

Collaboration Nation Framework

Framework for a First Nations energy efficiency home upgrade peer network

Report prepared for:

Collaboration Nation Project Team

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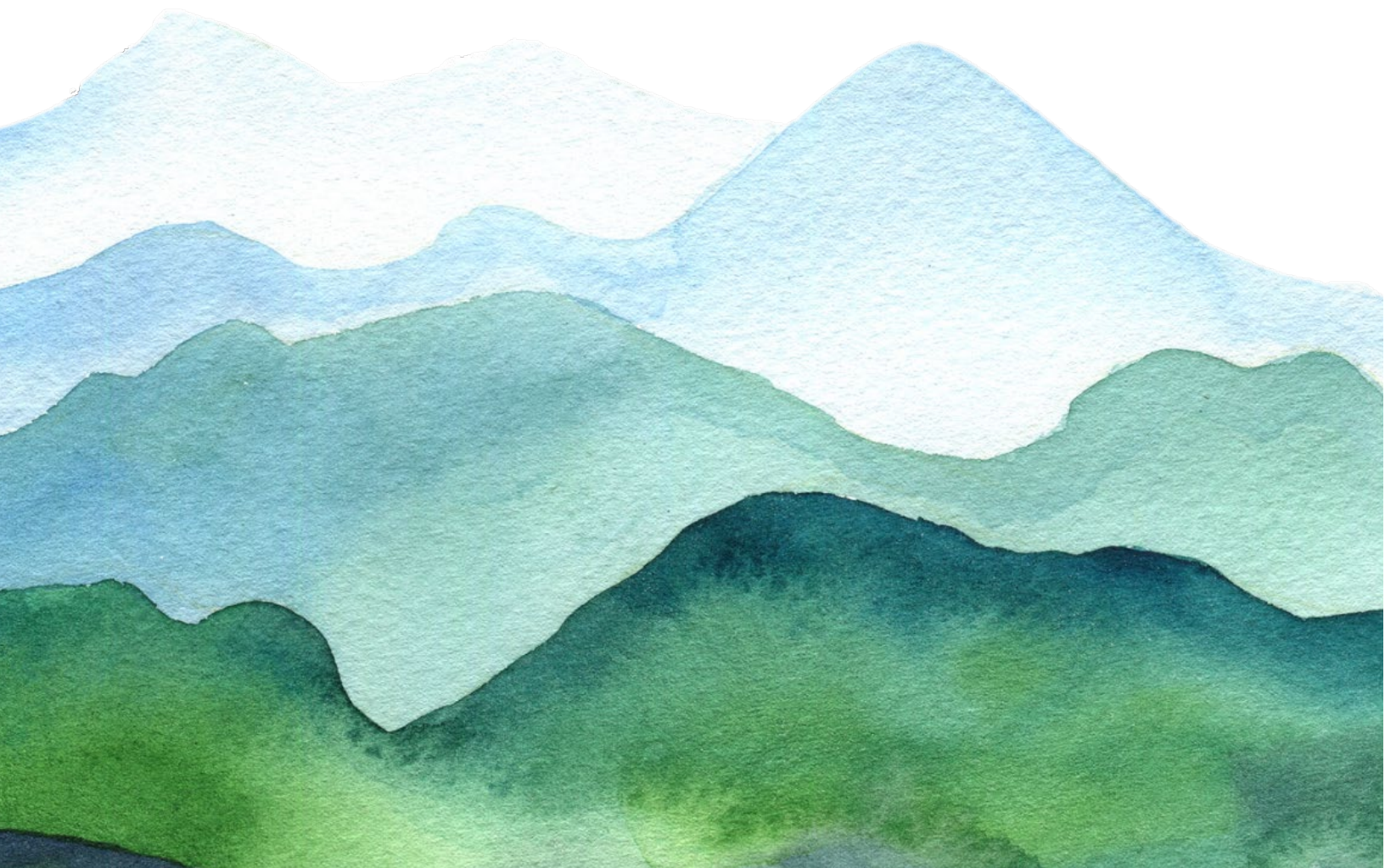


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Executive Summary

This report presents a proposed framework for a First Nations home energy efficiency peer network. The framework is developed for the Collaboration Nation project that called for research and engagement to understand how a peer network could support First Nations to complete home energy efficiency upgrades. A strong need for a peer network was identified specifically for increased knowledge sharing, capacity building, and collaboration among First Nations with regards to home energy efficiency.

The framework is built around three interconnected components:

- 1) **Framework Pillars** to establish guiding principles of peer learning, relationships building and collaboration,
- 2) **Framework Content** which focuses on desired priority areas of information sharing and capacity building, and
- 3) **Framework Structure** that outlines how the network could operate through regular online meetings and workshops, an annual in-person gathering and a centralized online repository of resources and templates.

The report also outlines a **Pathway to Implementation** to support the development and long-term sustainability of the network. Three different **resourcing models** are described with varying degrees of support to participating Nations.

A **collaborative mapping assessment** was undertaken to identify partners that are strongly situated to support project delivery. The assessment identified that Coastal First Nations- Great Bear Initiative is well positioned to be the primary partner of the network, with other related organizations playing collaborative roles. This report also highlights **potential funding partners**, and **next steps** to advance the peer network are described.

Overall, this framework affirms the need and interest for a First Nations home energy efficiency peer network, outlines the priority content areas and preferred network structure, and provides actionable recommendations to support implementation and long-term success.

Introduction

Background and Context

First Nations are climate action leaders in British Columbia (BC), and while demonstrating this leadership across multiple sectors, many face challenges to completing energy-efficiency housing upgrades. Resources to support energy efficiency upgrades exist but are not always accessible or well-known. There is a need for more inclusive and accessible opportunities for First Nations to learn about and advance energy efficiency home upgrades. Past work has demonstrated that peer-networks can serve this function, uplifting First Nations in their role as leaders, and creating a structure for Nation-to-Nation learning.

The Collaboration Nation project responds to the identified need for a First Nations Peer Network for Energy Efficiency Home Upgrades. The framework was developed through research and engagement. Specifically:

- A **background review** of key documents including reports, engagement summaries, and First Nations energy plans
- **Interviews (6) with key organizations** who deliver programming related to First Nations peer networks and home energy efficiency
- A **comprehensive survey to First Nations** about home energy efficiency and peer networks that gathered 62 responses from 30 Nations
- **Focus groups** (2, each with 6 participants) to discuss in more detail the need, design, and content of the proposed peer network for First Nations home energy efficiency

This document builds on the research and engagement and describes a proposed framework for developing an energy efficiency-based peer network.

Rationale

Background research identified many Provincial and Federal programs available to First Nations related to energy efficiency, retrofits, and clean energy. As a result, almost half of survey respondents who recently completed home energy efficiency upgrades had accessed support in some kind (e.g. funding, rebates, training etc.). Many of the programs available to First Nations include peer or mentorship learning opportunities, however there is an identified gap for a First Nations-specific space that brings together available resources in a culturally appropriate way, that supports capacity building and knowledge sharing between Nations. More than 80% of respondents noted that they would be interested in an energy efficiency housing peer network if it existed. To fill this gap the proposed peer network would be:

“A First Nations-led peer network for First Nations in BC that supports knowledge sharing, mentorship, and capacity building related to energy efficiency home upgrades through accessible and culturally appropriate pathways that build off existing strengths and programming in the field.”

Framework Format

This document describes three key elements of the proposed peer network framework:

1. **Key framework pillars** – the guiding principles and foundations elements that underpin the network
2. **Framework content** – the priority topics, resources, and knowledge sharing opportunities that respond to needs identified through research and engagement
3. **Framework structure** – the recommended mechanisms for delivering the network

This document also includes a proposed pathway to implementation and recommendations to support the development, launch and long-term sustainability of the proposed network.

First Nations Peer Network for Energy Efficiency Home Upgrades

1) Key Framework Pillars

Several themes emerged repeatedly in different contexts through research and engagement. This section lists and describes those themes as ‘key framework pillars’. It is recommended that these pillars inform all design considerations for the peer network. The key framework pillars are:

- **First Nations-led**
- **Governance framework that reflects First Nations leadership**
- **Peer derived**
- **Holistic home energy efficiency**

First Nations-led: The peer network must be First Nations-led to ensure First Nations perspectives, knowledges, and Title, Rights, and Treaty Rights are recognized within energy efficiency home upgrade works. First Nations-led will support the network to be accessible to Nations, with content that is relevant and delivered appropriately. This aligns with the First Nations Leadership Agenda recommendation to develop a BC First Nations-led Climate Network.¹ It also aligns with the CFN-GBI Training Scan which recommends future training include an “Indigenous-led or co-developed approach that applies a cultural sensitivity lens, centres Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and is relevant to First Nations in BC.”²

Governance framework that reflects First Nations leadership: To support the First Nations-led approach, the peer network must include a governance framework that ensures First Nations leadership guides the program design and delivery. It is recommended that this includes:

- **First Nations Advisory Committee** – The First Nations Advisory Committee would provide guidance on how to develop and deliver programming so that it is relevant and culturally appropriate. The Committee would develop a cultural statement to guide the work of the Committee and the peer network. The Committee would also serve as an advocacy group to communicate to First Nations and Provincial leaders the importance of the peer network. One idea that came forward during engagement was that the Committee could garner support through a BC Assembly of First Nations resolution. An advisory committee approach is aligned with the Fortis Program Partners in Indigenous Energy Efficiency & Resilience (PIEER) that is guided by a First Nations Program Advisory Council that meet 1-2 times a year. It is suggested that the advisory committee is built upon or in collaboration with other existing committees on relevant subject matter (such as the PIEER Advisory committee or the Indigenous Construction Standards Governance Committee). This approach will help manage the capacity of advisory committee members while reducing the risk of over engagement across similar initiatives.
- **Elder-in-Residence** - An Elder-in-Residence position will ensure participants have the support they need to participate in a culturally safe way. Specifically, the Elder-in-Residence provides mentorship in the form of cultural guidance and support for program design and leads Ceremony to guide virtual and in-person gatherings. In an interview with the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative’s Indigenous Climate Action Network (ICAN) program coordinator, it was noted that the Elder-in-Residence position deeply supported the cohesion

¹ https://www.bcafn.ca/sites/default/files/2026-02/BC%20FNCL%20AGENDA%20FINAL%20REPORT_0.pdf

² https://coastalfirstnations.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CFN_TrainingScan.pdf

of the network and well-being of participants. It is recommended that the proposed peer network has its own separate Elder-in-Residence to advise member of the network directly.

- **Subject Matter Expert Mentorship** - Mentorship is a critical pillar of a peer-network, and there is a specific need for subject matter expert mentorship related to energy-efficiency home upgrades. Prioritizing First Nations mentors is important, but if that is not possible in all cases, non-First Nations experts with experience working with Nations could be considered. Many other related programs, including the Fraser Basin Council Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program (EEMP) and the PIEER program have established mentorship programs that could offer best practices and lessons learned to developing the mentorship program. The Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative ICAN network has also developed a unique, successful mentorship program that includes participatory mentor matching, and mentorship sharing circles, and a program with mostly Indigenous mentors.
- **Opportunities for youth participation** - Inclusion of youth within the proposed peer network is critical for developing leadership skills, building capacity, and fostering the next generation of community energy champions. The network will create meaningful opportunities for youth to share ideas, learn from Elders and peers, and actively contribute to discussion and solutions related to holistic home energy efficiency. By engaging youth in this work, the peer network will support knowledge transfer, encourage innovation, and strengthen long-term community resilience and sustainability.

Peer Derived: Peer networks thrive when they provide responsive approaches and supports that are shaped by the evolving needs of their members. This includes developing materials, supports and discussion topics alongside peer network members and uplifting knowledge that already exists. Centering the knowledge and expertise already in the room allows peer-to-peer learning and identification of topics that require further support. Outside experts should be brought in only when there is a need or gap identified by participants. In this case, facilitators research relevant experts and coordinate their attendance at a following meeting. This responsive approach ensures projects are community driven and is a key feature of ICAN and the Community Energy Associations' Peer Network Programs.

Holistic Home Energy Efficiency Upgrades: The peer network must frame and support home upgrades within a holistic context going beyond energy efficiency to acknowledge how homes are connected to social, political and economic realities. A narrow focus on energy efficiency or climate outcomes overlooks the broader context of capacity constraints, affordability, and on-going impacts of colonialism that impact First Nations. Intergenerational trauma from the residential school system, compounded by ongoing poverty, deeply affects the state of people's homes, how people relate to their homes, and their accountability to their homes. First Nations governance models, including the Sylix Four Food Chiefs, provide opportunities for First Nations-led approaches to holistic home energy efficiency upgrades. Specifically, an interviewee expressed hope for this approach, stating:

"Prior to colonization, we had a role to play, we want to bring that back [through the Four Food Chiefs teachings], knowing that it is going to be modernized. To help members be accountable, and for staff to know it is okay to keep other members accountable."

2) Peer Network Content

The following section outlines the proposed content areas for the peer network that build on the key pillars outlined above. This section identifies the priority knowledge needs of First Nations communities and highlights the key pathways for information sharing, collaboration, and capacity building that can be supported through the proposed peer network. The proposed content categories include:

- **Funding support**
- **Staff training and capacity building**
- **Access to technical experts and technical training**
- **Regional best practices, training, and support**
- **Community education and awareness**

Research and engagement identified a need for additional support on specific topics and recognition of existing programs, resources and initiatives that are already addressing related needs. This highlights an opportunity to build on existing strengths, enhance awareness of available supports, and address remaining gaps through targeted knowledge sharing and collaboration.

The table at the end of this section identifies potential workshop topics that could be developed through the peer network, as well as opportunities to coordinate and complement existing programs (Table 1).

Funding Support

Survey results show that 80% of communities that have recently completed energy efficiency upgrades accessed funding supports. These communities also shared that access to funding was the top barrier in implementing their upgrades. This could signify that while there is funding available, accessing, navigating and completing successful funding applications is a challenge. It could also signify a disconnect between what funding is available, and what communities need funding for to complete their energy efficiency goals.

Specifically, it was identified that Nations are looking for the following support with funding applications:

- Improved awareness of funding programs, eligibility, and application deadlines
- Information and support on how to navigate between builders, funding and rebates
- Support with financial analysis required for funding applications
- Financial or capacity support to engage energy consultants with experience supporting Nations on funding applications and technical requirements

Staff training and capacity building

Training and staff capacity are key barriers to First Nations home energy efficiency. In the survey, they were ranked as the 2nd and 3rd barriers to completing home energy efficiency upgrades. While there are some programs available to First Nations to support with both training and staff capacity, they were not within the top 3 types of support that Nations have recently accessed. These results illustrate that there is a need for more accessible, First Nations specific programs that provide relevant training and bolster staff capacity.

Specifically, it was identified that Nations are looking for the following support with training and staff capacity:

- Salary coverage for Nation staff
- Training on energy management (including how to develop a community energy plan)
 - *Thirty-eight (38%) of Nations did not know if their Nation monitored energy consumption for public buildings, 31% reported yes, they did, and 31% report no, they did not*
 - **Note:** FNLG and CFN-GBI are developing a First Nations Climate Action Plan Guide to be released fall 2026
- Training on project management
- Training and support to develop programming for Youth (e.g. Internship or practicum program)

Access to technical experts and technical training

There is a need for more support and pathways to connect First Nations with technical experts, and to support First Nations participation in technical training. One survey respondent describes a need for:

“Access to technical experts and training for staff and contractors, and material for building community awareness of energy system upgrades, operations, and maintenance”

Specifically, it was identified that Nations are looking for the following technical support and training:

- Information on rebates and how to navigate the rebate process
- How to prioritize projects and homes for retrofits
- The process and supports needed to complete an energy audit
- Access to heat pump maintenance training and support
 - *Eighty percent (80%) of recently completed upgrades are heat pumps*
 - **Note:** CNF-GBI is currently creating a user-friendly heat pump guide to be released Spring 2027
- Procurement of materials for rural and remote communities addressing geographic, transportation, supply chain and cost escalation challenges
- Training on how to navigate BC Building Code and the Step Code
 - *Almost half of survey respondents did not know if their Nation had an existing building standard for new construction*
 - **Note:** BC Hydro is developing a Building and Codes Best Practices Guide for First Nations to be completed Spring 2027
- Training on how to gather energy consumption data, and build data agreements that are aligned with OCAP, so Nations can develop energy consumption baselines
- Information about dealing with mold

Regional Best Practices, Training and Support

There are many different climates in BC which impact the type of home energy efficiency upgrade that is possible and durable. Understanding the regional climate and tailoring supports so they are effective for each community context is essential. While Nations may share overarching goals related to energy efficiency, a one-size fits all approach is not suitable as each Nation is self-determining and unique, with distinct priorities, capacity, and circumstances that must be reflected and respected in program design.

Specifically, it was identified that Nations are looking for regionally relevant:

- Best practices guides to retrofits and upgrades

- Summaries of lessons learned from Nations in similar regions
- Public, accessible case studies grouped regionally that Nations can draw inspiration and learn from

Community Education and Awareness

The role of community education and awareness is critical to the success of home energy efficiency upgrades. Community members must be empowered through education to understand the importance and details of energy efficiency upgrades, and the benefits to their personal comfort, their monthly bills, the communities' well-being, and climate action more broadly. This was described succinctly by an interviewee who stated:

“This is a community issue and there are underlying factors – one of those is education, understanding, and accountability”

Specifically, it was identified that Nations are looking for the following support with community education and awareness:

- Education on how housing energy systems functions, potential and benefits of energy system upgrades, and upgrade operations and maintenance considerations
- Training on how to use BC Hydro customer programs and Hydro Home phone app

Table 1: Possible peer network workshops based off the framework content categories including possible points of collaboration with existing networks and opportunities

Content Category	Possible Workshop	Possible Opportunities for Collaboration with Existing Networks and Organizations
Funding support	Funding support: Understanding the energy efficiency upgrade funding landscape	Indigenous Clean Energy Mentorship Fraser Basin Council First Nations Home Energy Save Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative ICAN Partners in Indigenous Energy Efficiency and Resilience
	Funding support: Developing technical aspects of funding applications (e.g. budgets, financial analysis etc.)	GAP: Need to explore new partnerships or develop material
Staff training and capacity Building	Developing a community energy plan	Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative ICAN Community Energy Association
	Project management 101	Fraser Basin Council First Nations Home Energy Save Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative ICAN Indigenous Clean Energy 2020 Catalyst Program
Access to technical experts and technical training	Retrofits and rebates: How to prioritize projects and navigate the rebate process	Fraser Basin Council Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program Community Energy Association Retrofit Peer Network
	Heat pump maintenance training	Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative ICAN
	Completing an energy audit	GAP: Need to explore new partnerships or develop material
	Gathering and analyzing energy consumption data	GAP: Need to explore new partnerships or develop material
	Best practices and guidance for the BC Building Code and Step Code	Fraser Basin Council Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program Construction Foundation of British Columbia

		BC Hydro Best practices guide on building codes and standards for First Nations [<i>In development</i>] (BC Hydro, Pinna, Origin, and Construction Foundation of BC)
	Best practices and guidance for dealing with mold	First Nations National Building Officers Association
Regional best practices, training and support	A celebration: Energy efficiency home upgrades case studies	Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative ICAN Fraser Basin Council First Nations Home Energy Save & Mentorship Fortis Climate Action Partners Program PIEER Program Indigenous Clean Energy 2020 Catalyst Program
Community education and awareness	Community engagement and education: Best Practices and case studies bringing communities along in home energy efficiency	Indigenous Clean Energy 2020 Catalyst Program Fraser Basin Council Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program

3) Peer Network Structure

The proposed peer network would serve as a platform for knowledge sharing to increase Nations' capacity, support informed decision-making, and build relationships and collective understanding. Research and engagement participants consistently expressed a desire for a centralized and accessible network that could facilitate the sharing of practical information, resources, experiences, and lessons learned related to home energy efficiency.

Participants identified a need for practical tools and deliverables, improved access to existing information and programs, and opportunities to address gaps in current resources through peer-to-peer learning and collaboration. In response, it is recommended that the peer network consist of three interconnected components:

- **Regular online meetings and workshops**
- **Annual in-person gathering**
- **Online repository**

Together, these components would provide multiple pathways for knowledge sharing, networking, collaboration, and capacity building.

Regular Online Meetings and Workshops

Regular online meetings would provide an ongoing forum for peer-to-peer learning, relationship building, and information sharing. A monthly meeting schedule is recommended to maintain momentum and foster consistent engagement, while allowing additional workshops or special sessions to be organized on an as-needed basis in response to emerging topics, funding opportunities, or participant interests.

Online meetings could be used to:

- Share updates on programs, funding opportunities, and emerging initiatives
- Discuss common challenges and solutions related to home energy efficiency
- Highlight successful community projects and lessons learned
- Facilitate peer-to-peer networking and relationship building
- Identify emerging training and resource needs

Building on the proposed peer network framework, a variety of workshops could also be offered through the network. To ensure the network remains participant-driven, workshop topics should be regularly reviewed and confirmed with network members.

Where workshops include external presenters, it is recommended that at least 30 minutes be dedicated either before or after the presentation for peer discussion and networking. This will help ensure that community experiences and perspectives remain central to the network and create opportunities for participants to share knowledge with one another.

Potential workshop topics are described in Table 1.

Annual In-Person Gathering

While online engagement is essential for ongoing communication, participants also highlighted the value of face-to-face networking and relationship building. An annual in-person gathering would provide an opportunity for communities to connect, share experiences, and strengthen relationships across regions.

To maximize participation and reduce administrative and travel costs, the gathering could be held alongside an existing First Nations energy conference where many of the intended participants are already attending.

Participants expressed interest in increasing awareness of existing supports, programs, and networks through a ‘resource fair’ or ‘program showcase’ into the annual gathering. Similar to a trade show or job fair, representatives from the related existing networks and programs could set up information booths and engage directly with participants.

Online Repository

An online repository would serve as a centralized hub for resources, templates, and information related to First Nations home energy efficiency initiatives. Throughout the engagement process, participants identified that many useful resources already exist but are often difficult to locate, dispersed across multiple organizations, or not widely known (e.g. CFN-GBI Training Scan, FBC First Nations Home EnergySave page, First Nations Housing Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) Housing Manager Network, Indigenous Clean Energy Network, etc.). An online repository would improve access to existing resources while also providing a mechanism to address identified gaps through the development and sharing of new tools and materials.

Suggested materials to include in the online repository include:

Templates

- Job descriptions for energy, housing, and infrastructure staff positions
- Community Energy Plan templates.
- Funding application templates and examples
- Project tracking and reporting templates.
- Community engagement and communication materials
- Energy audit templates
- Energy use / GHG calculator

Resources

- Lists of trusted building inspectors
- Lists of trusted contractors and technical service provider
- Funding opportunity directories
- Technical guidance documents
- Training materials and recorded webinars.
- Community case studies and success stories
- Regional contacts and support organizations
- Workshop summaries and presentation materials.

The proposed peer network would create multiple opportunities for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and capacity building through monthly online meetings and workshops, an annual in-person gathering, and a centralized online repository. This structure responds directly to engagement findings by providing useful content and practical deliverables, improving access to existing information, and filling gaps in resources through peer-driven learning and relationship building.

Target Audience

The primary target audience for the proposed peer network would be housing managers, directors, officers and coordinators. Other staff that may also benefit from participating include Operations and Maintenance and Public Works staff and Climate Actions Coordinators (CACs) or Energy Champions. It is

recommended to be flexible with the requirements of who can join to allow each nation to self-determine which staff is best positioned to participate based on local priorities, capacity and organizational structure.

Pathway to Implementation

Establishing a First Nations home energy efficiency peer network will require dedicated coordination, sustainable funding, and strong partnerships to support ongoing engagement, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. Research and engagement findings suggest that while there is significant interest in participating in a peer network, adequate resourcing will be critical to ensuring communities have the capacity to engage meaningfully and consistently over time.

Resourcing Considerations

Key implementation considerations include:

- The cost of establishing and maintaining the network.
- Identification of a lead organization or coordinating body.
- Opportunities to leverage existing networks, programs, and partnerships.
- Whether participating Nations require financial support to enable participation.
- Long-term funding sustainability.

Engagement findings suggest that participation may be limited by existing staff capacity and competing priorities. As a result, providing financial support for participation should be considered as part of the network design.

Potential Resourcing Models

Based on research and knowledge of how other peer network's function, three potential implementation models are proposed for consideration:

Option A: Network Participation Support

- Cost: Approximately **\$50,000 per participating Nation annually**. Based on 10-12 participants
- Supports participation in the network, including
 - Network facilitator (\$10,000)
 - Workshops (\$5,000)
 - Travel (\$10,000)
 - Training (\$10,000)
 - Mentorship opportunities (\$5,000)
 - Access to resources, including database design, and developing new resources identified by participants (\$10,000)
- Assumes existing staff capacity within participating Nations.

Option B: Network Participation Support + Stipend

- Cost: Approximately **\$55,000 per participating Nation annually**.
- Includes the network participation supports outlined above.
- Provides an additional **\$5,000 participation stipend** to help offset staff time and community engagement costs.

Option C: Dedicated Staff Capacity Model

- Cost: Approximately **\$140,000 per participating Nation annually**.

- Includes network participation supports outlined above.
- Includes funding for dedicated staff capacity (estimated at \$90,000 annually) to support implementation of home energy efficiency initiatives and active participation in the network.
- Provides the greatest opportunity for long-term capacity building and implementation of network learnings within communities.

Collaboration Mapping for Project Delivery

The engagement process identified several existing organizations, programs, and networks that are already delivering related training, funding, technical support, and capacity-building services. Rather than duplicating existing efforts, the proposed peer network should seek to complement and strengthen existing initiatives.

A mapping exercise was completed to understand who is best situated to deliver, or be a partner in delivering, the proposed peer network (Table 2). Based on the outcomes from the Table, CFN-GBI are situated to be a strong project delivery partner in this work. The table shows how CFN-GBI have 19 out of 19 of the recommended criteria identified in the table. They are an Indigenous organization with a successful peer network connected to climate action and clean energy. There are also several other organizations with strong overlap of criteria, and it is suggested to explore how to collaborate with them in different capacities.

Table 2 Collaboration Mapping with existing related Networks and Programs

Category	Criteria	<u>Great Bear Initiative – Coastal First Nations:</u> Indigenous Climate Action Network (ICAN)	<u>Fraser Basin Council:</u> Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program (EEMP)	<u>Fraser Basin Council:</u> First Nations Home Energy Save (FNHES)	<u>Fortis:</u> Climate Action Partners Program	<u>Fortis/ BC Hydro/ Province of BC:</u> Partners in Indigenous Energy Efficiency and Resilience (PIEER)	<u>Community Energy Association:</u> Retrofit Peer Network	<u>Indigenous Clean Energy:</u> 2020 Catalyst Program	<u>Indigenous Clean Energy:</u> Indigenous Clean Energy Mentorship
Value Proposition	Peer Network	✓	✓				✓		
	Energy Efficiency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Indigenous Led	✓						✓	✓
	Mentorship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Format	In-person								
	Online					✓	✓		✓
	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Frequency of peer network gatherings	Monthly	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Annually	✓			✓	✓			
	Conferences	✓		✓		✓			

	Regional Pods	✓							
	Subject Matter Pods	✓							
	Community workshops	✓	✓	✓					
	Participation in program is ongoing	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Content	Home energy efficiency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Retrofits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Climate Action	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
	Support to access funding	✓		✓		✓			
	Capacity building	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Proposed Partnership Framework

In addition to working alongside CFN-GBI as a project delivery partner, successful implementation of the peer network will require a collaborative approach, including partnering with other First Nations organizations and potential funders to support the development, implementation and long-term sustainability of the proposed network.

Potential First Nation organization partners may include:

- First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC)
- BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)
- The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)
- First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC)
- Indigenous Clean Energy

Potential non-Indigenous organization partners

- Community Energy Association
- Fraser Basin Council
- Construction Foundation of BC

Potential funders or partners may include:

- Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- BC Hydro
- FortisBC
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Proposed Next Steps

Below are high-level next steps to creating and implementing the proposed peer network.

Step 1: Convene Potential Partners

Bring together key organizations, funders, and program representatives to:

- Share the vision for the peer network
- Present engagement findings and identified needs
- Discuss how the network can build upon existing strengths and programs
- Identify areas of overlap and collaboration
- Understand organizational interests and capacities
- Explore potential leadership and coordination roles

Step 2: Develop a Partnership Framework

Work collaboratively with interested partners to:

- Identify lead organizations and governance structures
- Define partner roles and responsibilities
- Establish funding requirements and opportunities
- Confirm resource commitments
- Develop communication and coordination mechanisms

Step 3: Develop a Pilot Network

- Recruit an initial cohort of participating Nations and an Advisory Council
- Plan an initial meeting at a First Nations energy conference to gather interest and communicate about the network
- Establish the online repository and identify existing available resources
- Develop any low hanging fruit additional resources
- Launch regular online meetings and workshops
- Test priority workshop topics
- Develop evaluation criteria and feedback mechanisms

By leveraging existing programs, building strong partnerships, and providing adequate resourcing for participation, the proposed peer network can create a sustainable platform for knowledge sharing, relationship building, and capacity development that supports First Nations communities in advancing holistic home energy efficiency goals.