

ReNew

CANADA

The Infrastructure Magazine

Special Event Edition
from your 2022 FNMPC
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The Keeyask Hydroelectric Project—completed in 2021—ranked #8 on the 2021 Top100 Projects report with a value of \$8.7 billion

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NET ZERO TRANSITION

- + Teams prequalified for Weeneebayko Area Health Authority redevelopment project
- + Ontario invests in training for Indigenous people for highway project
- + New group forms to provide a voice for Indigenous-owned construction companies
- + Indigenous clean energy projects are key to meeting B.C.'s climate targets

**Inside this
sample edition:**
A selection of our ongoing
Indigenous infrastructure
and environment
coverage.



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NET ZERO TRANSITION

By **Mark Podlasly**, Director of Economic Policy at the First Nations Major Projects Coalition & **Kate Finn**, Executive Director of First Peoples Worldwide.

Canada and the United States must achieve net zero carbon neutrality by 2050 or risk contributing further to the catastrophic consequences of global climate change. Achieving our two countries' net zero targets by 2050 means that our economies ideally emit no greenhouse gases or become carbon neutral by offsetting all the greenhouse gas emissions that have not been eliminated. Most of the proposed solutions for achieving net zero by 2050 rely on using Indigenous lands and resources to build clean energy infrastructure and extraction projects worth up to \$6 trillion.

These projects include new clean power stations, expanded transmission lines, carbon capture and storage facilities, and new mines to provide the raw materials needed for electric vehicle battery production.

Given the urgency of reaching Net Zero by 2050, what happens to our shared climate if Indigenous peoples are not included? On April 25-26, 2022, Indigenous leaders, clean energy experts, mining sector executives, regulators, and investors will meet in Vancouver, Canada at the Toward Net Zero by 2050 conference to discuss what will be required of energy, mining and financial proponents to ensure respect and protection of Indigenous peoples' rights and interests while we all work to save our planet.

This conference primer explores four important areas of transitioning to net zero that are, or may increasingly become, important to Indigenous nations in the United States and Canada. These areas are discussed in this four-part conference primer:

- 1. Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change** This section introduces readers to the core concepts of net zero, such as what causes climate change, what emissions are, why net zero is important, the Paris Agreement, and importantly, how these are related directly to the role of Indigenous nations in the United States and Canada to achieving net zero commitments.
- 2. Electric Vehicle and Storage System Batteries** This section is a discussion of the critical mineral battery supply chain, particularly how the supply chain makes, or breaks, electric vehicle (EV) production in Canada and the United States. Minerals essential to the creation of batteries, such as nickel and lithium as well as others³, are already in sharp demand for clean technologies such as electric vehicles and energy storage. How will this mineral extraction occur equitably on Indigenous lands in the United States and Canada?
- 3. Clean Energy Transition** This section highlights components of the clean energy transition and how they are related to Indigenous lands in the United States and Canada. Topics include the generation of clean/zero emission energy (e.g., hydroelectric, solar, wind, geothermal, hydrogen, biomass, small nuclear reactors), transmission of clean energy (e.g., transmission lines), increasing efficiency to reduce the need for energy (e.g., building codes, retrofitting of existing buildings, and insulation of homes), and the role of hydrocarbons and sequestration (e.g., carbon credits, carbon offsets and carbon capture technologies).
- 4. ESG Investment Standards and Net Zero** This section continues FNMPC's leadership on the discussion of putting the "I" (Indigenous) into ESG sustainable investment standards. In particular, this section summarizes and further explores finance, policy, and regulation – particularly how these sectors support the energy transition to net zero in the context of Indigenous nations in the United States and Canada.

The overall focus of the conference, and the representations made in this Primer document are intended to raise critical questions regarding public policy decisions and private sector investments as they intersect with Indigenous rights and interests in the energy transition. FNMPC is pleased to be able to exercise our mandate and convene the private and public sectors with our members and to produce leading edge

reports on emerging areas of concern and opportunity.

Along with our US conference partner, First Peoples Worldwide, we look forward to welcoming over 1,000 delegates from across North America, Europe, and New Zealand which is now only a short 12 days away. If you haven't seen the latest conference program, please visit <https://www.fnmipcindustryevent.com/>. 🌱

INDIGENOUS MEGAPROJECTS

Canada's First Nations communities are forging new partnerships to build infrastructure.

Many of Canada's Indigenous communities are in need of new infrastructure, from water assets and better roads to improved schools and clean energy.

New partnerships between First Nations communities and asset developers are leading to some of Canada's most incredible assets, assets that can be maintained by the communities they serve. This ability for the community to work on infrastructure assets, both in the short-term and long-term, is key for economic development.

How do we use these recent successes to encourage more

asset development in remote communities? And how do we ensure capital is available for these projects to move forward in a timely fashion?

During a recent INFRAIntelligence webinar, with support from Sanexen, *ReNew Canada* explored Indigenous megaprojects and the infrastructure gap facing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Panelists discussed some of the initiatives being spearheaded by governments and First Nations to strengthen economies in Indigenous communities.

Cover image: *The Keeyask Generation Project* is a partnership between Manitoba Hydro and four partner First Nations. (Manitoba Hydro) 🍁

68 East-West Tie Transmission Project

The East-West Tie Transmission Line Project is now in service, providing reliable, long-term electricity to Ontario's Northwest. The 450-kilometre, 230-kilovolt transmission line runs from Wawa to Thunder Bay, Ont.

Built by NextBridge, a partnership of NextEra Energy Canada, Enbridge and OMERS infrastructure, the East-West Tie line addresses long-standing constraints that restricted the flow of electricity between Northwestern Ontario and the south. The project featured strong participation from a number of local Indigenous communities.

A partnership with Bamkushwada, a group comprised of the most proximate Indigenous communities, saw the



creation of Supercom Industries, a 100% Indigenous-owned partnership responsible for project hiring and procurement. More than 200 Indigenous workers received training and indigenous monitors were deployed to ensure Aboriginal and Treaty rights were respected during project construction. 🍁

56 Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project

Wataynikaneyap Power is majority-owned by a partnership of 24 First Nations, in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors, and regulated by the Ontario Energy Board. Wataynikaneyap Power will develop and operate the transmission facilities to connect 17 remote communities to the power grid and transition them away from diesel generation. The plan calls for a 1,800-kilometre transmission line broken into two phases: a 300-kilometre line to Pickle Lake (\$200 million),



and transmission lines to connect the communities north of Pickle Lake and Red Lake (\$1.15 billion). On July 10, 2020 the project reached a key milestone, with the first structure erected in the Sioux Lookout area near Highway 516. Potential remote electrification is anticipated in 2022, with build-out to 2023. 🍁

Top100
Canada's Biggest
Infrastructure Projects

For additional details
on this year's
Top100 report, visit
top100projects.ca

+ Teams prequalified for Weeneebayko Area Health Authority redevelopment project

Infrastructure Ontario and Weeneebayko Area Health Authority have prequalified three teams to move onto the second phase of the Request for Proposals process to deliver the WAHA Redevelopment Project.

ReNew Canada April 6, 2022

+ Ontario invests in training for Indigenous people for highway project

The Ontario government is investing more than \$3.7 million to train 110 members of Treaty #3 First Nations communities for rewarding careers in construction. Through this investment, participants will gain the skills they need to start well-paying jobs twinning the TransCanada Highway 17 as construction craft workers.

ReNew Canada November 10, 2021

+ New group forms to provide a voice for Indigenous-owned construction companies

In response to the growing need for a truly representative voice for Indigenous construction companies, a group of local Indigenous construction businesses have banded together to form a unified voice on best practices regarding Indigenous engagement, capacity development, and procurement in the construction industry.

ReNew Canada September 16, 2021

+ Indigenous clean energy projects are key to meeting B.C.'s climate targets

A new report from the Pembina Institute shows that Indigenous communities have been largely prevented from moving ahead with renewable energy projects despite the B.C. government's mandates to lower emissions by 40 per cent below 2007 levels in 2030, support the transition off diesel fuel in remote communities, and advance reconciliation.

ReNew Canada August 12, 2021



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