



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.

INDIGENOUS-LED NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Indigenous leadership. Stronger ecosystems.
Healthier communities. **A better future for all.**



CONSERVE. RESTORE.

Protecting and restoring forests, wetlands, peatlands and other ecosystems.



CAPTURE. STORE.

Increasing nature's ability to capture carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE.

Respecting Traditional Knowledge and supporting intergenerational learning, research and stewardship.



STRONGER TOGETHER.

Creating opportunities for resilient communities, biodiversity and a more sustainable future.

BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM



BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP. NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

KEY INSIGHTS. REAL IMPACT. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Birch Carbon Program Summaries provide Indigenous Nations with quick, easy-to-understand insights from important resources — highlighting what matters most and how it can support environmental stewardship, community priorities, and long-term prosperity.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The most important points from the original resource.



INDIGENOUS FOCUS

Why it matters to your Nation, your lands, and your future.



BIRCH CARBON PERSPECTIVE

Our insights on opportunities, benefits, and real-world impact.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

How this information can create value for your people and territory.



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Direct links to the full document and official resources.



OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to making complex information accessible and relevant for Indigenous Nations so you can make informed decisions, protect your lands, and build prosperity for future generations.



PROTECT
OUR LANDS



SUPPORT
OUR PEOPLE



BUILD
PROSPERITY



SECURE OUR
FUTURE

[BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM](https://www.birchcarbonprogram.com)

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

About This Summary

Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions is a dedicated stream within Canada's **Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund**, designed specifically to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership in natural climate solutions.

Up to **\$76.9 million** is set aside for Indigenous-led initiatives, supporting both capacity building and on-the-ground work that conserves, restores and improves the management of ecosystems while capturing and storing carbon.

Original Publication

Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions

Environment and
Climate Change Canada

This Edition

An educational
companion prepared by
the Birch Carbon
Program for Indigenous
Nations.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

The program recognizes Nations as leaders in natural climate solutions, not participants in someone else's strategy.

Its distinctions-based structure is implemented collaboratively with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, intended to recognize different perspectives, rights, responsibilities and needs.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Benefits can reach past carbon into climate resilience, food security, species at risk, culturally important species, capacity, economic opportunity and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

CONTENTS

What's Inside

01	At a Glance	7
02	Conservation & Restoration	8
03	Management & Capacity	9
04	Indigenous Knowledge	10
05	Measuring Carbon Matters	11
06	Already Happening	13
07	Our Perspective	14
08	The Key Takeaway	15



KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

At a Glance

Up to \$76.9M

Dedicated to
Indigenous-led natural
climate solutions.

Indigenous Led

Nations, communities,
governments and
representative
organizations are
eligible.

Nature and Carbon

Protect and restore
ecosystems while
increasing their ability to
capture and store
carbon.

More Than Climate

Biodiversity, resilience,
food security, culturally
important species,
knowledge and
economic opportunity.

KEY CONCEPT 01

Conservation & Restoration

Conservation

Protecting ecosystems and their existing carbon stores, including through stewardship and forms of land or development-right securement.

Restoration

Inland, coastal and peatland habitats, including work intended to increase carbon capture in vegetation and soils.

KEY CONCEPT 02

Management & Capacity

Indigenous-led management can improve ecosystem health and increase the greenhouse gases stored in natural landscapes. Funding also covers the work that has to happen first:

- Inventories, surveys and monitoring
- Research and conservation planning
- Training and technical capacity
- Carbon-mitigation assessments

KEY CONCEPT 03

Indigenous Knowledge

Eligible activities specifically include gathering and transferring Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, alongside research, monitoring, conservation planning and technical approaches.

WHY THAT INCLUSION MATTERS

It lets climate initiatives be informed by technical measurement and by generations of knowledge of the same lands and waters, rather than choosing between them.

KEY CONCEPT 04

Measuring Carbon Matters

Projects involving restoration, conservation or improved land management are expected to dedicate resources to collecting information, including field data, that can support reporting on greenhouse-gas outcomes.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Stewardship increasingly has to be backed by credible measurement, monitoring and documentation wherever climate outcomes are being quantified. That capacity carries straight over into carbon projects.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



EVIDENCE OF LEADERSHIP

Already Happening

These are not hypothetical projects. In December 2025 Canada announced support for sixteen First Nations Indigenous-led natural climate solutions initiatives for 2025 to 2026.

SEE WHERE THE WORK IS

The program publishes a map of funded projects, which is a practical way to find Nations already doing the work and learn from them.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

The Pieces Belong Together

Canada's own Indigenous-led initiative recognizes that conservation, restoration, improved land management, monitoring, Indigenous Knowledge and carbon measurement work together rather than separately.

THE SHIFT UNDERNEATH IT

Forests, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands are not simply land. They carry measurable environmental and climate value.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

Protecting a landscape can serve climate action, biodiversity, culture, resilience and economy at once.

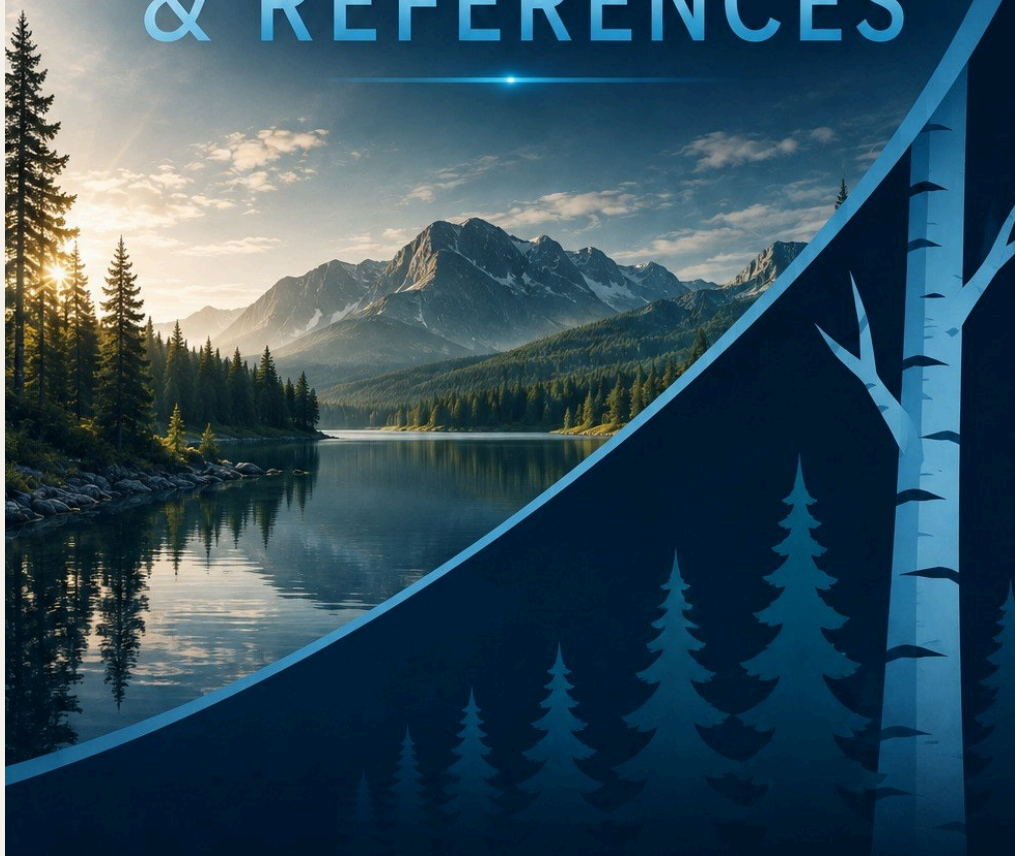
For a Nation weighing carbon opportunities, this program can fund the groundwork: the inventories, monitoring, planning and technical capacity a credible project needs before it exists.

READ ALONGSIDE

Our summary of the wider federal funding directory, and of the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund this stream sits inside.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CANADA

Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions

[Read the original publication ↗](#)



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA · FUNDED
PROJECTS

Map of Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions projects

[Open the project map ↗](#)

Attribution. *Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions* is a publication of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Government of Canada. All rights in the original publication remain with the Government of Canada.

About this summary. This Birch Carbon Program Summary has been prepared as an educational companion to the original publication. Program funding, eligibility and intake periods change, so readers should consult the Government of Canada resource directly. It is not legal, financial, or technical advice.



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.

NATURAL SOLUTIONS.

SHARED PROSPERITY.

Part of the Indigenous Carbon Knowledge
Centre. Plain-language summaries of the
publications that matter most to Nations.

BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM