

**FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS COALITION AND FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE INITIATIVE SIGN
MOU TO ADVANCE AN INDIGENOUS LED NET ZERO FRAMEWORK**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Respective Territories of Nations Stretching from BC to ON - December 16th, 2020 – The First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) and the First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to advance an Indigenous led net-zero policy framework concerning major energy and infrastructure development. Collectively, FNCI and FNMPC bring together 70 First Nations covering over 6 provinces and territories across Canada to lead and own economic development projects that contribute to national and global strategies to achieve net-zero by 2050 while supporting economic self-determination for their communities.

Under the MOU, the Nations will strengthen and implement FNCI's Net Zero policy framework (<https://www.fncionline.com/policy-framework>). FNMPC and FNCI have also agreed to implement strategies that expand First Nations capacity to become proponents of sustainable major projects. This includes increasing access to capital for equity ownership, and leveraging FNMPC's Major Projects Assessment Standard to enhance the ability of First Nations to lead their own assessments of project impacts.

"This MOU is another example of our First Nations coming together to innovate and advance our mutual interests toward sustainable project development within our territories. We have an opportunity to be leaders in developing the kind of policy that enables wealth generation to take place while positioning us to be a part of the solution in achieving net-zero targets and environmental protection," stated FNMPC Board Chair Chief Sharleen Gale.

"Leading the development of new infrastructure for a low carbon economy and restoration of the legacy of disturbance from past development demonstrates the central role that First Nations communities and enterprises will play in the emerging economy", expressed Chief Councillor Crystal Smith (Haisla Nation), leadership representative of the FNCI.

"Together FNCI and FNMPC are a collective voice of First Nations that have always known development and environment cannot be separated but rather these issues and opportunities must be addressed together as part of a national and global strategy", said President Eva Clayton (Nisga'a Nation), leadership representative of the FNCI.

“Lax Kw'alaams is proud to be a bridge between the First Nations Climate Initiative and the First Nations Major Projects Coalition to promote Indigenous leadership in addressing climate change and realizing a sustainable economic future”, stated Joey Wesley, Elected Councillor of Lax Kw'alaams Band and leadership representative of FNCI.

“We need to work together locally, nationally, and internationally to make the right changes happen. Indigenous people can lead the way. We have done it before, we will do it again”, asserted Chief Councillor Harold Leighton (Metlakatla First Nation), leadership representative of the FNCI.

Leaders of the FNMPC and FNCI will be showcasing their work together at the upcoming “*Indigenous Sustainable Investment Conference*” being hosted virtually March 18-19, 2021. We encourage all those interested in learning more about the Indigenous led net-zero policy framework being advanced by this group of visionary leaders to take part in that event: <http://industryengagementevent.com>.

The shared vision of the FNMPC and FNCI to lead and own economic development projects that contribute to national and global strategies to achieve net-zero by 2050 is supported by a growing constituency of likeminded and committed First Nations. Please reach out to the FNMPC or FNCI if you are a First Nation looking to join in our efforts.

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Media Contacts

First Nations Major Projects Coalition
Niilo Edwards, Executive Director
Executivedirector@fnmpc.ca
(778) 875-0169

First Nations Climate Initiative
Alex Grzybowski
Alex@pacificresolutions.com
(250) 888-1534

First Nations Climate Initiative
Chanda Hunnie
Chanda@pacificresolutions.com
(204) 995-1555

Attachments: MOU



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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN RESPECT OF COLLABORATION AND
SUPPORT BETWEEN THE NORTH COAST FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE
INITIATIVE AND THE FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS COALITION**

AMONG:

**FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS COALITION
SOCIETY**

(the “Coalition”)

AND:

**NORTH COAST FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE INITIATIVE,
AS REPRESENTED BY NISGA'A NATION, LAX
KW'ALAAMS, METLAKATLA FIRST NATION AND
HAISLA NATION**

(the “FNCI”)

(collectively the “Parties”, and individually a “Party”)

WHEREAS:

- A. First Nations are uniquely affected by climate change, and are uniquely positioned to address climate change by taking a leadership role in developing and implementing innovative climate change policies;
- B. First Nations are also uniquely positioned to co-develop and own major projects that are developed within our respective territories;
- C. The Nisga'a Nation, Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla First Nation, and the Haisla Nation are collaboratively developing a climate change and greenhouse gas emissions policies together as the FNCI;

- D. The FNCCI is working with governments, including other First Nations, and other non-governmental groups to develop climate change policies that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen First Nations economic self-determination, including the development of net-zero LNG as a transition fuel in the development of a low carbon economy globally and locally;
- E. The Coalition is a community-based business capacity organization with over 60 First Nation members, a majority of which are located in British Columbia;
- F. The mandate of the Coalition includes member First Nations working collaboratively, cooperatively, and cohesively towards the enhancement of their economic well-being, understanding that a strong economy is reliant upon a healthy environment, supported by vibrant cultures, languages and expression of First Nation laws;
- G. The Coalition provides its member First Nations with business capacity services focused on strengthening the economic and environmental participation of First Nations in major projects;
- H. Lax Kw'alaams is a member of the Coalition and the Coalition has invited the other FNCCI member Nations to join it;
- I. Both the Coalition and the FNCCI share common values including the unity of Nations, advocacy for the economic and other interests of First Nations, and the strengthening and sharing of knowledge required to make informed decisions about sustainable economic development and climate change mitigation;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby set out below their mutual understanding and commitments in respect of the ongoing collaboration among them within the scope of their respective mandates and visions.

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this MOU is to set out the Parties' commitment to collaborate and support each other within the scope of their respective mandates and visions.
2. **COLLABORATIVE WORK.** The Coalition and the FNCCI will establish a working group to support each other in implementing and achieving their respective visions through deliverables that will be mutually agreed to in a work plan, including:
 - (a) further development, promotion, and implementation of the FNCCI *Draft Policy Framework*, with a specific focus on First Nation co-development and equity ownership of environmentally responsible infrastructure;



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- (b) development of environmentally responsible economic development that is consistent with the FNCI *Draft Policy Framework* and the Coalition's *Major Project Assessment Standard*;
 - (c) sharing information obtained through engagement with subject matter experts or government agencies as it may be relevant to the development of climate change mitigation policy or economic development or reconciliation; and
 - (d) other matters as may be mutually agreed between the Coalition and the FNCI from time to time.
3. **TERMINATION.** Either Party may terminate this MOU upon providing written notice to the other Party.
4. **CONFIDENTIALITY**
- (a) The FNCI and the Coalition are committed to openness and transparency in their shared vision of gathering information and developing climate change mitigation policy.
 - (b) None of the discussions, communications, documents or other materials exchanged between the Parties in respect of the implementation of this MOU will be considered confidential except where one Party identifies in writing in advance that such discussions, communications, documents or other materials to be confidential, in which case the Parties agree not to disclose such communications to any third party.
5. **RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES.** The Parties Agree that this MOU is not a legally binding agreement and its terms are not legally enforceable as between them.
6. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** If a dispute in respect of the implementation of this MOU arises, the Parties will address and attempt to settle such dispute in good faith through mutual collaboration, cooperation, openness, discussion and consultation amongst the Parties.
7. **MEMBERSHIP.** The First Nations who are members of the FNCI, who are not currently members of the Coalition, may consider and are encouraged to join the Coalition.

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