



INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION

ANNUAL
REPORT

2018

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Approved by:
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Executive Director

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON OUR JOURNEY

A Letter from Executive Director Eriel Deranger

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My journey with Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) has been a profound experience guided by the voices and direction of so many. In the summer of 2017, I made the life-changing decision to leave my job with the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and accepted the position of Executive Director for ICA. However, the seeds of ICA were sown in 2015 when founding members - Heather Milton-Lightening, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Crystal Lameman, Jesse Cardinal and myself - had a vision to bring Indigenous communities from across Turtle Island together to discuss the climate crisis.

In early 2016, when ICA was primarily volunteer-run, we held our first national gathering bringing together close to 150 people in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton), Treaty 6 (Alberta). This gathering took place hot off the tails of UNFCCC COP 15 where the formidable Paris Agreement was solidified. The emerging network at this inaugural gathering reflected a deep hunger and need for resources, materials, and context to broaden the definition of climate change and climate solutions. They highlighted a need for Indigenous knowledge and rights within solutions and policies being developed to address climate change. It was here that the strong desire for an Indigenous-led climate justice organization materialized and my life was fundamentally changed.

In January 2017 the ICA Steering Committee was formed with representatives and community leaders from across the country. The Steering Committee has been and continues to be, a critical component in developing our mission, vision and the clear goals and strategies necessary to empower our communities and inspire Indigenous-led climate solutions. By year-end, myself along with five new team members were hired and tasked with bringing the ICA vision and mission to light.

Last year marked the first full year of operations with core and contract staff; and a thriving budget. We focused on expanding our fundraising in an effort to support the vision of the ICA Steering Committee - the development of the first ever Indigenous Worldview Climate Change (IWCC) toolkit and resources; and building out the foundations of our cross-cutting media strategy.

ICA's work is driven by our deep desire to inspire communities and broaden the definition of climate solutions while supporting community resistance to the drivers of climate change and building Indigenous-led climate solutions.

I, along with the newly formed ICA team, have taken on this exciting, challenging and soul-affirming work.

"Indigenous Climate Action has grown and changed shape over the years, but one thing has remained the same...we are driven and directed by our communities."

It has been an exciting year working with different communities and community organizers hosting climate change workshops in Indigenous territories across the country; attending and hosting amazing events; and launching ICA media through webinars and building out our journal, podcast and mini-documentary series. I recognize none of this work could have been done without the many individuals, communities, organization and grassroots leaders that ICA has worked with throughout the years.

I want to extend a special shout-out to some of ICA's critical partners, including the Polaris Institute who has been the ICA fiscal sponsor supporting our financial management since day one; our growing relationship with the Indigenous Environmental Network (Protecting Mother Earth gathering, July 2018 & Grassroots Grow Deep: Indigenous Climate Justice Camp, August 2018); the Pacific Peoples' Partnership and Toi Toi Manawa Trust (Red Tide: International Indigenous Climate Action Summit in Aotearoa, April/May 2018); the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance for allowing us to join their network as the first organization north of the medicine line (Sol2Sol Summit and the Global Climate Action Summit, September 2018); and of course the teams at the Rainforest Action Network and 350.org for standing up and showing what real allyship looks like.

In 2019 I will continue to work with the team and the ICA Steering Committee to build up ICA's organizational development, programs, and grow the team with new staff including proposed Community Organizers, an Indigenous Just Transition Director and an Indigenous Youth Climate Change Officer.

I recognize that I am, along with ICA as a whole, still in my infancy as a leader in this work. I hope to continue to grow with my community and ensure that I hold true to nurturing an organization rooted in decolonial values and relationships. It has been such an amazing journey so far and I am excited for what is to come.

Sincerely,

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



ABOUT ICA

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led organization guided by a diverse group of 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 self-determination. By providing our communities with knowledge and resources, we can inspire a new generation of Indigenous climate leaders building solutions centred around our cultures and inherent rights.

"We are our own experts."

Danika Littlechild, ICA Steering Committee

OUR MISSION

OUR HEARTWORK IS IN THE SUCCESS AND HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND UPLIFTING THE KNOWLEDGE WE HOLD.

ICA seeks to inspire action for Indigenous-led climate justice while serving and supporting our communities to build power and drive climate solutions.

We work to equip Indigenous communities with the right tools, education and resources to ensure our knowledge and rights are the basis for climate solutions, while also responding sustainably to the climate crisis.

Collectively, we amplify our worldviews into climate discussions and share knowledge towards evolving climate solutions that are sustainable, equitable and effective. We focus our work to obtain true climate justice which guarantees future solutions, honours the past, and ensures that legal and cultural foundations of Indigenous peoples rights will be upheld for generations to come.

PRIORITIES

OUR WORK IS GROUNDED IN FOUR MAIN AREAS

GATHERINGS

We are committed to hosting gatherings where we will discuss climate change and how it's affecting our lands and waters. We are working to build a network of Indigenous communities, nations, and organizations taking real action. By bringing people together, in person and online, we are growing a movement of land-based climate leaders and natural climate solutions.



RESOURCES

We build and curate resources in partnership with community to uplift our ancient wisdom and knowledge as solutions to climate change.

AMPLIFY VOICES

We work to amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples who are active agents of change. ICA is committed to uplifting the stories of Indigenous Peoples, for Indigenous Peoples, by Indigenous Peoples.



SUPPORT SOVEREIGNTY

We support Indigenous sovereignty because we have the inherent right and authority to make decisions about our nations' well-being and our future.

MEET OUR TEAM

Our team members are all Indigenous; we are proud people of Dene, Métis, Blackfoot, Anishinaabe, Cree, Inuit, Secwepemc, Algonquin and Haida descent. Each staff member brings with her a rich background of Indigenous community base building, collaboration and advocacy through arts, academia, activism, politics, and youth engagement. We hire local community leaders to help facilitate and organize gatherings, meetings, and workshops. Our work is guided by our volunteer Steering Committee that includes Indigenous representatives from across the land called Canada.

Eriel Deranger

Co-Founder and Executive Director

"Over the last year and a half I have learned so much as the Executive Director of ICA. It has been such an honour to work with the ICA team and Steering Committee. It's been such an amazing and powerful journey. Dégharé marsi nénesdhen."



Valine Brown

Funding Coordinator

"One of the highlights of my job is meeting supporters and talking with donor activists who want to invest in real change. It's so inspiring and heartening to connect with allies who see the vital role that Indigenous peoples have within the climate justice movement and inherently understand the value in this work."

Andrea Bastien

Operations Manager

"My relationship with ICA, ICA's Steering Committee and our network is very much reciprocal. I feel blessed and nourished to see our nations continue to rise as we collectively build, cultivate and engage with Indigenous communities taking action for a changing climate. Our growth is exponential as is the movement, nitsíniyi'taki."





Maryel Sparks-Cardinal

Communications Coordinator

"I have learned so much over the past year. I feel like my skills have grown along with the organization and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to work with such incredible leaders, matriarchs and knowledge keepers regularly. Hay/Marsee for this opportunity!"

Dawn Morrison

Toolkit Coordinator (April 2018 - December 2018)

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to have brought together some of the most dedicated and intelligent Indigenous minds from diverse Indigenous nations, territories and communities of focus as they are defined by their respective geographies, cultures and disciplines."



Ana Collins

Toolkit Coordinator (November 2017 - May 2018)

Ana Collins was born in Ute territory and grew up on Algonquin land. She has been involved in the International Panel on Climate Change at the UN, she has mobilized against the WTO, the OAS and the FTAA, worked for the World Wildlife Fund, was the Indigenous Coordinator for the Peoples Social Forum 2014, Legislative Assistant in the House of Commons to MP Romeo Saganash, holds degrees in International Relations, Latin American studies, Critical Theory and Translation.



Siku Allooloo

Toolkit Coordinator (November 2017 - February 2018)

Siku Allooloo is an Inuit/Haitian Taino writer and community builder from Denendeh (Northwest Territories). She has a diverse background in Indigenous land-based education, youth work, and community-based research. She also holds a

BA in Anthropology and Indigenous Studies from the University of Victoria. Her creative nonfiction, poetry and other writing centers on decolonial politics, environmental protection and ending gender violence.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

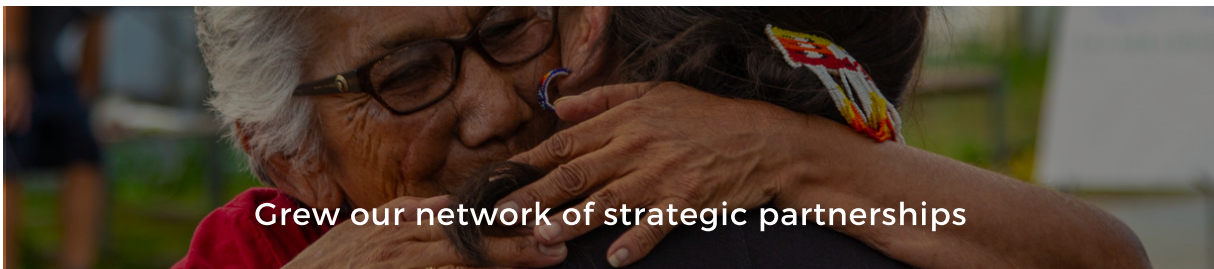
Last year, we built up our network all across Turtle Island and made connections with Indigenous peoples and organizations worldwide. With in-kind contributions, partnerships, and support from foundations, friends, and donor activists, we:



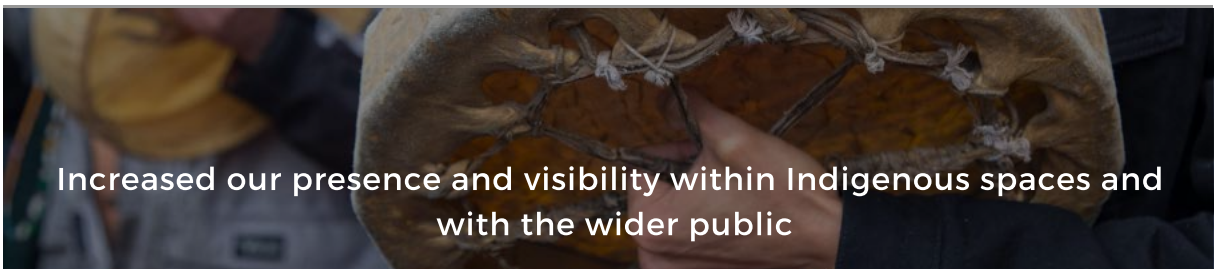
Hosted Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Workshops in communities across the country



Organized international gatherings



Grew our network of strategic partnerships



Increased our presence and visibility within Indigenous spaces and with the wider public



Launched a highly successful media strategy

CLIMATE CHANGE TOOLKIT: COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

IN 2018 ICA HOSTED 14 WORKSHOPS:



The "toolkit" is a multi-staged and iterative project that includes community engagement, knowledge-sharing, and storytelling, with the end goal of curating resources and best practices that will inspire Indigenous peoples to take action on climate change. Through direct community engagement, and hosting gatherings and conducting interviews, we are highlighting Indigenous knowledge, rights and systems that are critical in developing successful climate change strategies.

These workshops fostered engaging discussions on how climate change is affecting our communities and created critical dialogue on community needs and desired resources needed to take action on climate change. To date, each nation and region has offered unique understandings and approaches to climate change. This marked the first phase in developing our Indigenous Worldview Climate Change Toolkit. ICA will continue hosting workshops in 2019, including expanding our reach in the north.

VOICES FROM OUR NETWORK

In order to give ICA a unique advantage to speak about climate change and build power and capacity at the community level, we brought on contractors and community members to facilitate and coordinate Climate Change Toolkit Workshops in their local regions. Profiled below are just a few of the voices of our network of hosts and facilitators:



Dawn Morrison

Facilitated and Coordinated West Coast Workshops

It has been an incredible journey of learning and holding the space while I coordinated workshops and interviews for ICA. The conversations helped me better understand the kinds of knowledge and practical tools that can support Indigenous peoples in our efforts of responding to the climate crisis with strength and resiliency. The deep ecological sensibility and social responsibility that was shared by all challenged me to hold the space for the complexity that arose in the process of interpreting the conversations. Some of the key concepts and themes that arose were: climate change meets Indigenous knowledge, land and water rights, ecosystem-based conservation planning, gender and generations perspectives of youth, Elders and women, sustainable tribal economies and energy plans, Indigenous food sovereignty, and decolonizing education, just to name a few.

Kiera Kolson

Coordinated workshops in Alberta

It was an honor to facilitate discussions around climate change and Indigenous values. With the current combination of historical traumas, identity loss, generation gap, rapid population growth and loss of life and land, it is important to bring community members together who genuinely want to be involved in these discussions and solutions. In providing the safe spaces it allows Indigenous people to respectfully recognize that the traditional knowledge they carry is just as relevant as any contemporary knowledge. Reconciliation means allowing Indigenous people to have Indigenous conversations, rooted in Indigenous philosophy, healing and restoration. Our communities carry much wisdom and we are now within an era where we can truly redefine what Indigenous potential looks like and re-humanize Indigenous voices back into equal harmony within this society...For the next seven generations and beyond.



VOICES FROM OUR NETWORK

“The solutions to the climate crisis will come when we restore our relationship with the land. The land must be returned to the care and governance of Indigenous peoples.” - Climate Change Toolkit Workshop Participant



Doug Anderson

Co-Coordinated workshop in Tkaronto

I found the gathering in Tkaronto to discuss the implications of Indigenous views on climate change and resilience to be a long-overdue and refreshing take on a conversation that seems to have become stalled in the public discourse and imagination. I hope ICA can continue to help us shift the focus to more meaningful levels as we proceed forward in finding solutions to the climate crisis.

Michelle Brass

Facilitated and Coordinated Saskatchewan workshop

I had the opportunity to host a workshop at the Okanese Learning Centre. We invited Okanese members, plus other members from the surrounding File Hills communities. It was an amazing day and I learned a lot! We began with a men and women's pipe ceremony in the morning and tobacco and prints were offered for the day. 35-40 people attended including Chief and council, they were all very engaged and had good discussions, questions and ideas. Elder Margaret Keewatin shared her stories and knowledge of climate change and what the Grandmothers/Grandfathers are telling her in the ceremonies and lodges. Everyone spoke and was very grateful. Chief and council, in particular, were very happy and asked if I could come back to the community to do a follow-up and help facilitate another workshop.



EVENTS WE HOSTED

ICA co-hosted and co-coordinated three incredible gatherings that brought together Indigenous peoples from all around the world to discuss climate change, strategize on climate solutions and learn how to take climate action.

RED TIDE

Red Tide International Indigenous Climate Action Conference and Youth Summit was held on the tribal lands of the Te Whānau-ā-Apanui in Aotearoa (New Zealand). The youth summit, held from May 1-3, brought together 100 local youth and the main event held from May 3-6 hosted over 200 participants from around the world. This gathering was developed in partnership with Toi Toi Manawa Trust and Pacific Peoples' Partnership.



PROTECTING MOTHER EARTH CONFERENCE

The Protecting Mother Earth Conference took place from June 28 - July 1 and was hosted in partnership with the Indigenous Environmental Network and the Nisqually Indian Tribe. This conference brought together 1,500 people to the lands of the Nisqually in Washington USA.



GRASSROOTS GROW DEEP

Grassroots Grow Deep was hosted in Treaty 6 territory in Cold Lake Alberta with support from the Indigenous Environmental Network, 350.org and Rainforest Action Network. Together, we hosted 120 people from local communities from August 6-8.



EVENTS WE ATTENDED

In 2018, we expanded our reach and influence through attending various conferences, actions, strategy meetings and solidarity events internationally. ICA team members spoke on panels, gave keynote speeches, provided media support or hosted information tables at many events in order to provide support to our community and organizational partners. Through this, we have greatly heightened awareness of ICA initiatives with different peoples in diverse spaces.



Tiny House Warriors - GGJ Assembly - XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology - Bold Actions at Kwekwecnewtxw - CMOS Congress - Urban Hide Tanning Camp - The Cities IPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference - Bioneers Parliament of World Religions - International Funders' Conference - Sol2Sol Summit - Creating a Climate For Change - Global Climate Action Summit - ISEE 2019 Catherine Donnelly - Healing Through Land Based Solutions Gathering - Protect the Inlet



STORIES FROM THE GRASSROOTS



Using many different forms of media, we successfully amplified the stories of people who are on the frontlines of climate change, pushed the narrative and perspectives on the climate for Indigenous peoples by Indigenous peoples. Using many different forms of media, we successfully amplified the stories of Indigenous peoples who are on the frontlines of climate change, pushed the narrative of Indigenous perspectives on the climate crisis into mainstream media and provide easily accessible educational tools through the use of social media.

The mainstream media often portrays Indigenous peoples as victims of catastrophes in climate stories and rarely portrays Indigenous peoples as active agents of change. We wanted to adjust that perception by telling the true stories of our knowledge keepers, land defenders and water protectors, as well as uplift our voices in the public discourse and climate discussions.

MEDIA SNAPSHOT

In 2018, ICA published photos, created videos, posted articles, hosted webinars and distributed press releases on a variety of climate topics in line with our media strategy. Our work has been well received and has been widely viewed amongst our audiences. As this is a multi-year strategy many projects that found their roots in 2018 will continue to grow and take shape in 2019, such as seeing the completion of more short videos, podcasts and an online journal.



Livestreams:

In order to amplify the stories from the frontlines, ICA has attended multiple actions, marches and events and live-streamed onto our Facebook page. This has greatly contributed to the increased our Facebook reach with 3,800 new followers in 2018.



Blogs, Articles and Press Releases:

We released 9 written pieces throughout the year that have been well received and widely distributed. Our most read article entitled, I Feel Betrayed - by the government and a system that has destroyed the spirit of my people, by Eriel Deranger reached 18,500 people on Facebook and received international media attention.



Webinars:

ICA hosted a number of webinars in order to provide our network with accessible information related to Indigenous climate issues and topics. Our most widely viewed webinar covered Canada's \$4.5 billion bailout of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline from a frontlines' perspective that reached 104,000 users on Facebook.



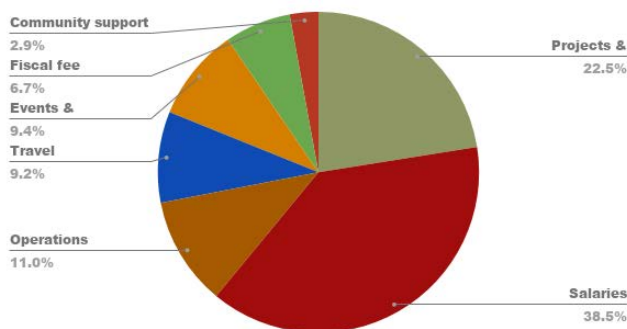
Photo and Video:

To amplify the stories of Indigenous land defenders and water protectors, ICA documented frontline actions, gatherings and events throughout the year. ICA produced 5 videos and published professional photos which were posted primarily on our Instagram page, because of this, our Instagram following has grown significantly with 2,500 new followers in 2018.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

ICA had a healthy 2018 budget that was well balanced between philanthropic money and donations from individual friends and supporters. We are proud that in our first year of operations, our projections were on point and our expenses aligned well with our revenue.

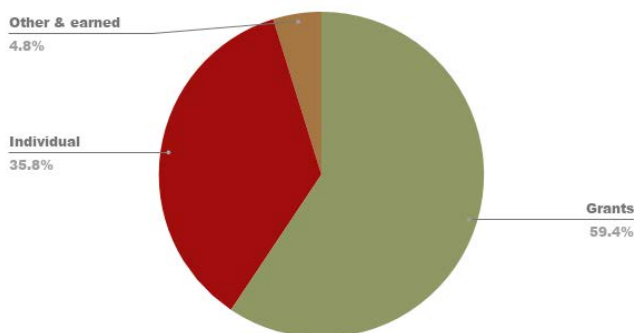
2018 Expenses (\$556,000)



2018 priorities:

- Invested in people power & in our own expertise
- Supported development and skill-building for our team
- Attended critical climate events to ensure Indigenous voices and wisdom are represented
- Provided in-kind support to partners
- Supported Indigenous-led events
- Provided direct support to Indigenous communities

2018 Revenue



In 2019, we will continue to scale up our programming, staff, and our projected budget. Working within our team, ICA is confident that we can continue to balance these numbers that nourish and enable Indigenous-led actions and solutions.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2019

WE HAVE BIG PLANS FOR 2019, HERE ARE SOME OF THE GOALS WE ASPIRE TO REACH WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR:

YOUTH FOCUS

We are sowing the seeds to grow a youth engagement program that will invite young adults into climate discussions and inspire action in their communities.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY

Supporting energy independence is supporting Indigenous sovereignty. We will be growing our team to develop this program and support communities build their own local renewable energy projects.

WORKSHOPS

We will be hosting 6 additional Indigenous Worldview Climate Action Toolkit Workshops with a focus on coordinating workshops in the eastern and northern regions.

GATHERINGS

ICA is planning to coordinate more successful gatherings. We are anticipating hosting the second Grassroots Grow Deep Gathering and developing and organizing an Indigenous youth conference.

RESOURCES

We are excited for the beginning of phase two of the toolkit, which will include train-the-trainer sessions and dissemination of information gathered and learned.



I N C L O S I N G



When you read about climate change or hear about it on the news, the message is unsettling to say the least. Glaciers are melting, extreme weather is becoming the new norm, food sources are threatened, all while Mother Earth is continuously desecrated. Indigenous philosophies offer a dramatically different story amid this crisis: Our story is one of strength and resilience.

As Indigenous peoples, our identities and lifeways are powerfully connected to the lands, waters, and air. Through this connection, our languages have grown, and our communities and nations have thrived. Indigenous wisdom is the oldest living knowledge system, and our collective resilience is why people are drawn to Indigenous Climate Action's work. Our partners and supporters have joined us because they see the value in uplifting our ancient wisdom and ways of being and believe in our theory of change: Investing in communities to build solutions that will work for local people.

ICA has been incredibly fortunate to have you - our friends and supporters - who believe in this vision. In 2018, we raised nearly \$35,000 through online crowdfund campaigns and individual donations. Our network of monthly sustainers has grown substantially throughout the year. These regular contributions - currently between \$5 to \$200 per month - sustain our programs. Individual donations increase the wellbeing of our organization and elevate the impact that we have.

We had an abundant and enlightening first year, and we are so inspired to deepen the work and increase our influence. This year, our goal is to scale up our programming and continue investing in our team who work within our communities to bring Indigenous-led climate solutions to light.

We also encourage you to reach out to us if you have a project that needs support, a cause that needs amplification or a need for more resources and materials. ICA is here to support our peoples and communities.


2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECT WITH ICA


To ask us questions about this report and
to join our growing network:

 www.indigenousclimateaction.com

 info@indigenousclimateaction.com

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

 [@indigenous_ca](https://twitter.com/indigenous_ca)

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

