



BRIEFING NOTE

Joint Committee on Climate Action Annual Report

To: Ontario First Nations Leadership
From: Chiefs of Ontario, Environment Sector
Date: July 7, 2023
Purpose: To provide information

ISSUE

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Environment Sector is sharing information regarding the release of the Annual Report 2022 by the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) on June 19, 2023.

BACKGROUND

The JCCA was established in the fall of 2017 after the federal government's launch of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change plan. The committee members are First Nations regional advocates and federal government employees from various departments, mainly Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) coordinates this national table for First Nation regional advocates from across this land. The JCCA supports reconciliation and self-determination, First Nations climate action, navigating federal climate programming, and providing guidance on climate policy and programming.

Since 2018, the JCCA has evolved from meeting in a colonial setting to meeting in an ethical space, using the guiding principles of a rights-based approach, trust, kindness, mutual respect, fairness, good faith, honesty and joint development. The JCCA meetings are co-chaired by AFN and ECCC. The JCCA continues to make collaborative progress on including First Nations regional advocate technical advice on positioning First Nations in climate leadership.

The JCCA has held a total of 18 meetings, with 4 meetings per year, with an annual report developed each year that is submitted to the AFN National Chief and Prime Minister. The most recent three (3) reports have been made public, and the remaining two (2) will be posted once the JCCA website is complete.

To date, there have been no decisions made on a long-term obligation to continue with the JCCA other than another 5-year funding commitment. This initiative receives its mandate from AFN Resolution # 22/2017. There are also Métis and Inuit JCCA tables.

ANALYSIS

The JCCA has identified five (5) priorities for 2023:

1. Reviewing federal clean growth and climate change policy and programs through the First Nations Climate Lens;
2. Empowering First Nations leadership in climate action;
3. Fostering greater transparency, accountability, and communication in JCCA activities;
4. Continuing to develop First Nation-specific indicators and criteria to report on the implementation of climate-related federal funding programs and outcomes; and
5. Deepening the intergenerational and intersectional dialogue on climate change in all activities.

Past discussions and climate related programs have included First Nations Climate Leadership, National Adaptation Strategy, Low Carbon Economy Funding programs and the JCCA 5-Year Review, UNDRIP, JCCA website development, and JCCA Annual Report. The AFN National Chief and Prime Minister have never met to discuss the annual reports as stated in the JCCA Terms of Reference.

CURRENT STATUS

The target launch date for the JCCA website is between Fall-Winter 2023. The JCCA 5-year review report is planned to be completed in January 2024. The JCCA plans to advance a meeting between the AFN National Chief and Prime Minister.

The JCCA Annual Report 2022 focused on strengthening First Nations climate leadership by accelerating First Nations' participation, advancing First Nations Climate Leadership program along with monitoring progress. First Nations regional cases from the Yukon, Treaty #3 and File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council were showcased. The present JCCA federal representatives will be working to including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, another department that should be at the JCCA table.

ATTACHMENTS

1. AFN link for JCCA Annual Report 2022 and additional information. <https://afn.ca/all-news/news/government-of-canada-and-assembly-of-first-nations-chart-a-joint-path-for-new-and-updated-priorities-on-climate-action/>
2. AFN link for JCCA Annual Report 2021.

<https://afn.bynder.com/m/6fdcb3e25dfb74c0/original/Joint-Committee-on-Climate-Action-Annual-Report-to-the-National-Chief-and-the-Prime-Minister-2021.pdf>

3. AFN link for JCCA Annual Report 2020.

<https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/21-0015-JCCA-Annual-Report-EN.pdf>