

RUN OF SHOW – FROM TRANSACTIONAL TO TRANSFORMATIONAL: CENTERING RELATIONSHIPS IN CLIMATE ACTION (ADAPTATION FUTURES 2025)

Length: 45 minutes

Format: Hybrid (in-person with livestream option)

0:00 – 0:05 | WELCOME & OPENING CONTEXT

- Welcome and opening by Dr. Gwen Pointe

Speaking Notes:

- **☐ Research as Relationship, Not Extraction:**
Research as a living process grounded in trust, responsibility, and accountability to the people and the Land.
- **☐ Rooted in Indigenous Laws and Protocols:**
Doing research differently means recognizing and respecting that First Nations have their own governance systems, protocols, and knowledge traditions that must guide how research unfolds.
- **☐ From Observation to Participation:**
Research has too often treated Indigenous peoples as “subjects” to be observed. Doing research differently requires shifting this lens — ensuring communities are active leaders, decision-makers, and co-creators in the work, rather than being studied.
- **☐ Reciprocity and Long-Term Commitment:**
The goal is not a one-time project or publication, but relationships that extend beyond the research timeline — creating benefits, capacity, and knowledge that remain with the community long after the work is done.

0:05 – 0:10 | WELCOME & OPENING CONTEXT

- Ian Mauro opens with a territorial acknowledgment, context setting in Canada and BC
- Ian self-introduction, organizational framing, Relationship Protocol
- Brief overview of the session: purpose, key themes, why relationships matter in climate action.
- Introduce panelists by name and role briefly

0:10 – 0:30 | PANELIST CONTRIBUTIONS (APPROX. 8 MIN EACH)

Cameron Spooner (UBCIC)

- Introduction
- Focus: Speaks to the BC First Nations Climate Strategy, including title and rights

Kristi Denby (BCAFN)

- Introduction

- Shares on the Knowledge Keepers Gathering and the federal process of transformation, making connections and inroads to the current moment

Janna Wale (PICS)

- Introduction
- Speaks to implementation, with a focus on the Indigenous Climate Leaders Program at PICS, the Uplifting Reciprocal Research Scholarship, and co-design more broadly

0:30 – 0:40 | MODERATED DIALOGUE

- Ian to offer synthesis on conversation to date, transition into 2–3 guiding questions to spark cross-panel exchange if time allows:

- How has the Relationship Protocol shifted your perspective on collaboration?
- What are the most important lessons for building trust in research partnerships?
- Where do you see the biggest opportunities for relationship-driven climate action globally?

0:40 – 0:45 | CLOSING

- Closing offered by Dr. Gwen Pointe, who serves as a witness

Appendix A: Submitted Session Details

Session Description: This panel explores how the Relationship Protocol between the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) is shifting climate research from extractive to collaborative. Panelists will discuss how meaningful partnerships, Indigenous leadership, and knowledge-sharing create lasting, community-driven climate solutions.

Purpose of Panel: The panel will highlight the importance of relationship within climate action and adaptation. Panel participants will discuss the importance of building good relationship and networking between climate work being done across communities and jurisdictions, towards a coordinated effort that will meet the needs of communities who are living on the frontlines of climate change. The panel will also highlight case study examples of where relationship building has led to successful community-led and co-developed research projects, and the process for moving away from transactional research and development, and towards relationship-forward climate action. It will emphasize the importance of fostering strong, reciprocal relationships between Indigenous communities, researchers, ultimately policymakers to ensure that climate action is not only effective but also serves the needs of community. Specifically, the panel will demonstrate relationship-forward climate action, by showcasing Indigenous-led climate initiatives, that are grounded in

community values and supported through research institutions. In this context, the panel will discuss the significance of a relational model in creating and actioning climate strategies that are meaningful, effective, and community-led, and the importance of doing

Appendix B: Panelist Bios & Submitted Contributions

Dr. Ian Mauro is the executive director of Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions at the University of Victoria. Mauro's work explores climate change, Indigenous knowledges, and community-based approaches. Mauro has developed numerous, award-winning climate-change initiatives, including: Qapirangajuq: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change, and Beyond Climate, and the Climate Atlas.

Janna Wale is Gitksan/Cree-Métis, and is the Indigenous Research and Partnerships Lead at the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. Her research uses a complex human-environmental systems approach, bridging western and Indigenous science towards adaptation and climate resilience. She has won several awards for her work on Indigenous climate adaptation.

Janna's contributions to the discussion will emphasize the importance of co-developing research methodologies that prioritize Indigenous governance, knowledge sovereignty, and self-determination, specifically related to building climate resilience. She can provide insights into how the Relationship Protocol between FNLC and PICS serves as a model for ethical, reciprocal collaboration, ensuring that climate research not only benefits Indigenous communities but is also shaped and led by them, and how that process is playing out as an employee of PICS. Drawing from her award-winning work in Indigenous climate adaptation, Wale will share practical examples of how partnerships rooted in trust and mutual respect have led to successful climate initiative, as well as how centering Indigenous knowledge can lead to effective climate adaptation. Her perspective will be instrumental in demonstrating how institutions can move beyond extractive research practices and towards long-term, community-driven collaborations that support Indigenous leadership in climate action.

Kristi Denby is a sustainability professional and researcher specializing in climate justice, Indigenous-led policy, and environmental governance. With over a decade of experience in Canada, she has worked on environmental assessments, land and water policy, and works directly with the First Nations Leadership council, integrating First Nations knowledge and rights into climate action and policy development.

Kristi's work with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) directly supports the implementation of the BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan, making her

well-positioned to discuss the Relationship Protocol and its role in advancing Indigenous-led climate action. She will provide insight into how relationship-centered agreements, like the Relationship Protocol help to set precedence for ethical, reciprocal research collaborations that respect Indigenous governance and knowledge systems. She will also discuss the broader implications of the Relationship Protocol, including how it can serve as a model for strengthening partnerships between Indigenous organizations and institutions, securing flexible and appropriate funding, and fostering long-term, trust-based collaborations. Through real-world examples from her work, Kristi will illustrate how these approaches are not only necessary for effective climate action but also for advancing reconciliation in environmental governance

Cameron Spooner (Hulbux Hodwit Ax - Gitxsan, wilps Niisto of the Laxseel Clan) is a climate change policy analyst for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. With expertise in hydrology and climate science, he advocates for First Nations' title, rights, and sustainability planning while empowering community-led climate action across BC.

Cameron's expertise in hydrology and his role as a policy analyst for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs enable him to provide valuable insights into the intersection of climate change policy and Indigenous governance. His work with the First Nations Leadership Council offers him a deep understanding of the Relationship Protocol and its potential to empower First Nations-led climate action. Cameron will discuss how this protocol builds on First Nations' title and rights to create ethical, collaborative partnerships that prioritize Indigenous knowledge and sustainability goals. Drawing from his hydrology background, he can highlight the importance of place-based climate solutions that align with community needs and ecological stewardship. Cameron's contributions will emphasize the significance of empowering First Nations communities to take leadership roles in shaping policies, fostering partnerships, and advancing meaningful climate adaptation strategies.