



INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY

COP27 DELEGATION



AJ Esquega | Biography

Anthony 'AJ' Esquega comes from Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek – Gull Bay First Nation (KZA-GBFN), an Ojibwe Community on the west shoreline of Lake Nipigon in Northwestern Ontario. AJ is an elected KZA-GBFN Councillor, 2017 Indigenous Clean Energy 20/20 Catalyst Training Program graduate, and 2021 Clean50 Emerging Leader recipient.

AJ is heavily equipped with confidence and resources to help bring KZA-GBFN energy projects to the next level. AJ has coordinated many renewable energy projects for his community, including a solar-powered electric vehicle charging station, a clean energy plan, and a sophisticated solar energy storage microgrid integrated with his community's diesel generation station. He loves his family very much and is a proud new dad to a beautiful daughter named Cedar. He enjoys working for KZA-GBFN and hopes he serves his community and future generations well.

"I never ever in my wildest dreams thought I would be heading with a delegation to COP27, on the world wide stage of climate change conferences. I am in awe and so deeply honoured. At first I was nervous, leaving my little daughter and wife for an extended period of time to a place so far away, it is scary. But they understand and love the reason why I go and will continue to go. It's for the future generations, and the determination of our People, the Anishinaabe, to fight and advocate for Mother Earth, the sustaining life all around us, so that we can leave behind a future that our children can be healthy in. If we do not do this, we will continue to pursue a destructive money hungry and resources extracting system, that wound up leaving the land, water, air and life fighting to survive. I also do it for the love of my community, the ancestors, mentors and people who helped me become who I am and bestow the gratitude to share and help create a positive future for all. I hope my participation at COP27 inspires and convinces governments to work positively with Indigenous communities, to help build their communities into self sustaining with internal capacity to thrive. I also hope to inspire other Indigenous youth to take the torch and run with clean energy projects in their communities; to realize the impacts they can make for their own communities, small or big. It will seed and grow, ripples and wave. I just hope we do the best we can for our future generations. To rejoice and advocate strong for their futures, their fresh air, their fruitful plants, clean water, and abundant life. Miigwetch,"

- AJ Esquega, Gull Bay First Nation



Daphne Kay | Biography

Daphne Kay is a proud Anishinaabe Ikwe from Cowessess First Nation, Treaty 4 Territory, Turtle Island; some might know these lands as southeast Saskatchewan, Canada. She works for her Nation's economic development corporation, Cowessess Ventures Ltd., as the Community Energy Specialist. Her position oversees existing renewable energy assets and initiatives such as, the Cowessess Community Buildings Solar Project, completed in 2021, and the 1MW Cowessess Renewable Energy Storage Facility, completed in 2018. She also assists in the management of current projects, such as the 10MW Awasis Solar Project and the 200MW Bekevar Wind Energy Project, while assessing additional opportunities that can be implemented by Cowessess First Nation. .

Daphne is passionate about education and is committed to life-long learning. She attended the First Nations University of Canada to study Political Science and went on to study Land Management at the University of Saskatchewan. A recent graduate of the 20/20 Catalysts Program through the Indigenous Clean Energy Network, Daphne understands the importance of capacity building within Nations and the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples in the clean energy sector.

"Our language is a window to our worldview. And our worldview is informed by our environment. The word for 'all my relations' does not just mean my blood relatives, it refers to everything in creation - because every animal, being, and spirit is related to us, and connected to us in some way, shape, or form. And we know that without the other creations on this earth, we would cease to exist."

- **Daphne Kay, Anishinaabe, Cowessess First Nation**

"Attending COP27 is a tremendous opportunity to connect with other Indigenous Peoples, grassroots organizations, and Nation Leaders from around the world. Building a community of support is central to meeting our climate action goals and continuing our long-standing obligation of being responsible stewards of the land for future generations."

- **Daphne Kay, Anishinaabe, Cowessess First Nation**



Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias | Biography

Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias (she/her) is a nêhiyâskwew from Canoe Lake Cree Nation on Treaty 10 Territory with paternal roots to Little Pine First Nation on Treaty 6 Territory. Aubrey is a recent graduate from the University of Saskatchewan with her Bachelor of Commerce in Finance, a Global Business Stream Certificate, and an Indigenous Governance and Politics Certificate. During her time on campus, she worked to advance Indigenous student success by creating the Indigenous Business Students' Society. She furthered this work through her role on the other student groups where she created and implemented the first Indigenous Initiatives Strategy for a business student group in Canada. Aubrey is now pursuing her Masters of Sustainability in Energy Security at the University of Saskatchewan.

Her work extends outside of her campus community through her time working for numerous Indigenous organizations such as Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, Indigenous Clean Energy, and Tatâga Inc. Aubrey speaks at events across the country about Indigenous Youth empowerment, sustainability for future generations, and economic reconciliation from an Indigenous Youth lens. Her passions have also led her to be in the first cohort of Generation Power, a previous National Ambassador of Hope for the We Matter Campaign, and as the National Student Director for Cando in the past.

Soon, Aubrey will be working with Meadow Lake Tribal Council to install a Level 2 Charger to promote the use of electric vehicles. Through Generation Power, Aubrey has spent nearly a year learning from Indigenous energy champions on what cleaner projects can look like when led by Indigenous Peoples and she is excited to continue on her journey in this area.

"Being able to attend COP now as a young Indigenous woman means that I can not only learn from leaders in this space on an international scale, but also bring my traditional teachings about the land and stewardship here, and advocate for Indigenous Youth inclusion in the energy transition. Indigenous Clean Energy validates the significance of young Indigenous voices and has shown myself and others that we have the power to change perspectives.

I am proud to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference as a representative of Canoe Lake Cree First Nation and Little Pine First Nation. My goal is to bring knowledge back to our communities to contribute to the projects already underway and develop more solutions for our people that encompass our ancestral ways and connection to Mother Earth.

I want to make others in attendance hear the calls of Indigenous Peoples to build these systems with Indigenous values and I hope to do this alongside the Indigenous Clean Energy delegation. When we learn from many in a community-driven way, we can create real change and action against climate change."

- **Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias, Canoe Lake Cree First Nation & Little Pine First Nation**



Mihskakwan James Harper | Biography

Mihskakwan James Harper is a proud citizen of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 8, Alberta. He is currently the Business Development Manager at NRStor Inc., where he champions developing large-scale energy storage and clean microgrid projects in a way that empowers communities and contributes to meaningful climate action. He holds a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Manitoba and has recently completed a Masters of Science in Renewable Energy from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Ecole Polytechnique, with entrepreneurial training from ESADE Business School. He is a part of the SevenGen council, an organization that develops and leads programs for Indigenous youth to lead in clean energy and climate action. He also is a co-host for the podcast, Decolonizing Power, a series that aims to amplify voices worldwide on how clean energy enables authentic community empowerment. This experience combined with the 20/20 Catalyst program, he is passionate about the carbon free future, particularly within the power and mobility sectors. He loves his family and his community now and generations ahead, which inspires him to work with youth to build a future that is sustainable and empowers all.

"While Indigenous peoples worldwide are brave and courageous defenders of critical ecological territories, we are also leaders in designing and building clean energy infrastructure that aligns with a truly sustainable world for our future generations. I'm excited to join the Indigenous Clean Energy delegation at COP27 to bring elevate the inspiring and tireless work that is happening in many Indigenous communities to lead on climate leadership. Our hope is to bring many more partners, allies, and communities along in this exciting mission of climate action and climate justice."

- **Mihskakwan James Harper, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation**



Blaine Chislett | Biography

Blaine is from Rankin Inlet Nunavut and is the maintenance manager for a Nunavut birthright investment and properties company, Sakku Investments. He is a proud father of three beautiful girls and he would like to see the north as a clean and affordable place to raise his kids and future generations. He hopes to see the territory move away from its heavy diesel dependent ways and invest in cleaner green energy.

"As my late mother Bernadette Niviatsiak stated and I quote.

"We did not inherit the lands & waters from our ancestors. We are preserving & borrowing it from our children, their children, & all their future generations."

I would love to see a change in the world during my lifetime that will ensure that my children's, children will be able to continue that saying.

While being at COP27 I would like to show the world that no matter what a person may be striving for, regardless of the trials and tribulations that may occur, it is possible to make that difference.

That difference may be a wind turbine.

That difference may be a solar array.

That difference may be a greenhouse.

But if you are really lucky, that difference may be you starting a spark in another like-minded person to try to make that difference.

With that said: I would like to try to spark that change to help in preserving and borrowing these lands and waters for our future generations."

- **Blaine Chislett, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut**



Freddie Huppé Campbell | Biography

Freddie Huppé Campbell (she/they) is a proud Michif person born on Ktunaxa Kinbasket territory. Her Michif family names come from the community of Lac La Biche. She strives to learn and grow in identity, culture, language, art and action. Freddie manages Indigenous Clean Energy's global programming that works to support Indigenous and community-led clean energy sovereignty and more equitable, just climate action. She hopes to learn from past and present teachings and ground everything that she does in community and all her relations.

"Everything that we are and all that we do is interconnected to energy. It is time to stop looking at energy as a commodity but rather as a reciprocal relationship for present and future generations. Divest from extractive practices and invest in the revitalization of Mother Earth and the self-determination of all beings within her."

- **Freddie Huppé Campbell, Indigenous Clean Energy**



Eryn Stewart | Biography

Eryn Stewart feels honoured and very fortunate to work on advancing Indigenous leadership in Canada's clean energy economy. As the managing director at Indigenous Clean Energy, her work focuses on clean energy in northern communities pioneering community energy planning and energy education initiatives. One of Eryn's passions is women's leadership in clean energy. She specifically promotes the inclusion and advancement of Indigenous women in the sector.

She led the development of the 20/20 Catalysts Program, Canada's first and most highly successful Indigenous clean energy capacity-building program. In its fifth year, 20/20 has supported over 100 Indigenous clean energy champions on their energy journeys.

In 2017, Eryn was one of twenty emerging leaders selected by the Arctic Council to participate in the Arctic Remote Energy Network Academy—a program to promote information sharing across the Arctic on the integration of renewable energy in remote communities. Alongside partners at Gwich'in Council International, Eryn also authored a book titled the "Arctic Community Energy Planning and Implementation Toolkit," a resource for Arctic community energy planning.

"Indigenous peoples have had appropriate nature-based practices for thousands of years. It's time for the western world, specifically the political leaders of the global North, to finally listen. Those are the voices I want to hear at COP27."

- **Eryn Stewart, Indigenous Clean Energy**



Sydney Vandale | Biography

Sydney is a proud Métis woman who holds a degree in Communication Studies from Capilano University in British Columbia, Canada. Through her role as Communications Manager for Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE), she collaborates and engages with Indigenous communities across Canada by providing support in the development and timely delivery of initiatives that support ICE's communications and online platform, the ICE Network. Sydney is passionate about moving towards a more sustainable energy future, and she believes that youth play an important role in leading us to this goal.

"Indigenous Peoples are leading the way when it comes to climate action. Our ways of knowing and being are interconnected with Mother Earth. It is these nature-based approaches that we need to repair the damage that colonial systems have created. I am honoured to have the opportunity to amplify the voices and stories of Indigenous change-makers on the global stage this year at COP27."

- **Sydney Vandale, Indigenous Clean Energy**



Chris Henderson | Biography

Chris Henderson is a Canadian clean energy thought leader and eco-entrepreneur. For 35 years, he has been at the forefront of ground-breaking enterprises and social and ecological initiatives with large-scale Canadian and global impact. Chris is a trusted commentator on sustainable development issues that respect the planet and generate enduring outcomes for communities. His first professional focus is advising and equipping Indigenous Nations and Peoples with means to develop and own clean energy projects, catalyzing social and economic development opportunities that combat climate change. Secondly, he aims to provide strategic advice on accelerating energy transition to a low-carbon, abundant energy future. Chris' first book *Aboriginal Power* was published in 2013. Outside of ICE, Chris is the Lumos Energy President, Delphi Group Co-Founder and Globe Series Board Chair.

"Developing clean energy projects that adhere to and advance the Sustainable Development Goals is central to the cultures of Indigenous peoples around the world. That requires local clean energy leadership and project ownership – a future Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) is honoured to champion"

- **Chris Henderson, Indigenous Clean Energy**

