



**Assembly of First Nations  
National Climate Gathering**

*March 3-4, 2020*

**Rassemblement national sur le climat  
de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations**

*Les 3 et 4 mars 2020*

# Framing a First Nations Climate Lens

Coast High Country Inn | Whitehorse, Yukon

Coast High Country Inn | Whitehorse (Yukon)



# Mandate

- July 2019 AFN declared a *First Nations Climate Emergency*, recognizing that “...*climate change constitutes a state of emergency for our lands, waters, animals, and peoples.*”
- Directed AFN to plan a National Gathering and develop a National Climate Strategy
- Focused on two broad objective:
  - *reduce emissions*
  - *addressing income inequality*



# Background

- We are facing multiple crises:
  - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that we have less than ten years to avoid locking in a future of catastrophic consequences
  - *United Nations Emission Gap* report projects dramatic temperature increases if we don't take rapid action
  - Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) projects the extinction of a million species in the next few decades, which will be accelerated by climate change



# Background (...)

- Canada's climate has already warmed by 2.3°C and is projected to warm further at about double the global rate
- A growing number of First Nations are calling for rapid decarbonization
  - Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation (VGFN)
- Despite the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF), Canada is not projected to meet its 2030 targets



# A First Nations Climate Lens (...)

- The climate crisis is inseparable from the daily experiences and realities of First Nations
- First Nations face unique climate risks due to a variety of factors
- First Nations are leaders and active drivers of climate action
- The Climate Lens challenges conventional conceptualizations of First Nations as “vulnerable” populations



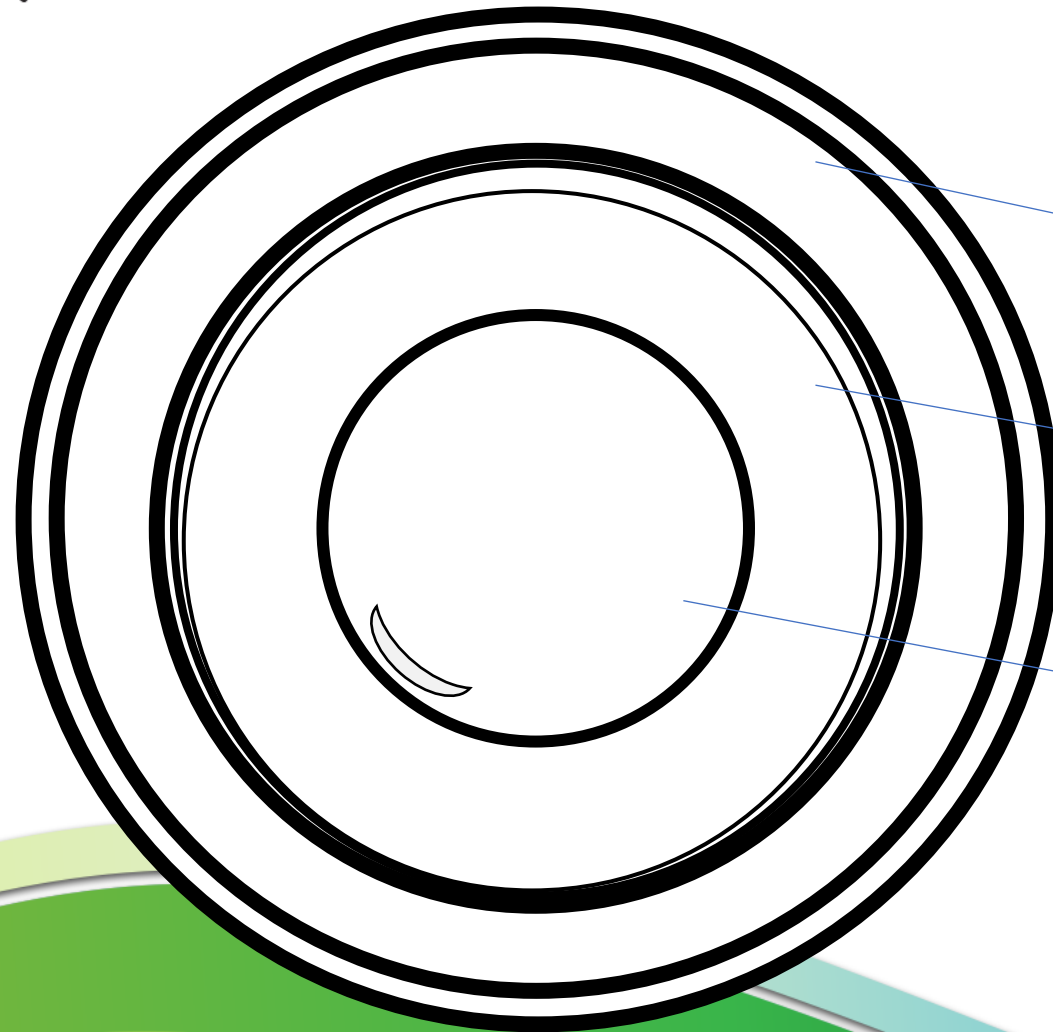
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**Circle 1: Context – The Legislative, Legal and Policy Ecosystem**

**Circle 2: Impacts – The First Nations' Lived Reality**

**Circle 3: Action – A First Nations' Worldview**

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# Circle 1: Context

- The legislative, legal, and policy context is informed by a variety of key factors:
  - Inherent jurisdiction over lands and territories, as well as our affirmed right to self-determination
  - Federal commitment to implementing the UN Declaration, TRC Calls to Action, and the MMIWG Calls for Justice
  - Indigenous-related jurisprudence from the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as protections in the *Constitution*



## Circle 2 - Impacts

- Climate change amplifies the impacts of colonization including:
  - mental health and wellbeing
  - poverty and poor housing
  - food and water insecurity, and
  - the erosion of rights, culture, and access to land
- A First Nations Climate Lens incorporates such impacts and how they will be distributed and experienced
- Addressing the climate crisis cannot be separated from First Nations self-determination and reconciliation





## Circle 3 - Action

- Advances solutions that are grounded in First Nations' law, knowledge, language, and governance, while respecting First Nations' plurality
- Based on the recognition that:
  - *we are the land and the land is us*
- Lays the foundation for action that is unique to each individual First Nation, but represents a common understanding of natural, spiritual, and environmental law
- First Nations traditional government and knowledge must stand equally with western systems



# Next Steps

- We need a transformational shift in the approach that Canada and the world take to address the climate crisis
- This Gathering is an important step, but it is only the beginning
- Support the eventual creation and adoption of an AFN National Climate Strategy at an upcoming Assembly



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~ Thank you ~

Questions & Discussion

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