

NET ZERO: INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE & BUSINESS

Thursday, April 7th, 2022 | 9am PST / 12pm EST via Zoom

Net zero opportunities and the current economic landscape in the United States and Canada are quickly accelerating investment opportunities. Indigenous women who are entrepreneurs and leaders in finance and business are leading and directing the new investments and entrepreneurship related to net zero.

“I see the transformation in our people today, their identities as Haisla woman being part of major decision making processes.”

– Chief Crystal Smith (Haisla, Chief Councillor)

On April 7th, 2022, the First Nations Major Project Coalition, in partnership with First Peoples Worldwide, will host **NET ZERO: INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE & BUSINESS**, a one-hour online session with Indigenous women across Canada and the US who are leading sustainable finance, ESG and net zero business solutions to advance the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples, build value for society, and work to save our planet.

This event will continue the conversation about putting the “I” (Indigenous) into ESG.¹ The “G” in ESG represents governance, and covers the corporate policies and internal governance of a company such as board diversity, company leadership, executive pay, internal controls, shareholder rights, and political engagement. The obvious place for Indigenousizing the “G” in ESG is significant Indigenous representation at corporate levels, including in particular, Indigenous women.

BACKGROUND

The United States and Canada have both signed to the 2015 *Paris Agreement* international treaty. The aspiration for signatories of the *Paris Agreement*, is to limit global warming to well below 2 °C, preferably to 1.5 °C, using pre-industrial temperatures as the baseline. To achieve that commitments of limiting global warming to only 1.5 °C by 2050, countries who have adopted the *Paris Agreement* aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible with the goal to shift to a “climate neutral world” by mid-century.²

This shift will require massive investments and financing across all sectors in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Canada and the United States in order to meet 2050 targets. According to the International Energy Agency, the global transition to net-zero emissions by 2050 requires a substantial ramp up in the investment to the tune of nearly USD\$5 trillion in clean electricity generation and transmission projects alone.³

¹ ESG is a term that addresses “E” environmental issues (such as climate change, water quality, and land use), “S” social issues (such as human rights, community consent, consumer relations) and “G” governance issues (such as company management and board representation).

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

³ Watson, Frank, and Henry Edwardes-Evans. “IEA Unveils Blueprint to Reach Net-Zero Emissions by 2050.” S&P Global Platts, S&P Global Platts, 18 May 2021, <https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/electric-power/051821-iea-unveils-blueprint-to-reach-net-zero-emissions-by-2050>.

INDIGENOUS NET ZERO

Indigenous nations and communities are, in many respects, at the centre of the net zero transition. Beginning with the fact that net zero projects will be hosted/built on Indigenous lands, this means that the balance of risks-benefits must be equitable and that Indigenous involvement is at the core of decision making. Further, Indigenous peoples have long understood the urgency of climate change and have been speaking out about the changes they have been seeing for decades.⁴

Within the now multitude of sectors working on net zero innovations – e.g., clean energy generation, transmission, battery supply chains, policy, GHG offsets, finance – Indigenous nations in Canada and the United States are poised to benefit from, and are increasingly taking the lead in, the global energy transition.

THE EVENT

On Thursday, April 7th, 2022, the Canada-based First Nations Major Project Coalition, in partnership with the US-based First Peoples Worldwide, will host **NET ZERO: INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE & BUSINESS** to discuss investment models in net zero and sustainable finance/ESG, Indigenous equity ownership as it relates to financing net zero project, and lessons that can be learned from these Indigenous women leaders in business and finance.

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SPEAKERS

- » **Jaime Lickers**, *Vice President, Indigenous Markets, CIBC*
- » **Cherie Brant**, *Partner and National Leader, Indigenous Law at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP & Independent Director at Hydro One Networks and TD Bank*
- » **Kate Finn**, *Executive Director, First Peoples Worldwide*
- » **Tabatha Bull**, *President and CEO, CCAB*



⁴ Watt-Cloutier, S. (2015). The right to be cold: One woman's story of protecting her culture, the arctic and the whole planet. Allen Lane.