



DAY 5

COP26 ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

News from the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

NOVEMBER 2021 | DAY 5

The COP26 Ecumenical Delegation, led by *For the Love of Creation* and the United Church of Canada, will be bringing you highlights, impressions, stories, and hopes each day of the UN Climate Change Conference.

Day 5 Highlights

Notable quotes

"INDIGENOUS PEOPLE REPRESENT LESS THAN 5% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION BUT PROTECT OVER 80% OF OUR EARTH'S BIODIVERSITY. SO, MY MISSION IS CLEAR THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE NEED TO BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON CLIMATE POLICY. WE WILL NOT MAKE OUR 1.5C TARGET WITHOUT EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE."

MIHSKAKWAN JAMES HARPER,
STURGEON LAKE CREE NATION

Today's focus was on energy and energy transition. An early morning statement had us feeling a bit hopeful when we heard that Canada is pledging to end all of its fossil fuel financing by 2022. Oh wait, just our foreign financing. Oddly, the election promise to end our domestic financing of fossil fuel projects by 2023 was not announced.

It was also announced that Canada, along with over 40 other countries, will commit to phasing out coal power and exports of thermal coal by the longer target date of 2030 for some, 2040 for others. While the support of the initiative is positive, there is a lack of urgency and ambition in the targets. As well, there has been little of discussion and commitment around a just transition, ensuring that workers and communities in fossil fuel dependent regions are part of the clean energy transition.



Day 5 Highlights

Notable quotes

“WE AS INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE OUR POWER SIMPLY TO INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATORS AT ANY COP ... WE AS INDIVIDUALS NEED TO FIND OUR IDENTITY, REACH AND CREATE OUR COMMUNITIES. EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD, EVERY HOUSEHOLD SHOULD BE HOLDING THEIR OWN COP.”

CHIEF DANA TIZYA TRAMM, VUNTUT
GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

Much more good energy (pun intended) came from sessions taking place at side events. One to note was led by the Canadian-based Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE). The session “‘Just Climate Energy’: Indigenous Renewable Energy Microgrids for Energy Transition” featured Indigenous energy projects in Canada/Turtle Island that are providing “energy sovereignty” for Indigenous communities. The projects are allowing communities to shift away from dependence on diesel, through solar, wind, hydro, and other energy sources, while being led by community consensus and input.

According to ICE, Indigenous communities in Canada are far surpassing municipalities in Canada’s clean energy transition. The key, however, is how they are done, with community members leading the projects from the start, and aligning them with Indigenous cultural teachings and principles. It was a real inspiration to hear from these incredible, committed young Indigenous leaders!

At the same time, Amazon Indigenous groups shared stories of environmental devastation by large scale hydroelectric projects that have no real benefits to their communities. The contrast with the Indigenous community and consensus led model is striking!

Stories, Impressions, Reflections

On a day focussed on energy transitions, our delegation was feeling a bit low on energy today, as the long days and intense processing set in. We’re learning as we go how to stay centered and rested. Prayer is part of that time for us, as well, each day an essential grounding in what has brought us together to be part of this global gathering.

As global leaders wordsmith statements and agreements, often watering down what should be bold action plans, communities on the ground are already working for system change. That's where the energy is!

A bald eagle has kept me company through each day. He perches on top of a large spruce tree looking for food or just enjoying his beautiful home. I like to think he is part of this global gathering, too, with all the creatures. We carry all of these in our hearts and prayers as our witness goes on.

To follow COP26 online go to the COP26 Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/UNClimateChange>

