Renewables in Remote Communities 2025

Conference summary report

July 2025

Bhan Gatkuoth

PEMBINA Institute

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Recommended citation: Gatkuoth, Bhan. Renewables in Remote Communities 2025: Conference summary report. The Pembina Institute, 2025.

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The Pembina Institute is a national non-partisan think tank that advocates for strong, effective policies to support Canada's clean energy transition. We use our expertise in clean energy analysis, our credibility as a leading authority on clean energy, and our extensive networks to advance realistic climate solutions in Canada.

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Together, we can lead Canada's transition to clean energy. Your gift directly supports research to advance understanding and action on critical energy and environmental issues. Canadian charitable number 87578 7913 RR 0001; pembina.org/donate

Acknowledgements

The Pembina Institute acknowledges that the work we steward and those we serve span across many nations. The Pembina Institute recognizes and affirms the traditional territories of the Gwich'in, Hän Dene, Kaska Dena, Tagish, Northern and Southern Tutchone and Tlingit. We respectfully acknowledge the presence of many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples on these lands.

We respectfully acknowledge that our organization is headquartered in the traditional territories of Treaty 7, comprising the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Piikani and Kainai Nations); the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Goodstoney, Chiniki and Bearspaw First Nations); and the Tsuut'ina Nation. These lands are also home to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (Districts 5 and 6).

These acknowledgements are part of the start of a journey of several generations. We share them in the spirit of truth, justice and reconciliation, and to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive future for all.

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Contents

Conference summary

From March 25 to 28, 2025, the Pembina Institute held its fourth Renewables in Remote Communities Conference (RiRC2025) on the shared traditional territory of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in Whitehorse, Yukon. The conference welcomed more than 350 attendees from nearly every province and territory in Canada. Over the course of the four-day event, attendees deepened their commitments to collaboration and discussed current challenges, motivators, and opportunities for renewable energy and diesel reduction.

Guided by an Indigenous Advisory Committee, this year's conference was organized under the theme "empowering generational leadership for a resilient, shared climate future," inviting shared reflection on the ongoing and intergenerational work of the remote and Indigenous-led transition to clean energy.

As part of the program, the Pembina Institute convened community and Indigenous leaders, policy-makers, and experts to share knowledge, deepen relations, and grow networks in support of fulfilling remote and Indigenous energy ambitions in regions across Canada.

Conference themes

Attendees organized and participated in more than 30 workshops, sessions, presentations, and discussions focused on advancing shared goals for diesel reduction, clean energy development, and Indigenous rights in Canada's transition to clean energy.

This report provides an overview of the following nine themes that emerged from the conference, as well as unique insights, recommendations, and calls to action:

1. Local and Indigenous knowledge
2. The role of youth in the clean energy transition
3. Capacity building and peer networks
4. Storytelling and mentorship
5. A just transition that serves the needs of communities
6. Policy that supports inclusive clean energy futures
7. Actions to advance diesel reduction in remote communities
8. Co-governance, rights-based negotiation, and relationship development
9. The energy transition in the North

Top reflections

- Though Indigenous youth have demonstrated the importance of their perspectives and experiences in the energy transition, barriers remain to their full participation in the development of energy projects and policy, including limited capacity and access.
- The clean energy transition is not a one-size-fits-all process — every project, plan, and approach to clean energy development is going to be different because each community has a unique cultural, economic, geographic, and political context.
- Respect for and integration of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and community perspectives is the new norm for capacity-building programs.
- More capacity building resources focused on storytelling, lessons-learned, lived experience, and mentorship are needed to support communities in the early stages of the clean energy journey. These resources can include contact databases, forums, question and answer periods, fireside chats, and conferences.
- Energy transition planning must prioritize community ownership, Indigenous decision-making power, and local job creation.
- A lot of collaborative, long-term, and focused work is still required to more comprehensively understand the technical, regulatory, and policy changes needed to reduce diesel use.
- Rights-based negotiations are critical for advancing the clean energy transition. These negotiations need to be well funded and supported by Indigenous negotiators who can facilitate effective conversations between communities, government, and utilities.
- Regional and cross-territory networks for structured peer learning and territory-specific collaboration can help build on current successes, especially in uniquely isolated regions like Nunavut.

1. Local and Indigenous knowledge

“These communities already have the knowledge and wisdom to take care of their lands.” – Gabriela Lech, Climate Action Network Lead, Coastal First Nations

Effective energy planning requires a thorough understanding of the cultural, economic, geographic, and political context of each community. Without the perspectives of local and Indigenous leaders in establishing this understanding, clean energy and diesel reducing projects cannot move forward effectively or cohesively.

Local and Indigenous leadership and knowledge is required for project success because clean energy projects are not simply about energy and emissions reductions; they’re also deeply linked to self-determination and can strengthen communities, support reconciliation, and promote self-sufficiency.

Key lessons and recommendations

- The clean energy transition is not a one-size-fits all experience — every project, plan, and approach to clean energy development is going to be different because every community has a different cultural, economic, geographic, and political context.
- The risks associated with project development — including costs, timelines, and feasibility — are also unique to the local context. Working with local leaders to understand labour challenges, funding timelines, and community capacity can help minimize these risks.
- Western and Indigenous knowledge need to be treated equally in the energy transition.
- Embedding community values into energy planning leads to stronger projects and initiatives. It is up to each community to bring their values to energy planning and to decide how ambitious they want the energy plan to be.
- Government and industry need to better understand best practices for community engagement so that projects can be designed and implemented to benefit the local community, among others, and save costs in the long run. This means seeking the guidance of community and Indigenous leadership and involving the local community early on in the planning process.

2. The role of youth in clean energy

"What can I do for my community? It's really important to bring us (youth) to the table, and let us speak, and listen." – Ethan LaVallee, Assembly of First Nations National Youth Representative, Yukon

Indigenous youth are the fastest growing cohort of youth in Canada and will represent 45% of the Indigenous population by 2030.[1] Already, their leadership, advocacy, and contributions are leaving a profound impact on how the energy transition is evolving in communities across Canada. Locally and internationally, Indigenous youth are braiding new and traditional knowledge into the energy transition and are reinforcing the role clean, reliable, and affordable energy can play in promoting healing and sustainability.

Though Indigenous youth have demonstrated the importance and impact of their perspectives and experiences in the transition, barriers remain to their full participation in the development of energy projects and policy. These include limited opportunities to participate in energy project development, energy related decision-making, and skills development in their communities. Overcoming these barriers requires committed collaboration across generations,

[1] Indigenous Partnerships Success Showcase, "Corporate Canada urged to harness the power of Indigenous youth." https://www.indigenoussuccess.ca/news/harness-power-of-indigenous-youth#

greater access to decision-making spaces, and a commitment to relevant skills development opportunities for youth.

Key lessons and recommendations

- Indigenous youth can play a meaningful role in developing projects, decision-making, and guiding energy planning in their communities, but need the opportunity to do so.
- Many Indigenous youth must leave their communities to find gainful employment. Clean energy development can provide a pathway to local jobs, enabling youth to remain connected to their communities.
- Indigenous youth use traditional knowledge to inform their perspectives and approaches to clean energy. It is important that older generations share with youth stories, perspectives, and lessons from the past so that they can learn from them and pass them on to future generations.
- Northern youth face a unique set of challenges, including lack of access to mentors, underrepresentation in the energy sector and government, and disproportionate effects of climate change on their communities. Funding, mentorship, and greater access to policy- and decision-making spaces are needed to ensure that the perspectives of youth are represented in energy policies developed in and for the North.
- Older generations see youth as leaders and acknowledge that there is more work to do to include youth in community-led energy and climate action.

3. Capacity building and peer networks

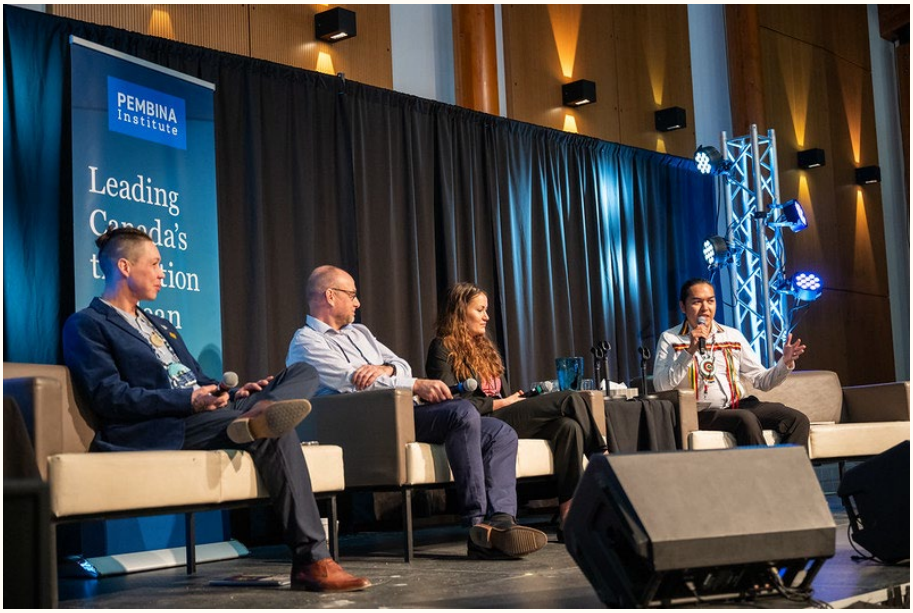
"We try not to go to a community, fly in, talk to a couple of people, and fly out – we try to spend as much time as we can. The main reason we're there is to meet community members and take time to understand what energy means to them." – Robert Cooke, Arctic Remote Energy Network Academy, Co-lead

Over the past decade, a number of organizations, including Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE), Indigenous Climate Action Network (ICAN), and the Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA), have raised the standard for clean energy capacity building. Their work reinforces both the importance and efficacy of capacity-building programs that start with local and Indigenous perspectives, and end with impactful projects that support long-term community goals.

While these programs support a growing network of local and Indigenous clean energy leaders, they are also susceptible to the shifting nature of both government priorities and economic conditions. These factors reinforce the need for long-term funding for clean energy leaders whose work benefits greatly from well-designed capacity-building programs that prioritize connection, culture, and rights.

Key lessons and recommendations

- Clean energy champions can build meaningful change in their communities when they are supported by capacity-building programs that respect and incorporate traditional and local knowledge.
- Capacity-building programs need long-term and reliable funding to ensure that the growing interest in community-led clean energy is met with the resources required to support local leaders.
- Peer networks, like those designed by ICAN and ICE, are important resources that help amplify solutions, address information gaps, and help remote Indigenous leaders connect with others who understand the challenges they face in developing projects and driving change locally.
- Respect for and integration of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and community perspectives is the new norm for capacity-building programs.
- Regional collaboration between diesel-dependent communities could be a way to support faster and more effective clean energy development at scale.



Capacity building and empowering community involvement in the clean energy transition

Alumni and organizers of ICAN, ICE, and ARENA joined RiRC2025 as speakers on a panel discussing the role of capacity building and community involvement in the clean energy transition. Their discussion was recorded live and is available for viewing.

Watch the discussion

4. Storytelling and mentorship

"An hour of knowledge – a quick discussion – may help you with a year's worth of work that you're going to have to deal with." – Norm Curzon, ATCO Electric Yukon, Specialist, Renewables and Grid Modernization

The year 2025 marks ten years since the Pembina Institute first began hosting the Renewables in Remote Communities conference. With the benefit of more than ten years of project development and renewable energy progress, we are seeing the emergence of a new class of energy leaders with experience in advanced, unique and ground-breaking work. Their stories and experiences are critical learning tools and resources for government, utilities, communities, and researchers.

Many more forums, meetings, and gathering opportunities focused on remote energy systems are needed to amplify their perspectives and experiences to the benefit of communities who are at the early stages of their clean energy journey.

Key lessons and recommendations

- The stories and experiences of remote communities and renewable energy developers are critical educational tools that provide unique insights for policy-makers, communities, utilities, and all other actors interested in supporting the transition to clean energy in remote communities.
- More capacity building resources focused on storytelling, lessons-learned, lived experience, and mentorship are needed to support communities in the early stages of the clean energy journey. These resources can include contact databases, forums, question and answer periods, fireside chats, and conferences.
- Storytelling can highlight the unique risks that come with clean energy development in remote communities, especially in the North given funding, transportation, technology, and capacity constraints.
- Convening, storytelling, and relationship building are tools that remain as fundamental today as they were ten years ago.

Shared learnings: What a decade of project development experience has taught us

Listen to the reflective conversations of an expert panel of project developers, community leaders, government representatives, and utilities as they share the lessons they've learned since the first RiRC conference in 2015.

This conversation includes many important lessons about technology, regulation, and the role of storytelling and information sharing in advancing the transition to clean energy.

Watch the discussion

5. A just transition that serves the needs of communities

"A just transition is about building a new economic structure based in reciprocity and healing." – Janelle Lapointe, SevenGen Energy, Council Member

While a "just transition" may not have one single definition, it remains an important framework for understanding the opportunities the transition to clean energy presents for community healing and good and dignified jobs.

A number of principles can help inform the path to a just transition. These include fairness and inclusion within the green economy and collaborative dialogue and visioning with all rightsholders and stakeholders. These principles are especially critical in remote communities, where community participation and engagement in energy planning are critical to the success of clean energy projects and initiatives.

Beyond these principles, a just transition is also about ensuring that leaders and decision-makers learn from past failures in energy development, including ineffective policy and

demonstrably harmful working conditions. Gathering insights and lessons learned from ineffective solutions of the past requires collaboration between government, industry, communities, workers, and young people. Giving each group the opportunity to share their perspectives can ensure that the energy transition benefits all.

Key lessons and recommendations

- Community visioning is at the heart of the remote transition to clean energy. Without local goals and traditional perspectives at the core of project development, the benefits of clean energy — including community, economic, and local workforce development — risk being threatened, minimized, or completely absent.
- Energy transition planning must prioritize community ownership, Indigenous decision-making power, and local job creation. There are many ways to ensure that local and Indigenous perspectives take a leading role in energy planning. Among them are establishing clear agreements between project partners, government, and communities, transparent reporting by industry, and implementing legal mechanisms that respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. All these methods, however, require recognizing and respecting Indigenous governance systems.
- For the local workforce to succeed and fully benefit from new opportunities brought by the clean energy transition, jobs should be healthy, meaningful, and reliable.
- Governments and clean energy developers must prioritize local hiring and training, including pathways for youth to relevant and meaningful green jobs and careers.
- Communities and projects should focus on youth participation and leadership in all spaces, along with recognizing and supporting the ongoing work of elders, trailblazers, and community leaders who have built the foundation for today's clean energy action.
- A just transition is only possible when communities have greater decision-making power and more levers for community ownership. Beyond more jobs, there's a need for deeper changes to energy-focused institutions, systems, and policies to allow communities to have a fundamental say over the role energy will play in their community.

What workers and communities need to keep the remote transition moving

Listen in on a powerful discussion hosted at RiRC2025 on the just transition in remote and Indigenous communities. This discussion is packed with insights on policy and advocacy, career and job pathways and tools for community leadership.

Watch the discussion

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The *Just Transition: Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives, Knowledge and Lived Experiences* report challenges mainstream definitions of a just transition in a green economy. The report is informed by the perspectives of over 100 representatives of Indigenous Peoples from the seven socio-cultural regions of the world.

6. Policy that supports inclusive clean energy futures

“Policies can’t be created in isolation of projects.” – Lynne Couves, Pembina Institute, Director, Renewables in Remote Communities

At its core, policy is about creating systems that allow people to thrive. However, in the existing energy policy landscape, too often ineffective, uncoordinated, and misaligned policy undermines community-led clean energy and respecting Indigenous rights in the energy transition.

While outdated regulations, restrictive policies, and underfunded programs are among the policy challenges facing community-led clean energy, many solutions and opportunities exist to address these challenges. Those solutions are built on meaningful engagement that is broadly inclusive. More perspectives can ensure that energy policy results in the right tools and sufficient resources to drive beneficial change in the energy transition.

In the remote community context, collaborative and innovative policy development is especially critical to ensure that local leaders are supported and that government and other decision-

makers have the information they need to make decisions that will benefit as many people as possible.

Key lessons and recommendations

- Policy-makers should ask themselves: “Who are the communities affected by this policy? Have they meaningfully contributed to our understanding of the problem and the solution?”
- Not only do communities have the lived experience required to envision realistic pathways to diesel reduction, they also hold long histories and knowledge about their community’s energy journey to date. This offers invaluable perspectives and lessons for better policy.
- Bureaucrats and policymakers focused on remote energy systems face many challenges as they develop policy including insufficient capacity, funding, time, and lack of decision-making authority.
- Improved communication and transparency practices between bureaucrats and policymakers are required to ensure that past and future decisions are made with adequate context, avoid replicating failures of the past, and speed up decision-making.
- Policy processes are often slow, hierarchal, and challenging because they’ve been built in colonial contexts that limit Indigenous access and decision-making. Collaborative clean energy policy development provides a path for identifying persistent issues and finding new, more inclusive, and more effective solutions.
- Without trust and committed partnerships between government, utilities, and communities, projects will experience significant delays. However, with reliable and respectful partnerships, identifying problems and finding solutions becomes streamlined and successes are shared more widely.

Policy and regulation to advance Indigenous-led sustainable energy futures

This roundtable discussion delves into the role policy plays in advancing (and sometimes slowing) clean energy development and planning at the local level. Participating in the discussion are government representatives and experts with unique perspectives on the types of action needed to support better policy development and regulatory reform.

Watch the discussion

7. Actions to advance diesel reduction in remote communities

"I think we've had incredible progress on diesel reduction, but we know we have to go further." – Chris Henderson, Indigenous Clean Energy, Founding Executive Director

Motivations for diesel reduction and clean energy development were clear in conference conversations: consumers are facing rising fuel costs, climate change is negatively impacting supply chains, diesel generators are aging and increasingly inefficient, communities depend on large diesel subsidies to offset rising costs, and continued reliance on diesel maintains the energy system status quo. This current state excludes communities from the energy planning process, limiting their ability to own and retain the benefits of energy projects.

Communities, developers, and Indigenous governments face numerous technical, regulatory, and policy-related challenges that impede their ability to drive significant change in reducing diesel use. These challenges, unless tackled, mean that many communities will continue to rely on diesel or see minor gains as the transition progresses.

What is needed is technical, regulatory, and policy innovation, along with better coordination and collaboration between government, industry, and communities.

Key lessons and recommendations

- The transition off diesel is tempered by technical challenges, such as insufficient generation of renewable energy to meet peak demand. This means that microgrids will require diverse energy sources — in some cases including diesel — to maintain stability for consumers.
- Utilities play an important role in the energy transition. They can either slow it or advance it. It is therefore important that utility operators and administrators have the resources to ensure they are educated and supported in relevant areas of the transition, including renewable energy integration on the microgrid and relationship development with Indigenous communities.
- Significant funding shortfalls and low power purchase agreement rates are challenging community goals and abilities to effectively reduce diesel use. More funding, higher rates set above the avoided cost of diesel, and greater collaboration with government, utilities, and regulators are needed.
- Energy efficiency initiatives are being carried out in communities across Canada and are an important source of diesel reduction. These initiatives are helpful in deepening energy literacy and community engagement in local energy planning.
- A lot of collaborative, long-term, and targeted research is required to fully understand the technical, regulatory, and policy changes needed to fully enable the energy transition. More collaborative and diverse research and decision-making bodies need to be created to address these research gaps.
- More diesel reduction is possible but requires wholistic planning and action that integrates electricity, heat, and transportation.
- Technical challenges that need to be thoroughly examined by experts, utilities, governments, and local and Indigenous leaders include the following: sourcing reliable wind turbines in the 1MW size range, integrating electric vehicle charging on remote microgrids, maintaining clean energy equipment, and improving renewables integration and battery storage on remote microgrids.

8. Co-governance, rights-based negotiation, and relationship development

"What you say and how you say it is really critical. This is the basics of negotiating." – Elder Mark Wedge, Indigenous Leader, Negotiator, and Peacemaking Circle Practitioner

Considerable friction between government, utilities, and communities continues to shape the scale, speed, and scope of community energy transitions. These frictions are most often present during contract negotiations, where power purchase rates are decided, or within the regulatory process, where decisions about long-term energy planning are made by the utility (or dictated by the regulator). Tensions are also heightened by limited and poorly designed government and regulatory structures that make community participation in regulatory and policymaking processes incredibly challenging.

These issues are the result of ineffective and outdated colonial systems that undermine the rights Indigenous Peoples have to social and economic development and limit access to shared decision-making on critical issues such as rate structure and long-term energy planning.

Co-governance frameworks and adequately funded engagement processes are critical tools for removing common frictions and ensuring that communities, governments, and utilities can work together effectively to meet their shared goals. Without these tools, there are extremely limited paths to successful clean energy development in remote communities. It is critical that energy planning systems – especially as it relates to regulation and contract negotiations – are reformed to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure that their perspectives and capacities are reflected in critical decisions and processes.

Key lessons and recommendations

- Rights-based negotiations are critical for advancing the clean energy transition. These negotiations should be well funded and supported by Indigenous negotiators who can facilitate effective conversations between communities, governments, and utilities.
- When relationships, rights, and co-development are not at the centre of contract negotiation and policy, the costs of clean energy development are heightened and project completion is put at risk.
- Rigid utility mandates are often the source of considerable friction and frustration, making it challenging for communities to advance innovative work and difficult for utilities to work alongside communities to find clean energy solutions. Addressing these rigid mandates requires a deep review of regulatory processes to identify the needed reforms.
- Respectful relationships between communities, governments, utilities, and industry must be the standard and priority for energy-related planning, solution finding, and negotiating.

The role of regulation in supporting remote diesel grid decarbonization

The Pembina Institute did a review in 2024 of how electricity is regulated in B.C. and the territories. We found that energy regulation and mandates are not aligned with the climate and reconciliation priorities of remote Indigenous communities and the commitments of provincial, territorial, and federal governments. This discussion at RiRC2025 looks at common regulatory challenges and recommendations that can facilitate regulatory reform and prioritize Indigenous participation in the regulatory process.

Watch the discussion

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The *Just Transition Guide*, published by Sacred Earth Solar and Indigenous Climate Action, presents important findings and recommendations on how to ensure that Indigenous rights are embedded in project development and energy policy.

The *Decarbonizing Remote Indigenous Communities* report, published by the Pembina Institute, explores the role of energy regulation in either advancing or slowing decarbonization on remote microgrids.

9. The energy transition in the North

"Policy has taken a long time to catch up with us." – Blaine Chislett, Sakku Investments Corp., Manager, Energy & Sustainability

There is a wealth of exciting and inspiring clean energy work taking shape in the North. A number of community energy leaders are leading impactful energy literacy programs, building new clean energy infrastructure, and supporting their communities through diesel-reducing energy planning. This work often faces strong head winds, including chronically underfunded infrastructure programs, outdated policy, and constrained government and community capacity. These impediments limit the scale of progress and slow the transition in the North. In addition, remote northern communities are grappling disproportionately with climate change impacts, which is causing rising fuel costs, among other negative effects. Communities are having to make difficult investment decisions in the face of increasing energy costs.

Despite these realties, there is a remarkable sense of solidarity and drive to push the energy transition in the North. Together, Indigenous governments, community leaders, and developers are increasing their capacity to advocate for and implement clean energy solutions that support community goals and reduce diesel use. These efforts are often very innovative and showcase

how clean energy aspirations can led to action faster at the community level than within government.

Greater collaboration, including more opportunities to convene, and dedicated attention to the challenges and opportunities in promoting the energy transition in the North are critical to a successful transition and should build on the inspiring work already being done by various communities across the region.

Key lessons and recommendations

- Policy gaps, siloed institutions, inconsistent funding, and lack of accountability around commitments related to UNDRIP are significant challenges for community-led transitions in the North. Collaboration is central to resolving these challenges and ensuring that Indigenous and territorial leaders can develop solutions to improve community energy systems.
- Capacity-building initiatives tailored to the North are required to broaden progress on clean energy. These initiatives should be designed with Indigenous leaders in the North and provide training, skills development and other capacity building at the local level.
- Regional and cross-territory networks for structured peer learning and territory-specific collaboration can help build on current successes, especially in uniquely isolated regions like Nunavut.
- Geater investment is needed in youth mentorship, training, and leadership development to ensure that the next generation can carry northern energy projects forward.
- Revised utility mandates and improved accountability measures are among the items needed to strengthen policy and barriers to clean energy projects.
- Flexible program and project funding timelines, given the unique logistical, capacity, and technical challenges in the North, are required for successful energy development.

Conclusion

Ten years ago, the Pembina Institute began formally hosting the Renewables in Remote Communities Conference. The conference has grown from around 100 leading experts to over 350 for discussions on economic development, sustainability, energy security, and Indigenous energy leadership.

Since 2015, the Indigenous and remote transition to clean energy has evolved significantly through the leadership and determination of communities, industry, government, and environmental and cultural organizations from across Canada. This has resulted in millions of litres of diesel being reduced, substantial government commitments, and a deepened collective understanding of the critical role Indigenous rights play in Canada's transition to clean energy.

At RiRC2025, remote community clean energy leaders were clear on what is still needed for a successful transition to clean energy in remote communities:

- opportunities for youth in the transition to clean energy
- long-term funding for projects and capacity-building programs
- project decision-making and implementation guided by the local community and tailored to the project's specific cultural, geographic, and political context
- open and frequent communication between project leaders, community members, utilities, and governments
- a rights-based approach to reforming policy and regulation to ensure inclusion of Indigenous governments and leaders

Progress would not be possible without the enduring leadership of Indigenous energy champions in communities across Canada. They have illuminated the path to healthier, more affordable, and stronger communities. These leaders continue to inspire the Pembina Institute's commitment to Canada's clean energy future, but they also help us return to a fundamental truth: the energy transition cannot be effective without reconciliation, partnership, and respect for Indigenous rights. RiRC2025 was a testament to this truth, and we are immensely grateful for the generous reminder offered by the energy leaders who joined us this spring on the shared traditional territory of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

With a fourth conference behind us, we remain ever grateful and committed to our role as a convener, listener, and partner to the remote, Indigenous-led transition. We extend our sincere gratitude to each attendee, speaker, and sponsor who committed their time, expertise, and resources to this important event.

Appendix A. Additional conference activities

A.1 Site visits

North Klondike Solar Array

Hosted by Solvest Inc., this tour offered a unique opportunity to explore the North Klondike Solar Array, the first megawatt-scale, grid-tied independent power production project in northern Canada.

Participants learned about the solar panels and their operations, and engaged in valuable discussions with experts from Solvest on their experiences with the project.

Haeckel Hill-Thay T'äw Wind Energy Project

Field trip attendees heard about how the Kwanlin Dün First Nation spearheaded Thay T'äw ("Golden Eagle Nest"), a 4.0 MW project featuring unique turbines with de-icing blades. The project will displace 40 million litres of diesel and offset 100,000 tonnes of CO_2 over its lifetime, critical achievements for Yukon's clean energy future.

Participants were encouraged to engage with experts from the field trip host, Northern Energy Capital, on grid integration, turbine operations, and the challenges of remote renewable energy development.

A.2 Regional rooms

Remote communities are often geographically isolated, with vast distances separating one community from another. These distances make it hard to form peer learning networks and advocate for meaningful policy change based on shared experiences in a given region.

For the first time, the RiRC conference hosted dedicated “regional rooms” to shorten these distances and give attendees from specific regions (British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon) an opportunity to connect and focus on the issues that shape their clean energy journey.

Present in each room were community clean energy champions, policy-makers, utilities, industry representatives and others who share an interest in strengthening Indigenous rights, reducing diesel use, and accelerating the transition to clean energy.

A.3 Film screening

RiRC2025 hosted a screening of *Old Crow a Philosophy*, a movie directed by Erika Tizya-Tramm and Daniel Janke. The screening is described as follows:

> Between 2016 and 2022 the people of the remote northern community of Old Crow, Yukon had a vision. To achieve energy sovereignty on their lands, the young leadership conceived of and brought into being the largest solar power installation in Canada's north. What was the philosophy behind this endeavour?

Old Crow a Philosophy was produced by Northern Town Films Inc., Yukon, for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

A.4 Youth networking and workshops

Taakl̲'awéix, also known as Wilfred Johnston (Yéi Nasné North), led a workshop space at the conference for Indigenous youth. Attendees were invited to participate in drum making workshops to support cultural exchange and youth-focused network building.

Appendix B. Conference attendees

B.1 Attendee demographics by region and sector

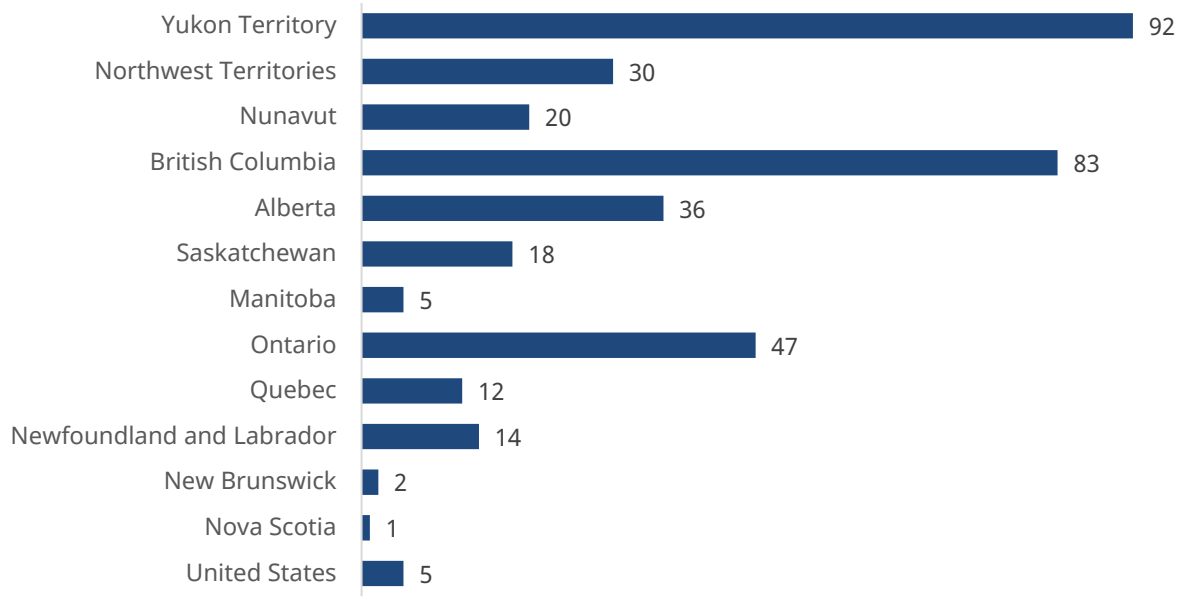


Figure 1: Conference attendees by region

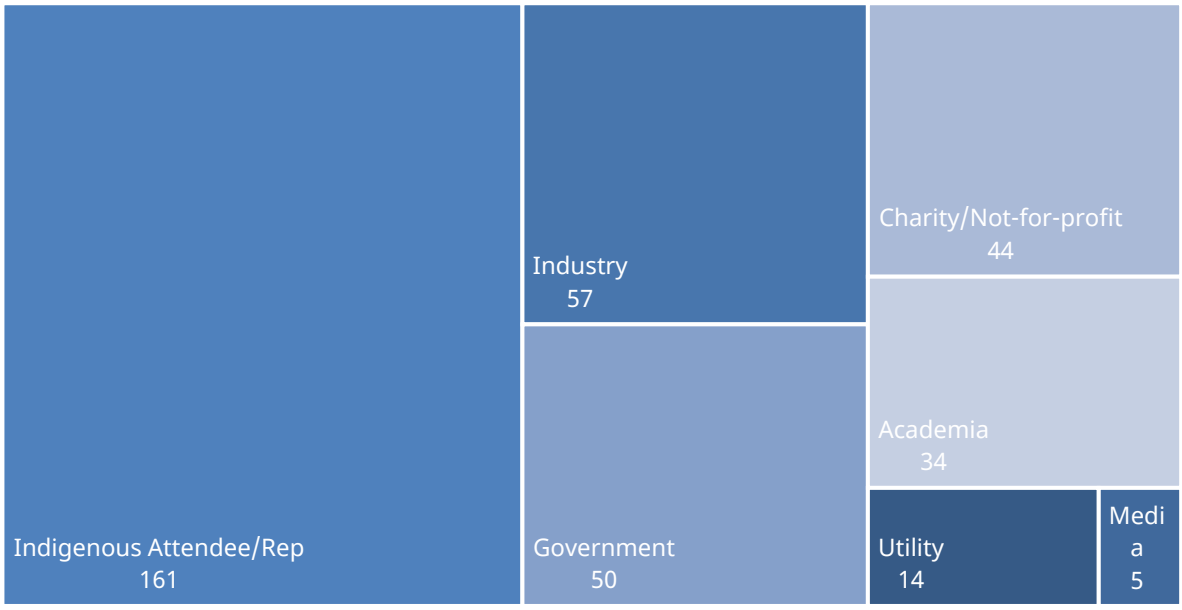


Figure 2: Conference attendees by sector

B.2 Conference registrants

Name	Organization
Abhijit Dhanda	Indigenous Clean Energy
Adeline Thames	Innergex
Adikat Alaka	Qulliq Energy Corporation
Adrian Myers	BC Hydro
Aidan Voyageur	Askiy Energy
Aj Esquega	Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek - Gull Bay First Nation (KZA)
Al Strang	Stantec
Alejandra Metallic-Janvier	Gonezu Energy Inc.
Alex Burton	Pembina Institute
Alex Love	NT Energy
Alexander Corrigal	Sakîtawahk Youth Environment Circle
Alexandre Paris	ORPC Canada
Alexandre Vigneault	3EYOND Consulting Ltd
Alicia Pinksen	BC Hydro
Alison Perrin	Yukon University
Allan Foster	Local Advisory Council, Mt. Lorne
Allison Hall	Wildstone Construction Group
Ally Wright	Green Cat Renewables Canada Corp.
Amanda Drew	Department of National Defence
Amber Polson	Northern Energy Innovation, Yukon University
Amy McClintock	Yukon Energy Corporation
Amy Seabrooke	BC Hydro
Andre Gagne	Yukon Government
Andrée Doucet	Natural Resources Canada
Andrew Cameron	3EYOND Consulting Ltd
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Andrijana Djokic	Nacho Nyak Dun Development Corporation
Angus James Capot-Blanc	Gonezu Energy Inc.
Anil Arora	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
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Name	Organization
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Aura Silva	Raven Indigenous Outcomes Funds
Barb Gray	Northern REACHE, CIRNAC
Bastien Letowski	Northern Energy innovation, Yukon University
Becca Denley	Housing NWT
Ben Derochie	The Government of Yukon
Ben Hancock	Yukon Government
Ben Laserson	NRCan
Ben Power	Solvest
Ben Schonewille	Environmental Dynamics Inc.
Benjamin Israel	Government of NWT
Bhan Gatkuoth	Pembina Institute
Billy Kilabuk	Hamlet of Pangnirtung
Blaine Chislett	Sakku Investments Corp.
Blair Mack	Nuxalk Nation
Blake Robichaud	Indigenous Services Canada
Bonnie Van Tassel	Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprise
Bram Noble	University of Saskatchewan
Brendan Griebel	Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq / Kitikmeot Heritage Society
Brendan Hanley	House of Commons
Bridgette Zacharias	BC Hydro
Britt Carroll	Community Power
Byrne Jillian	Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation
Caitlyn Baikie	Nunatsiavut Government
Calvin Waquan	Askiy Energy
Cameron McDonald	Hamlet of Pangnirtung
Cara Lenoir	Naakah Solutions Inc.
Cara Sanders	Curve Lake First Nation
Carole Monture	Indigenous Climate Action
Catherine Dymond	Natural Resources Canada
Catherine Ford-Lammers	Carcross/Tagish First Nation

Name	Organization
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Chad Bonnetrouge	Indigenous Clean Energy
Charles Pender	Qalipu First Nation
Charlie Lewthwaite	Hedgehog Technologies Inc.
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Chief Ruth Massie	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
Chief Sean Uyenets'echịa Smith	Kwanlin Dün First Nation
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Colleen Lenart	Metlakatla Stewardship Society
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Cyndi Bonn	Tu Deh-Kah Geothermal
Cynthia James	Yukon Development Corporation
D. Drew Dorion	Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies
Dan Guhl	Solvest Inc.
Daniel Cupples	Lhoosk'uz Dene
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Darrell Brown	Indigenous Clean Energy
Darren Huculak	First Nations Power Authority
Daryl Archie	Big Grassy River First Nation
David Benton	Gitga'at First Nation
David Lovekin	Cascade Institute
David Setah	Xeni Gwet'in Ent (Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Gov't)
Dawn Bedell	Metis Nation Saskatchewan
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Derek Funk	Finning Canada
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Devant Maharaj	ECO CANADA
Devon Felker	West Point First Nation
Devon Morin	Samson Cree First Nation
Devon Yacura	Balance Environmental Services
Douglas McKinnon	Sha Shäw Corporation
Duane Hennig	Integrated ProAction Corp
Duane Smith	Inuvialuit
Duncan Elliot	EvLo Energy Storage
Duncan McInnis	ATCO Electric Yukon
Dylan Heerema	Ecotrust Canada
Dylan Wiederspohn	Pioneer Infrastructure
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Ernest Douglas	Qulliq Energy Corporation
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Name	Organization
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Gemma Pinchin	QUEST Canada
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Geoffrey Cartwright	Teslin Tlingit Council
George Nerysoo	Legislative Assembly
Gordon Van Tighem	Various boards
Grace Nakimayak	Paulatuk Energy Working Group
Graham Anderson	Ecotrust Canada
Graham Lovely	MCW Group of Companies
Graham MacDonald	Sha Shäw Corporation
Grand Chief Herb Norwegian	Dehcho First Nation
Grand Chief Peter Johnston	Council of Yukon First Nations
Grant Sullivan	N/A
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Greg Thompson	Kwanlin Dun First Nation
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Heather Shilton	Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation
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Janelle Lapointe	SevenGen Energy
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Jeff Jones	The Globe and Mail
Jeff Quibell	Falcon Engineering
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Jennifer Lisle	CIER
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John Serjeantson	Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors
John Streicker	Government of Yukon
John Vancamp	Stand Alone Energy Systems Ltd.
Johnny Nassak	Tarquti Energy
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