

ENVIRONMENT

**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2022



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MEET THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR



**Welcome to this edition of the
Environment Quarterly
Newsletter!**

Foreword – Environment Director

Sheko:lih and welcome to the Summer edition of the Chiefs of Ontario’s Environment Newsletter.

Summertime is here, the days are longer and the weather is hot and sunny. Many of us are beginning to get together with friends, family and the broader community as back to in-person events and barbeques have started once again.

In this quarterly newsletter, the Environment team will provide updates files such as Climate Change, Great Lakes, safe drinking water, the Canada Water Agency meetings, and the First Nations Impact Assessment toolkit updates.

We are looking forward to beginning to host in-person and virtual events this fall on several key files.

Now that we feel more comfortable getting out and about around the provinces, some of us will be travelling further for work or holidays, and I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy summer.

I hope you enjoy the summer edition of the newsletter. In closing, I want to acknowledge the Environment team at the Chiefs of Ontario and the Chiefs Committee for their dedication to the Environment files.

The Environment Newsletter can be viewed online by desktop, tablet, or smartphone. If you have any feedback, please contact Kathleen Padulo at Kathleen.Padulo@coo.org.

**Kathleen Padulo
Chiefs of Ontario, Director of Environment**

Environment Team at Chiefs of Ontario:



Ryan Bowie, Program Manager

Ryan Bowie's work is focused on the Great Lakes region and the policies and agreements that manage Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health. He also works on the federal government's proposal for the Canada Water Agency. You can reach Ryan at Ryan.Bowie@coo.org



Lillian Trapper, Ontario Regional Climate Change Coordinator

Lillian Trapper is the Regional Climate Change Coordinator for the Chiefs of Ontario. Lillian works closely with the Assembly of First Nations on a myriad of Climate and Environment files. You can reach Lillian at Lillian.Trapper@coo.org.



Sally Gaikezheyongai, Environment Coordinator

Sally Gaikezheyongai is the Environment Coordinator for the Chiefs of Ontario's Environment Sector. Since 2010, Sally has worked to assist the team with their meetings. You can reach Sally at Sally.Gaikezheyongai@coo.org.

UPDATE ON ONGOING COO PROJECTS

First Nations Environmental Regulatory and Capacity Gap Project: We Need Your Input!

The First Nations Environmental Regulatory and Capacity Gap project at Chiefs of Ontario is seeking input from technicians, leadership, and anyone working in this field within their First Nation, Tribal Council or PTO.

A survey and briefing note has been sent out. If you have not received it and would like a copy sent to you, please contact Sally Gaikezheyongai, Environment Coordinator, by email at Sally.Gaikezheyongai@coo.org

And, we have PRIZES! At the end of the survey, we will have a draw for five \$100 Visa Gift Cards.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has limited our ability to meet and discuss initiatives like the Environmental Regulatory and Capacity Gap Project, we are planning to continue the conversation on this project next fiscal year, including hosting a number of focus group sessions to discuss this project in greater detail.

First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit Update

The COO Environment Unit continues to work on creating an Ontario First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit. We aim to have the Toolkit and associated factsheets ready for March 31, 2022.

Three virtual workshops were held throughout June and were attended by many environment technicians who are looking forward to the final product. We plan to host a focus group in mid-September to obtain feedback from peers and elders to review the toolkit. A video will also be filmed to help promote the toolkit at the next assembly. Three online training workshops will be held online on October 12, 19 and 26 with the final toolkit.

All Leadership in Ontario will receive a free copy of the toolkit when it's completed. Everyone who has attended the workshops to help us develop the toolkit will also receive a free copy.

Please keep an eye out for the Save the Dates, which will be sent in the coming weeks via email and regular notices.

If you have questions about the Toolkit and Workshops, please contact Stephanie Allen, Chiefs of Ontario, Environment Program Manager, by email at: Stephanie.allen@coo.org or by cell at: 519-717-1937.



Canada Water Agency Engagement: Phase 2

The Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a Resolution to support Phase 2 engagement on First Nation's priorities in the creation of the Canada Water Agency (CWA). This past winter, the COO Environment Team hosted a series of online information sessions and workshops on the proposed CWA and the vision, priorities, roles and needs of First Nations. Several speakers from within and outside of Ontario, with knowledge and experience of the workshop themes, gave presentations and contributed to group discussions. Much information was shared, issues discussed, and priorities for future work identified. The workshop outcomes highlighted the need for further engagement with First Nations that helps develop capacity at the PTO and community level.

Phase 2 will see COO Environment support workshops conducted in communities in conjunction with Provincial Territorial Organizations and Independents. The objective of the Phase 2 project we are currently proposing are:

1. Continue to ensure First Nations are prepared to make informed decisions related to the establishment of the CWA and freshwater governance; management; transboundary issues; climate change; emergency preparedness; water quality monitoring; ecosystem protection; enhancement of environmental sustainability; economic development; and infrastructure.
2. Identifying means to achieve objectives around the assertion of First Nations' jurisdiction and relationship to water and ensuring First Nation priorities are included in the final configuration of the CWA.
3. Support the capacity of communities to make informed decisions by establishing dedicated water leaders with the Political Territorial Organizations (PTO).
4. Continue to support ongoing working relationships with ECCC and other partners working to establish the Canada Water Agency (CWA).
5. Develop a position on water stewardship directed by and agreed to by Ontario First Nations.
6. Continue to ensure alignment and continuity of work by coordinating ongoing meetings with the Chiefs Committee on Environment and by providing regular updates to First Nations leadership.

Phase 2 will be contingent on receiving sufficient funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada for Indigenous engagement on the CWA. For more information, please contact Ryan Bowie by email at Ryan.Bowie@coo.org.

Welcome our Youth Environment Portfolio Holders

Established in 2004 by the Ontario Chiefs-in-Assembly, the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council (OFNYPC) is mandated to be the official youth voice for the 133 First Nations in Ontario. The OFNYPC is formed of 12 youth representatives from Anishinabek Nation, the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Grand Council Treaty #3, the Independent First Nations, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and Six Nations of the Grand River.

Janine Frogg and Tehya Quachegan of Nishnawbe Aski Nation hold the Environment portfolio.

They provide advice and recommendations from the youth perspective to the Chiefs Committee on Environment (CCOE) and the COO Environment Sector.



Janine Frogg is a proud member of Wapekeka First Nation and of the Frog clan. She is a jingle dress dancer and carries a drum, having a traditional upbringing has allowed her to share gifts with others. Janine is two-spirit and queer. She was born and raised in Sioux Lookout, Ontario, and worked in the automotive field. In 2018, she joined the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Oshkaatisak Youth Council and relocated to Thunder Bay. Janine was elected to the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council (OFNYPC) as the NAN Female rep a year after. She sits on the NAN Women's Council as the youth representative. While working towards her diploma at Confederation College in the Native Child and Family Services program, she also works as an On-call Youth Mental Health Support Worker for her community of Wapekeka. As a passionate, driven youth wanting to help inspire our communities, Janine encourages all the people of Turtle Island to continue to choose life and bring our people together.



Tehya Quachegan is Moose Cree from James Bay Mushkegowuk territory in Treaty 9. She grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and currently lives in London, Ontario. Tehya is completing her undergraduate studies at Western University with an Honours Double Major in Psychology and Indigenous Studies. She plans to continue onto graduate studies at Western for a Masters in Media Studies, where she will focus her research on how research extraction impacts Indigenous communities. Outside of school, Tehya sits on the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Oshkaatisak Youth Council and Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council. Her interests and portfolio areas are focused on the Environment and Climate Change, Education and Mental Health.

WATER HIGHLIGHTS

Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) Meeting June 13, 2022

The recent GLEC meeting was a short half-day event rather than the usual two days. The agenda focused on a limited number of items, mostly related to reporting deadlines ahead of the upcoming Great Lakes Public Forum in September. The following are three items that will be released over the summer and up for discussion at the Public Forum:

Progress Report of the Parties (PRP)

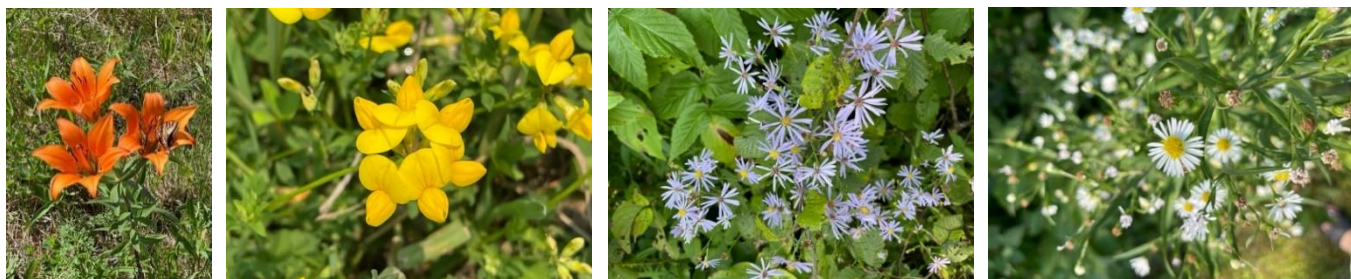
The PRP was sent to GLEC members for a two-week “red flag review,” ending on May 31. The GLEC members provided some constructive corrections, but no major issues were identified. The Secretariat is now working with the GLEC Co-Chairs to incorporate proposed edits and seek approvals to publish the document. At this time, we expect that we will receive approval to publish in mid-July.

State of the Great Lakes 2022 Report

The SOGL report was sent to the GLEC members for a two week “red flag review,” ending on June 16. After this date, the Secretariat will work with the GLEC Co-Chairs to finalize the document and seek approvals to publish the document. At this time, the expectation is for the report to be published in mid-July.

2023-2025 Priorities for Science and Action

The draft priorities developed by the GLEC Co-Chairs, and informed by input from Annex Co-Leads, were discussed at the June GLEC meeting as they sought feedback during and following the meeting. The priorities give direction for science and action for each Annex of the GLWQA and as such, will guide the activities conducted under the Agreement. The need to increase understanding of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and support its application in activities is noted in the priorities for action of Annex 10-Science. The Draft of the Priorities is expected to be released in August. Additional conversations this summer and through the public input received at the Great Lakes Public Forum will further inform the development of these priorities. The Agreement requires that the priorities are finalized within six months after the Public Forum.



Boreal Flowers – Photos by Lillian Trapper

Canada's Great Lakes Strategy for PFOS, PFOA, and LC-PFCAs Risk Management

In March of 2022, Canada released its Strategy for the risk management of three designated chemicals of mutual concern (CMCs) and their salts and precursors: (1) perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS); (2) perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); and (3) long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs). These CMCs belong to the broader family of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which includes over 4,700 diverse chemicals. They are used in a wide variety of industrial and consumer products, such as adhesives, cosmetics, cleaning products, and in specialized chemical applications, such as aqueous film-forming foams for extinguishing hydrocarbon fuel fires. These chemicals repel water, oil, dirt and grease, and are therefore widely used in food packaging, non-stick cookware, carpets, fabrics, and more. Due to their high persistence, ability to migrate long distances, and bioaccumulation potential, PFOS, PFOA, and LC-PFCAs are found in sediments, water, biological tissues, waste, and air, and can cause a variety of harmful environmental and human health effects. Exposure to PFOS and/or PFOA may result in developmental effects in children and animals, and in cancer, liver, immune, and thyroid effects.

Current actions at the federal level to reduce the amount of PFOS, PFOA, LC-PFCAs, and their salts and precursors in the environment focus on regulations that prohibit the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale or import of these substances, and products that contain them, with a limited number of exemptions. The Strategy identifies opportunities for additional Canadian actions to address data gaps and better achieve key commitments under Annex 3 of the GLWQA by minimizing the release of these CMCs to the Great Lakes basin.

Find the full report here:

<https://binational.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Canada-Great-Lakes-Strategy-for-PFOS-PFOA-and-LC-PFCAs-Risk-Management.pdf>

Other Information

Canadian Baseline Coastal Habitat Survey

The Canadian Baseline Coastal Habitat Survey in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (Annex 7, Habitat and Species), data for Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, are now available **online**. [Canadian Great Lakes Baseline Coastal Habitat Survey - Environment and Climate Change Canada Data](#).

Binational Screening Criteria for Nominated Chemicals of Mutual Concern

There is now a revised Binational Screening Criteria for Nominated Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs), which can be found here: [Binational Screening Criteria for Nominated Chemicals of Mutual Concern – Binational.net](#).

Currently, there are two CMCs under review: 1) A Canadian Nomination for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) that began in 2017 and predates the updated criteria, and 2) A nomination by Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Minnesota and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission for Sulphate that is being considered under the new criteria.

CLIMATE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Climate Action Highlights:

On November 25, 2021, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) produced a report on the review of Canada’s accomplishments and mistakes in fighting climate change. The purpose of the report was to build awareness for Canadians and inform parliamentarians to act upon its climate change objectives. In general, the report concluded that Canada has steadily failed to meet its targets on emission reductions.

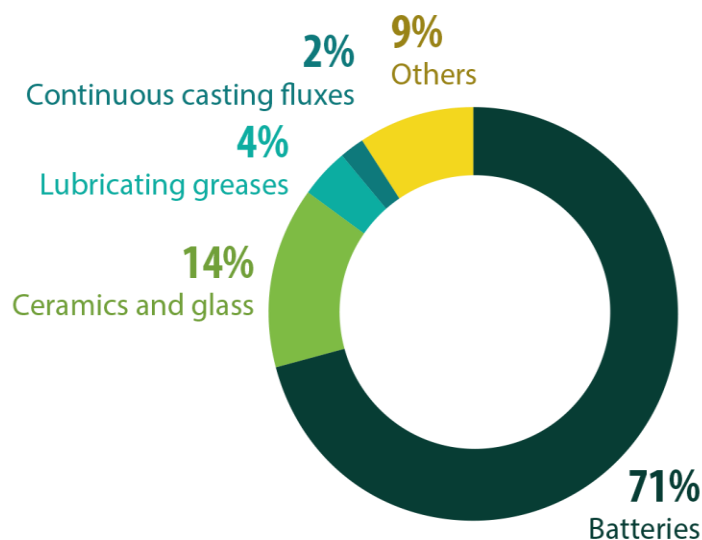
The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest report, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change, on April 4, 2022, stating the world is on the fast track to climate disaster as a result of inaction and broken promises.

The federal government released its first 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan – Canada’s Next Steps for Clean Air and a Strong Economy (ERP) on March 29, 2022, to reach a target of 40 to 45% below 2005 levels in emissions reductions.

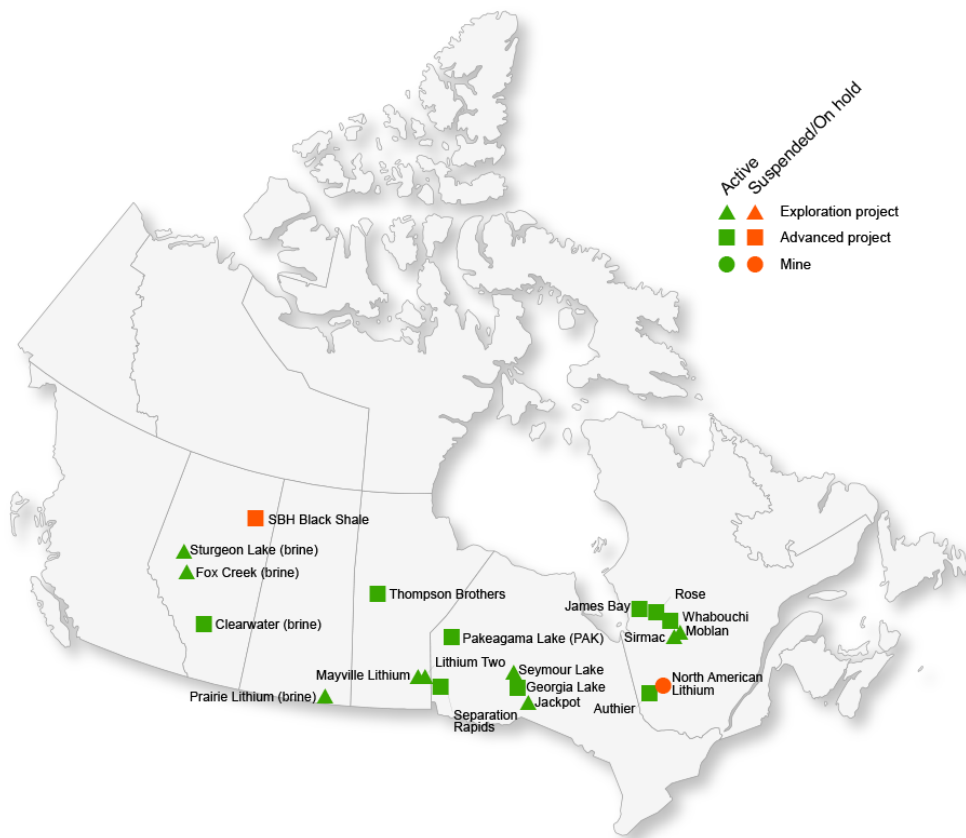
To lower greenhouse gas emissions, Prime Minister Trudeau announced on April 11, 2022, in the Budget 2022 to assist more Canadians to take up the alternate to zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) and invested \$1.7 billion for incentives for a ZEC program. Canada is positioning itself as a global leader in critical minerals, which is essential for ZEV build.

According to a CBC news article, an increase in ZEV will require an intensification in mining for metals and other resources to make the new batteries. A number of minerals are essential ingredients for batteries with three vital elements: graphite, cobalt and lithium. Lithium is of greater interest for ZEV.

Lithium, global uses, 2020



Canadian lithium projects, 2021

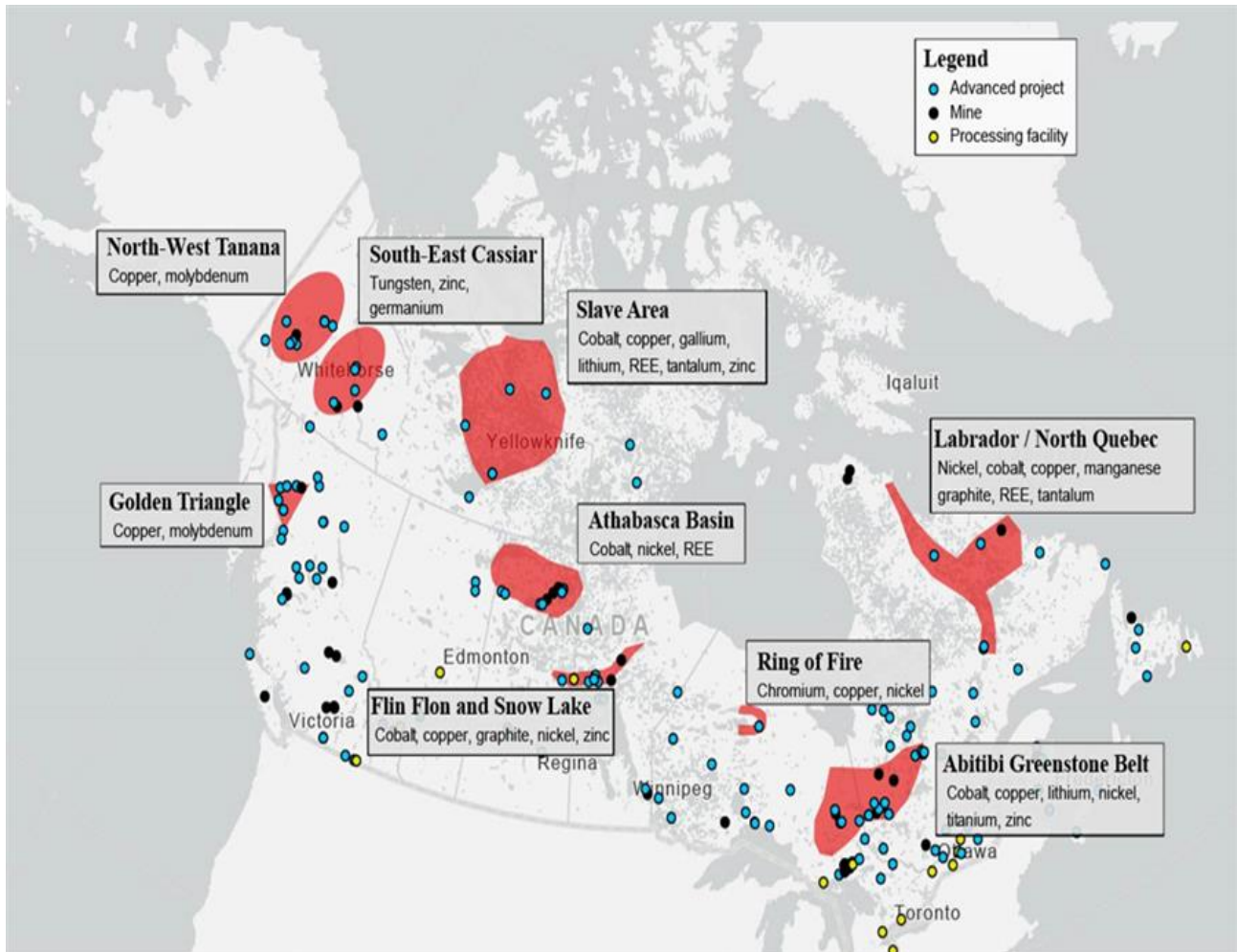


As part of the Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy climate plan, the federal government's critical minerals strategy discussion paper released on June 14, 2022, at PDAC focuses on six minerals: lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt, copper, and rare-earth elements. The paper identifies five key outcomes:

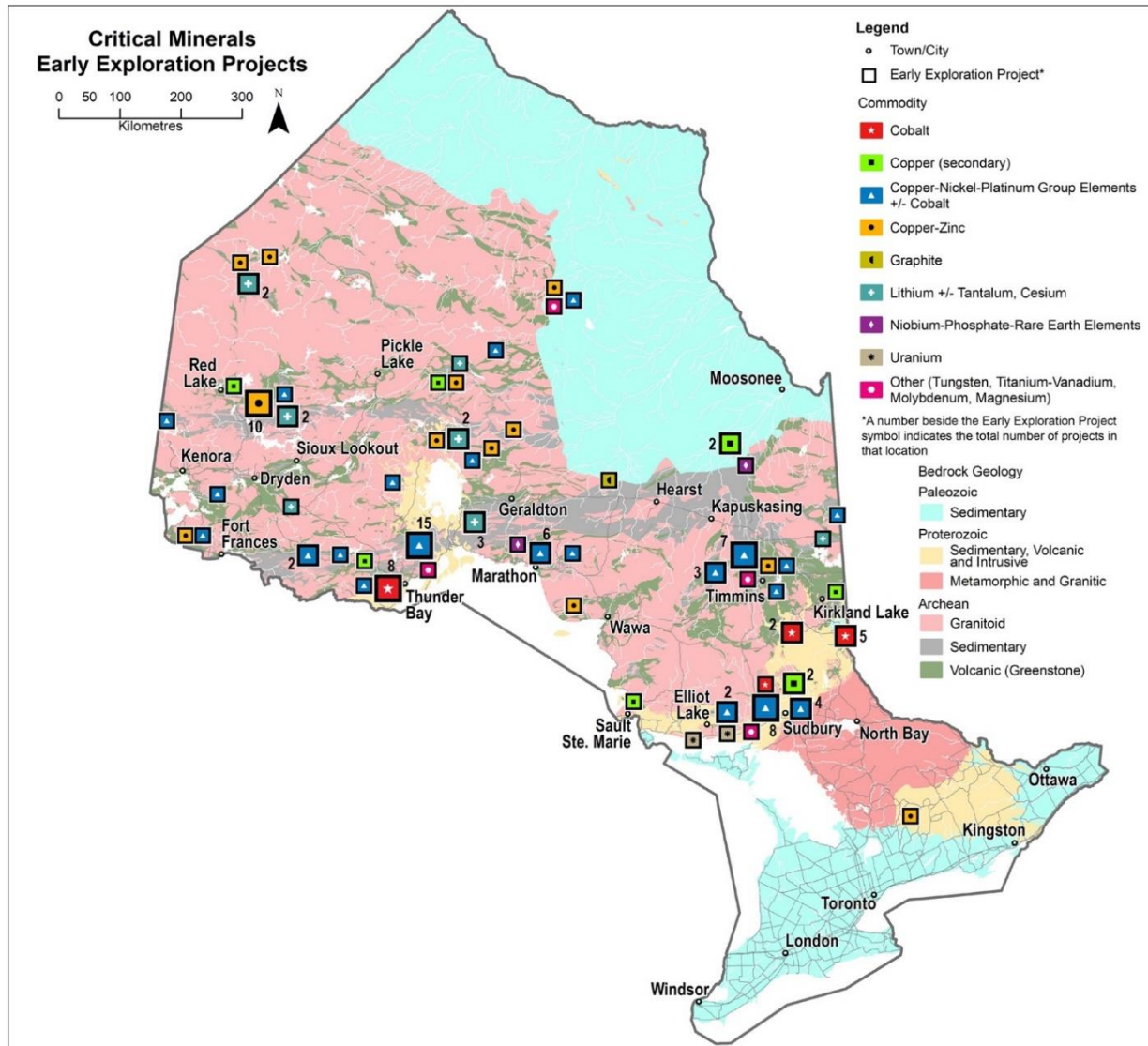
- Economic growth and competitiveness
- Environmental protection and climate action
- Enhanced security and partnership with allies
- Advancing reconciliation
- Advancing diversity and inclusion

The consultation period is from June 14, 2022, to September 15, 2022, to provide comments to the discussion paper with the final strategy to be available in the Fall of 2022. NRCan also released at PDAC a Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP) action plan stating it was developed in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders. Funding for First Nations engagement on consultation period could not be found on the government's website.

Map of Canadian critical minerals



Critical mineral early exploration projects currently underway in Ontario (as of March 2022)



According to the Environmental Registry of Ontario website, the Ontario Critical Minerals Discussion Paper consultation period was from March 10, 2021, to June 11, 2021.

The Ontario government's critical minerals strategy released in March 2022 has six pillars:

1. Enhancing geoscience information and supporting critical minerals exploration
2. Growing domestic processing and creating resilient local supply chains
3. Improving Ontario's regulatory framework
4. Investing in critical minerals innovation, research and development
5. Building economic development opportunities with Indigenous partners
6. Growing the labour supply and developing a skilled labour force

In July 2021, the northern Ontario town of Cobalt announced its plans to build a battery park by reopening its cobalt refinery. The cobalt exploration and refining company, First Cobalt, stated it was the only North American battery-grade cobalt refinery and is expected to open in late 2022, which will capture a significant share of the global market.

First Cobalt will receive its cobalt from the Democratic Republic of Congo through a joint supply agreement between Glencore and China Molybdenum Co., with the first shipment to arrive in October 2022.

In Canada's effort to reduce gas emissions to combat climate change by pursuing zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), there were battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric and hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicles on the roads. The global demand for lithium, copper, cobalt and nickel minerals to supply ZEV and green energy transition from mining operations will further directly impact First Nations territories and rights. First Nations need to be at the forefront of climate action by drafting policies, developing plans, implementing strategies and monitoring actions to take an inherent responsibility to care for the lands, waters, and air while balancing resource development interests.

Sources:

https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_202111_05_e_43898.html

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/erp/Canada-2030-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-eng.pdf>

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/04/11/helping-more-canadians-drive-electric-vehicles>

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/more-electric-cars-on-the-road-will-mean-increased-mining-for-what-goes-in-their-batteries-1.6044010>

<https://electricautonomy.ca/2021/07/20/first-cobalt-ontario-battery-park/>

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/minerals-mining/minerals-metals-facts/lithium-facts/24009>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/critical-minerals-in-canada/canada-critical-minerals-strategy-discussion-paper.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/06/minister-wilkinson-launches-discussion-paper-to-inform-canadas-critical-minerals-strategy.html>

<https://www.ontario.ca/files/2022-03/ndmnr-ontario-critical-minerals-strategy-2022-2027-en-2022-03-22.pdf>

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3281>

<https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/why-indigenous-peoples-are-key-ensuring-ev-revolution-doesnt-run-out-road-2022-05-31/>

Update on Canada's Climate Plans:

AFN Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA)

The Joint Committee on Climate Action continues to advocate to advance First Nations' interests in the new federal climate plan, *A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy and the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan*.

The AFN passed Resolution 05/2019 declaring a "First Nations Climate Emergency," and since then, has been working towards First Nations climate leadership, in which **capacity** is essential to supporting Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL), both:

- **Capacity to participate** fully and meaningfully **in the process**; and,
- Planning for **long-term capacity** to ensure successful implementation of the ICL Agenda, specifically around the devolution of federal programming, must be done with adequate and sustainable funding and resources.

For further information, please see the **information and highlights below** from presentations made recently regarding the follow topics; Climate Plan Progress, First Nations Climate Leadership and the JCCA Annual Report, which is shared with both the Prime Minister and the National Chief.

2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP)

From a presentation to the First Nations-Canada Joint Committee on Climate Action - June 2022

- On March 29, 2022, the Government of Canada tabled the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) in Parliament and released the plan to Canadians. The 2030 ERP includes **\$9.1B** of new investments – a key pillar of Budget 2022.
- The 2030 ERP is the Government of Canada's **next major step** in taking action to address climate change and create good, sustainable jobs. It **builds on federal climate actions taken to date**, including those under preceding climate plans.
- The 2030 ERP is a **sector-by-sector roadmap**, with the measures needed for Canada to reach its emissions reduction targets of 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and put in place the building blocks for net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The 2030 ERP is an **evergreen plan** and will **continue to adapt** as new opportunities arise and promising pathways to Canada's 2030 target and net-zero emissions continue to emerge.

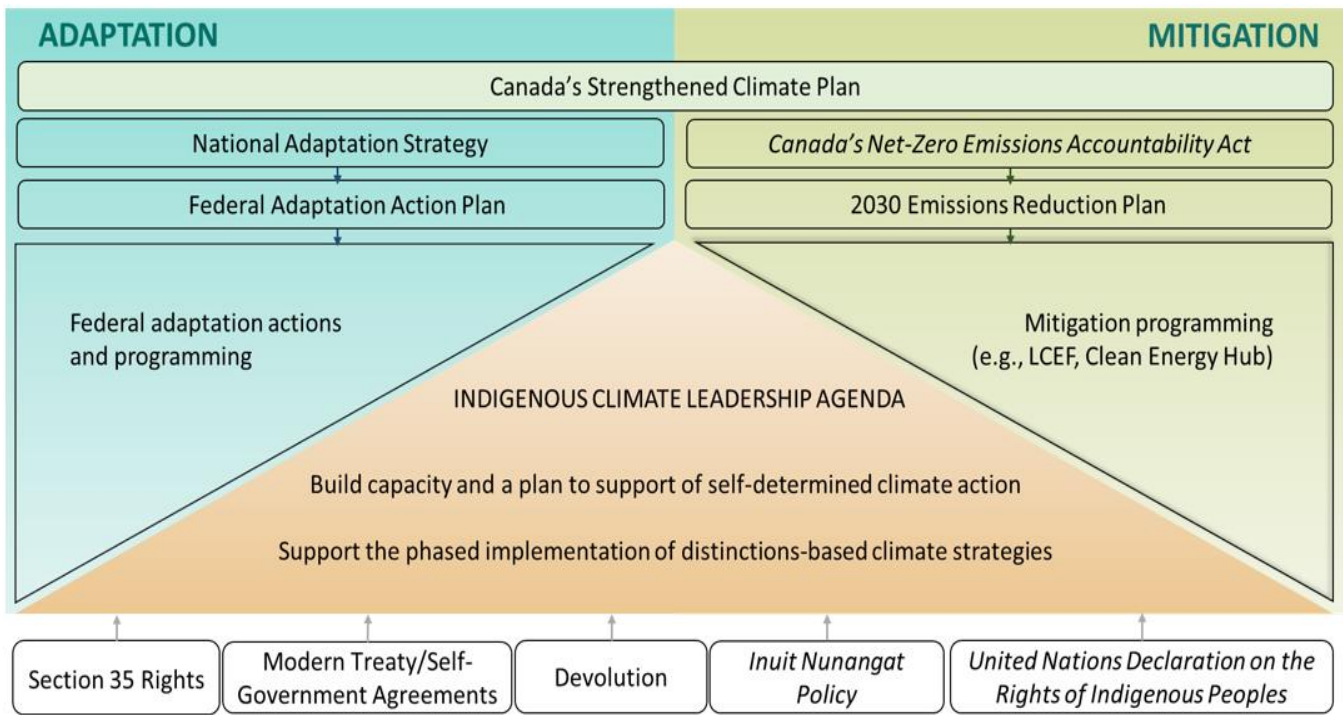
Indigenous Climate Leadership in the Emissions Reduction Plan

The Government of Canada will **continue to work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis** representatives and rights-holders to **develop and implement a model of partnership for climate action** that:

- Empowers self-determined climate action and the expression of Indigenous and Treaty rights, jurisdictions, governance, and legal traditions through climate action, and progressively vests authorities and resources in the hands of Indigenous governments;
- Leverages the transition to a net-zero economy to support overarching efforts towards self-determination, the alleviation of socio-economic inequities, and the implementation of the UN Declaration, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and,
- Supports the expression of Indigenous Knowledge systems in national climate policy through appropriate governance arrangements, the promotion of Indigenous perspectives on climate change, and the weaving together of Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems.

The Government will make an additional investment of \$29.6 million to advance Indigenous Climate Leadership.

Situating the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan



Mitigation Initiatives

1. **Low Carbon Economy Fund (ECCC)**-----\$2.2B over 7 years
 - A) **Indigenous Leadership Fund (ECCC)**-----\$180M over 7 years
2. **Indigenous Climate Leadership (CIRNAC)**-----\$29.6M over 3 years
3. **Moving forward with the Canada Green Buildings Strategy (NRCan)**-----\$150M over 5 years
4. **Energy Efficiency Programming: Lessons Learned from the Canada Greener Homes Grant (NRCan)- 5M over the program duration**
5. **Regional Energy and Resource Tables (NRCan)**-----N/A
6. **Greener Neighbourhoods Pilot Program (NRCan)**-----\$33M over 5 years
7. **Deep Retrofit Accelerator Initiative (NRCan)**-----\$200M over 5 years
8. **Innovative construction materials R&D/Building Standards (National Research Council)**
\$183.2M over 7 years
9. **Canada Growth Fund**----- \$15B over 5 years
10. **Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program (NRCan)**-----\$600M over 7 years
11. **Electricity Predevelopment Program (NRCan)**-----\$250M over 4 years
12. **Pan-Canadian Grid Council (NRCan)**-----\$25M
13. **Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NRCan)**-----\$400M over 5 years
14. **Decarbonization of Aviation***----- NA

Adaptation Initiatives

15. **Purchase of firefighting equipment by First Nations communities (ISC)**
\$39.2M over 5 years
16. **Train 1,000 additional firefighters and incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge**
\$37.9M over 5 years in fire management (NRCan)
17. **Help provinces and territories procure firefighting equipment**-----\$269M over 5 years
18. **Wildfire Monitoring Satellite System (Canadian Space Agency, NRCan, ECCC)**
\$169.9M over 11 years

Nature-based Solutions and Conservation Initiatives

19. **Nature Smart Climate Solutions fund (ECCC)**-----780M over 5 years
20. **British Columbia Old Growth Nature Fund (ECCC/NRCan)**---\$55.1M over 3 years
21. **Cultivate the mitigation potential of blue carbon*** ----- NA

Regulations

23. **Oil and Gas Emissions Cap**
24. **Light-duty vehicle (LDV) zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) sales mandate towards achieving 100%**

LDV sales by 2035

25. Medium- and heavy-duty (MHDV) ZEV sales mandate with the aim of reaching 35% of total MHDV sales being ZEVs by 2030, and a regulation to require 100% MHDV sales to be ZEVs by 2040.

Contacts for more Information:

Federal Departments	Single-window point of contact
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Janna.Cutting@ec.gc.ca
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Natural Resources Canada	david.murray@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca
Infrastructure Canada	Andrew.Swift@infcc.gc.ca
Agriculture and Agri-food Canada	Matthew.Lefebvre@agr.gc.ca
Parks Canada	Marina.Best@pc.gc.ca
Transport Canada	jacob.mcbane@tc.gc.ca

Government of Canada continues partnership with First Nations on climate action

From: [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

News release

July 13, 2022 – Gatineau, Quebec

Today, in the spirit of partnership and in recognition of First Nations Climate Leadership, the First Nations–Canada Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) released its fourth annual report to the Prime Minister and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. The JCCA provides a unique opportunity for federal and First Nations representatives to work together to develop and implement a model of partnership for climate action to grow an inclusive, clean, and prosperous future together.

First Nations are uniquely and disproportionately affected by climate change. They are experiencing an increase in threats caused by wildfires, permafrost thaw, changing wildlife patterns, diminishing access to traditional food sources, and flooding. First Nations' knowledge systems, self-determination, and rights must be woven into all federal climate policy and program development as their experiences and knowledge related to the environment and climate change are diverse and unique.

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that mobilizing Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making can increase the viability of Canada's responses to the various dimensions of climate change, including food, energy, and water security; resource co-management; the conservation of lands, waters, and ice; economic development; community infrastructure; and health and well-being. Canada is prioritizing initiatives that support self-determined climate action and amplify the leadership of First Nations to advance reconciliation and to address the

impacts of climate change.

The JCCA made progress on many priorities in 2021, despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, as well as the devastating fires and floods that severely impacted many communities throughout British Columbia, including Lytton First Nation. This collaboration has been critical to advancing First Nations' full and effective participation in clean growth and climate change programs, and ensuring that Canada's climate solutions build on First Nations Climate Leadership and promote the full inclusion of First Nations.

The report highlights five priority areas for the JCCA discussions and activities in 2022, including

1. Accelerating First Nations' full and effective participation in clean growth and climate change programs, including informing the upcoming National Adaptation Strategy.
2. Advancing the development of First Nations Climate Leadership through meaningful dialogue.
3. Monitoring and evaluating progress on First Nations Climate Leadership and the full and effective participation of First Nations in climate change programs.
4. Developing new communication tools to improve transparency, accountability, and engagement through JCCA activities.
5. Embedding an intergenerational and intersectional dialogue on climate change in all JCCA activities.

Indigenous Peoples' leadership is key to Canada achieving its climate objectives. The Government of Canada will continue to engage with First Nations as partners in climate action as it implements measures under the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, and as Canada works toward a net-zero future.

Quotes

"For many First Nations, climate change is not a future issue, but one that is having financial, cultural, and environmental impacts on their communities as we speak. We have much to learn from First Nations' experiences and unique relationships with the land. Indigenous Knowledge can and must be central to the development of effective climate policy. I am honoured to work in partnership with First Nations and the Government of Canada to advance the priorities of the Joint Council. I want to thank the JCCA for their work, and say that we are ready to meaningfully collaborate on the priorities identified in this year's report."

– The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

"As climate leaders, First Nations must have meaningful opportunities to shape the vision and approach of all climate action. The Joint Committee on Climate Action is one such approach, where First Nations governance, laws, and priorities can breathe life into an approach that centres First Nations leadership in climate action and provides a more holistic approach to fighting climate change. First Nations people are often the first to feel the impacts of climate change and we have the knowledge to inform meaningful solutions to the very real impacts on Mother Earth. We look forward to our continued work with the JCCA and demonstrating First Nations climate leadership, including through the AFN National Climate Strategy."

– Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations – Yukon Region

Quick facts

- The Joint Committee on Climate Action follows on from the [Assembly of First Nations resolution 22/2017](#). It was established in 2016 by the Prime Minister and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. It focuses on climate change and clean growth, and is based on the recognition of rights, co-operation, and partnership.
- The JCCA seeks to promote First Nations' full and effective participation in federal climate action. It serves as a unique forum where First Nations representatives and federal officials come together to discuss climate change priorities and collaborate on climate policy.
- The Committee's mandate does not replace or alleviate the Crown of its duty to consult First Nations' rights holders at the local, regional, and national level on climate change issues.
- Its work includes identifying barriers to First Nations' participation in decision-making and access to climate change programs, and identifying ways to advance First Nations' self-determination in climate action.
- The JCCA is made up of First Nations representatives from all regions in Canada, representatives of the Assembly of First Nations, and Government of Canada officials from numerous federal departments, including Environment and Climate Change Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Infrastructure Canada.

Associated links

- [Joint Committee on Climate Action Fourth Annual Report](#)
- [2030 Emissions Reduction Plan](#)

Contacts

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[Environment and Climate Change Canada's Twitter page](#)
[Environment and Climate Change Canada's Facebook page](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

2022 Great Lakes Public Forum – Sept. 27-29, 2022 - Niagara Falls, Ontario

Registration is now open for the [2022 Great Lakes Public Forum](#) taking place on September 27-29, 2022, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada! The United States and Canada invite members of the public, organizations, and agencies with an interest or involvement in the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes to attend.

This year's Forum holds special significance as it falls on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States. The Great Lakes Public Forum will be a hybrid event, with opportunities to join in person or virtually. Registration for this event is free! Registration for the in-person event closes Monday, September 5, 2022. Space is limited, so if you wish to participate in-person, register early. For more information and to register, visit our event page on binational.net: [EVENT PAGE](#). A preliminary agenda is available on binational.net. A detailed agenda will be posted when available. For any questions, please contact the Registration Coordinator at greatlakes-grandlacs@ec.gc.ca.

First Nations communities will be well represented at the Forum, which promises to be an insightful and productive event that furthers First Nations priorities in the stewardship of the Great Lakes Basin. For further information, please contact Ryan Bowie at Ryan.Bowie@coo.org or Sally Gaikezheyongai at Sally.Gaikezheyongai@coo.org.

Assembly of First Nations 2nd National Climate Gathering - Sept. 27-29, 2022- Fredericton, New Brunswick

The Climate Gathering will bring together First Nations experts, leadership, youth, women, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and professionals from coast to coast to coast to work on the most urgent issue of our time: the climate crisis. It will offer an opportunity to explore solutions that First Nations are advancing in the face of rapid change at local, regional, national and international levels. For First Nations, a healthy environment connects to everything – our health, well-being, cultures, languages, water, food security and housing, among other things. Details, including information on the upcoming Call for Presentations, are available in the coming weeks at www.afn.ca or please contact AFN directly by email at climategathering@afn.ca for more information.

Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program

The much anticipated Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) just got launched. You can find details of this program at this [link](#). You will find the RFP application guide for your reference at the link. The Request for Proposals (RFP) focusing on public places, on-street, multi-unit residential buildings, workplaces and vehicle fleets is now open until **August 11, 2022** (23:59 Eastern Daylight Time). This can be a great opportunity to develop infrastructure in line with climate change actions the community is taking on.

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