

Opportunities for Climate Action and Reconciliation in a Post COVID World

For full analysis, read the Yellowhead Policy Brief, *Can we Achieve Climate Action and Reconciliation in a Post COVID World?* by Mihskakwan James Harper

To reduce the risk of future impending epidemics, the Earth's biodiversity must be protected.

Indigenous peoples represent less than 5% of the world's population, but protect more than 80% of the Earth's biodiversity.

- ➔ To recover from COVID-19, we need to invest in resilient energy infrastructure, R&D, and importantly, invest in natural capital and eco-system resiliency.
- ➔ Indigenous peoples can lead an economic transformation that prioritizes biodiversity.

The COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated that the current petroleum based economy is weak; a resilient and just economy must move away from oil.

Cancel proposed petroleum projects and partner with Indigenous nations to build clean infrastructure; this can achieve climate targets.

The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in high rates of unemployment, leading to some of the federal government's most aggressive recovery and stimulus spending in modern history. Investing equitably in Indigenous peoples as part of the stimulus can be a means to further promote the spirit of reconciliation.

This presents an opportunity to shape meaningful and sustainable policies that accelerates a new type of economic development while addressing the ongoing barriers Indigenous peoples face from the legacy of colonization.

Acting on these opportunities, we can achieve:

↓ VIRAL RISK REDUCTION

by reducing risk to zoonotic origin viral transmission by biodiversity protection



↗ CLIMATE ACTION PROGRESS

by investing in clean, green, and Resilient Energy (RE)



↔ ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

by transforming economic activity towards sustainability



↑ IMPROVED RECONCILIATION

by building respectful partnerships with Indigenous people in RE/green projects, education and jobs

