

Indigenous Protected & Conserved Areas

Environment Funders Canada



On the agenda today:



- What we're learning
- What's at stake
- What funders should understand
- What funders should support
- Challenges & opportunities



But first...

Some of the beautiful places we've covered:



Huu-ay-aht First Nation (B.C.)



Bringing back the buffalo



**Cree, Métis & Blackfoot homelands
(Alta., Sask., Montana)**



Historic protections



N.W.T. First Nations



Innovative conservation models



Mi'kma'ki (N.S.)



Challenges



- Depoliticizing Indigenous conservation & building bridges
- Understanding what formal protections mean in the context of a worsening climate crisis
- Expanding support beyond Indigenous conservation to true sovereignty



What we're learning



- Distinctions in models of funding and governance
- Challenges of long-term viability: staffing, funding, permanence, climate change
- Relationship building is key
- Not all First Nations are ready to tell their stories yet
- Indigenous-led conservation takes many different forms



What's at stake



- Future funding and support for 30x30 and IPCAs in the wake of the election
- Geopolitical and economic upheaval (eg. tariffs and the Ring of Fire)
- Increasing polarization around Indigenous Rights & conservation
- Conflict between economic development and national security versus Indigenous Rights and conservation



What to know



- Indigenous voices in journalism are hard to find, particularly for this kind of work
- Building capacity is a long game
- There is meaningful public interest and support for these stories
- We are still discovering new ways to do this kind of reporting



Opportunities



- Building capacity for Indigenous journalists and storytellers at all levels of the industry
- Creating region-specific positions and opportunities
- Supporting complex (and costly!) multimedia stories on the ground
- Sharing positive impact stories as IPCAs and protections take shape



An aerial photograph of a vast, flat prairie landscape. A large herd of bison is scattered across the dry, yellowish-brown grass. In the upper right, a large flock of birds is flying in a circular pattern against a clear blue sky. The horizon is flat and distant, with some power lines visible on the right side.

Thank you
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