



A SHARED Future International Advisory Committee Meeting – July 21

Hello A SHARED Future affiliates and friends! We hope you are all getting a chance to connect with the land and each other in new and exciting ways as we continue to face this global challenge. The research program has continued to move forward, albeit at a slower pace. Thank you to the International Advisory Committee members that joined us in July for a much needed discussion around social injustice, racism, police brutality, and energy.

If you have any big news, a conference or funding announcements you'd like to share, or if are interested in getting involved in A SHARED Future, you can contact Marc Calabretta at [marc.calabretta@queensu.ca](mailto:marc.calabretta@queensu.ca). We are always looking for extra hands on deck!

## Highlights

### ASF Connect

This month, we highlight two women from within the A SHARED Future network who are doing incredible work in the areas of renewable energy and gender-based health advocacy.

We spoke with Alicia Campney, a recent Juris Doctor and Master's graduate from Osgoode Hall Law School and York University. Alicia is Articling with the Regional Municipality of Durham while also working on publishing findings from her Master's research, entitled *Indigenous Participation in Clean Energy Activities in Canada: Passive Participation or 'Community Energy'?* Alicia took the time

to speak with us about climate justice, meaningful Indigenous engagement in renewable energy developments, and her connection to the Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy research project.

### Hi Alicia, thank you for speaking with me today. Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I'm Mohawk and European-Canadian. My mother's side of the family is from Tyendinaga and I grew up in Durham Region, Ontario. My grandfather and one of my uncles became members of the Mississauga's of Scugog Island when I was a child, so I also grew up spending time in that community.

I am pursuing a career as a social justice lawyer. In particular, I am most interested in practicing environmental, Aboriginal law, and/or human rights. I am also very interested in continuing to do research.



Alicia Campney  
Find her [on Twitter](#)

## June – July 2020

Issue 2020-04



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### What areas of research are you passionate about?

I am most passionate about climate change mitigation, energy and climate justice, especially in relation to Indigenous peoples and communities within Canada, and clean energy. My Master's area of concentration was "Climate Change Mitigation and Canadian Law" and my Major Paper was focused on exploring Indigenous participation in clean energy activities in Canada, and exploring the link between said participation, community energy, and Reconciliation.



Alicia exploring Bow Falls, Banff after the I-WIRE Gathering

### You recently defended your Master's of Environmental Studies Major Research Paper. How did this project end up coming about?

When I entered the Masters portion of my studies I was hired to be a Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Christina Hoicka, Associate Professor in Sustainable Economics in York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies, and later she became my Supervisor. I began to understand in greater depth from my conversations and work with Christina that climate change mitigation is largely dependent on the clean energy transition, which is needed on a global scale. I also began learning about community energy and the trend in Canada for bottom-up climate action.

When it came time for me to commit to a research topic, I had this in mind and also knew I wanted to explore a climate justice issue pertaining to Indigenous

communities in Canada. Christina guided me toward exploring Indigenous participation in clean energy activities in Canada, with emphasis on the forms of ownership of and control over clean energy projects.

Initially, my research was focused on identifying clean energy projects with Indigenous participation that are >1MW in Canada, and the forms of ownership or control involved (e.g. wholly Indigenous-owned projects, joint ventures, partnerships, energy co-operatives, etc.) which allowed me to compare the trends with Indigenous communities to those of non-Indigenous communities in Canada. Although I was unable to find publicly available information for every project at the time, I saw mostly partnerships between Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous entities being the most dominant form of ownership, so exploring the structure of said partnerships to discern the level of equity held by Indigenous communities (tending to be 25% or less) became important for my research.

The partnerships and corresponding structures were very interesting findings, especially since municipal government ownership and energy co-operatives were the most dominant forms in non-Indigenous communities according to Hoicka and MacArthur (2018), with partnerships only comprising 6% of the non-Indigenous projects in Canada in that study.

A literature review, as well as the findings from my research, pointed to the fact that partnerships with minority equity shares are quite common for Indigenous communities. This got me thinking a lot about whether and how Indigenous participation in clean energy activities contributes to Reconciliation, and also the potential link between community energy and Reconciliation. I ended up expanding the focus of my paper to include an exploration of this as a result.

### That is a very interesting research trajectory. Often, research means rethinking some of the ideas we initially start out with. Did you have any eye-opening experiences that impacted your research?

I attended several events focused on Indigenous participation in clean energy

activities while working on this research, including I-WIRE. I was able to connect with Indigenous people who are working in this field as a result. I had several conversations with some of them about my research, and it was very eye-opening.



Alicia and Dave Borins at Bullfrog Power, after Alicia presented her MES. Bullfrog sponsored Alicia in attending the SevenGen Indigenous Youth Clean Energy Summit in Tsuut'ina Nation, Alberta.

In particular, I learned that the form of ownership and amount of equity held by an Indigenous community alone are not necessarily indicative of a project's contribution to Reconciliation. While it was tempting to view projects that involve a partnership between an Indigenous government and a non-Indigenous corporation where equity for the Indigenous community is quite low somewhat negatively, I was reminded that each project really does need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The community may have preferred the partnership and its corresponding structure for various reasons – they may not have wanted to assume all of the financial risk, may have lacked capacity, etc. Likewise, equity shares within a partnership may not necessarily dictate the level of participation of an Indigenous community in a given project. Moreover, the revenue that is generated from one successful project along with the capacity that can be built through the experience may make greater involvement in subsequent projects more feasible.

These insights definitely impacted the way I viewed and analyzed the results of my research and helped me identify limitations of my study.

### Could you tell us a bit about your experience with the Indigenous

## Women in Renewable Energy (I-WIRE) Gathering?

I-WIRE was such a wonderful experience! Over the course of a few days, we shared many laughs as we learned about one another, what sparked our interests in renewable energy and the obstacles we have overcome to get where we are. I was and still am in awe of how resilient we are.

I was both very excited and nervous to attend initially, but I am so glad that I did! The research team and attendees are genuinely wonderful and were very welcoming. I was also struck by the encouragement, support and acceptance that we offered to one another without hesitation. I remember leaving the Gathering feeling grounded and focused on my goal of contributing to climate change mitigation and climate justice for Indigenous communities.

I also attended a few other events focused on Indigenous participation in clean energy activities last year, such as SevenGen, an Indigenous youth-led conference. I met of the organizers of this incredible event, Disa Crowchief, at the I-WIRE Gathering, which is how I learned of SevenGen. I was pleasantly surprised to see numerous folks from I-WIRE at that event, as well as at a few others I attended. We began building relationships at I-WIRE and it was great to be able to continue to do so at subsequent events. I am still connected with many of these women and we continue to support and cheer one another on.

## Now that you have defended your Master's, what's next?

I am currently working on publishing a revised version of my MES Major Paper with co-authors Dr. Christina Hoicka and Katarina Savic (MES Candidate, 2020). We all work together in the [Social Exergy & Energy Lab at York University](#). Our paper is currently under review at an international peer-reviewed journal, which we are very excited about!

Katarina's MES Major Research project, titled "Reconciliation and self-determination through renewable energy for grid-connected First Nations" also builds off of this study. Katarina's project focuses on how renewable energy can contribute to reconciliation and self-determination for grid-connected, as

opposed to off-grid, First Nation communities in Canada. It looks at which Indigenous legal form (the political or economic branch of the community) and which project governance structures create more meaningful Indigenous ownership and control. Katarina, Christina and I are planning to work together to publish this as well.

Moving forward, I will be practicing law and hope to continue to do climate change mitigation and climate/energy justice research, focusing on Indigenous communities. I hope to be called to the bar by the end of 2020 and am also considering pursuing a PhD.

## ASF Connect: Hollie Sabourin

Next, we spoke with Hollie Sabourin, Policy Advisor with the Native Women's Association of Canada. She is Co-leading the CRGBA project alongside Jeff Masuda and is a member of our International Advisory Committee.



*Hollie and ASF Team Members at the December Retreat*

## Hi Hollie, thank you for taking the time to chat with us about your role within the Native Women's Association of Canada and A SHARED Future. Tell us a bit about yourself!

Hi! It's my pleasure. I recently finished my Bachelor of Social Work at Ryerson University but live and work in Ottawa on the traditional and unceded land of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people. I've recently started thinking about grad schools to do my Master of Social Work, so that's really exciting. I'm the first generation in my family to attend post-secondary, so the world of academia was one I was never very familiar with. It's a similar experience for me as being Métis but not having much information about my background, so I've often felt like an outsider in these spaces. In the past I've felt like academia is a restricted, gatekept,

sterile world but my experience with ASF has showed me that there can also be a lot of warmth and community and acceptance found in it as well.

## Can you tell us a bit about Native Women's Association of Canada and your role there?

NWAC is really interesting to work at because it's still a somewhat young organization (founded in 1974) but has been able to accomplish a lot of its mandate - to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women, girls and gender-diverse people – while also having to be continuously evolving to respond to the also evolving culture and priorities identified.

NWAC is also interesting because it's the only National Indigenous Organization aiming to represent the national voice of Indigenous women and has done a lot of great political advocacy, especially in regards to MMIWG and prison reform. I attribute that to the really brilliant, empathetic and dedicated staff that I feel lucky to work with.

I was originally hired as a policy advisor in the health unit, working to create and advance effective advocacy and communication strategies and develop policy recommendations on Indigenous health and resiliency but I've started transitioning to a new role in the RED Path Project, which works with women incarcerated at three federal correctional institutions and a Section 81 Healing Lodge in Edmonton, a 16-bed facility for federally-sentenced women offenders which also serves as a community residential facility for women on conditional release.

## What was your first exposure to A SHARED Future?

Another responsibility as the policy advisor was to apply a culturally relevant and gender-based analysis to relevant health policy and legislation, which is where I was first exposed to ASF through NWAC who were partnered together through CIHR's Partners for Engagement and Knowledge Exchange program. In that position I assumed the role of NWAC's half of the sex and gender co-champion team (with ASF's Jeff Masuda)

## How does your role within NWAC complement the work you do with A SHARED Future?

ASF is obviously heavily entrenched in the world of renewable energy projects and academia (both things where many concepts go over my head) and there's so many brilliant people involved in the project that I wasn't quite sure where I'd fit in. But when I met so many of you at the December retreat and had so many great conversations, it was obvious we all had many common goals and values - including ensuring that our work takes into consideration culturally relevant understandings and implications of gender. I think my role within NWAC complements the work that I get to do with ASF because I'm able to bring a community voice, as someone who isn't deeply entrenched in academia but rather brings to the table the knowledge that comes with lived experiences in the community of gender-based violence, to this knowledge exchange while getting real, tangible examples of what culturally-relevant gender-based analysis can look like in practice in areas that NWAC hasn't had a lot of experience.



Hollie and ASF Team Members at the December Retreat

## Is there anything else you would like to share with the group?

ASF has been a really great experience for me so far. I've had experiences where your presence very much feels like a tokenistic thing, like someone has invited a National Indigenous Organization to cross the X off a box, and you're there for show. ASF isn't like that; I feel very much like the exchange is mutually beneficial and appreciated. I'm really grateful for this experience – miigwetch!

## Project Updates

Here is what Project Leads have to say this month:

### Gikinoo'amaagewin Wiigwaam (Teaching Lodge): Supporting M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre's Leadership on Land Stewardship and Urban Climate Transition in Owen Sound/Saugeen Ojibway Territory

**Co-Leads:** Paul Nadjiwan, Karen Houle, and Jeff Masuda

**Team Members:** Diane Giroux, Renee Abram, Diana Lewis, Carlos Sánchez, Anna Anbalagan, and Julia Moreau

**Advisory Committee:** Theresa O'Connor, Susan Staves Schank, Hillary Trudeau, Ron Root, Shane Chegahno, Nick Saunders, Shari Huber, Anne Marie Shaw, Victoria Serda and Helen Doyle

**Current Status:** Project on hold due to COVID19.

**Update:** As some parts of Ontario enter into Phase 3 of reopening, our community partner, M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre, is preparing to offer in-person services by mid-August. Our research team is excited to reconvene in person as soon as it is safe and feasible to launch this project!

### Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy (I-WIRE)

**Co-Leads:** Naatoi'Ihkpiakii (Melissa Quesnelle) and Heather Castleden

**Project Assistant:** Melody Wise

**Advisory Committee:** Barbara Dumont-Hill, Tanna Pirie-Wilson. One position open

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned

**Update:** After a couple of quiet months, the I-WIRE project is making headway! Heather and Melissa will be sending individual film footage from the I-WIRE Gathering to each participant, asking them what pieces of their interviews they feel is most important to share. This feedback will be given to Cathy Martin as she prepares the final cut of the film.

### Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI

**Co-Leads:** Mary Beth Doucette, Lisa Young, and Stan Johnson

**Project Assistant:** Carolyn Barber

**Advisory Committee:** Elder Albert Marshall and Cheryl Bartlett

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned.

**Update:** The Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI project team is feeling healthy and grateful to be living in Unama'ki during this challenging time. Mary Beth and Carolyn continue to analyze interview data and discuss with community co-leads how best to present research findings back to members of the CEPI. Given COVID restrictions, a series of virtual knowledge sharing sessions with CEPI members over the fall and winter is one avenue being explored.

With support from Canada Summer Jobs, CBU Student Trinity Nicholas will be working with the project until the end of August as a Research Assistant. Trinity is applying her passion for history and academic research in helping us build a cohesive understanding of the CEPI's history. Project Research Assistant Shaniya Vance recently graduated with her Bachelor of Arts Community Studies from CBU. She will continue to work part-time with the project, assisting with interview coding.

### We Lived This Way Before - Tobique First Nation

**Co-Leads:** Diana Lewis, Tanna Pirie-Wilson.

**Research Assistant:** Serena Mendizabal

**Project Coordinator:** Jennifer Sappier

**Advisory Committee:** Elder Ramona Nicholas, Laura Turnbull (Sex and Gender Project Co-Champion), Asha Bear (Youth)

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned. We continue to be flexible to accommodate COVID demands.

#### Update:

We have recently hired a Project Coordinator in TFN to work with the team and one student to work with Serena on educational programming.

## Perspectives Among Indigenous Youth on Energy and Food Sovereignty

**Co-Leads:** Hannah Tait Neufeld and Chief Gordon Planes

**Advisory Committee:** TBD

**Current Status:** Proceeding as planned

**Update:** T'Sou-ke First Nations has been focused on assisting their citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, progress on the project has slowed. Chief Gordon, Hannah, and Brianna have organized a meeting to discuss a manuscript to be published based on Brianna's Master's research. Hannah is hoping to be able to travel to T'Sou-ke to complete the remaining data collection in the fall.

## Advancing Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis in Indigenous Research on Renewable Energy Futures and Health

**Co-Leads:** Jeff Masuda & Hollie Sabourin

**Project Assistant:** Carlos Sánchez, Anna Anbalagan

**Advisory Committee:** Programmatic Steering Committee

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned.

**Update:** The first version of our 'Living Compendium' of decolonizing gender resources is now on the A SHARED Future's webpage! Anyone can access it by visiting <http://asharedfuture.ca/>, scrolling down to the 'Resources' section, and clicking on the report's cover page. We are also preparing the second version of a report that delves into the understandings of decolonizing gender considerations in research by our A SHARED Future team members, as well as our various and context-dependent implementation approaches. The report draws from interviews with Principal Investigators that are part of A SHARED Future and a sharing circle that brought together ASF's academic and community leaders.

## Working Towards Energy Security, Self-Determination, and Reconciliation: A Collaborative Analysis of Natural Resources Canada Off Diesel Initiative

**Project Lead:** Heather Castleden

**Manager:** Derek Kornelsen

**Advisory Committee:** Naatoi'Ihkipiakii (Melissa Quesnelle), Ken Paul, Diana Lewis, Siobhan Slade, Vince Robinson

**Current Status:** Proceeding as planned.

**Update:** Our critical program analysis of NRCan's Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative continues to progress well. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we've shifted to virtual meetings and phone calls to follow up with participants regarding our ongoing analysis and publication strategies. On July 8 and 15, we also had two excellent virtual meetings regarding our analysis and publication plans with our Advisory Committee for this project.

These meetings also enabled our team to meet our newest member, Alexander Makin. Alex is beginning his PhD at Queen's and has lived and worked in Nunavut for the past eight years as a teacher and later as a college instructor. His interests in Indigenous autonomy and ownership, education and job opportunities for youth, and the potential for reconciliation in clean energy contexts make for a great addition to the team. Welcome Alex!

Thanks again to all those who have shared their perspectives and stories with us so far. While virtual meetings have been working well for us, we very much look forward to meeting again in-person with our Advisory Committee as well as with the project participants in the (hopefully not-to-distant) future as we continue these important conversations.

## Towards Energy Security in NunatuKavut

**Co-Leads:** Debbie Martin, Amy Hudson.

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned.

**Update:** The research team recently had an article published in *Energy Research & Social Science*, entitled 'Off-grid energy sustainability in NunatuKavut, Labrador:

Centering Inuit voices on heat insecurity in diesel-powered communities. You can view the full publication [here](#).

## Exploring Relations, Experience and Ways of Knowing in an Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Program of Research

**Lead:** Sarah Rotz, Assistant Professor and A SHARED Future Associate

**Project Assistant:** Johnathan Rose

**Advisory Committee:** Simon Brascoupe and Cheryl Bartlett

**Current Status:** Project proceeding as planned.

**Update:** Our project has progressed into a draft manuscript entitled "Moving Beyond Sex and Data: Structurally Shifting Sex and Gender Analysis in Health Research." Working from recent developments in sex and gender conceptualizations, this paper examines the current concepts and practices of gender-based analysis in health research within CIHR and EHSI research. We examine how SGBA has been integrated into research programs, such as the extent to which frameworks of intersectionality, positionality and reflexivity have been applied.

Our findings indicate that: (a) attention has focused on issues of representation (both human and data) while deeper justice issues—and attendant concepts of intersectionality, positionality and reflexivity—continue to be ignored; (b) quantitative issues, topics, and approaches are separated from and often prioritized over qualitative; and (c) CIHR can improve and expand its knowledge, training and funding infrastructure and better support researchers to conceptualize and apply SGBA frameworks that are grounded in an understanding of sociopolitical structures of white supremacy and colonialism, and how these structures shape our research and our lives.



## Publications & Reports

**The Pembina Institute** has released a new report, titled: *Diesel Reduction Progress in Remote Communities*. Check out the [research summary](#) for estimates of energy use in remote communities and details of diesel reduction projects from the past several decades. The report helps us understand the current state of diesel reduction – in terms of reducing demand as well as dependency. The report highlights all the progress already made in this sector, and identifies opportunities for further social, economic, and community enrichment. Researchers will continue to use the [modelling](#) approach to continue to track progress in this field.

Further discussion on policy and regulatory environments, as well as market frameworks that account for externalities and costs (social, environmental, health) of diesel reliance position us well for the upcoming [Renewables in Remote Communities](#) conference in 2021.

Here are some quick facts from the [media release](#):

- Over the last five years, through energy efficiency measures, renewable heat and electricity, and grid connections, remote communities saw a combined total diesel reduction of over 12 million litres per year.
- In 2020, diesel use in remote communities is estimated at 682 million litres per year; two-thirds for heat and one-third for electricity.
- From 2015-2020, renewable energy projects nearly doubled across remote communities compared to the last 40 years.
- By 2020, remote communities had installed more than 11 times as much solar capacity as they had in place in 2015.

**Brianna Poirier**, Project Assistant for Perspectives Among Indigenous Youth on Energy and Food Sovereignty, has finished her thesis and is moving on to exciting opportunities in Australia, including transitioning her current work into a PhD! You can check out her thesis [here](#):

*Poirier, B. (2019). From the ocean floor to the mountain top: Using the renewable energy of Mother Earth to grow food (Doctoral dissertation).*

**The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment** have released a 30-page “[Health Recovery Plan](#)”, in response to an open letter calling on G20 leaders to create a green and healthy recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides a set of 25 recommendations for building a new, healthy, and sustainable Canada that will meet its 2030 net-zero emissions goals.

The first three recommendations are:

1. Establish a decarbonization framework that includes a legislated net-zero 2050 target, require policymakers to set five year carbon budgets and impact reports, and establish an expert climate advisory committee to monitor, report and advise Parliament on emission reductions and targets and to audit progress.
2. Make the necessary investments in renewable energy production, energy storage capacity, and long-distance transmissions lines to put the country on track for net-zero electricity generation by 2040.
3. Fund skills training programs to support the just transition of workers into renewable energy.

## News Items

### Klemtu receiving \$4.6 million to transition to hydroelectric

The Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation has received funding from British Columbia's Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program to modernize their hydroelectric facility. The community hopes to reduce their current reliance on diesel and create savings through the transition to hydroelectric. They hope to reinvest those savings back into the community by building a new wastewater treatment plant, a water treatment facility, new housing, and new community spaces. These upgrades are expected to reduce carbon emissions in the community by 11,160 tonnes

Reduction of diesel in Klemtu is part of a larger, province-wide plan to reduce diesel consumption in remote communities by 80% by 2030. Read more [here](#).

### COVID-19 illustrates the forthcoming difficulty of meeting climate targets

[This](#) opinion piece in CBC details how difficult it will truly be for countries to meet the global climate targets under the Paris agreement. Despite the fact that the world experienced its largest decline in energy demand since the Second World War, this decline is still not enough to reach emission reduction targets. This shows that radical action is needed, and simple, individual-level behavior change is not enough. Systemic action at all levels is needed – governments have shown they will act quickly in the face of danger, but will they act on climate change?

### Dakota Access Pipeline Halted

A Federal judge has ordered the flow of oil through the Dakota Access Pipeline to be stopped in the wake of a court decision where it was determined that a proper environmental impact study had not been performed, meaning the pipeline had been operating illegally. Read more about it [here](#)

Thank you to those who shared news articles with us. If you read an article or see a multimedia piece that you think fits the A SHARED Future research program, we would love to see it!

Please send all content to [marc.calabretta@queensu.ca](mailto:marc.calabretta@queensu.ca)