

Seeking Knowledge Holders for First Nations Advisory Committee: Shape Investment in Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions

The First Nations National Guardians Network (NGN) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) for First Nations members to join the **First Nations Advisory Committee** for the [Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions \(ILNCS\)](#) funding stream.

This group will work with the [Indigenous Guardians Secretariat](#), Wahkohtowin Development, and Ecotrust Canada in making recommendations to the Government of Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada) and the National Guardian Network for funding of Indigenous-Led Natural Climate Solutions, and ensuring the Fund supports the priorities and perspectives of First Nations.

The NGN is seeking 6 individuals to be members of the **First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC)** who, collectively, have an understanding of living and working in First Nations, as well as experiences in on-the-ground activities for land conservation, enhanced land management and ecological restoration that maximize carbon sequestration and storage.

Background

To advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and help Canada meet its 2030 and 2050 climate change and biodiversity objectives, Environment and Climate Change Canada has allocated \$36.9 million to **Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions**. Indigenous Led Natural Climate Solutions are part of the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation, and recognition of the meaningful role Indigenous Peoples play in leading the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity.

This stream will fund Indigenous Nations, communities, governments, and representative organizations to deliver on-the-ground projects for conservation, restoration, and planning and capacity-building activities for forests, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands.

Request

The National Guardian Network is creating a **First Nations Advisory Committee** that will work in partnership with the Indigenous Guardians Secretariat in assessing project applications and recommending high-impact projects to the National Guardian Network and Environment and Climate Change Canada to receive funding from the Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions.

The National Guardian Network will also revise and renew the Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions application and proposal package, as well as Environment and Climate Change Canada

reporting mechanisms for 2024 and beyond. The **First Nations Advisory Committee** will play a central role in this process.

Ecotrust Canada and Wahkohtowin Development are supporting the National Guardians Network in this work, and are seeking names of interested candidates to sit on the **First Nations Advisory Committee**.

Scope of Duties

The following is a description of work to be completed in the upcoming calendar year (January 1, 2023 – January 1, 2024). This work is likely to continue through 2025, with the next application assessment period beginning in January 2024. The ideal candidate will show interest in a multi-year commitment to the First Nations Advisory Committee, but this is not required. There will be flexibility to assess involvement in the committee year to year.

Members of the **First Nation Advisory Committee** will play an active role in:

Phase One – January 1 to January 31, 2023

Phase One duties will include:

- Assessing Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions proposals (First Nations only, Inuit and Metis are assessed by others), including:
 - Scoring individual proposals based on their potential carbon, ecological and social benefits;
 - Assessing a wide range of projects, including multi-fiscal year proposals
 - Sitting at the table with Ecotrust Canada, Wahkohtowin Development and the Indigenous Guardians Secretariat to assess proposals and come to a consensus;
 - Making recommendations to Environment and Climate Change Canada and NGN.
- Attending virtual meetings on an as-needed basis

Phase Two – February 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024

Phase Two duties include:

- In collaboration with Wahkohtowin Development and Ecotrust Canada, revise and renew the Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions application and proposal package and Environment and Climate Change Canada reporting mechanisms for 2024 and beyond
- Play an active advisory role to Wahkohtowin and Ecotrust Canada in the creation of capacity-building activities and tools
- Review and approve capacity-building activities and tools created by Wahkohtowin and Ecotrust Canada

Time Commitment

This position shall require a commitment of no more than 20 calendar days per year, frontloaded in January 2023. The ideal candidates should have availability of an estimated 3 – 7 days spread out over from January 8th – 31st 2023. We anticipate attending 3 – 4 meetings likely ranging from 1 – 4 hours in length during January but much of the work can be completed independently. Post January 2023, we estimate 12-16 meetings ranging from 1 to 3 hours in length. Some additional time each month to review and comment on materials is anticipated.

Compensation

Each member of the **First Nation Advisory Committee** will receive \$75/ hour for their time.

Team

Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI) is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to facilitating the strengthening of Indigenous Nationhood for the fulfillment of the Indigenous responsibility to our lands, the emergence of new generations of Indigenous leaders, and helping communities develop the skills and capacity that they will need as they continue to become fully respected and equally treated partners in Canada's system of governance and its economic and social growth. ILI is supporting the development of the National Guardian Network.

Wahkohtowin Development General Partnership Incorporated (WDGPI) is a 100% owned First Nation social enterprise created in 2016 as a means of advancing regional strategic economic opportunities from a conservation economy, reconciliation-based approach. Its mandate is to advance an inclusive regional collaborative approach to community development in areas like forestry and forest management focused on supporting the development of Lands and Resource Depts. at each First Nation. Wahkohtowin is a Cree life philosophy that means kinship and connectedness and embodies the phrase 'all our relations'.

Ecotrust Canada is a Canadian registered charity that works with rural, remote and Indigenous communities toward building an economy that provides for a healthy and resilient natural environment; sustainable and abundant energy, food, and housing; prosperous and meaningful livelihoods; and vibrant cultures and inclusive societies. We call this approach, Building an Economy that Provides for Life. Ecotrust Canada's Climate Innovation Initiative supports Indigenous communities to explore, assess and engage in Natural Climate Solutions projects.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is a branch of the federal government that informs Canadians about protecting and conserving our natural heritage, and ensuring a clean, safe and sustainable environment for present and future generations. ECCC provides funding for the [Indigenous Guardians Program](#), through which the **Indigenous Guardians Secretariat** is supplied.

Expression of Interest

If you are interested in joining the **First Nations Advisory Committee**, please fill out this [brief questionnaire](#) by **December 10th, 2022**. Thank you for accommodating the tight timelines here.

Please note that members of the First Nations Advisory Committee are not excluded from submitting their own ILNCS proposals.

If you would like to recommend this opportunity to someone you know, please feel free to forward this invitation, as well as to share it widely with your network. Successful candidates to the First Nations Advisory Committee will be contacted directly.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties, having trouble accessing the survey form, or would prefer a PDF copy, please get in touch with rebecca@ecotrust.ca or caylin@ecotrust.ca

Links

Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions funding stream: [Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions - Canada.ca](#)

Indigenous Guardians: [Indigenous Guardians - Canada.ca](#)

Indigenous Leadership Initiative: [Indigenous Leadership Initiative \(ilinationhood.ca\)](#)

Wahkohtowin Development: [Home - Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc.](#)

Ecotrust Canada: [Ecotrust Canada - Building an economy that provides for life](#)

Expression of Interest Questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/r/EbgnPLhTbc>