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### **ABOUT US**

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led organization guided by a diverse group of Indigenous knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders from communities and regions across the country. We believe that Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems are critical to developing solutions to the climate crisis and achieving climate justice.

ICA works on connecting and supporting Indigenous communities to reinforce our place as leaders driving climate change solutions for today and tomorrow. We model our work and organizational structure on systems of free. prior and informed consent and selfdetermination. By providing communities with and resources, we can inspire a knowledge new generation of Indigenous climate leaders building solutions centered around our inherent rights and cultures.

Indigenous Climate Action knows that investing in Indigenous Youth is the way forward to a sustainable future for humanity and the Earth. That is why we work to serve the needs of youth who strive for climate justice, and Indigenous rights and sovereignty by providing resources and tools, education and training, creating movement spaces for youth, led by youth, and uplifting the voices of our young leaders today.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

It is with great honour that Indigenous Climate Action takes a moment to acknowledge the fierce and powerful Indigenous youth from around the world standing up for climate justice. Your unwavering passion and commitment to fight against climate change are nothing short of inspiring. Your determination will continue to drive the necessary change needed to protect our planet and our communities.

Acknowledging that Indigenous voices have always been at the forefront of protecting the environment is essential, and without Indigenous youth, we would not be able to make the progress needed to fight climate change effectively. Your unique perspectives and insights are irreplaceable, and we must continue to listen to and support your efforts, we know that our ancestors are proud, and here at ICA we wanted to let you know that we're proud of you too.

Indigenous youth have shown us how to use their unique skills and traditional knowledge to protect our planet. They have been using their voices, artistic abilities, and scientific knowledge to raise awareness and create change. They have been leading protests, creating art installations, and working with community leaders, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and youth alike to make the change we need to protect our planet and future generations.





# VULTURE



Stephane Lennon

## **HEARING MY ANCESTORS**

Hearing their pain in conversations with woes who are not woke Led me to confusion Where my heart broke whispers in my ears share all the tales for the love of our Creator We save the whales With ceremonial rituals But they kill and it's habitual they say "save the whales" Yet mass slaughter their dinner To make sales Don't over hunt or take from this big world Only on thing can come from a selfish herd I look around and see ... voices that do not match The messages from my ancestral batch Ensalved generations transmitted info culturally But what can I make of this naturally I'll be a mayerick and test the sea I'll go back and learn from you to me I'll share with the children Whom will share it with the world And just like that history won't have to be Ignored, just re-told

**By Trinity Stephens** 

Don't be afraid to occupy the spaces that are rightfully yours, and to leave your mark on this world with confidence and pride.



## Whispers of the Earth



**Justin Langan** 

"In this piece, "Whispers of the Earth," I strive to capture the intrinsic dialogue between indigenous wisdom and the natural world amidst the climate crisis. The abstract interplay of shadow and light represents the enduring resilience and adaptability of native cultures. The golden arc is a metaphor for the unbroken lineage of knowledge that guides us toward a harmonious existence with our environment. Each stroke embodies a story, a plea for recognition, and a call to action, urging us to listen closely to the ancestral voices that have long respected Earth's delicate balance. This painting is an homage to their undying spirit and a reminder of our collective responsibility to safeguard our planet for future generations."



#### Where do the Metis go when we die?



It's a simple question really.

Where do the Metis go when we die?

I remember being brought to church on those cold sunday mornings.

I remember whining and throwing a fit as I put on my sunday best.

I remember the crowds, the priest, the music the food.

I remember the hyms and mantras...

"Do onto others..." etcetra etcetra.

But I also remember my mamere and paper driving us to church in their pickup truck.

I remember the sweetgrass dancing and dangling from the review mirror.

I remember my mamere switching her moccasins for heels.

I remember my papere praying and singing in his native tongue.

I remember the church potlucks, the bland salads and bitter sweets...

I remember wishing we were home with tourtiere and bannock.

Where do the Metis go when we die?

I don't want the white pearly gates the colonizers talk about.

I want to see the white picket fence in my mamere and papere's front yard.

The one outlined in blueberry bushes and painted in uneven strokes.

I don't want white fluffy clouds and 'peace among men'.

I want family game nights at the dining room table, playing cards and accusing aunt Irene of cheating again.

I don't want death to be quick and painless.

I want death to feel like you've fallen asleep during the family reunion. Curled up on your mamaere and papaere's couch, listening to the laughter from the other room. I want to feel my dads arms wrapping around me, taking in the old scent of oil and grass from him working in the garage all day. I want to be carried into the dim flickering light of my dads truck, hung with the scent of cigarettes and sweetgrass. Listening to the fiddling and dancing fade away.

Where do the Metis go when we die?



## Climate Leadership Program

The Climate Leadership
Program (CLP) is a
transformative initiative built
through community
engagements and knowledgesharing sessions from across
so-called Canada.

Fundamentally, the CLP serves to facilitate capacity-building, information and resource exchanges, and advocacy among Indigenous leaders, communities, and beyond.

The CLP stands as a vital platform for Indigenous communities to assert their sovereignty in the face of climate change. By empowering Indigenous leaders, preserving cultural knowledge, and fostering collaboration, this program plays a crucial role in advancing climate justice and creating a just future for all.



### **Program Objectives**

- Empowering Indigenous leadership identify, nurture, and empower Indigenous leaders who can drive climate action.
- Strengthening Indigenous knowledge recognizes the deep connection Indigenous Peoples have with the land and their unique understanding of climate change.
- Building resiliency helping communities build resilience by providing resources, strategies, and tools.
- Fostering collaboration ICA
   recognizes the importance of
   collaboration among Indigenous
   communities at the national and
   international level this program
   encourages networking, partnerships,
   and alliances to enhance the
   collective impact of climate action.

## Eligibility

- · Self-identify as Indigenous
- Have a strong desire to create positive change
- Be located somewhere on Turtle Island (North America)
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be open to hosting a workshop in your community or organization



### **Program Details**

- Leadership training | participants receive comprehensive leadership training that encompasses Indigenous ways of knowing + being, climate science, policy advocacy, and community engagement
- Cultural preservation | recognizing the cultural significance of Indigenous practices, the program promotes the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices as essential components of climate adaptation and mitigation
- Community workshops | ICA organizes workshops at the community level, fostering a grassroots approach to climate action. These workshops provide practical tools and knowledge for community members to engage in climate initiatives
- Advocacy and policy support | offers guidance on engaging with policymakers and advocating for Indigenous rights and climate justice at local, national, and international levels
- Resource access | participants gain access to a network of resources, and technical supports to develop and implement climate projects within their communities



# Who is someone who inspires you in the climate justice space, why?



Remember, you are not just the future, but also the present, and you have the ability to create positive change for yourself and your communities.

# What is a climate solution you want to see in the world?





**OBSTRUCTION**Angel Dressyman

## **SEVEN GENERATIONS**

I hold the weight of seven generations
It is upon my shoulders their voices rest
Each ancestor taught me something new
Some lessons I'm still learning I must confess

Maamaa taught me strength that comes from within She sat me down at the kitchen table, nourishing Instilling our family's passion in each of her children Stories of a better future for the young, she's wishing

Papa taught me interconnectedness; we are one with the land Our kin are those who live in the sky, the bush, and the water Though his stories were few, better less than none He reminded me it was not our fault, to be pauper

Naashkopichikun taught me to love all relations
Their memory lives on at every fire or shoreline while fishing
While it is their blood that runs through my veins
Through blood memory, I see them reliving

It is the stories I carry of seven generations
They whisper guiding words for me to carry
Reminders of my voice, responsible to advocate
For the land, the animals, the plants are weary

I hold the weight of seven generations We hold the weight of seven generations For their future relies on us And we rely on our ancestors' stories

We hold the weight of the next seven generations

By Meghan Young

# **Falling Star**



"I think art is an invaluable tool when it comes to activism and making change."

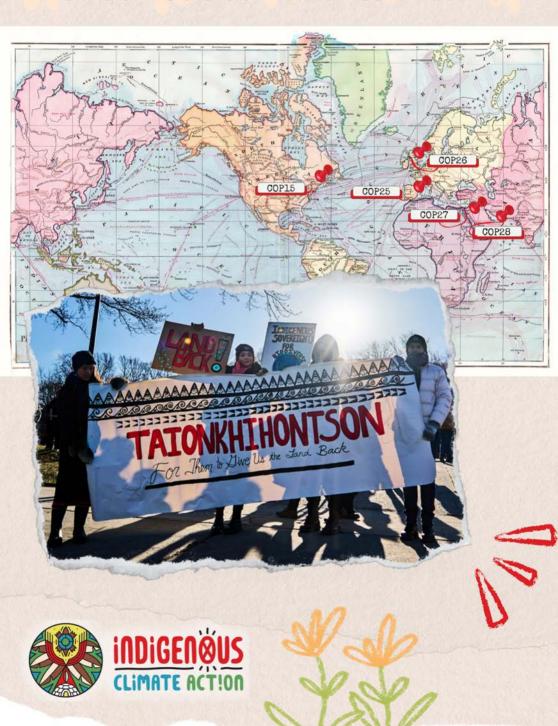
- Stephane Lennon, Artist

# Follow ICA's Youth Leaders Trello board!



Find more information on the **featured youth artists** and get quick access to **youth opportunities, trainings, jobs, resources, events, organizations, & community!** 

## Check out our events album!







"This is inspired by my own experience of being a forest person. Forest is my kin. I feel safe when I am in it. This tranquility is a gift that is worth fighting for."



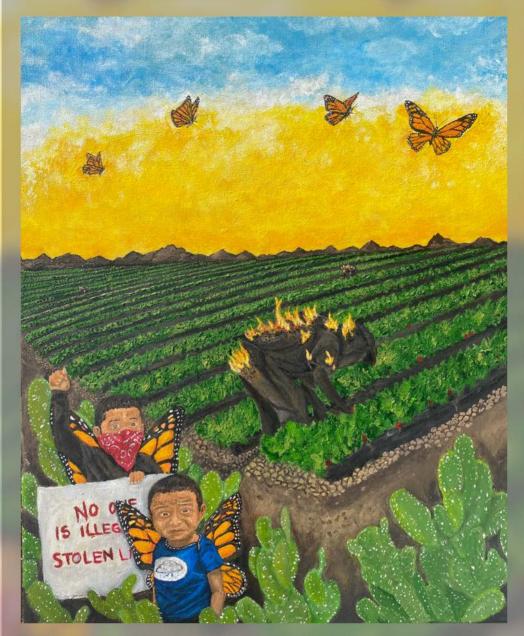


Robert Cahapon

Please check out
Robert's zine
"Our Future With
Forest"

Zine





NUESTRA REALIDAD OUR REALITY

Josué Vásquez



## **Janelle Lapointe**

I write, I speak, I dream in words unspoken by those before me Shifting my own tongue farther away from syllabics understood by the oldest trees

**Twisting words** 

TO STEEL STATE

Adjusting cadence, tone and volume so that I may not provoke your fragility but somehow convey the urgency of the little time we have left

Pen to paper and fingers to keys

They tell me I speak well but my Elders tell me I talk too fast

Like I am ashamed to let these English words sit in the back of my throat

But with a deep inhale I hear the words that feel like still water, smell like pine
Yun k'e na i ja.

A call to return to the land
Words that feel like pulling ancient memories
That turn anxious urgency to sacred responsibilities

That signal we have more than enough time left
Time for tea with netsowhuzulhne
To sit in a berry patch
To speak to the trees
To paddle old waterways

When I write, I speak and I dream my ancestors speak through me So I slow down







## **TURTLE ISLAND NFT**

Kass O'Rourke

"Turtle Island NFT's aim is to teach others about indigenous culture, better the environment, and encourage people to go on adventures in nature.

The profits from the sale of the collection will be donated to 3 indigenous organizations: Water First, Indspire, and the Residential School Survivor Society."

## **RAIN FALL IN DECEMBER**

The spirits don't sleep through the long dark night any longer.

they press their round faces to my window

tap tap tapping

their breath

like a cloud

slipping through the squares of the screen and pulling the glass up

My home fills with water.

melts the frame from beneath it

the logs in the wood stove hiss to steam as

the thunders roll through

my eyes cloud in the steam while

the silver sound crashing through the trees

the trees wake in confusion, slap their cold arms together.

drop their branches in the shock of it

The ice on the lake splits

// lightning

wants to slip between the cracks. Inside the dark space.

The puddle beneath my feet grows, rain spilling through, climbs further up the walls.

the wood creaks as it swells

I fold my hands beneath my head and when the water reaches my belly

it is cold the way that a December night should be, the wet rises up over my shoulders my feet lift from the ground and when it reaches my lips it feels like the soft kiss of a lover

in December

I part my lips to drink. The water is salt, like tears have fallen from the sky and swelled up the empty place between the floorboards.

I float in the (tears)

until the sun presses their warm fingers through the clouds and the sadness passes

drains out from the door frame the same way that cold air leaves your chest // slowly.

my body streams out down the steps among the pine boughs

my lake won't freeze the way it used to

my lands don't sleep the way they used to in the closest town, my clothes hang heavy on my body in december rain

rain slips my shoulders in quiet drops my boots squeak I leave wet prints where I walk carry the woken winter spirits in my hair their eyes grey hiding in the whiteness of my own

I cannot smell the cold any longer

in town

there are ladies out and splashing through the fine bodies of my broken winter spirit

they thrust their arms out, loosening the top buttons of their blouse

the skin peeks through // pink //
they twirl their bodies praising the heat
un Touched by this december rain

#### **Taryn Bobiwash**



# Indigenous Youth Solidarity Support Fund

This fund is to help support Indigenous Youth residing with projects, actions, and interests surrounding climate justice work. With the understanding that youth who actively participate and develop opportunities for and with other like-minded climate activists. this work can come with financial barriers. ICA hopes to assist youth so they can focus their energy more on their goal over the cost. This fund is designed to be as accessible as possible, and there are many ways this grant can be utilized.

#### **APPLY HERE**



#### **Examples:**

- To help fund travel, accommodations, and/or supplies when attending a camp, event, or conference
- To assist in paying for supplies when organizing a camp, event, or rally
- To support Indigenous youth entrepreneurs with projects geared towards sustainable and environmentally conscious projects
- Paying for training and education around research and development in green energy, environmental awareness, and pathways that support climate justice

## Eligibility

- Indigenous Youth aged 18-29
- · Living in so-called Canada
- · Ideation Stage Complete
- · Community Reference

### RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHT



**Crystal Lewis and Kevin Good** 

Both my partner and I were fortunate to attend CAMP 2030, thanks to ICA and our communities (Snuneymuxw and Squamish) for supporting us on our journey. From my personal experience I would like to share that, it fully did not sink in until I arrived at CAMP, once I interacted with the other like-minded youth it was special. By learning from their experiences and knowledge allowed me to grow and broadening my perspective.

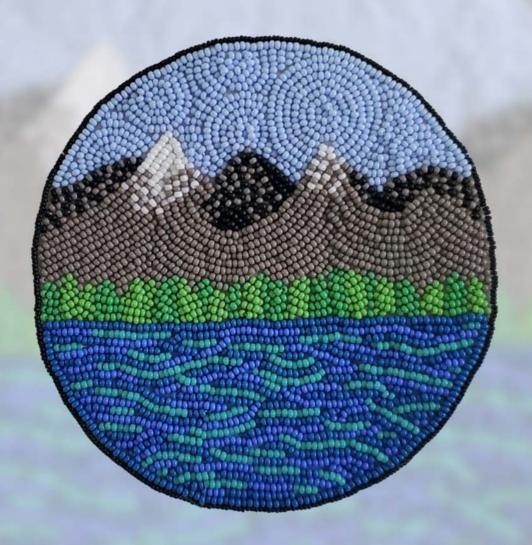
Furthermore, I would like to thank ICA and Snuneymuxw for their support. My partner Crystal would like to say that she is "grateful to ICA and the Squamish Nation for funding this opportunity, as it really opened my eyes to the diverse challenges and barriers that many countries face in terms of oppression and by creating a project that overcomes these intersectional barriers. With respect and humility, there is always a way forward. It was a really rewarding experience and would highly recommend Camp 2030 to anyone who wants to take a proactive approach to climate action." A guote that stuck out to both of us is "fall in love with the solution and not the problem"; it reminds you to be adaptive as you work toward your goals. CAMP 2030 creates growth and knowledge building through interaction with young leaders from around the world.



# UNDEEN LABOR Josué vásquez



## **MY HEALING PLACE**



Christine Coslovich

#### GÜKEYEH ŁÁNÉYÉH GÜTÏE – OUR LAND IS REALLY IMPORTANT

Gūchō gūkeyeh meyegedīh

Didī ni dege esdīya - I am sad for the land.

#### SPRING - EDEDĂLET

Số'āle Sā kūdū'ā' sı t. The sun is slowly coming up
Sā delā bā dé' t'ā t dedēdı the The Sun is putting on its mitts
Zas łānéyéh nédetl'īt - The snow is really falling.
Tū Dédênīl - The water will come up.
Tū' dédétlah. - The water is high.
Es-lūş -hé' łāń éyéh nédetl'īt - it is really hailing
Ghánje ténedéł - The geese are returning
Our Land is important - Gūkēyeh łānéyéh gūtīe

#### SUMMER - IBÉH

Ibéh gūjā' - it is summer now.

Tūgih kón gū-dē-dil - It's going to be hot

Łā' tūgih kón. Wēdē shenáhgan k'ī.

It is really hot. It is always dry also.

Dūłā', chā', nédetl'it . Gūkēyeh shenáhgan.

There is no rain. Our land is dry.

Our Land is important - Gūkēyeh łānéyéh gūtīe

Īdījī gū-dē-dil - There is going to be a thunderstorm.

Sík'ādé Gūkēyeh shenáhgan. Still our Land is dry.

Politicians łā', me-chū-dī-jé nedúé - Politicians really have no sense.

Our Land is important - Gūkēyeh łắnéyéh gūtīe

Kón nístlön elīnī gūdésk'ān. - There are a lot of forest fires.

Dūłā dzidze lāt'ā. There are no berries

Sas łā négédébét

The Bears are very hungry

Sā kūne dedes'ān - The sun is setting

Sādé', łāń éyéh sededih - The sun rays are very beautiful Didī nı sík'ādé gū'ı le h lā, wedé kégüht'éī.

The land continues to provide for us and will always be there for us.

Our Land is important - Gūkēyeh łānéyéh gūtīe

#### NEDEDÁHHAY - FALL

Sík'ādé tūgīkón lā - It is still warm out. Endűé dűłā, zas nédetl'ıt - there is no snow falling. Ghánje nége'délī lâ - The geese are flying back. Dīdī yūbā gūdeh zō' īyéh āt gūlīn- This morning there is frost and fog.

Ītl'â, zas zốze nédetl'ıt - Afterwards small snow is falling Łā, kistāne nistlon Ná'āń ī tene gāgáh gāń estān. I see a lot of strangers beside the Nahanni Range Road Ejegedēdeł - They are hunting. Dūłā hih gāń estān - I don't see no animals. Our Land is important - Gükeyeh łánéyéh gütie

#### HAYEH - WINTER

Hayeh gülin t'é' yükā łāń éyéh sededih. The northern lights are very beautiful in the Winter. Didī didū tedze gūjā - Right now it became night time. Yātā kūgūnelit - The sky is clear. Łā són niston yéh asdze- gī sa né-gune-lede There are lots of stars and moonlight Īyéh són nédetl'ıt. - There are falling stars. Ōgī sốgi ł̃ā́, sedediħ´ - It is very beautiful outside. Gūzāģī kūgū-ehdı, Our language is teaching us Gūzāģī lā, kūgū-ehdı, Our language is really teaching us Didī nı' sú dzene'īn - We take care of this land Wédé Didī nı' sû dzene'īn - We always take care of this land





# the disruption

### Vanessa Joseph

"The Land is a very important part of who we are as Indigenous Peoples. This is why we must care for the Land and protect it from being exploited."

"I curated various elements symbolic of the devastation colonisation has brought to Indigenous peoples..."



# DREAM CATCHER

Dream catcher placed near my bed With one wise spider waiting in the web

Put your intention into me
And what will you see?
A future filled of good dreams
Not a bad dream available to let off steam
What did I do with those thoughts of negative times?

Spider in the web is in charge capturing all the bad dreams and keeping them at large Large in the web they stay
All tangled and intertwined they lay
Forever you will stay and the bad dreams said fine

The web has holes Whatever for?

Holes that are big enough for you to dreams to explore Place the dream catcher beside your bed
The morning you wake bad dreams won't thread
And you will feel great awake and life will give you a gracious pour

The only free passage in the web is where my dreams sore Just like the hawks who are watching the shores

Forever the dream catcher will filler my thoughts Keeping the bad ones from returning and letting the good ones never stop

**Trinity Stephens** 



## Indigenous Youth Wellness Honorarium

ICA is committed to lifting up young Indigenous Peoples who are doing the hard work of climate justice organizing and engaging with frontlines that oppose extractive industries in order to protect our homelands / Mother Earth. At the same time we recognize the toll this often takes on our bodies and spirits as Indigenous peoples, while we continue to face a variety of systemic barriers. This honorarium is intended to help relieve some of the financial stress that can often be a barrier to seeking help in maintaining a healthy balance when doing organizing work. This program is designed to be as accessible as possible, and there are many ways this grant can be utilized.

#### **APPLY HERE**



#### **Examples:**

- If you live in the city, you could use it to pay for gas or a ride share to get out on the land
- Help to pay for a counseling session
- Provide an honorarium to an elder for their teachings
- Pay for an art or yoga class or exercise training session

#### Eligibility

- Must be an Indigenous Youth (18-29)
- Must have engaged in frontline activism and/or climate justice organizing
- Must provide a community reference to confirm involvement in frontline activism and/or climate justice organizing
- May only receive 1 award during the course of the project

BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF be proup of your progress



you can DO BIG THINGS

Be KIND TO YOURSELF



# SEVEN TEACHINGS

**Stephane Lennon** 

# CREATOR'S STARRY NIGHT

There was a time when Creator made everything

He was especially fond of his work he often called humans

He made animals and plants and tiny delicate bugs and even wiggling wriggling slow-moving worms

Then along flew a bird one day who picked at a worm

But oh no!

This worm came from soil that was polluted by oil

And this oil, which was recklessly drilled by a human it seems, leaked and seeped into a nearby ravine

Those humans and their dirty machines

They fricked and they fracked

And they continued to ruin every natural thing

Everything that was once so beautifully formed Long ago in Earth's very beginning No longer appeared clean or serene Water became clouded and clouds no longer parted because the ozone layer was thinning and smog and smoke kept brimming

So Creator sadly reached down and quietly nudged his humans in a show of great love

Look he whispered, a sign so you see
I've placed in front of you, billions
of stars in a galaxy carefully

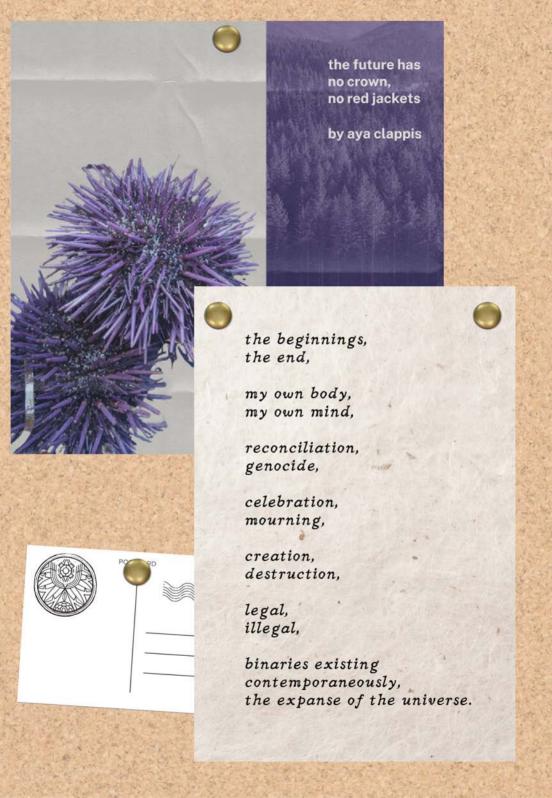
crafted by me

And so the people stopped to watch the dazzling lights shimmer, shake and dance. Far beyond each planet, moon and crater. The stars, how they danced, so happily twinkling, eager to light up the night on such a special occasion

Through the pollution and erosion, through the contamination and high-rise skyline explosion, they stopped and they stood and gazed at the sky up above, overwhelmed by humanity and earth's most beautiful scene, of heavens and horizon and skies in between

Creator had used space to remind the human race that nature should always be given respect and grace

**Adalia Niebergall** 



contradiction, reduction, trickery, violence.

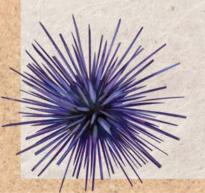
in my dreams, in my waking hours,

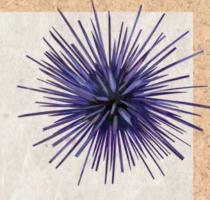
I refuse to believe in a future of red jackets with a constant boot on our chest,

of borders that separate us from our relatives and homelands,

of militarized helicopters and surveillance,

of a reality in which Black and brown bodies are disposed of in the name of the crown of empire and white supremacy.





I find guidance in starlight, in the gift that are brown and Black babies, in remembering our collective and ancestral responsibility, to each other, to the land, to the water.

I find guidance in remembering it is our sacred birthright to live, to fight, to be joyful, to create.

in my dreams, in my waking hours,

we are free, there is no beginning or end,

we are forever.

# THANK YOU

Thank you to all the readers and Indigenous youth who continuously show up in times of hardship, a time where the climate crisis is a responsibility that we have not taken lightly.

Thank you to all the artists who contributed their amazing pieces to the zine, for taking the time and energy from your busy lives to give our community a small taste of youth talent.

## RESOURCES

We know this zine was filled with amazing work. If you are here to get some more insight, please check out our Trello Board for more information on the youth and the extended links to their work.

### FEATURED ARTISTS

Simon Mckerral Kass O'Rourke Stephane Lennon Meghan Young Robert Cahapon Janelle Lapointe Justin Langan Aya Clappis

Jenna Visitor Vanessa Joseph Angel Dressyman Paul Caesar-Jules Christine Coslovich Josué Vásquez Adalia Niebergall **Trinity Stephens** 

Back Cover Art: Stephane Lennon

ICA Zine Team: Angel Brant and Haley Kootenhayoo

### STAY IN TOUCH

www.IndigenousClimateAction.com



@Indigenous\_CA





@IndigenousClimateAction



Donate



ICA's Youth Leaders Hub Trello Board

