



Annual Report 2022



INDIGENOUS
CLIMATE ACTION

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INTRODUCTION

02



Letter from Executive Director

The journey continues!

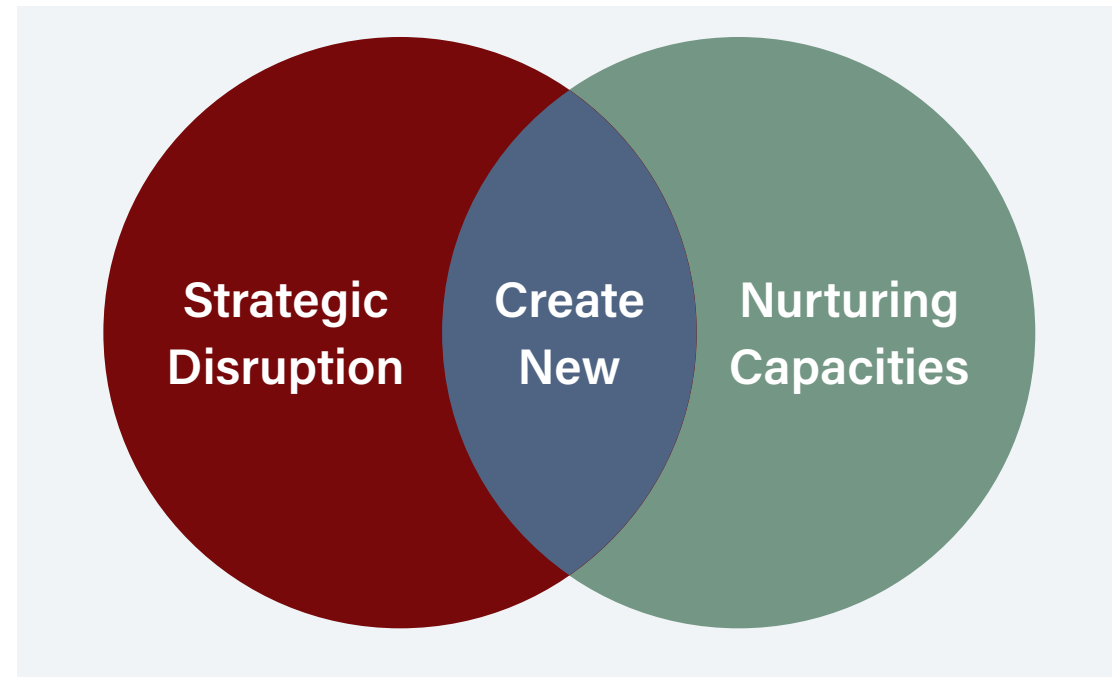
Last year marked ICA's 5th year of operations and the end of our first 5 year plan!

In January of 2017, our Steering Committee (SC) set out the framework to develop the first Indigenous-led climate justice organization in so-called Canada. We were mandated to hold space for our people to be in ceremony, to collaborate, and share our stories of success; and develop resources to help re-frame the climate justice narratives to include our rights, our knowledge and our people.

Through the SC guidance the first strategic work plan was created. Not only have we achieved the goals we set out, we managed to move through a global pandemic that required us to shift how we operated, and we still thrived and grew.

We met many of the goals set forth by our community via our Climate Leadership Program, our land gatherings, our partnerships, our social media strategies, our podcasts, website and our work to shift narratives nationally and at the UN level. Our team is making waves and building up the capacities of our communities to be the climate leaders they were meant to be!

As we step into our next 5 years, we are continuing to forge paths for ourselves and our kin, we are holding self-determination and sovereignty at the centre and inviting system change. Climate Justice demands more than protest or reduction of , it requires liberation from the root causes of planetary injustices—from colonialism, extractivism, capitalism, patriarchy and white supremacy. These systems don't serve us or our kin on Mother Earth.



As we grow and find our place in the climate justice movement, ICA has been landing into our role as a movement servicing organization. For us, Indigenous climate leadership is a movement that ignites the power that all Indigenous communities hold, to step into decision making spaces and demand necessary systemic change.

By supporting our communities to imagine climate justice outside of colonial solutions, white supremacy, and economic industries, we can stimulate our ancestral creativity, knowledge and solutions that will move us towards a just future.

We provide our communities with the necessary alternative to work with an Indigenous climate-justice organization that understands their lived realities, and to change how our communities work, see themselves and exist in today's colonial environmental movements. Overall, our current programs are designed to empower

Indigenous communities to take action on climate change and to nurture the development of community-led solutions that are rooted in Indigenous knowledge and practices.

We support the **strategic disruption** of harmful colonial actions that undermine & harm Indigenous rights and ways of being; while also **nurturing the capacities** of our own experts, by co-creating resources and trainings with and for Indigenous peoples that centre healing justice, communities, and strategic climate education that empowers future climate leaders; all of this with the end of goal of **creating new** climate solutions that serve our people and the world at large.

For us, the journey is just as important as the end. As we move forward with plans to strengthen ICA, we are doing so with ongoing support from other Indigenous organizations and allies and in relationships within the wider ecosystems of donors and partners that support us.

Internally, we are experimenting with non-hierarchical structures rooted in a more holistic approach to leadership and decision making. Our organizational chart is one modeled with a flower with roots, stem, flower and petals to make a structure that is interdependent on the parts as a whole.

We have adopted a permanent 4 day work week without any salary deductions, we have family leave, moon time leave and honor our teams commitments and responsibilities to their communities and families. Along with our new Healing Justice program, we are focusing on ensuring that we are valuing our team members as community members, and most importantly as complex human beings.

I am so honored to work with a beautiful team of Indigenous leaders and allies who are so passionate about working towards transformative climate justice. Together we can build another future, and together we will.

Mársi for believing in me, Mársi for standing with me, Mársi for doing this work. Mársi yenid.

Watered by the life blood (and tears) of the many,
Nurtured in the hands of the ancestors,
Held together by love,
Woven in relationships of trust, reciprocity and visions of hope.

"We are our ancestors' wildest dreams."

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

Photos – ICA



Who We Are

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) was formed to bridge the gaps between the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples and the policies and strategies being developed to address climate change.

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Our Story

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Vision,
Mission & Values

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Staff

Our Story

Since 2015, Indigenous Climate Action has existed as a unique organization run by and for Indigenous peoples working on issues of climate change.

We have been experimenting and exploring ways to hold this space with a blend of humility and confidence to uplift ways that imagine possibilities outside of the colonial status quo.

At ICA, we believe that Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems are critical to developing solutions to the climate crisis and achieving climate justice. We see Indigenous climate leadership as a movement to ignite

the power that all Indigenous community members hold, affirming their rights as decision makers to demand systemic change that is necessary for climate justice. By supporting our communities to imagine climate justice outside of colonial solutions, white supremacy, ideologies, and economic industries that have caused, and continue to cause, irreparable harm to our lands, territories, and rights, we can stimulate our ancestral creativity, knowledge, and solutions that will move us towards a just future.

We are providing Indigenous communities the necessary alternative, to work with an Indigenous organization that understands their lived realities, and to change how our communities work, see themselves, and exist in today's colonial environmental movements.

We are governed by a steering committee of diverse Indigenous peoples. Our work is deeply relational and involves the development and implementation of strategies 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.

Photos — Nhattan Nguyen



Vision

A world with sovereign and thriving Indigenous Peoples and cultures leading climate justice for all.



Photo — ICA

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.



Photo — ICA

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.



Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

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.



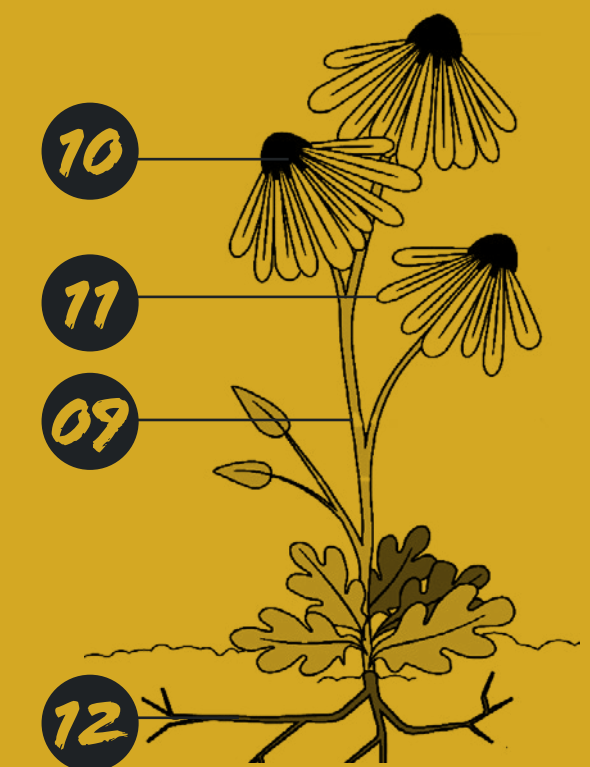
Who We Are

Staff

ICA is a national, remote organization with a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies with deep connections to movement work for climate justice and Indigenous rights and sovereignty. We represent various Indigenous backgrounds, lineages, and cultural groups from across so-called Canada and beyond. Our staff is supported and guided by a fully-Indigenous National Steering Committee and Board of Directors.

In 2022, ICA developed a pod organizational structure rooted in a holistic approach to leadership and decision making.

Our organizational chart is modeled on a plant with roots, stem, flower and petals to make a structure that is interdependent from the parts to the whole.



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Stewardship Pod

The Stewardship Pod is responsible for ensuring the organizational health & well-being, the Vision, Mission and Values of ICA are nurtured and upheld to support clear lines of intersection, mentorship and guidance throughout the entire organization.

This pod works closely with the Heart & Soul Pod, especially the Executive Steering Committee, Healing Justice team and Development team to support and guide strategic planning, fundraising, mentorship, organizational growth and the overall strategies and evaluation processes of ICA to enable success for all the Pods.



Eriel Deranger
Executive Director
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation



Sheila Muxlow
Associate Director
Non-Indigenous Ally & Co-conspirator



Melina Laboucan-Massimo
Senior Director
Lubicon Cree



Erin Konsmo
Healing Justice Manager
Métis Nation



Candice Jacko
Development Coordinator
Odawa/Pottawatomi, Welsh & member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory



Jamie Bourque-Blyan
Strategic Communications
& Partnership Coordinator
Métis Nation/Federation



Cherie Island
Development Manager
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Explore & Blossom Pod

Exploration & blossoming of ideas is necessary for any growing team or organization. The Exploration & Blossom Pod will be responsible for research and exploration of programs and building out offerings from ICA to support the vision, mission and values of ICA to grow Indigenous leadership in climate justice.



Jayce Chiblow
Education & Training Manager
Garden River First Nation



Breanne Lavallée-Heckert
Research Manager
Métis Nation



Vanessa Gray
Divestment Campaign Coordinator
Aamjiwnaang First Nation



Carole Monture
Climate Leadership Coordinator
Wolf Clan, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Inform & Connect Pod

Inform and Connect Pod are the leads for maintaining the brand of ICA. This includes amplifying the offerings from ICA programs, coordinating strategic events including ICA's attendance at COP27, and ensuring ongoing strategies for promotion and community engagement.



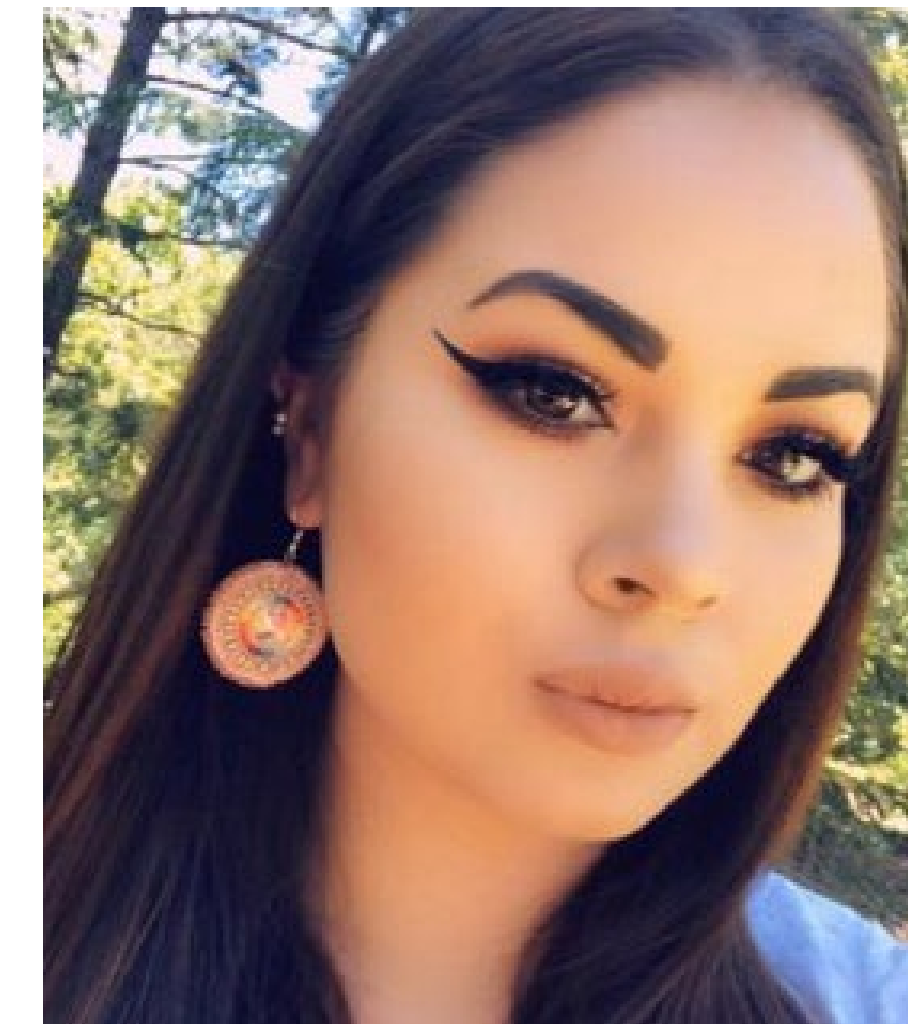
Rosalyn Boucha
Communications Manager
Animakee Wa Zhing First Nation



Jacob Crane
Community Engagement Coordinator
Tsuut'ina Nation



Angel Brant
Youth Engagement Lead
Mohawk Nation



Ashley Nadjiwon
Youth Intersectionality Lead
*Anishinaabe kwe from Wikwemikong
Unceded Territory*

Nourishment Pod

2022 was a year of growth within our team and we are excited to have added new staff members to support this work. The Nourishment Pod is responsible for ensuring the team is provided with what they need to thrive and nurture team morale. This team prioritizes refining and maintaining best practices for organizational policies, internal team engagement, program management softwares and financial management.

This pod works closely with all staff to provide effective processes, templates and software (IT) for team coordination and culture building and support and guide the management of budgets for programs and the overall organization. As well they hold the responsibilities to support Human Resources including professional development plans, hiring, onboarding, benefits, and payroll for staff and contractors.



Yaroslava Montenegro
Operations Manager
Ally



Georgia Greetham
Finance Manager
Mixed-colonial and Mohawk



Lindsay Monture
Operations Manager
Turtle Clan, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Acts of resistance continue to inspire Indigenous land defenders like myself to fight for the land and our self-determination.

— Vanessa Gray,
Divestment Campaign Coordinator



Nhattan Nguyen
Operations Coordinator
Ally



Nadia Wysote
Finance Assistant
Mi'gmaq Nation

Heart & Soul Pod

Executive Steering Committee

This is a critical part of ICA's heart and soul. It was through our community advisories that ICA's vision, mission and mandate was created. Much of our work is guided and directed by the National Steering Committee (SC) and Executive Steering Committee (ESC) who we update and request input and support from on a quarterly basis ensuring full transparency in our respective work areas. The SC and ESC supports the full scope of work at ICA ensuring we are accountable to our vision, mission, and values.

Our volunteer Steering Committee (SC) is made up of 16 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 first year of a two year term for many of our Steering Committee members. With ICA's incorporation our Executive Committee now serves as the Board, reinforcing their role in supporting the governance of the organization.

We have much more work to do and grateful for so many creative minds to help us on this journey.

— Donna Ashamock,
Executive Steering Committee



Michelle Brass
Saulteaux, Yellow Quill First Nation



Daniel T'seleie
*K'ahsho Got'ine
(Fort Good Hope Dene Band)*



Ellen Gabriel
Turtle Clan, Kanien'kehá:ka Nation



Donna Ashamock
Cree, Fort Albany First Nation

Heart & Soul Pod

National Steering Committee



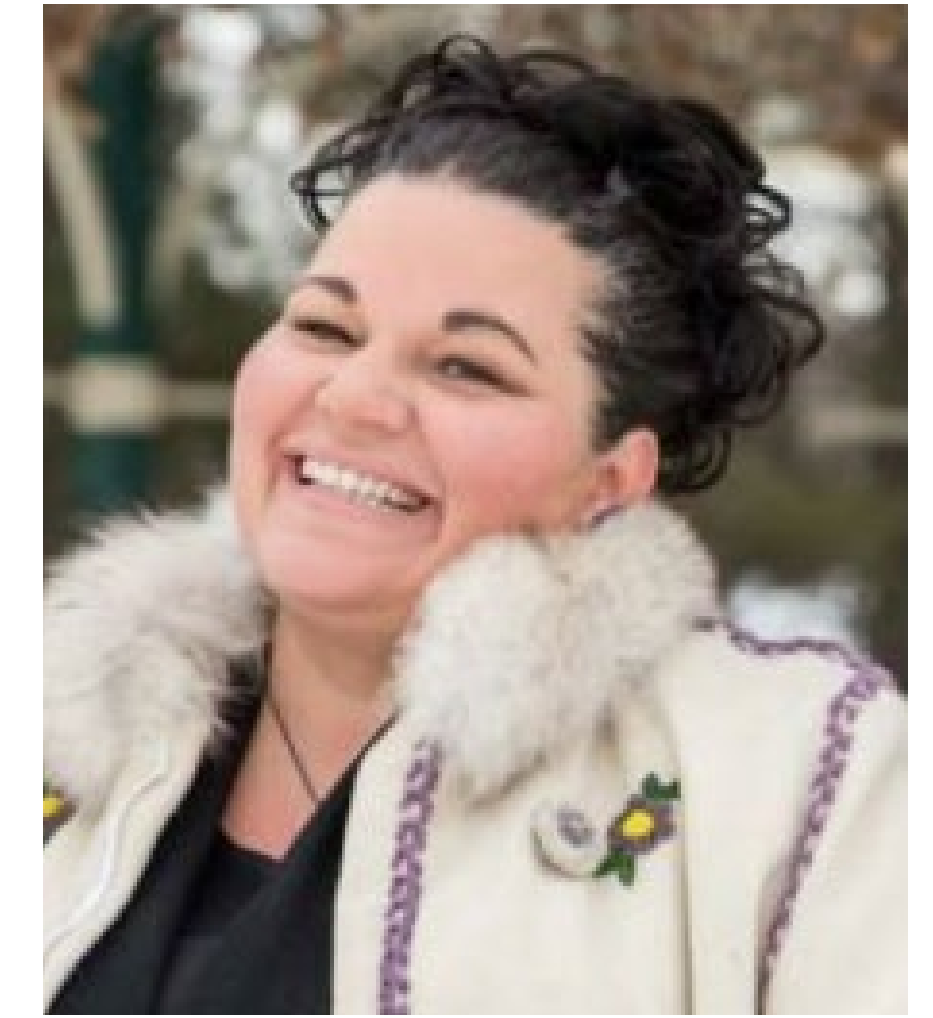
Michelle Myers
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations



Susana Deranger
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation



Bren Henderson
*Montreal Lake Cree Nation
& Cowessess Cree Nation*



Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse
Cree / Mohawk



Leslie Florence Saddleback
Pigeon Lake First Nation



Bryanna R. Brown
Inuk and Mi'kmaq



Maureen Gustafson
Anishinaabe, Couchiching First Nation



Midori Nicolson | Wadzidalaga
*Musgamagw Dzwawadaenuxw,
Dzwawada'enuxw Nation*



Natasha Akiwenzie
Lac Seul First Nation

Thank You to ICA's Network of Support!

We also recognize the work of contractors, past staff, and volunteers throughout the 2022 year.



Alex Flint
Aliya Rahman
Amber Bernard
Ashley Hynes
Ashley Nadjiwon
Ayanna Clappis
Beze Gray
Brina Romanek
Carlee Loft
Carole Monture
Celia Alario
Christiana Guertin
Conor Kerr
Corrina Keeling
Dara Wawatie-Chabot
Debbie Houle
Dr. Deborah McGregor
Ellen Gabriel
Erin Blondeau
Farron Rickerby

Dr. Gerda Kits
Heal Within
Heather Horsefall Milton
Heather Milton Lightning
Holiday Simmons
How-Sen Chong
Janene Yazzie
Dr. Jen Gobby
Jess Danforth
Jihan Gearon
Jodi Koberinski
Kate Maddigan
Kayah George
Keara Long
Kristy-Anne Inglese
Kyla Pascal
Leora Gansworth
Lindsey Bacigal
Maggie Powless-Lynes
Maya Rolbin-Ghanie

Melina Laboucan-Massimo
Morningstar Derosier
Nadia Khastagir
Nickita Longman
Ora Cogan
Pearl Gottschalk
Profundo Research & Advice
Rebecca Sinclair
Regan Gee
Robin Tress
Ruston Fellows
Sarah Hanson
Sharon Lungo
Shay Lynn Sampson
Sherryl Sewepagaham
Takaiya Blaney
Tarantino Law
Ubiquis

Photo – ICA



Our Pathways

We address the root causes of the climate crisis and the consequences of colonialism by using pathways that generate meaningful relationships and build bottom-up capacity for our communities.

We emphasize the following approaches to support our programs and practices to help us stay accountable to our communities and build generative capacity for Indigenous-led climate solutions.

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Healing Justice



Our Pathways

Gatherings

Led by and for Indigenous peoples to discuss the current climate crisis and meaningful solutions. ICA participates and hosts events across Turtle Island and the globe. Using both virtual and in person opportunities, we are working hard to build a network of Indigenous communities, nations, and organizations taking real action on climate change.

Supporting Indigenous Sovereignty

Upholds Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and authority to make decisions about our well-being as Indigenous peoples. ICA supports Indigenous communities, land defenders, water keepers, and knowledge holders through offerings of financial support, amplification, sharing of tools and strategy that affect Indigenous sovereignty.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

Resources & Training

Our inherent rights, knowledge, and worldview within climate change discussion by producing resources and offering training that intersect within campaigns of climate justice. Indigenous voices and values need to be elevated, and we aim to do just that through strategic research that informs our Climate Leadership Toolkit, Just Transition, Divestment and Decolonizing Climate Policy.

Amplifying Indigenous Voices

To center Indigenous Peoples, rights and knowledge in the climate discourse and to build solid solutions for climate change. Sharing stories from the ground is one of the most powerful ways that we can inform and inspire others to build climate solutions.

Healing Justice

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.



Our Pathways

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.

In 2022, ICA was happy to attend several in-person events to strengthen relationships for Indigenous-led strategies to address climate change.

Bioneers

April 2022

Berkeley, California



Bioneers connects Indigenous folks with solutions and each other through their acclaimed annual national conference, where ICA tabled and presented panel discussion around Just Transition and the Climate Leadership Program and Toolkit.

“By taking up space, calling out false solutions, and demanding the reinstatement of our legal rights as Indigenous peoples we are working towards a decolonial and climate just future for all.”

— Eriel Tchekwie Deranger,
ICA’s Executive Director

Photo — Hardy Wilson for Nikki Ritcher Photography

Climate 4 Change Hollyhock

June 2022

Hollyhock Retreat Centre



Consisting of Indigenous and settler stakeholders, an in-person gathering where delegates shared their perspectives on climate justice and how settler organizations could support Indigenous organizations, and communities.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

AFN Climate Gathering

September 2022

Fredericton, Alberta



The Assembly of First Nations hosted the second Annual Climate Gathering in Fredericton, New Brunswick from September 27-29, 2022. ICA sent staff to table, present, and attend workshops hosted over the three days. The space allowed ICA to connect directly with Indigenous community members who were unaware of the organization and the work we do prior to this conference. ICA also supported youth delegates who presented a workshop “How to achieve #LandBack when your Band, Elders, or community are unsupportive.”

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

Strengthening Our Sovereignty Tour

August 2022

Multiple locations across Canada



Wet’suwet’en Nation embarked on the **Strengthening Our Sovereignty (SOS)** tour visiting Indigenous nations across so-called Canada during the month of August. ICA’s divestment coordinator, Vanessa Gray, joined the tour to support with travel arrangements, speaking, and coordination throughout the journey. ICA staff also supported local events and actions at each stop along the way, gathering local community and organizers to stand in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en Nation.

Photo — ICA



It Takes Roots COP27 Prep Meeting

September 2022
Occidental, California



ICA joined the **It Takes Roots** (ITR) coalition at Occidental Art and Event Centre in California for four days in September. During the retreat, the coalition split into three planning groups to focus on policy, communication, and actions for the upcoming UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt. The session proved to be a powerful tool in strengthening our partnerships with the ITR coalitions and preparing our team for our work in Egypt.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

UNFCCC COP27

November 6-18, 2022
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt



ICA's **policy objectives for COP27** sought to leverage international attention on Indigenous struggles and issues with the aim of upholding Indigenous rights and sovereignty, to support Indigenous-led climate justice solutions, and to maintain and build relationships with global allies. With those goals at the forefront, our policy objectives centered around Climate Reparations, Loss and Damage, Just Transition, No False Solutions and Solidarity with the Global South through Human Rights and Indigenous Rights.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen



ICA worked closely with community delegations and partner coalitions that include **Indigenous Environmental Network**, **NDN Collective**, **Native Movement** and the many strategic allies within **It Takes Roots**, **Climate Justice Alliance**, and **Just Transition Alliance** to take action at strategic moments that influenced the international discussions and leveraged international attention. ICA participated inside the negotiations space by attending policy meetings where possible and through the **Indigenous Peoples Caucus**, a body within the UNFCCC that was established in 2008 to support Indigenous peoples from around the world to engage in the global forum.

Photo — Bianka Senki

UNCBD COP15

Dec 7, 2022 – Dec 19, 2022
Montreal, Canada



With the proximity to UNFCCC COP27, ICA opted to send a smaller delegation of staff and focus on supporting and uplifting the messages of frontline land defenders, including the youth **action that took place during the premiere's speech**. ICA and frontline Indigenous activists convened for a press conference to highlight the important work of land and water defenders within so-called Canada and beyond who are protecting biodiversity and calling out false solutions and the lack of political will within colonial spaces like the UN Conference on Biodiversity. ICA also took the opportunity to release the **executive summary of the phase two report on decolonizing climate policy**.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen



Our Pathways

Supporting Indigenous Sovereignty

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

ICA upholds Indigenous Peoples' inherent right and authority to make decisions about our well-being as Indigenous peoples. ICA supports Indigenous communities in making decisions that affect Indigenous sovereignty and the well-being of Indigenous community members on the territories. We offer support for land defenders, water keepers, and knowledge holders through offerings of financial support, amplification in our networks, and sharing of tools and strategy.

The Youth Wellness Honorarium and the Youth Solidarity Support Fund (YSSF), were launched to support Indigenous youth engaged in community organizing and supporting strategic campaigns around climate justice activism. In 2023, ICA will also be re-introducing the 'Sovereignty Awards'

"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

"We hold this ceremony for the water, for the land, for our ancestors because they are a living being. We're here to bring back that spirit and we're here to bring our spirits together, our ancestors, we'd like to acknowledge those beings and acknowledge the water. Continue to answer the calls for action [from Sleydo and the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs] because we're in this fight, we're in this climate crisis and it's up to us...we gotta fight for those future generations and mother earth and continue this work."

— Eve Saint, Wet'suwet'en



Photo — Nhattan Nguyen



Photo — Nhattan Nguyen



Photo — ICA



Our Pathways

Resources & Trainings

Resources and Tools 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 knowledge and two-eyed seeing to bring about timely and accessible information relating to climate justice and Indigenous rights. Throughout 2022, ICA explored and completed a series of research projects and offered 4 cohorts of our Climate Leadership Program.

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ICA Toolkit & Climate
Leadership Program

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Divestment



ICA Toolkit & Climate Leadership Program

The Indigenous Climate Action Toolkit is a popular education toolkit used as the foundation of ICA's Climate Leadership Program that aims to build capacity and inspire action with all Indigenous peoples to support Indigenous-led climate action and strategies.

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.

Photos – ICA

In 2022, our Education and Training team members Jayce Chiblow and Carole Monture were successful in training over 60 people in the Climate Leadership Training while also attending numerous Indigenous conferences and gatherings where they offered 'sneak peeks' of the training as part of an engagement strategy to increase requests for more programs in community.

The Squamish Nation was one of the first to invite us for an in-person training and with support from the communications team, Carole and Jayce were able to offer 3 online trainings that consisted of 15-25 people per cohort. As the year progressed, the demand for the training increased to the point where the team had to close registration weeks early since all spots filled up so quickly!

Through feedback and strategic evaluation with the training participants, our Education and Training team have made adaptations to improve the program and continue to build out the Facilitation Training which supports people in offering their own version of the Climate Leadership Training.

Decolonizing Climate Policy

2022 was a busy and productive year for Research at ICA. As the Research team grows in 2023, we are strengthening and deepening the role of research within ICA and the benefits to embody our Indigenous research methodologies within our practices and programs, both externally and internally.

Our flagship research project, Decolonizing Climate Policy seeks to address the ongoing manipulation by the Canadian government to exclude Indigenous participation and subsequent inclusion of assurances for Indigenous rights and sovereignty within Canadian climate policies.

With the ongoing guidance and support of our Advisory Committee composed of Bryanna R Brown, Tiffany Traverse, Jesse Unaapik Mike, Pamela Beebe, Deborah McGregor, and

Katherine Whitecloud, data was collected via interviews and surveys to complete Phase 2 of the Decolonizing Climate Policy project, which builds on the existing [Phase 1 report](#) on Decolonizing Climate Policy.

At COP15 in December 2022, we released an [Executive Summary](#) of Phase 2 of the Decolonizing Climate Policy project. The final report of Phase 2 is expected to be released by Spring 2023.

“Indigenous Peoples and Nations across so-called Canada must stand in solidarity on our own terms, rooted in our own sovereignties and relationships, in order to create a political context where Land Back is not only possible, but inevitable.”

— Executive Summary of Phase 2 DCP, p.14



Photos — ICA

Research Fellow

Dara Wawatie-Chabot, joined us through the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness. In their [final report](#), Dara speaks about their lived experiences and weaves together a narrative about land back as climate action, decolonization, and their role as an Anishinaabe parent.

“I have a responsibility to live in a good way with all of creation. Part of my responsibility lies in my relationships, in building them, being generous, giving back, and connecting. I hold space for others, recognizing that I am only one vessel for knowledge to flow through me to others, among a universe full of vessels for the magic of the universe that exists.”

— Dara Wawatie-Chabot, *Connecting Our Hearts: Indigenous Restitution, Relationship Building, and Rebalancing*, p.18



Photo — Patrick Shannon

Research Partners & Coalitions

Research for the Frontlines and Dr. Jen Gobby has been a key partner, supporting ICA's work on Decolonizing Climate Policy, the Risks and Threats of Nature-based Climate Solutions, Divestment, and other ongoing needs of the Research team. Additionally, Robin Tress has provided much research support in the area of Divestment. McGill University has also contributed to our Research team, through a research collaboration on international climate policy and the Risks and Threats of Nature-based Climate Solutions research. Finally, in 2022 we had a research fellow.

Further, in 2023 we anticipate that there will also be a release of reports on both Divestment and Just Transition.

The Research team continued to participate in the Pan-Canadian Framework Coalition, the Pan-Canadian Group, a National Climate call, the Responsible Tailings Management

Alliance, Tailings Ponds Coalition, Emissions Cap Coalition, and Fossil Fuel Supply Side. We worked with the Net-Zero Advisory Body and continue to monitor their policy recommendations and reports that propose false climate solutions and infringe on Indigenous rights and sovereignty.

Further our team partnered with Ecojustice to support Indigenous youth with an intervention in Mathur et. al. v. Her Majesty at the Superior Court of Ontario.

“Respectful relations, responsibility, reciprocity, and listening to the land is central to Indigenous policy-making.”

— Executive Summary of Phase 2 DCP, p.11

Upcoming Reports

FPIC—Indigenous Best Practices in the Financial Sector

A collaboration with West Coast Environmental Law.

Indigenous Fiscal Power in so-called Canada

A collaboration with Research for the Frontlines, this report will focus on the collective financial power of Indigenous Nations in so-called Canada.

Indigenous Rights and Sovereignty in Climate Policies: A Systematic Analysis

A collaboration between McGill University, the New School, and ICA.

Indigenous Resistance to Alberta Oil and Gas Development

A Response to the Alberta Public Inquiry and claims that Indigenous opposition to oil and gas development is a “vocal minority.”

We anticipate releasing a number of new reports based on the work of research done in 2022:

Intersectionality Movement Building Report

An introduction to intersectionality that includes an extensive bibliography.

Risks of Nature-Based Solutions

Emphasizing the importance of Indigenous control over climate solutions that impact our territories, this report will build on the ‘sneak-peek’ that was released in 2021 ahead of COP26.

Just Transition

Working with Sacred Earth Solar, ICA will be releasing a Just Transition Guide loaded with information that supports Indigenous energy sovereignty through renewable energy development.

Divestment

An exciting exposition of the Indigenous climate actions that have influenced and continue to influence fossil fuel divestment campaigns.

Divestment



Indigenous Climate Action partnered with Gidimt'en and various celebrities and launched the campaign **No More Dirty Banks** in March 2022, which called on RBC to divest from fossil fuel projects. In preparation for AGM season, key leaders including Chief Namoks, Sleydo and Melina Laboucan-Massimo met with **celebrities** to expose how banks are responsible for funding the destruction on Indigenous territories.

As part of this campaign, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and leaders traveled to Toronto for the RBC 2022 AGM. Our team not only supported the rallies outside the AGM,

but amplified the support of the Wet'suwet'en Chiefs and leaders. The RBC AGM mobilization received a lot of media coverage despite leaders being denied to appear in person.

In May 2022, Vanessa Gray joined the Indigenous Climate Action team as the Divestment Campaign Coordinator. Vanessa is Anishinaabe Kwe from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation.

Vanessa began leading the Indigenous Divestment Working Group and attending meetings with partners including No More Dirty Banks, The Canadian Banking Coalition, and the Wet'suwet'en Nation.

Robyn Tress began her contract with Indigenous Climate Action's research and divestment team to research past Indigenous Divestment from fossil fuel campaigns. Vanessa and Robyn interviewed Indigenous leaders with experience in the Indigenous divestment movement.

'From Turtle Island to Egypt'—Toronto and Six Nations members of Indigenous Climate Action took part in the global day of action **COP 27 Toronto Solidarity March**. Vanessa Gray spoke to the connection between financial institutions and the direct violations to environmental, Indigenous and human rights happening now.

"Our Hereditary Chiefs traveled from our territory to Toronto for the Royal Bank of Canada's Annual General Meeting. At the last minute they canceled their in-person portion.

We went through with our plans anyway, attending a rally and leading a march to the main office of RBC. We were joined by so many people showing solidarity and support. RBC cannot claim ignorance of our opposition to this project. They are a major backer to CGL and have lied to their shareholders claiming they have the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of our people. They do not. They will not make a penny on this project!"

— Sleydo, Gidimt'en Checkpoint, Wet'suwet'en



Our Pathways

Amplifying Voices

The climate crisis experiences of racialized people in so-called Canada are often not heard, third-world Indigenous communities are camouflaged by a first-world landscape.

Ensuring that we (Indigenous peoples) are speaking for ourselves, is a critical pathway for the success of our work. We amplify content for Indigenous community members, while strategically disrupting the mainstream narrative of the white middle class climate movement and amplifying BIPOC voices as leaders in the climate movements that are addressing the root causes of the climate crisis.

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Webinars

RBC is funding climate chaos & Indigenous Rights violations



ICA co-founder Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Molly Wickham from Gidimt'en Checkpoint, Actor Mark Ruffalo, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief Na'moks and lawyer Eugene Kung from West Coast Environmental Law sit down for a crucial conversation where they demand that City National Bank's parent company RBC immediately withdraw support from the pipeline and stop funding dirty fossil fuels.

Photo — ICA

Processing the IPCC Report with ICA



Our team took some time to really discuss what the implications of the IPCC report had on our communities, minds and hearts and a peek into the work we are doing that uplifts the voices of Indigenous people across so-called Canada. We drew on our own experiences as Indigenous people and discussed how climate change has affected our communities and the land in which we grew up on, learned from and honour.

Photo — ICA

Next Generation of Policy Change-makers



In the third webinar in our four part series, we sat down with some amazing youth from Kahnawake Collective that we were honored to connect with in Glasgow, Scotland for the 26th annual conference of parties (COP26) at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

Indigenous Rights & False Solutions at COP26



ICA's Decolonizing Climate Policy research project aims to investigate the shortcomings and problems associated with Canadian climate policy while at the same time supporting, developing Indigenous-led climate policy—climate policies by and for Indigenous Peoples that will raise up and empower Indigenous-led solutions. This is the fourth and final webinar in this series of offerings covering COP26 in Glasgow.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

Social Media & Website

This year was a time of growth for ICA's social media as we launched a new TikTok account and welcomed over 31,000 new followers across all platforms!

Instagram 60,160 → 76,126
Facebook 19,284 → 21,570
Twitter 9,226 → 17,463
LinkedIn 633 → 1,754
TikTok 0 → 369

With the support of the youth engagement coordinator, the communications team launched a **TikTok** account in time for COP27 in Egypt. To date, video content has focused on youth engagement at COP27 and CBD COP15. The team is looking forward to building on the experience of November and December of 2022 to develop a broader TikTok strategy for 2023 that continues to build on ICA's amplification pathway.

ICA's website saw consistent engagement with over 72,000 visitors and 140,000 page views in 2022. Our team was excited to launch the long awaited **publication page** in September which saw over 2,000 visits within the first 2.5 months, but the most popular pages on the website include those relating to ICA's story and values including Our Story, Who We Are, Our Programs, and Mission, Vision and Values.

Blogs, Articles & Press Releases

The blog section of our website continues to be the most updated space outside of social media. Our most popular blogs from this year included **Is Decolonization a Buzzword?**; the **Toolkit November Cohort** posting; **Indigenous land defenders are the best defense against the climate crisis**; and **Envisioning ICA's new structure: From seeds to flowers**. Our commitment to **COP27 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.



Photo — Nhattan Nguyen



Photo — ICA



Photo — ICA

Intersectionality

ICA views cross-movement building and intersectionality as an approach to deepening our response to climate justice. Taking lessons from the land, ICA sees the ways in which the diversity in the ecosystem models to us that we can be stronger when we work together, and share our love with one another.

“Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects. It’s not simply that there’s a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LGBTQ problem there. Many times, that framework erases what happens to people who are subject to all of these things.”

— Kimberlé Crenshaw

Photo — Allan Lissner

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, No one Is Illegal and numerous others who work at more regional and grassroots levels. This work is important to include all of our relations in the climate justice movement. We know as Indigenous people that this is crucial to bring all of our voices, learnings and shared passion to help heal Mother Earth.

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. This year we were able to fulfill a designated position: Youth Intersectionality Lead (YIL). The YIL was able to begin building a foundation within ICA to bolster external partnerships with other intersectionality groups for 2023. The YIL has been working on developing external offerings to increase visibility and share the voices of the intersectionality movements.





Youth

“Our youth is our future, our actions affect the next generation and the ones not born yet. It’s not just us; it’s time we listen to Indigenous youth.”

— *lotshatenawi Reed*



In 2022 we welcomed Angel Brant as our new Youth Engagement Coordinator. The Youth Leadership Council was formed with 5 members from across so-called-Canada, each bringing experience in climate justice movements. Having bi-monthly meetings with the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) has helped inform ICA of the wants and needs of Indigenous youth; such as a desire for ICA to host a webinar about grassroots fundraising and grant writing, as well as providing more learning opportunities.

In partnership with the Healing Justice program, the Youth Wellness Honorarium was started, making the application as barrier-free as possible, the youth see this honorarium as a necessity, with many applying due to ongoing colonial trauma caused at the frontlines and being able to have access to proper care and treatment so that there is continued healing on a generational level.

Photo — ICA



Alongside the Youth Wellness Honorarium, ICA has also introduced the Youth Solidarity Support Fund (YSSF), a fund designed to support Indigenous youth engaged in community organizing and supporting strategic campaigns around climate justice activism, such as cultural knowledge, healing justice, networking and collaborative projects, online events and opportunities, and skill or training opportunities. The YSSF is a critical component of our approach to amplifying Indigenous youth’s needs, experiences and aspirations. The YSSF was accessed in 2022 by youth attending non-violent direct action camps, Camp2030, and also used to help Indigenous youth volunteers with honoraria for their time, help pay for their travel to camp, and to pay guest facilitators.

The youth program is currently working towards the pilot release of the ICA Youth Leaders Zine with the first theme being

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen



“The Stories We Carry” (relating to climate, social, and cultural justice). With the goal of amplifying Indigenous youth voices from across the globe, building relationships with applicants, and nurturing the traditional ways of Indigenous knowledge transfer.

ICA supported the Youth Engagement Coordinator as a youth delegate to attend the AFN Climate Conference in Fredericton, the SevenGen Energy Conference in Saskatchewan, as well as COP27 in Egypt and COP15 in Montreal. At these conferences, the Youth Engagement Coordinator was able to engage with Indigenous youth who are interested in climate movements, promote the work and programs of ICA, and build stronger relationships with youth who attended ICA programs or offerings in the past.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen

“Respectful relations, responsibility, reciprocity, and listening to the land is central to Indigenous policy-making.”

— Executive Summary of Phase 2 DCP, p.11

Indigenous Climate Action Podcast

In 2022, ICA released the second season of the Indigenous Climate Action Pod including Healing Justice: An Introduction; In the Know: For the Love of Manoomin (Wild Rice); and In the Know: Hides, Tans, and Leathers. The podcast has continued to bridge relationships while building up the Indigenous rights movement.

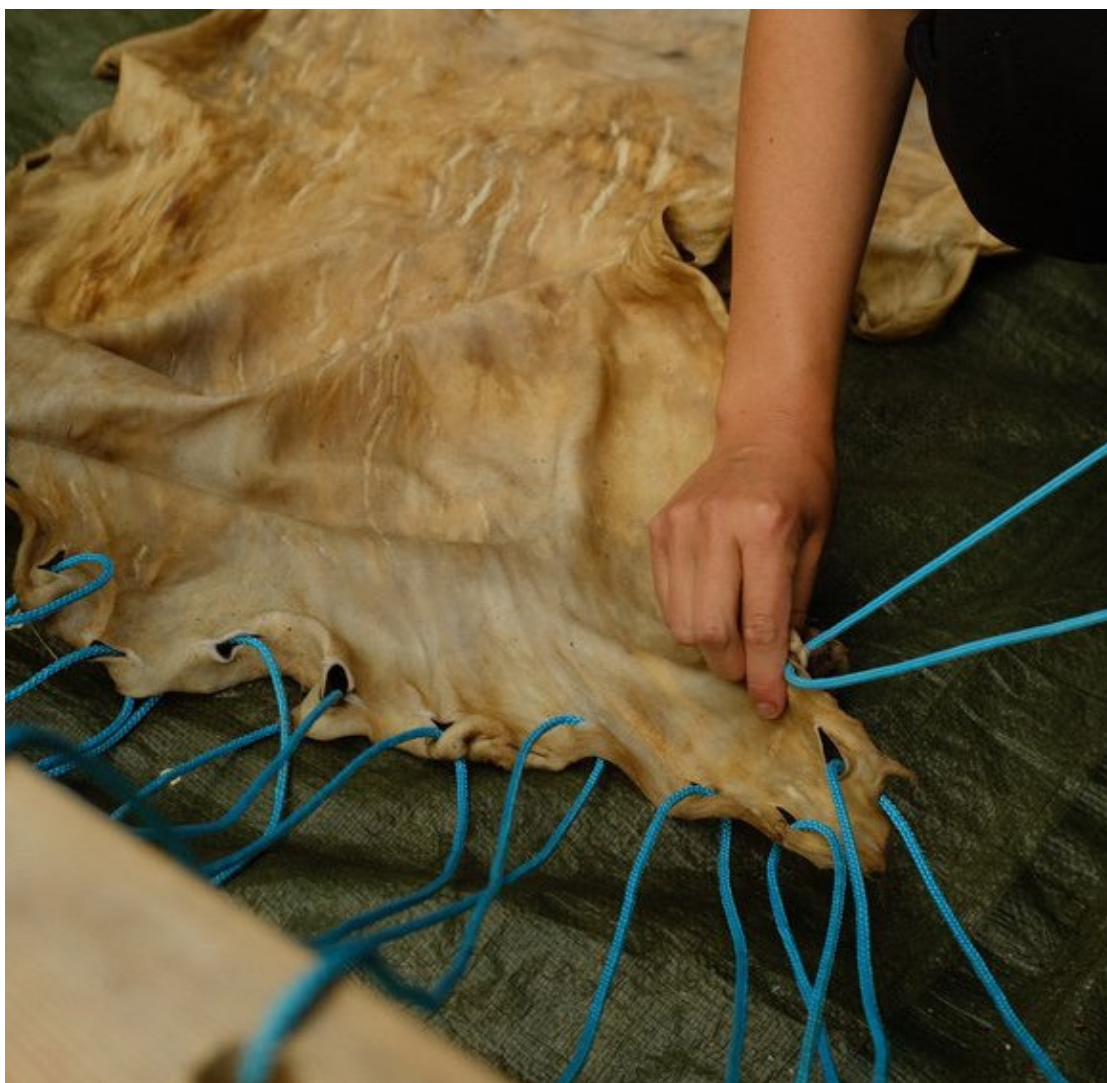


Photo — Morningstar Derosier



Photo — Shutterstock

Just Transition

Our Just Transition team has been working proactively to create a database of ICA’s ‘Just Transition’ assets—including partnerships, projects, and resources to create a framework that will support Indigenous communities. We are working with contractors and communities to help lay this JT foundation so that it is community-led and grounded.

With the support and leadership of Melina Laboucan-Massimo, ICA has been working with Sacred Earth Solar to finalize content and release the Just Transition Guide in 2023. The guide will support Indigenous energy sovereignty and support communities with renewable energy development.



Photo — ICA

Healing Justice

Our Healing Justice (HJ) program grew with the addition of a Healing Justice Manager, who began their work with an internal focus on staff capacity and organizational HJ. A survey of internal staff and steering committee members has helped to inform the future growth of an HJ pathway that is rooted in Indigenous climate organizing and healing.

ICA currently has a 4-day work week and moon time days to help build in more time for the well-being of staff. These organizational policies have helped to operationalize more sustainable organizing and rest for our staff while working towards climate justice. In addition to these policies, we started inwards with practices that helped us as an organization to recognize cycles, take notice of how organizing feels within our bodies and consider how to incorporate layers of community support while doing this work.

This was done by incorporating healing modalities into our day to day workplace activities and collaborating with a variety of healing justice practitioners. This year our HJ program grew internally through several key offerings, including moonstruation (menstruation) awareness and cycle teachings, an introduction to nervous system health, generative conflict skills and support from an Indigenous counseling team. All of these offerings were part of a collective strategy to decrease the rates of burnout, give tools for listening to our bodies and build an approach to organizing that isn't based on urgency, extraction and ableism.

Prior to COP27, nervous system sessions were held for BIPOC attendees on the survival states (mobilize and collapse) and a second session on embodied safety. Team members were encouraged to notice when they may be in a state of mobilization, collapse and/or safety. These sessions were offered prior to COP27 / COP15 to help provide participants with an opportunity to notice their nervous system prior to, during, and after COP27. We also increased our layers of support with an Indigenous counseling team, during and after key events with high activation. These included the addition of group debriefs and integration of these high activation times.

Read more about our HJ Offerings for 2022 [here](#) about how ICA enacted a practice space for healing justice this past year.

Photo — Bianka Senki





Partnerships

Partnerships play a critical role in all areas of our work. We are so grateful to the many connections and relationships that support us to work in a good way.

Partnerships

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.

Photo – ICA

We are also grateful for our community partnership with the Larry Tourangeau Healing Society, a team of Indigenous counsellors/knowledge keepers who have helped provide support to our Healing Justice work this past year.

Further we want to thank the teams at the, David Suzuki Foundation, Future Earth, Oil Change International, Bioneers, Rainforest Action Network and 350.org for aligning with us at critical moments.

We want to thank 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.

We also want to express gratitude to the countless communities and grassroots networks that have welcomed us in to witness their stories of resilience and allowing us to amplify their experiences as inspiration for others.





Operations

In 2022, we strengthened our core pathway as a team, to find a balance of heavy workloads while upholding healing justice.

We have been able to uplift our values to build organizational structures and processes that embody a decolonial approach that further empowers staff to take leadership and accountability on our various projects.

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Financial Snapshot

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Some of our Funders

Operations

Mussi cho! Hay hay! Miigwech! Thank you for your support.

Our revenue streams are composed of foundational partners, varied one time private donor gifts and ongoing monthly income from individual donors through our online platform.

As part of our development strategy we are seeking to refine our foundation and major donor support to a smaller number of multi-year philanthropic allies. By engaging and nurturing a smaller group of committed donors this will allow us to strengthen the quality of those relationships as well as provide us with more capacity to focus on our work and nurturing our team for success.

2022 Total:
\$2,253,283 CAD

(\$1,782,572 USD @ .7911 at Dec 31, 2022.)

In September 2022, ICA became incorporated as a non-profit and over the 4th quarter period transitioned away from our fiscal sponsor - the Polaris Institute. The Financial Snapshot reflects the combined activity of ICA under both entities for the 2022 year.

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.

This year, our work was also made possible by a number of individual donors and crowdfunding contributors. These donations help us uphold our pathway to uplift Indigenous sovereignty and get funds to grassroots movements on the frontlines.

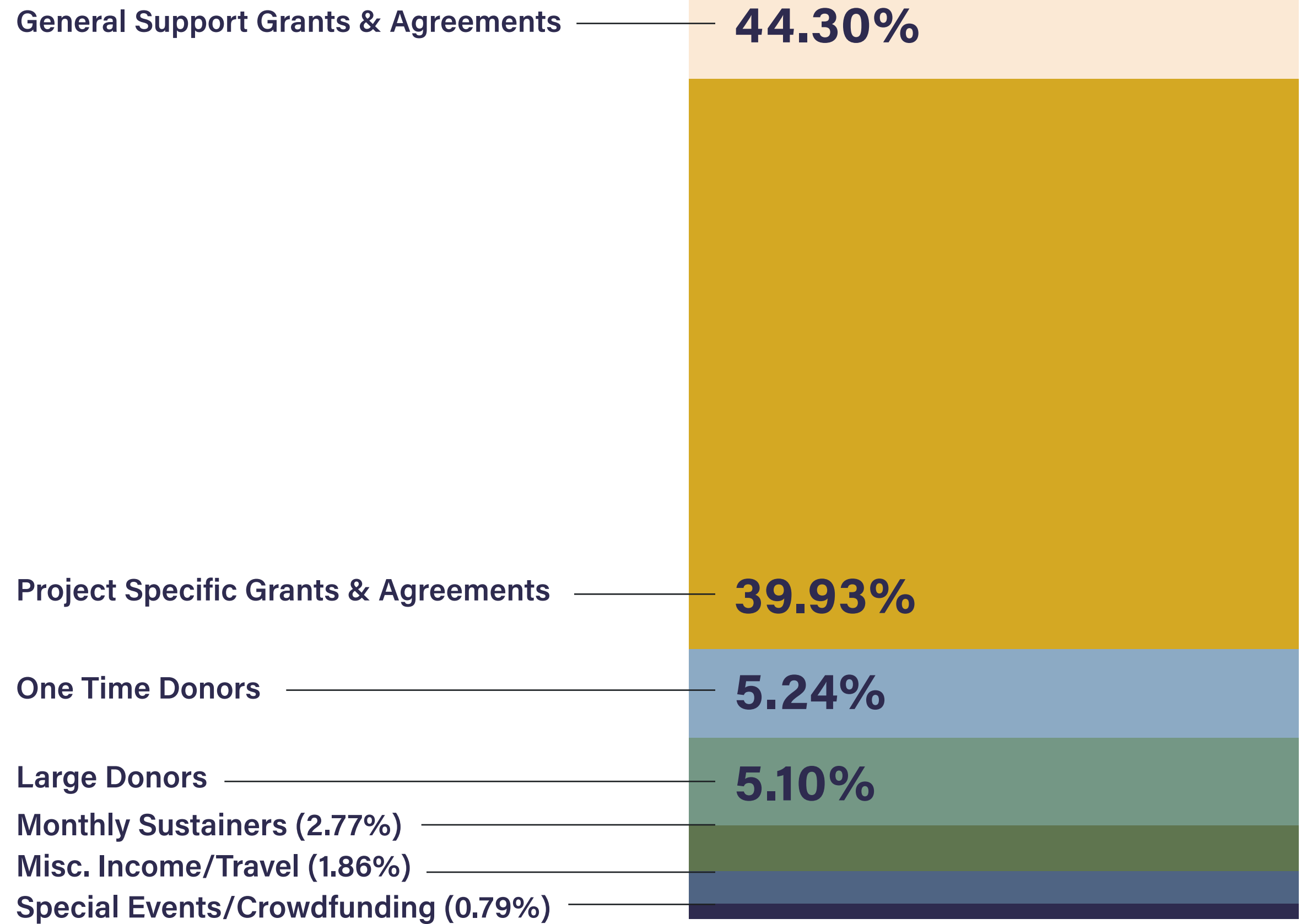
Photo – Nhattan Nguyen



Financial Snapshot

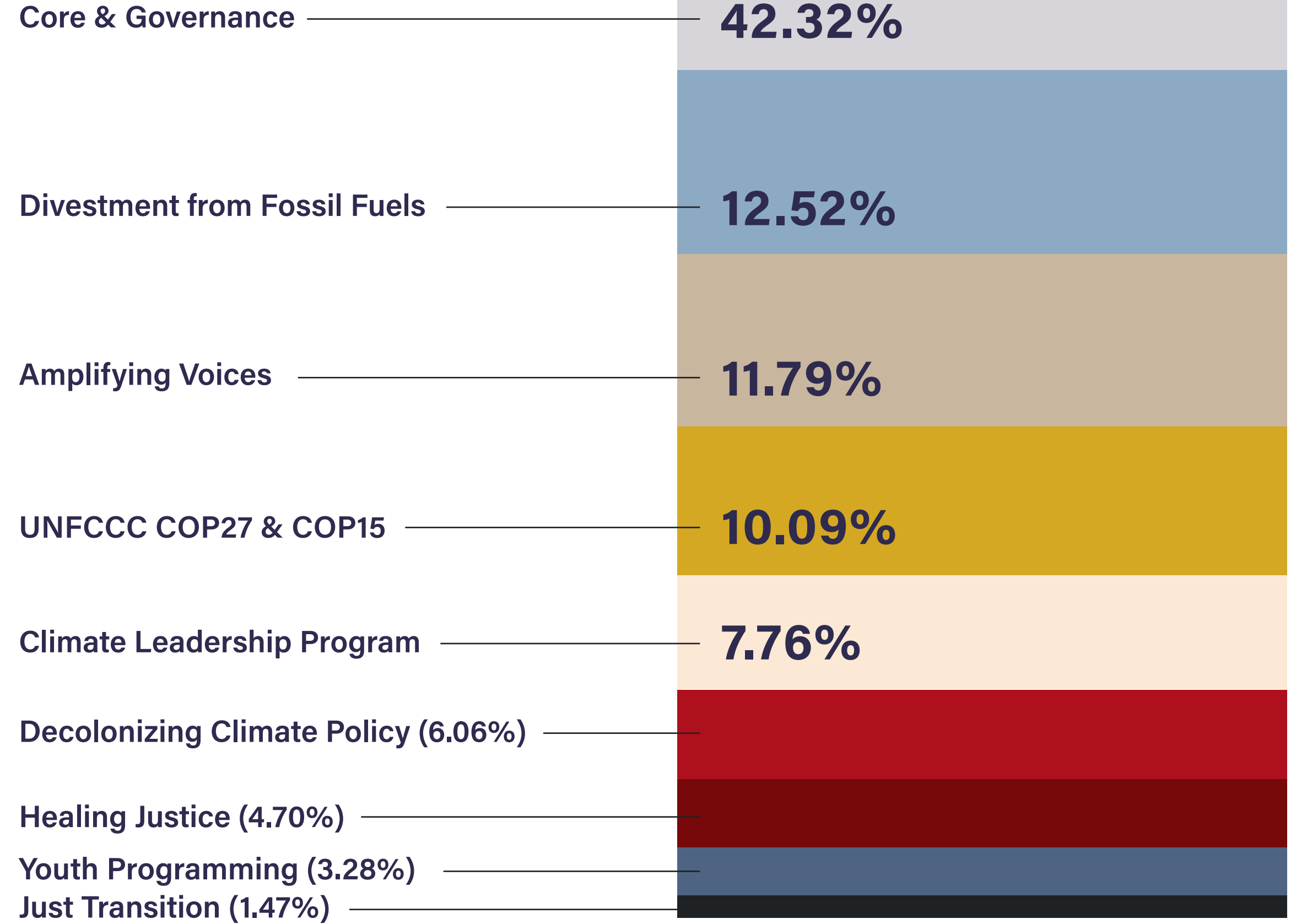
Revenue

\$2,253,282.93



Expenses

\$2,248,677.26



Some of our Funders



This year, our work was also made possible by a number of individual donors and crowdfunding contributors. These donations help us uphold our pathway to uplift Indigenous sovereignty and get funds to grassroots movements on the frontlines.



What to Expect in 2023

Supporting transformational change at this time requires that we can hold many realities at once.

ICA has a number of program areas that are supported by our five pathways to inform our practices. Within our present stage of growth, we are clarifying our boundaries and current commitments to the networks and community members we are in service to.

We use a variety of community engagement strategies that align with our pathways of hosting gatherings—both online and in person, amplifying voices—in both traditional and social media formats, and providing education and training that centers our research and the emergent campaigns that align with calls for climate justice.

What to Expect in 2023

In 2023, ICA plans to build on our current offerings to Indigenous community members in various demographics and levels of leadership including urban, rural, grassroots, grasstops, Indigenous organizations, elected leadership and academia. This will include the release of multiple reports; strengthening and expanding our education and training opportunities; building more robust healing justice models and offerings; building up our youth programs and opportunities; advancing our work on divestment, increasing our community solidarity supports; and amplifying all of this and more through our Indigenous media initiatives.

Additionally, ICA will focus on building partnerships and collaborations with other organizations to leverage resources and expertise

that can support its mission. ICA's planned growth also includes an increase in its staffing and volunteer capacity to support the delivery of its programs and initiatives. This growth will enable ICA to better serve Indigenous communities and to expand its reach across so-called Canada.

Overall, ICA's goal is to become a leading voice in the fight against climate change and to empower Indigenous communities to take action on this critical issue. By building its capacity and expanding its programs and partnerships, ICA is well-positioned to achieve this goal and to make a meaningful contribution to the fight against climate change.

Photo — Nhattan Nguyen







Connect with Us


Four ways to support Indigenous-led climate action and solutions:

1. Follow ICA and share our work
2. Volunteer with the network
3. Support Indigenous communities taking climate action
4. Donate and/or become a monthly sustainer


To learn more about Indigenous Climate Action, connect with us:


 [Website
IndigenousClimateAction.com](https://IndigenousClimateAction.com)


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


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


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


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

 [Linkedin
@Indigenous-climate-action](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Indigenous-climate-action)

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

 PO Box 52167 RPO Garneau
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T5

 [indigenousclimateaction.com/
donate](https://indigenousclimateaction.com/donate)

 ICA is a registered non-profit
organization in so-called Canada