



Indigenous-led conservation, Stewardship and the Conservation-based Economy

Presented to FNLC Virtual All-Chiefs Meeting on the Implementation of
the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan

By: Valérie Courtois, Director

Thursday, June 30th 2022

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Who is the ILI?

- The Indigenous Leadership Initiative is a network of Indigenous Leaders who are dedicated to supporting Indigenous Nations in honouring our responsibilities to care for lands and waters.
- We work to advance Indigenous leadership on the land, because ensuring our enduring relationship with our lands and waters is an expression of Nationhood.
- ILI works by invitation from Indigenous Nations. Over the years, we have partnered directly with dozens of First Nations to advance their leadership on the land. We provide technical expertise and support on Indigenous-led efforts, including:
 - Land use planning, also known as land relationship planning
 - Indigenous Guardians programs
 - Indigenous Protected & Conserved Areas (IPCA)

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)

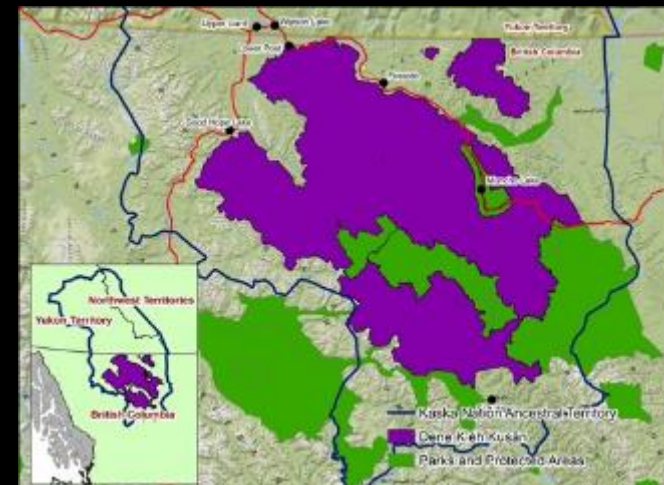
- Not new concept, but defined by Indigenous Circle of Experts report “We Rise Together” in 2018
 - ICE included strong participation from leaders in BC, including Eli Enns (Co-Chair), Chief Gordon Planes and Marilyn Baptiste



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

IPCAs (cont)

- Many of the proposed protected areas in Canada are IPCAs – including some of the largest
 - Seal River Watershed
 - > 50,000 km²
 - Great Bear Lake Watershed
 - Would protect equivalent of 24 years of Canada's annual industrial emissions
 - Dene K'eh Kusān
 - So many others!



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

<https://youtu.be/COlsixxmVu4>

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Indigenous Guardians

- Leadership emerged out of individual First Nations
 - Haida Watchmen
 - Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network
 - Others (Ahousat, Gitanyow, TRT, Tahltan Wildlife, etc)
 - Innu and Unimaki
- First gathering of existing guardian programs in 2014 in Squamish
 - Pursue the creation of a National Network
 - Pursue further funding of guardians from federal government
 - Pursue the establishment of the profession



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Indigenous Guardians

- ILI has been leading advocate for national funding of Guardians
- Canada: since 2016, programs have ballooned from about 30 programs to now nearly 100
- Federal investments:
 - Fisheries guardians 90s
 - Project fund contributions (Forestry programs, Species at Risk, Water quality etc)
 - 2017: \$25M pilot
 - 2021: \$173M @ ECCC and Parks Canada



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Tshinishkumitinau (Thank you!)

- For further information:
 - Indigenous Leadership Initiative
P.O. Box 35014 Westgate
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Z 1A2
Canada
info@ilinationhood.ca
- vcourtois@borealcanada.ca



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE