustainable and purposeful outcomes without cutting corners. It requires investing and building timely infrastructure to move goods, information and energy and the means to create and adopt commercially viable new technologies that combined accelerate us toward a net-zero future. These goals need people with the skills and opportunity to build our advantage in every part of B.C. Finally, it requires collaboration and focus with speed among all parties to realize this urgent need and opportunity to become the low carbon supplier of choice to the world that also enables domestic resilience and energy and food security that builds prosperity while also achieving our climate obligations here at home in the years ahead.

## **Focused Areas of Importance and Collaboration for our Plan**

- 1) Address economic reconciliation by accelerating and increasing Indigenous ownership and benefits of infrastructure and projects within Indigenous territories by getting the necessary access to capital at commercial terms and appropriate capacity funding to participate in decision making to realize our combined future opportunities.
- 2) Fundamentally shift project approval processes to address the alarming decline and uncertainty in regulatory competitiveness, timeliness, and the need for efficient and transparent outcomes, supported by carbon policies and net zero pathways such as nature-based solutions and carbon capture technologies and use.
- 3) Recognize the current global and domestic under-investment in incenting and de-risking clean technologies and the smart enabling infrastructure and transmission required to transition to a net-zero carbon economy. This includes infrastructure and technology enablers for energy transition and efficient movement of people, goods and materials through our roads, rail, marine and airport terminals, and corridors.
- 4) Realize the specific opportunities for BC and Canada to become a domestically secure and globally dependable clean energy superpower. This includes rapidly advancing and supporting the demand for and creation of enabling infrastructure and exports of existing low carbon energy such as wind, geothermal, hydro and LNG. Concurrently we must create the conditions to accelerate the development of the necessary infrastructure and technology to realize new lower carbon and renewable energy sources that support net zero over time. These can include but not limited to biofuels, sustainable aviation fuels, hydrogen, carbon capture storage and utilization and other low carbon gases and energy solutions.

- 5) Support and encourage every sector and every Indigenous Nation to develop transition plans that address adaptation challenges and help advance opportunities to resolve climate change impacts.
- 6) Market our low carbon advantage to the world with specific emphasis on the Indo Pacific, high-emitting jurisdictions and those seeking the energy and needed commodity export security that allows them to build goods and provide services with lower emissions.
- 7) Ensure the collaboration and support for the workers and talented people in B.C. and Canada that we need to retain, attract, educate and continually skill to build, maintain and realize the opportunity we need and through this collaboration with purpose.

## Founding Partners:



Resource Works

