

# **Social Connectedness Fellowship Program**

Partnership Proposal



**SAMUEL CENTRE  
FOR SOCIAL  
CONNECTEDNESS**

# Partnership Proposal

## **Partner Organization:**

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led organization guided by a diverse group of Indigenous knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders from communities and regions across the country. We believe that Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems are critical to developing solutions to the climate crisis and achieving climate justice.

ICA works on connecting and supporting Indigenous communities to reinforce our place as leaders driving climate change solutions for today and tomorrow. We model our work and organizational structure on systems of free, prior and informed consent and self-determination. By providing communities with knowledge and resources, we can inspire a new generation of Indigenous climate leaders building solutions centered around our inherent rights and cultures.

**Location of Fellow:** Remote, must be a person Indigenous to so-called Canada.

## **Description of Proposed Project:**

ICA's Decolonizing Climate Policy research project aims to investigate the shortcomings and problems associated with Canadian climate policy while at the same time supporting and developing Indigenous-led climate policy - climate policies by and for Indigenous Peoples that will raise up and empower Indigenous-led solutions.

Since the release of the Phase 1 [report](#), our research team has launched Phase 2 of the Decolonizing Climate Policy project. In response to the failure

of climate policy in Canada, we have completed a national survey and are in the process of conducting a series of interviews with Indigenous people across so-called Canada that will be used to formulate a report on Indigenous-led climate solutions. Intertwined within Decolonizing climate policy, we have started research into false solutions with the release of a sneak peek report on the [Dangers and Threats of Nature Based Climate Solutions](#).

In recognition of the critical importance of Indigenous voices within the climate movement, this research will aim to support inclusive climate research, which will foster increased social connectedness by way of ensuring Indigenous climate leadership is represented and supported.

A fellow with a background in policy related to Indigenous or environmental issues would be preferred.

### **Key Deliverables:**

1. Develop a 25-35 page final research report, which will incorporate thematic elements relevant to both Indigenous Climate Action and the conceptual work around social connectedness.
2. Supporting the development of communications strategy for policy work, which can include:
  - a. Website information and blog post on envisioning decolonizing climate policies in so called Canada within the context of social connectedness;
  - b. Social media campaign;
  - c. Direct contact campaign to key people and groups;
  - d. Develop a listserv of "Indigenous Policy" players and community members to invite into policy work.

3. If time permits, the Fellow will assist Indigenous Climate Action in editing their pre-existing & ongoing reports. This can include:

- a. Copy-editing, transcribing, and conducting analysis of prior reports.

### **Overarching Goals:**

1. Engage in research that supports Indigenous Climate Action and builds upon the ideas of Social Connectedness
2. Assist Indigenous Climate Action in their main bodies of research through
  - a. Assisting in the completion of Phase 2 of the ICA's Decolonizing Climate Policy project;
  - b. Assisting in the progression of ICA's research on critique of Nature Based Climate Solutions;
3. Support communication to the general public and to key demographic groups about these two policy research areas;
4. Develop new relationships and organize contacts of Indigenous people in the policy realm, as well as Indigenous community members with potential to become more involved in policy work;

This work will directly assist a key mandate of ICA to develop tools and research that is accessible to Indigenous communities for capacity building around climate solutions. This supports our mission of increasing Indigenous Peoples in so-called Canada to be climate change leaders.

This supports the mission of SCSC on "social connectedness" as we find that Indigenous communities need increased connection to the kinds of leadership and resources that ICA offers - guided by, made by, and made for Indigenous Peoples specifically.

**Contact Details:**

Supervisor(s):

Diane Connors - Director of Operations: [diane@indigenousclimateaction.com](mailto:diane@indigenousclimateaction.com)

Rebecca Sinclair - Director of Education and Programming:

[rebecca@indigenousclimateaction.com](mailto:rebecca@indigenousclimateaction.com)