

Clean Power 2040

Powering the future



Integrated Resource Plan

What We Heard
Fall 2020

GATHERING YOUR INPUT TO DEVELOP A DRAFT PLAN

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Background

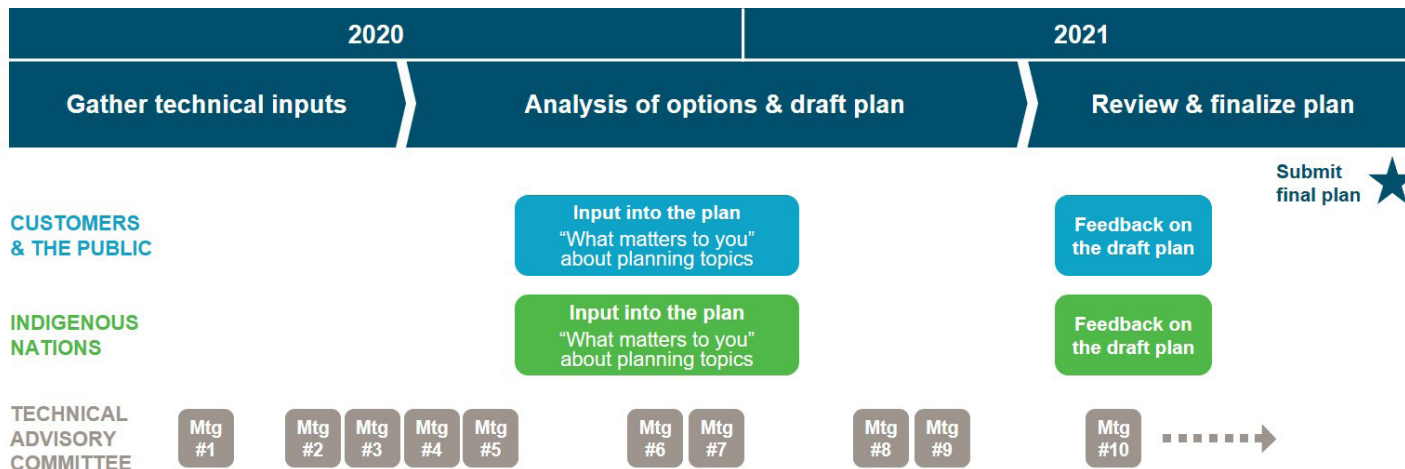
We're developing the 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) which is our 20-year strategy for BC Hydro's integrated power system. The IRP lays out actions to meet potential future growth in customer electricity needs through rates, conservation and energy management initiatives, upgrading BC Hydro's generation and transmission assets, and power acquisitions. Actions in the draft plan will be subject to subsequent approval and consultation where required.

This consultation report describes BC Hydro's Indigenous consultation on the 2021 IRP. It outlines the consultation process and the information BC Hydro provided to Indigenous Nations on the development of the 2021 IRP and it summarizes the input BC Hydro heard from Indigenous Nations.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

As part of the IRP's development, during the fall of 2020 and winter 2020/2021 we gathered input from Indigenous Nations, customers and public, and our Technical Advisory Committee members on long term planning topics. The purpose of this round of consultation was to find out 'what matters to people' about our various planning topics as we are developing the plan for the future of our power system. Results of this input—along with technical, financial, environmental and economic development analyses—will inform our draft plan which will be released for feedback in the summer of 2021. This document reports on this first round of consultation with Indigenous Nations (See Figure 1).

Figure 1—IRP consultation process

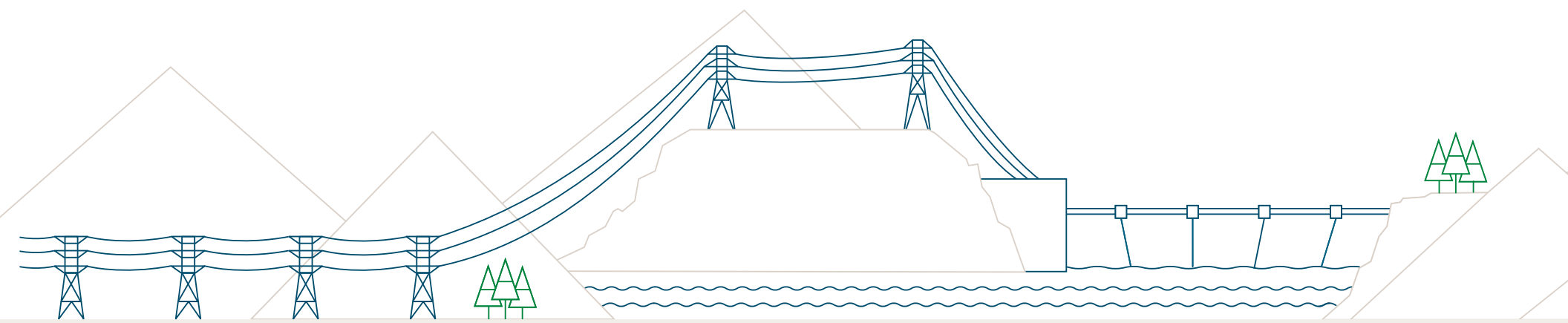


What we did






INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The 2021 IRP will be a plan for BC Hydro's integrated power system across the province. All Indigenous Nations and Tribal Councils in the Province were invited to participate in the consultation on the 2021 IRP.

BC Hydro also invited the BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (BCFNEMC) to participate in the consultation on the 2021 IRP. The BCFNEMC was created by the First Nations in B.C. as a result of the 2007 First Nations Energy Action Plan and the 2009 First Nations Mineral Exploration and Mining Action Plan. The Chiefs-in-Assembly, through resolutions of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) have established Councils to address a range of sectoral issues. These Councils are accountable to, and receive direction from, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the First Nations of B.C. BCFNEMC is a First Nations policy and facilitating organization to support First Nations. It does not represent Indigenous rights holders in matters relating to consultation and accommodation.



FORUMS WE USED

Notification of consultation on the 2021 IRP		In August 2020 we notified all Indigenous Nations in the province that we would be consulting on the IRP through written materials and regional workshops. We followed up with separate email notifications with details on how to participate on September 15, 2020, September 23, 2020, October 30, 2020, November 17, 2020, and December 4, 2020. We followed up with telephone calls to each Indigenous Nation in the province to remind them of the opportunity to participate and register for a regional workshop.
Opportunity for written input		An online survey was developed for use by the public, Indigenous Nations and technical streams of consultation. It was provided to Indigenous Nations on September 15, 2020 and was open until January 31, 2021. A PDF copy of the online survey was also emailed to Indigenous Nations. Apart from the survey questions, BC Hydro also welcomed separate written comments from Indigenous Nations during the comment period ending January 31, 2021.
Regional workshops		BC Hydro scheduled three 5-hour regional workshops in November and December for Indigenous Nations. ¹ These workshops were held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Participant funding was offered to Indigenous Nations who participated in these workshops. A Consultation Workbook which included the online survey and information sheets on specific planning topics was provided in advance of the regional workshops. The Workbook and Additional Information Package is attached as Appendix A . The PowerPoint presentation BC Hydro used to facilitate discussion at the regional workshops is also attached as Appendix B . The workshop presentation was tailored for each workshop by including regional components that were specific to each region where we held virtual workshops. All of the regional planning slides presented at the different workshops are included in Appendix B .
BCFNEMC Participation in regional workshops and technical advisory committee		BC Hydro provided capacity funding for the BCFNEMC to participate in all three of the Indigenous regional workshops as well as the ongoing meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee, which is part of the technical consultation stream.
Supplemental meetings		BC Hydro had supplemental meetings on the 2021 IRP with some Indigenous Nations and organizations. These were carried out primarily as part of the ongoing processes established through our relationship agreements with specific Indigenous Nations or as a continuation of other related engagements. In the second phase of consultation when we are seeking feedback on proposed draft actions BC Hydro will provide an opportunity for supplemental meetings with the same Indigenous Nations/organizations and explore further supplemental meetings with other Indigenous Nations if there is a clear connection between the draft plans and actions and future work in their territory.

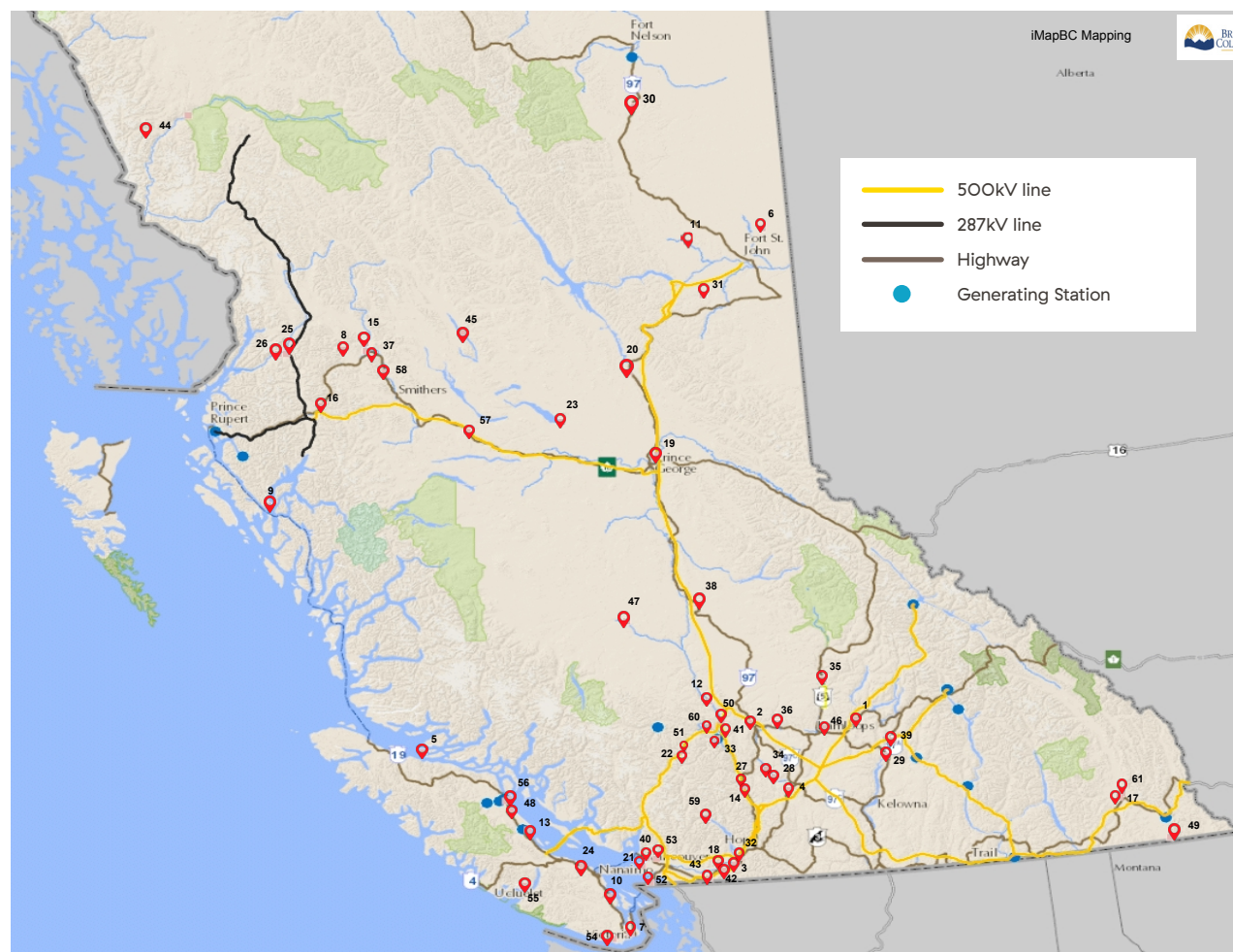
¹ Workshops were originally scheduled in September and October 2020 but were rescheduled to November and December 2021 due to the Provincial election.

Who we heard from

PARTICIPATION IN INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION

A total of 64 Indigenous Nations, Tribal Councils, and Indigenous organizations participated in some aspect of the Indigenous consultation process for the 2021 IRP as described above. The online regional workshops were attended by 84 participants representing 50 Indigenous Nations. Surveys were submitted by 59 Indigenous participants. Supplemental meetings were held with 10 Indigenous Nations. A list of the Indigenous Nations that participated are shown on a map of BC Hydro's integrated system.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Adams Lake Indian Band | 31. Saulteau First Nation |
| 2. Bonaparte Indian Band | 32. Seabird Island Band |
| 3. Cheam First Nation | 33. Sekw'el'was (Cayoos Creek) |
| 4. Coldwater Indian Band | 34. Shackan Indian Band |
| 5. Da'naxda'xw First Nation | 35. Simpcw First Nation |
| 6. Doig River First Nation | 36. Skeetchestn Indian Band |
| 7. Esquimalt Nation | 37. Skii Lax Ha Nation |
| 8. Gitanyow Band | 38. Soda Creek Indian Band |
| 9. Gitga'at First Nation | 39. Splatstn First Nation |
| 10. Halalt First Nation | 40. Squamish Nation |
| 11. Halfway River First Nation | 41. St'at'imc Govt Services |
| 12. High Bar First Nation | 42. Sto:lo Nation |
| 13. K'omoks First Nation | 43. Sumas First Nation |
| 14. Kanaka Bar Indian Band | 44. Tahltan Central Govt |
| 15. Kispiox Band Council | 45. Takla First Nation |
| 16. Kitselas First Nation | 46. Tk'emlups te Secwepemc |
| 17. Ktunaxa Nation Council | 47. Tl'etinqox Gov't |
| 18. Leq'a:mel First Nation | 48. Tlowitsis Nation |
| 19. Lheidli T'enneh First Nation | 49. Tobacco Plains Indian Band |
| 20. Mcleod Lake Indian Band | 50. Ts'kw'aylaxaxw |
| 21. Musqueam Indian Band | 51. Tsal'ah First Nation |
| 22. N'Quatqua First Nation | 52. Tsawwassen First Nation |
| 23. Nak'azdli | 53. Tsleil-Vvaututh |
| 24. Nanoose First Nation | 54. T'Sou-ke Nation |
| 25. Nisga'a Lisims Govt | 55. Uchucklesaht Tribe Gov |
| 26. Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw | 56. We Vvai Kai, We Vvai Kum |
| 27. Nlaka'pamux Nation TC | 57. Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office |
| 28. Nooatich Indian Band | 58. Witset First Nation |
| 29. Okanagan Indian Band | 59. Xa'xtsa (Douglas First Nation) |
| 30. Prophet River First Nation | 60. Xwisten (Bridge River IB) |
| | 61. Qaqam (St. Mary's) |
| 62. First Nations Major Projects Coalition | |
| 63. First Nations Climate Initiative | |
| 64. First Nations Energy and Mining Council | |



What we heard

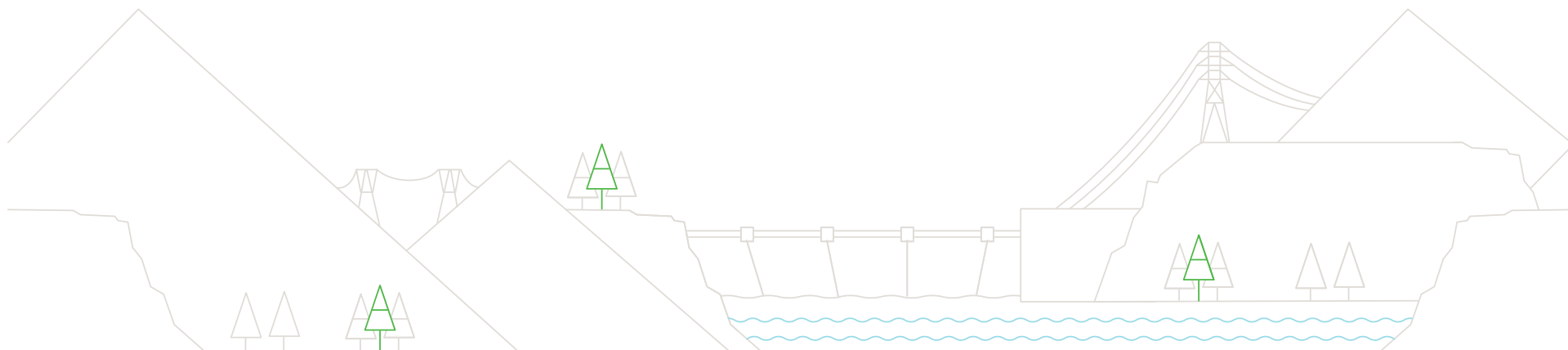
BC Hydro prepared summaries of the input received from Indigenous Nations at each of the three regional workshops. The summaries were distributed to participants and to other Indigenous Nations in the region who did not attend. The regional workshop summaries are attached as **Appendix C**.

Input was also received from Nations who participated in the online survey. The written comments from the survey are attached as **Appendix D**.

In addition to the survey responses, BC Hydro also received letters from Indigenous Nations and organizations during the written comment period. The input from these letters is generally consistent with the themes that emerged from the regional workshops and surveys. Some excerpts from these letters are included in parts of this report. There were letters received from individual Nations that related to the consultation process, some of which objected to the process or otherwise expressed concerns. We have responded to these process related letters directly with the Indigenous Nations.

The BCFNEMC provided a report following their participation in the Indigenous Regional workshops and a separate report from their involvement in the Technical Advisory Committee. Attached as **Appendix E** and **F** are the reports received by the BCFNEMC for the Indigenous and technical streams of consultation respectively.

The remainder of this Consultation Report provides an overview of the input received during Indigenous consultation. This includes input provided during the regional workshops, survey results, recommendations contained in the BCFNEMC reports and a sample of written comments received. The summary of input is organized according to the topics presented during the consultation.



Planning objectives

Input from regional workshops

During the regional workshops, participants were asked to rank their top 3 (of 5) planning objectives using an online poll. Since some results were close or differed slightly between regions the priorities have been grouped into 3 Tiers. The poll results shown are cumulative across all workshops. Additional commentary is provided on the Tier 1 priorities below.

	Poll results	Planning objective priorities
Tier 1	1	Support reconciliation with Indigenous people
	2	Limit land and water impacts
Tier 2	3 and 4 Close selection	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity
		Keep costs down for customers
Tier 3	5 Rarely selected	Support the growth of B.C.'s economy

Support Reconciliation: Advancing reconciliation by implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) was the clear top priority for regional workshop participants. Several indicated that reconciliation was not viewed as a priority to be ranked but an obligation to met. There were many questions about how BC Hydro is incorporating the Declaration into its business and the participants wanted more details on how BC Hydro is going to support the implementation of UNDRIP.

Reconciliation was described in different ways and linked to the other planning objectives. Here are some of the themes that emerged from the discussion of reconciliation and UNDRIP:

- Comments highlighted that Indigenous Nations have experienced the impacts of electricity infrastructure in their territory without a fair share of the benefits.
- One common theme was participants' view that BC Hydro needs to do more to provide socio-economic opportunities for Indigenous communities. Many of the comments suggested BC Hydro should focus on Indigenous owned generation projects. There was also interest in ownership opportunities in transmission infrastructure.
- A number of participants emphasized the importance of revenue sharing for BC Hydro's use of Indigenous lands and resources.
- There were also a number of comments on the impacts of BC Hydro's infrastructure on Indigenous peoples and the importance of historic redress in the implementation of UNDRIP.
- Another theme is Indigenous people need to participate in decision-making and benefit from the use of lands and resources (e.g. revenue sharing).

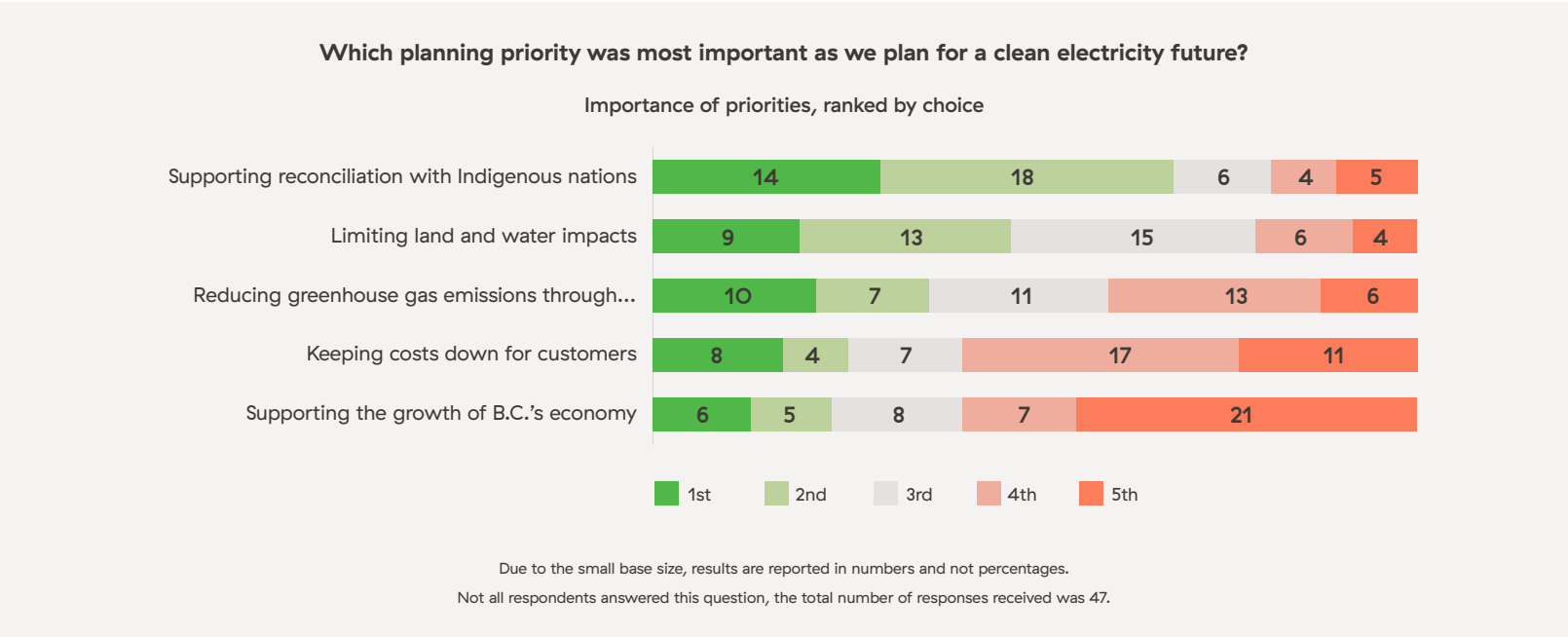
Impacts to Land and Water: This objective was the second priority in the poll from the regional workshops. There is significant concern about the cumulative impacts of development. Participants emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship for future generations and for the spiritual well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities. A number of participants raised objections to Site C due to impacts of large hydro as well as their view that the project lacked Indigenous consent.

Consultation Process: In regard to the consultation process, some comments expressed appreciation for early engagement with Indigenous Nations on BC Hydro’s long-term plans. There were also some comments that BC Hydro should provide communities with capacity funding. Participants referenced UNDRIP and the importance of Indigenous Nations exercising self determination and the importance of being part of the decision-making for development in their territories and of economic development strategies for their Nations.

Other planning objectives: Comments included: diversifying BC Hydro’s renewable energy supply and switching from mega projects like Site C toward smaller community generation with economic and social benefits for Indigenous communities. Having lower electricity costs and better reliability, particularly in remote communities; and addressing the cumulative impacts of infrastructure on the landscape.

Survey results

The results from surveys are consistent with the online poll taken with regional workshop participants with the top priority being supporting reconciliation with Indigenous Nations.



Sample of what you said...

“Supporting reconciliation with Indigenous Nations, for the reason that Indigenous have inherent [sic] rights and say what happens on their territory and resources. Reconciliation to me is about trust, accountability and relationship building. Reconciliation should have been a priority long ago; however we recognize the efforts that non-Indigenous Industry are taking to bridge this relationship. As for the rest I believe are natural consequences of having Indigenous voice and input.”

“Land and water are integral to our survival and the survival of other flora and fauna on the planet Indigenous Nations have millennia of experience as successful natural resource managers, improving relationships with them can only help everyone. Customers need to feel safe and secure financially. Clean electricity impacts reduction in future cumulative effects. B.C.s economy is important, but without the rest, it wouldn't function.”

“Let's fix the governance issues first and foremost and listen to the Indigenous people for development of the land/resources of B.C.—together, let's reduce GHGs through diversified projects and support resiliency/growth of B.C.'s economy, which in turn will keep costs (financial and non-financial) down for customers of BC Hydro.”

“Limiting land and water impacts should be a priority, less damage and keeping costs down.”

“First, it's past time for reconciliation with Indigenous Nations. Second, climate change is extremely important at this time. Third, as a First Nation, I am still using the land and water for my sustenance of game, fish and wild birds.”

“Diversify into less damaging practices.”

“Indigenous groups are seeking to participate in the electricity market with the goal of generating revenues and reaching a level of financial stability where economic self-sufficiency is possible.”

“The Plan should support and ensure Indigenous community health and well-being through economic, environmental, and cultural programs...ensure that future projects strive to restore the natural and/or cultural health of the territory... include mechanisms to ensure that projects under its scope will not compromise Indigenous rights and title and not cause irreparable damage to the environment.”

BCFNEMC input and recommendations

The following paragraphs are excerpted from the BCFNEMC report.

BCFNEMC recommends BC Hydro recognize, support and implement UNDRIP by incorporating the comments heard from the Indigenous participants in their IRP webinars, despite any inconvenience, negative economic or financial challenges it may present as these are in many cases in-alienable rights, not just business and customer needs. Some material presented by BC Hydro during the workshops suggested that supporting reconciliation with Indigenous people is one of many planning objectives that should be considered. Feedback at the workshops was clear that reconciliation is not something that can be traded against other planning objectives. Section 3 of the Declaration Act stipulates in no uncertain terms that the B.C. government take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the UN declaration (<http://fns.bc.ca/news/first-nations-leadership-council-requests-that-bcwithdraw->).

It was clearly heard [by BCFNEMC] that more information is needed on BC Hydro's mandate to implement UNDRIP, including the requested action plan from the BCUC final report. Some important articles from the UNDRIP are listed below that affect B.C Hydro's decision as a Crown Corporation that must be legally respected, not just considered and set aside.

Articles: 3, 4, 5, 19, 23, 26, 28, 29 and 32.

Past and Current Infringements: Many First Nations in the province have serious long-standing grievances with respect to infringements of their lands and rights resulting from previous or existing Hydro activities and facilities. Some have raised these issues in the IRP, BCUC inquiry, recent FNLC [First Nations Leadership Council] communiqués as well as the current legislative process to change the Clean Energy Act under bill 17, noting that it is unreasonable and unacceptable for Hydro to seek support for future actions before addressing outstanding grievances particularly in respect to UNDRIP. BCFNEMC submits that BC Hydro and government need to take a proactive approach to resolving this problem before they can reasonably expect support from affected FNs for new initiatives.



Planning for the next ten years 2020 to 2030

CONSERVATION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:

Input from Regional Workshops

Participants expressed considerable support for conservation. Although there was a general openness to time varying rates and demand response programs, participants noted conservation programs should consider the circumstances of many Indigenous customers and affordability. There was a concern that time-varying rates or demand response programs may place a burden on Indigenous communities that do not have other options to adjust their electricity consumption.

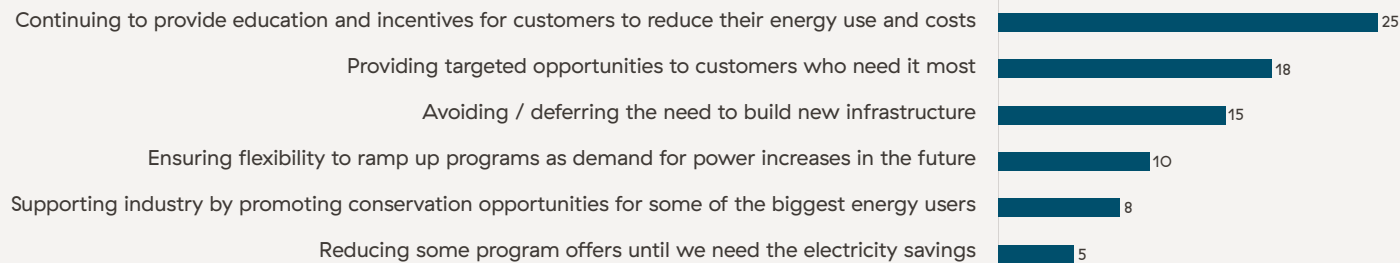
Survey Results

ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Education and incentives to reduce customers' energy use and cost resonated most with respondents.

When thinking about the future of our energy conservation programs, choose up to three priorities that are important to you:

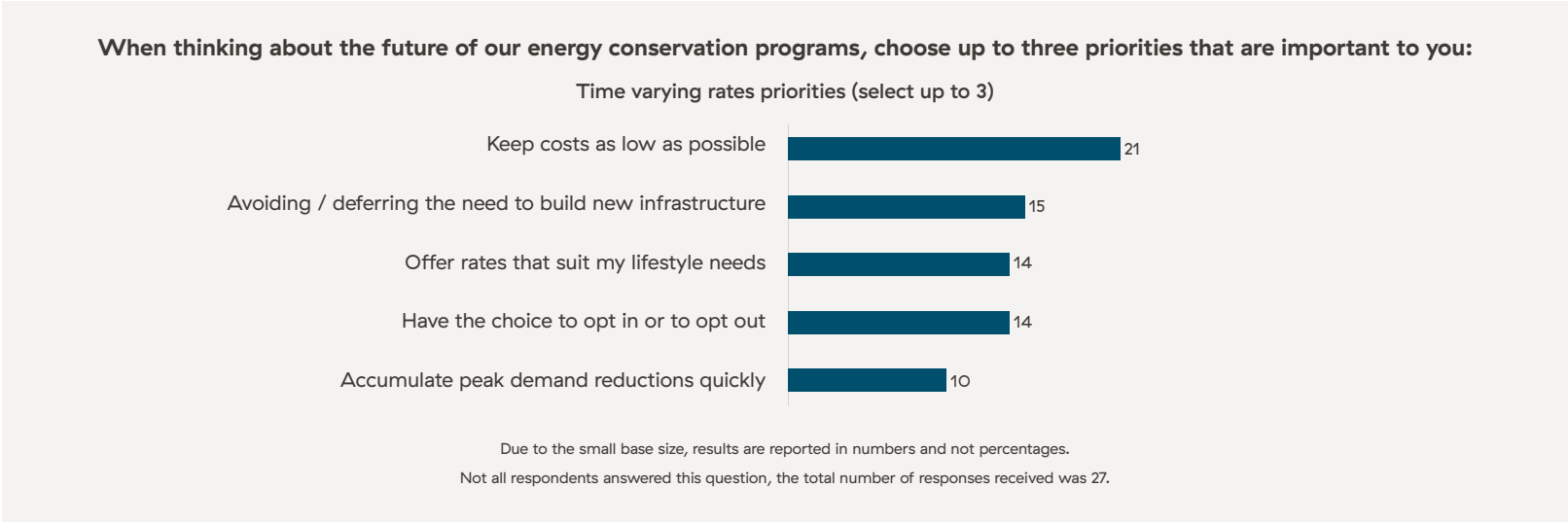
Time varying rates priorities (select up to 3)



Due to the small base size, results are reported in numbers and not percentages.
Not all respondents answered this question, the total number of responses received was 28.

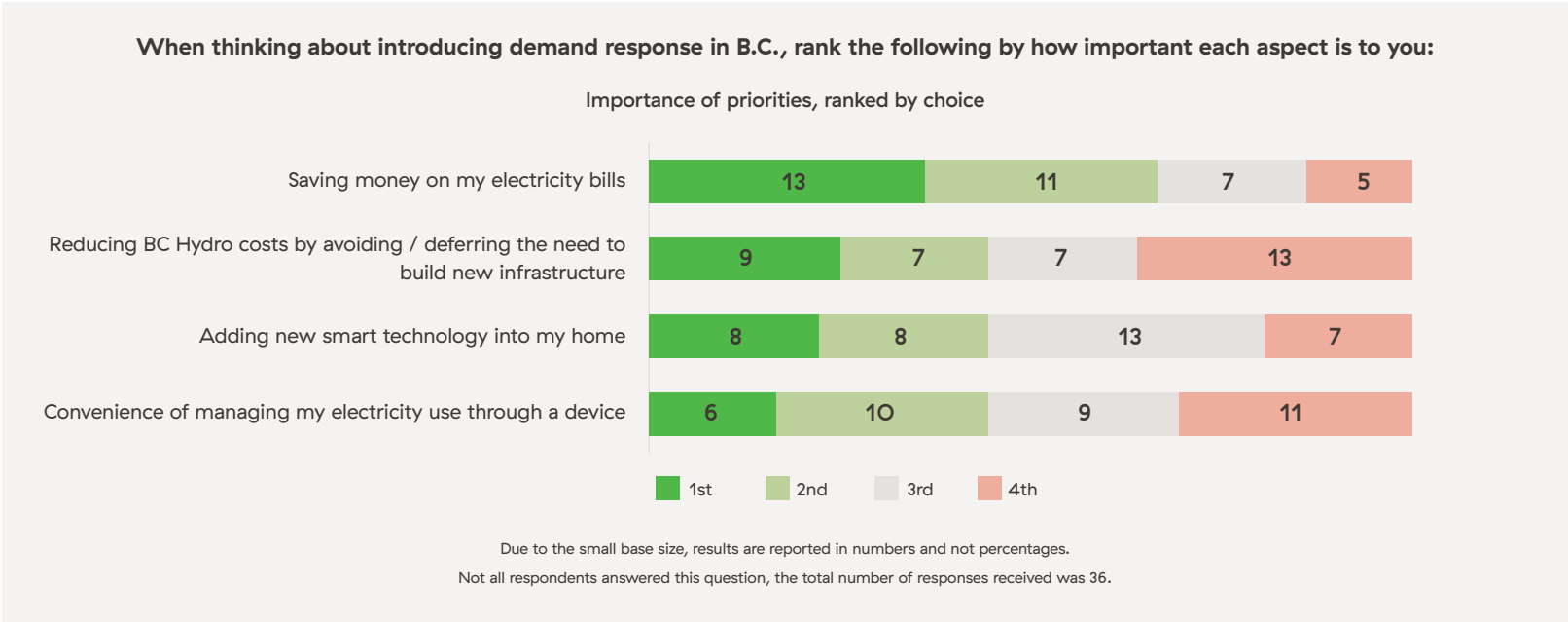
TIME VARYING RATES

Keeping costs low was the most important aspect of time varying rates to respondents.



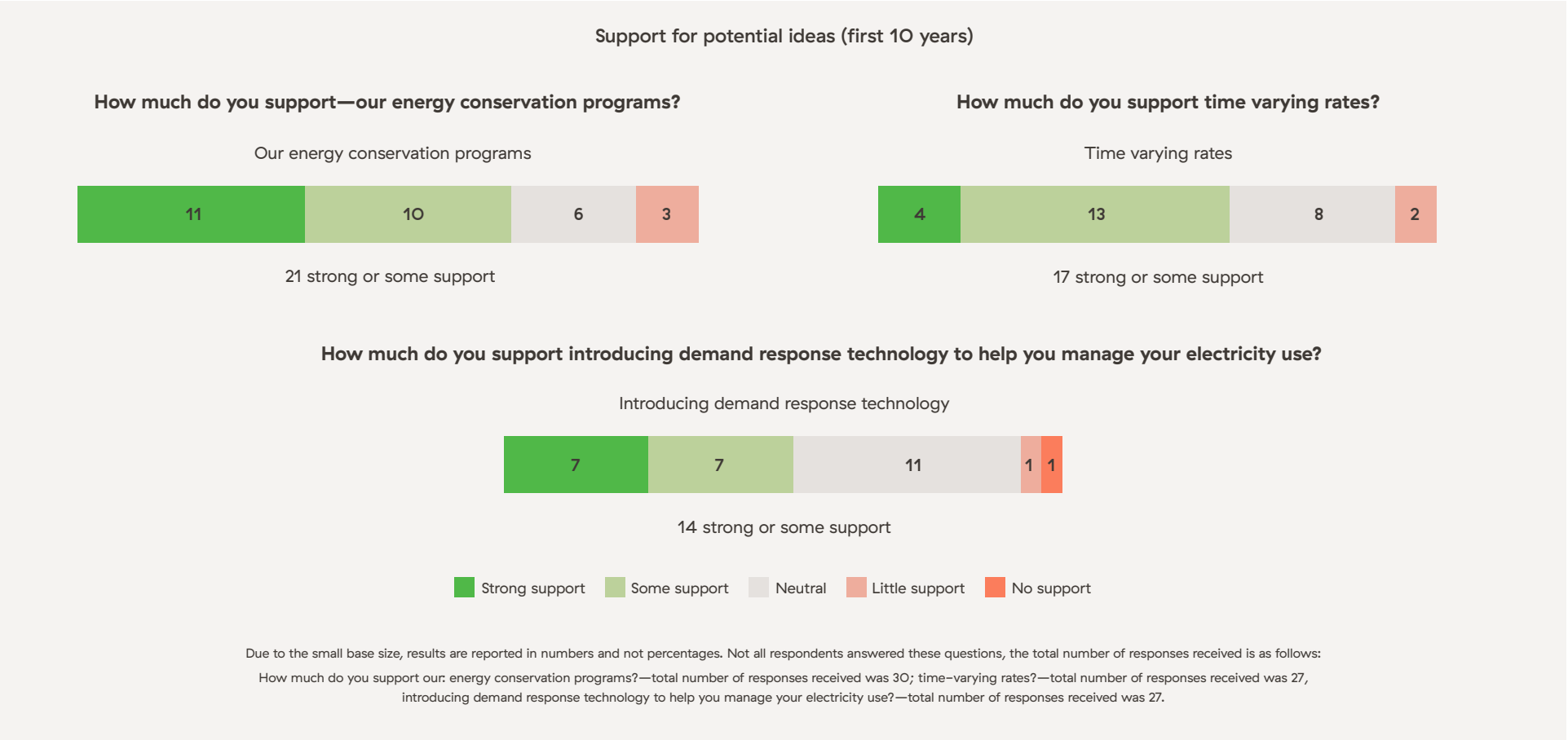
DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Saving money was the main factor in the rankings of demand response priorities as selected by respondents.



Support for future ideas

The strongest support was for Energy Conservation programs, followed by Time Varying rates.



Sample of what you said...

“The idea of choice is important to me. If someone needs to go with lowest cost in order to afford reliable electricity, then they can opt in. Forcing people to deal with inconvenience, rather than letting them choose to opt in or out, is only going to create more distrust of BC Hydro all around.”

“I’ve been hearing about BC Hydro being able to decide when to do things like charge household electric cars, to defer the charging until off hours. I do not like that idea at all. I pay for the power and I need it to be available for when I need it, not when someone else decides I need it. Perhaps people can have a timer on their vehicle outlet to decide for themselves when their car charges, whether overnight or immediately.”

“Reaching out to Rural communities more.”

“Education for industry, government, business and private individuals regarding reduction of energy. Reduction of consumption of goods (purchasing items) also reduces energy used.”

“People need to change their behaviours. A plan needs to be made that reflects those that are conserving energy to those that have every appliance plugged in, gaming, and other high energy activities. If we do not change our mindset to conservation and reward those that do, we will have more people that will continue to see and use power as a never ending supply. A tiered approach.”

“Many ‘older’ people are not comfortable with smart technologies. Encouraging timers and digital thermostats as well as ‘smart’ technology would be helpful.”

BCFNEMC recommendations

BCFNEMC is supportive of energy efficiency programs as long as they are in accordance with UNDRIP. Increased support, funding and awareness for the net metering program in Indigenous communities is of interest for reducing the dependence on BC Hydro rates, and the possible ability for revenue generation.

BCFNEMC believes special attention is required to ensure energy efficiency programs provide adequate opportunities for participation by First Nations in consideration of their historical relationships with BC Hydro and the Government of British Columbia.

BCFNEMC believes it will be necessary to develop programs in collaboration with First Nations to address their specific requirements as a result of housing and other infrastructure needs facing First Nations.

EXPIRING ELECTRICITY PURCHASE AGREEMENTS (EPAS)

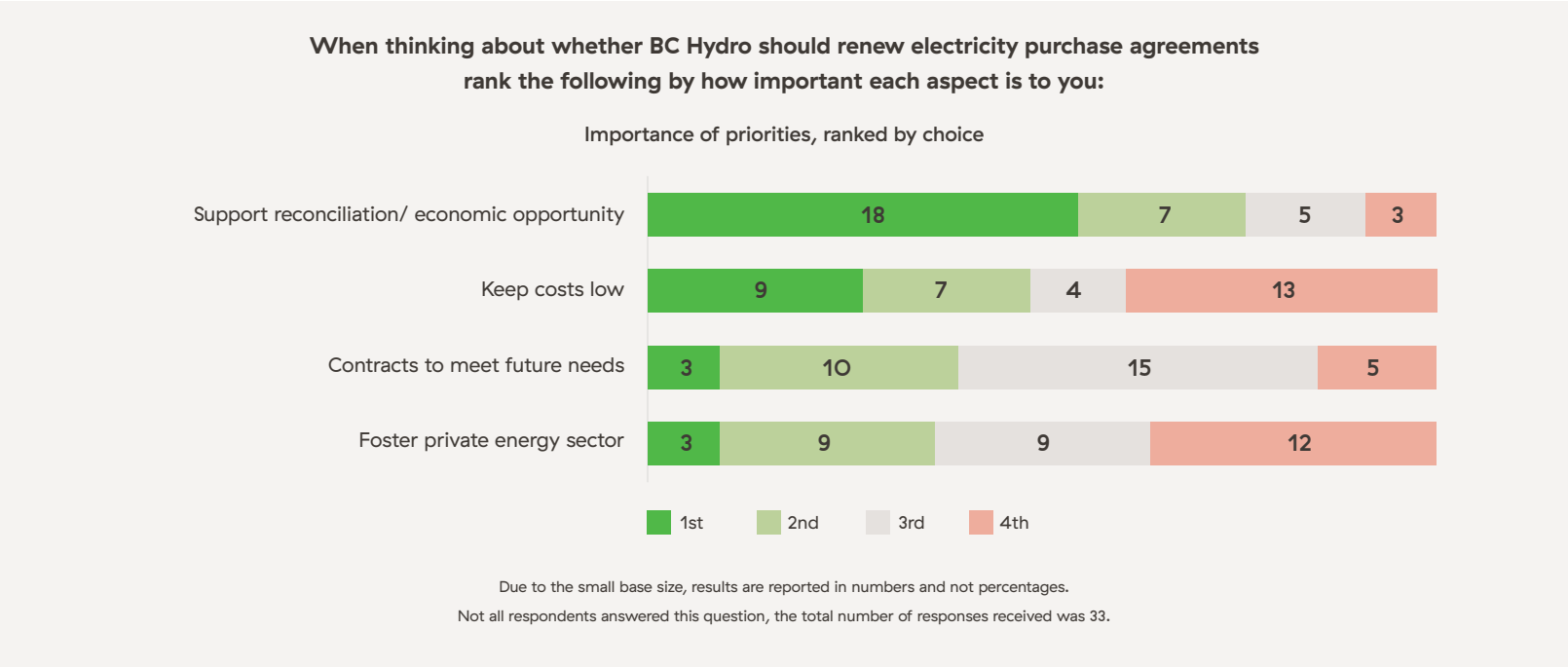
Input from regional workshops

There is a strong interest in renewing EPAs that benefit Indigenous communities. Comments from a number of participants suggested BC Hydro is not doing enough to create opportunities for Indigenous participation in clean energy, including during the next ten years. There were comments that the Standing Offer Program for EPAs should be re-started and some comments opposing the removal of the self-sufficiency requirement because it was viewed as limiting Indigenous opportunities in clean energy development.

There is also a strong economic interest in creating new Indigenous utilities serving their own customers. Some participants want to see the prohibition on retail access to BC Hydro’s grid connected customers removed to open up the market opportunities for Indigenous utilities.

Survey results

Reconciliation and creating future economic opportunities with Indigenous communities is the top priority in relation to the renewal of electricity purchase agreements.



Sample of what you said...

“Energy Purchase Agreement Programs are very important for long-term revenue generation for First Nation Communities, especially rural economic development areas. We have a 30MW solar project ready to go and have no ability to obtain an EPA.”

“BC Hydro should create room for First Nations to become equity participants in electricity infrastructure.”

“I would prefer that Canada be an exporter of energy, not be relying on imports if at all possible. However, these customers we export energy to must 1) pay their bills 2) should not be paying less for our energy than we have to pay.”

“Energy Purchase Agreement Programs are very important for long-term revenue generation for First Nation Communities, especially rural economic development areas. We have a 30MW solar project ready to go and have no ability to obtain an EPA.”

“We can look at this many ways. The needs of the province impacts the areas of smaller communities. Communities and companies see opportunities as endless supply to build. At some point conservation and management plans are the better approach before we discuss build it. Of course people want lower costs but I would need to know if these IPPs are costs benefit. Perhaps if the power was more local rather than trying to connect to an entire grid structure. Would then say City of Vancouver limit growth. If they had to power their own area and build a structure accordingly would this prompt the municipalities to think differently.”

“BC Hydro should create room for First Nations to become equity participants in electricity infrastructure.”

BCFNEMC recommendations

The BCFNEMC and many First Nations are supportive of clean energy and privately owned and developed generation. Both are subjects of great interest, a number of communities still being off-grid and dependent on diesel generation, and many also looking at development possibilities to provide additional local economic benefits.

Some important conditions are essential to First Nations:

Indigenous IPPs should be renewed and opportunities for new Indigenous IPPs should be allowed. Indigenous EPA purchasing offers should be renewed regardless if the standing offer isn't renewed for non-indigenous IPP's as those EPA's and desire to be IPP's are linked to UNDRIP.

Self Sufficiency should not be changed in the Clean Energy Act as it affects UNDRIP and IPP's and EPA's in B.C.

First Nations need to be afforded opportunities to be full participants in the procurement process and future projects, including the possibility of a preferential call for First Nations owned power projects.

First Nations rights and title interests must be fully respected. Unused water rights or licenses from past calls should revert back to the province or to local First Nations.

Many First Nations have invested heavily, have aspired to achieve or have shovel ready projects as IPP's. Cancellation of the renewal of EPA's with First Nations would be detrimental and would be in conflict with UNDRIP.



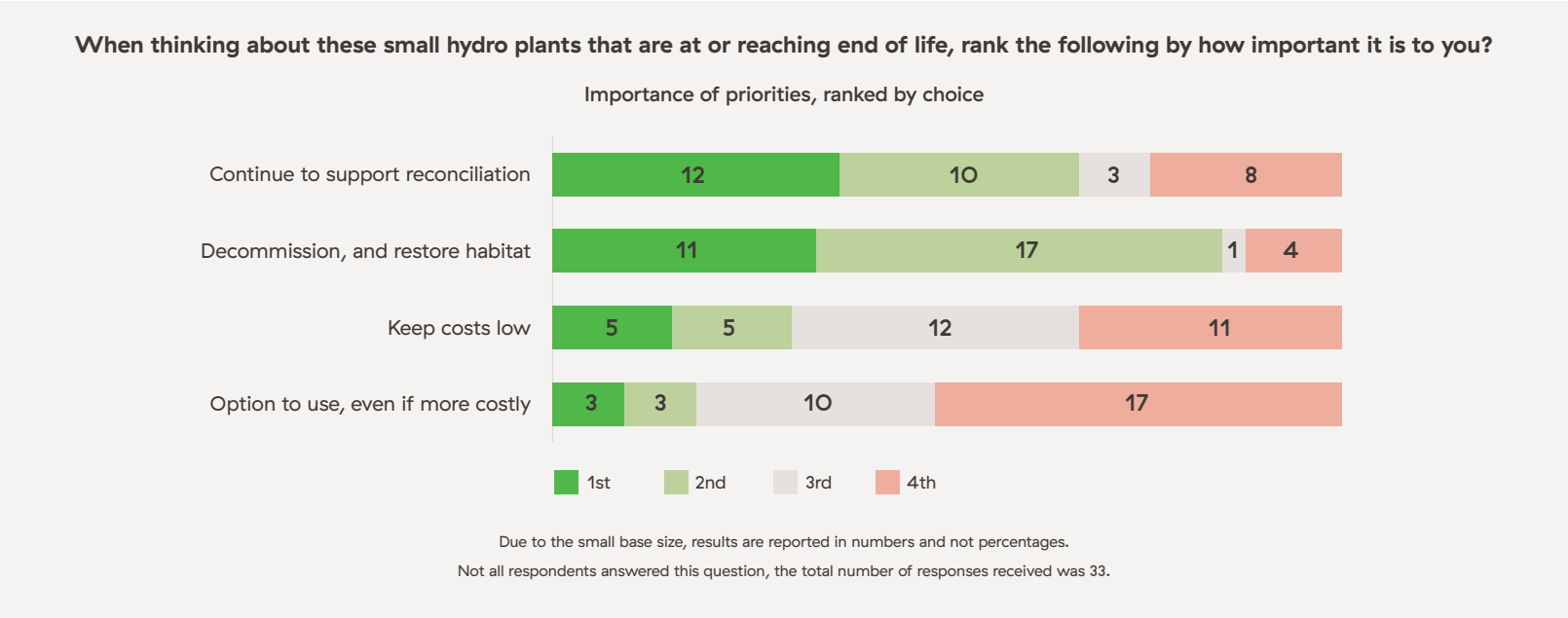
SMALL PLANTS AT OR REACHING END OF LIFE

Input from regional workshops

Participants indicated it was important to discuss plans for these facilities with the Indigenous Nations whose territory they are located in. There was interest in exploring Indigenous ownership and BC Hydro divestment of small plants as part of reconciliation.

Survey results

Continuing to pursue opportunities that support reconciliation with Indigenous Nations is the top priority, followed closely by decommissioning the small plants and restore the environmental habitat.



Sample of what you said...

“Decommission only those installations that have major environmental impact. We need to maintain decentralized power generation as we should be learning from the fires in California etc. Diversity in supply is strength.”

“I am torn between reclamation of the sites and the option to keep them as a backup for when we need the power in the future. One one hand, the site and surroundings have already been cleared, etc to build the site in the first place. But, reclaiming the site would mean more opportunity for nature to have more habitat returned for use by plants, animals, birds, etc.”

“Again difficult question to answer. Decommission a larger facility in comparison to how many smaller plants. The old one is already been impacted and the environment habitat has adjusted. This would depend on how many new sites and what their impacts are. Advanced technology is a consideration to be included. Can a phased in facility be build in front of the old site rather than maintain the old one.”

BCFNEMC recommendations

The creation of an Indigenous utility should be discussed in greater depth to power Indigenous communities, with ability to sell to the grid (abolish ban on retail access to grid infrastructure for Indigenous IPP or Indigenous utilities). Transfer of ownership for end of life infrastructure to an Indigenous Utility is a concept that was welcomed.

Dismantling of certain dams and restoration of fish habitat and stocks of interest to some.

Upgrading dated infrastructure is ideal where possible to minimize footprint.

Transfer of ownership to First Nations is of interest for some First Nations for both self-sufficiency as well as economic purposes. Once again, the EPA standing offer needs to be restored for some of these decisions to be considered.

Hydro projects should have an environmental assessment to plan and fund for end of life infrastructure.

Planning for the next twenty years 2030—2040

Input from regional workshops

Comments during this topic reflected many of the same Indigenous interests raised during the first 10-year outlook from 2020—2030.



GREATER CONSERVATION AND CUSTOMER INVOLVEMENT

Participants expressed in different ways a strong interest in conservation in order to protect the environment and Indigenous traditions and culture connected to lands and water. There was also interest in net metering and other forms of customer generation such as rooftop solar.



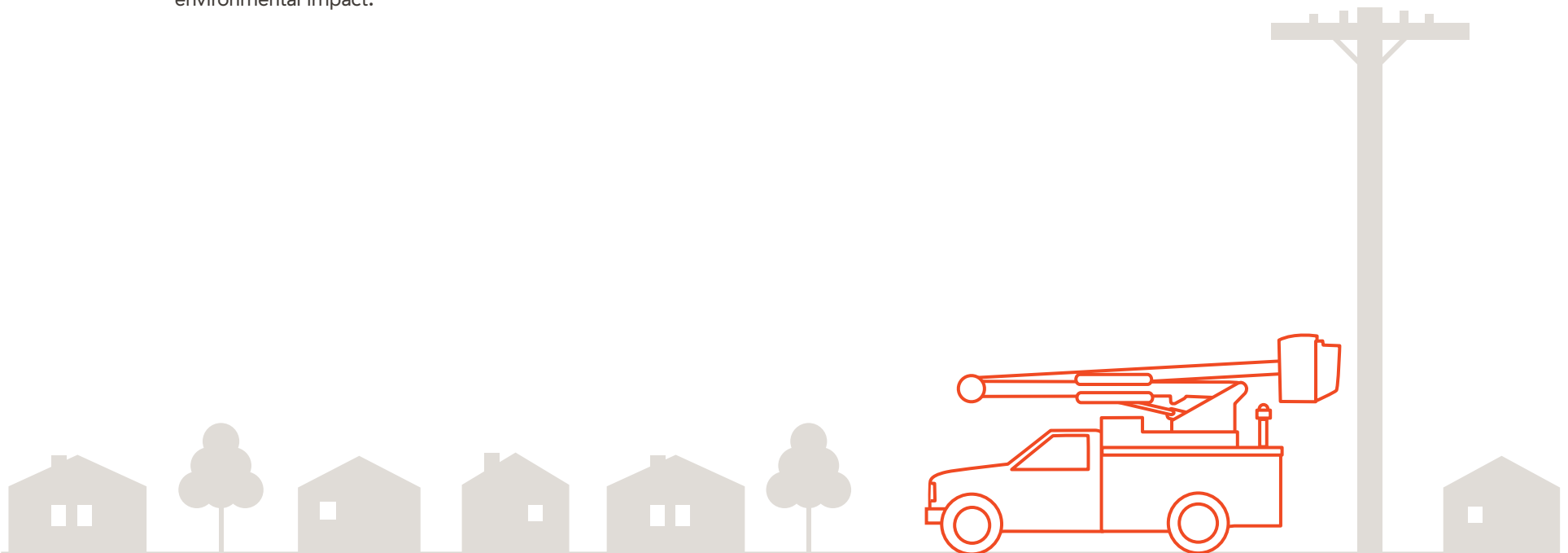
NEW LOCAL SUPPLY SOURCES

There is strong interest in Indigenous participation in future clean energy development including new EPAs with BC Hydro during the second 10 years of the planning outlook.



UPGRADING THE SYSTEM

Some participants were interested in transmission upgrades and related transmission ownership opportunities. There were also concerns about wildfire risk from climate change and how this could affect reliability of electricity service. Participants also felt that BC Hydro should use its existing infrastructure, instead of building new infrastructure, in order to mitigate further environmental impact.



Survey results

Greater conservation has the most support over the longer term.

How much do you support introducing more conservation initiatives and opportunities for customer involvement?



23 strong or some support

How much do you support upgrading the existing BC Hydro system?



16 strong or some support

How much do you support batteries?



16 strong or some support

How much do you support pumped storage?



14 strong or some support

Strong support Some support Neutral Little support No support

Due to the small base size, results are reported in numbers and not percentages. Not all respondents answered these questions, the total number of responses received is as follows:
How much do you support: introducing more conservation initiatives and opportunities for customer involvement?—total number of responses received was 26; batteries?—total number of responses received was 25;
pumped storage?—total number of responses received was 24; upgrading the existing BC Hydro system?—total number of responses received was 25.

Sample of what you said...

“If there are ways to reduce environmental impacts from hydro electric facilities this needs to be at forefront. I believe we must be in conservation mode but also incorporate new technologies for energy extraction.”

“Giving people a chance to participate in the generation and conservation of energy is always a good thing.”

“Energy storage is the weak point in the alternative energy system we need to explore all forms of energy storage at this point in time.”

“Concerns about the production of batteries, ecologically and their ‘shelf life’. Concerns about environmental impacts when water levels are raised and lowered.”

BCFNEMC recommendations

BCFNEMC supports new power sources such as batteries and pumped storage so long as they are aligned with UNDRIP.

Clean energy and self-sufficiency should not be redefined in the Clean Energy Act as it affects UNDRIP.

Any expansion involving clearing or brushing, should be done with manual labor, not pesticide.

Global warming is melting ice, drying rivers and soon there may be no water to dam. Renewable clean energies are of interest for research and application possibilities.

EPA standing offer should be renewed in order for Indigenous communities to take economic advantage of the power producing resources in their territories if available, while filling B.C.’s power needs.



Planning for uncertainty

Input from regional workshops

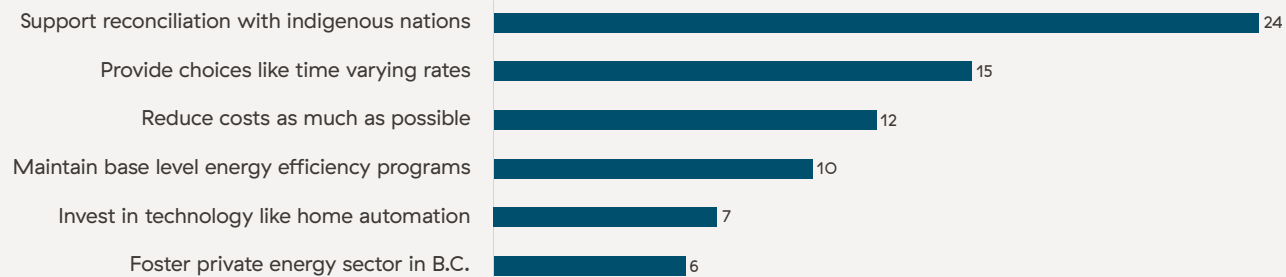
One participant expressed interest in how early BC Hydro needs to plan in order to meet customer demand, particularly with regard to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities. There was interest in alternative sources of power that might be available in the next 10 years. Another participant expressed concern about disruptive events like the Enbridge pipeline explosion and the potential impacts on electricity supply.

Survey results

Continuing to pursue opportunities that support reconciliation with Indigenous Nations is the top priority, followed by providing customers with options to reduce their costs such as time varying rates.

If demand is lower and BC Hydro has less revenue, choose up to three priorities that are important to you?

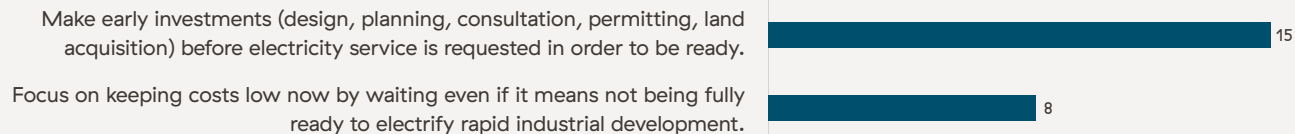
Time varying rates priorities (select up to 3)



Due to the small base size, results are reported in numbers and not percentages.
Not all respondents answered this question, the total number of responses received was 26.

Choose the priority that is important to you (higher demand).

Priority in a higher demand scenario



Due to the small base size, results are reported in numbers and not percentages. Not all respondents answered this question.
The total number of responses for: focus on keeping costs low now by waiting even if it means not being fully ready to electrify rapid industrial development was 8. The total number of responses for: make early investments (design, planning, consultation, permitting, land acquisition) before electricity service is requested in order to be ready was 15.

Sample of what you said...

“Time varying rates are incentive to get customers thinking about planning to reduce hydro use. Reducing costs helps keep rates down and leaves more funding more infrastructure. Reconciliation with Indigenous Nations creates improved partnerships and important natural resource management support and to aid in a better understanding of how their rights have been impacted by hydro electric construction projects thru the decades.”

“Let’s ensure that the remote factor is considered in these discussions. End of line reliability and support to convert old technology into addressing unique and specific location challenges is of value.”

BCFNEMC comments

Forest fires and line system integration:

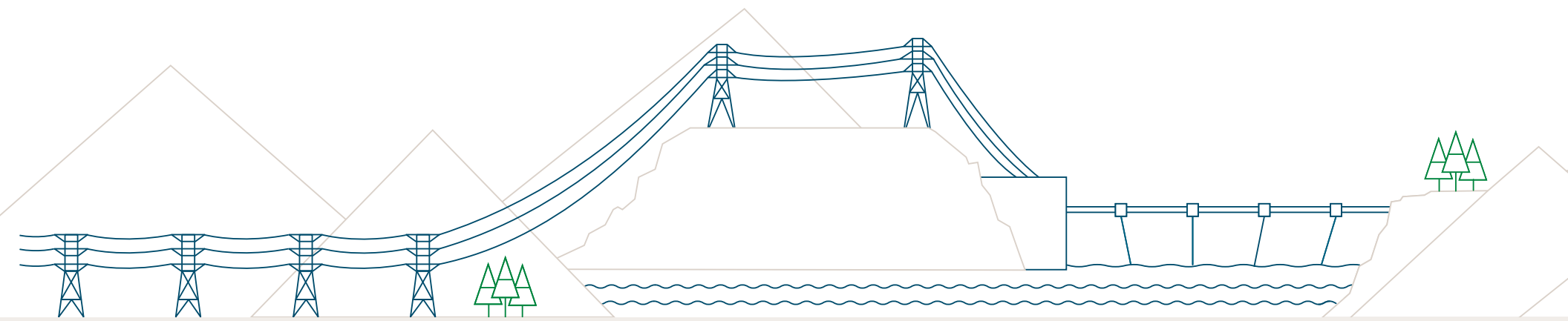
Indigenous people in B.C. are in the best position to respond to forest fires, fire management, and monitoring of those fires effect on hydro infrastructure. BC Hydro should consider an Indigenous monitoring system.

Post-pandemic Industrial and Commercial Rebound Effect on Hydro Demand:

It is unknown at this time what the post pandemic effect will have on the return to normal power draws.

Hydrogen Integration:

Hydrogen technology interest and application is taking off globally, and is of keen interest to Indigenous peoples in B.C. If there are any plans to introduce and integrate hydrogen, then Indigenous people’s need to have full involvement in deliberations from the earliest conceptions.



Region specific planning issues

Input from regional workshops

North

There was interest in the availability of cost-effective wind in the northeast region and associated transmission constraints. There were a number of questions about BC Hydro's transmission capacity in the North, in particular related to the electrification of LNG on the North Coast.

Southwest

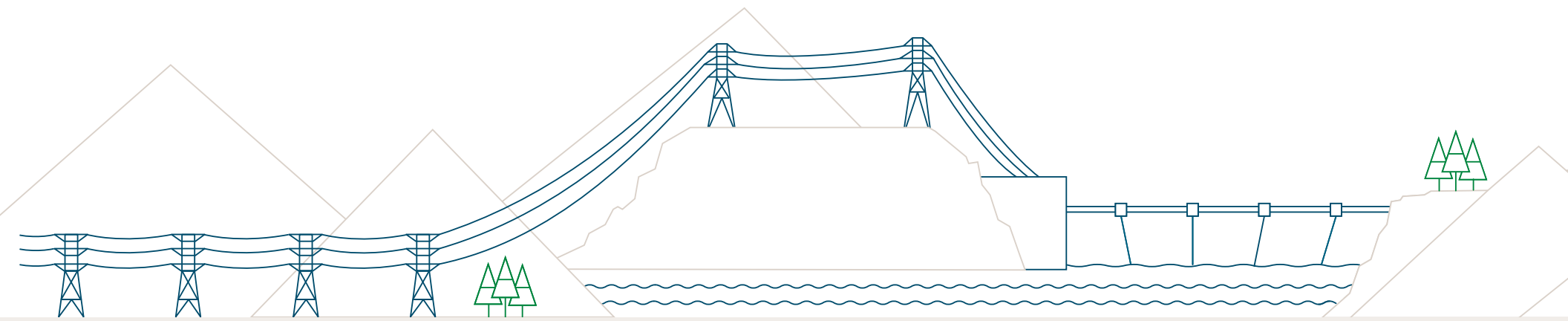
A participant noted the potential for wind projects on Vancouver Island as meaningful opportunities for Indigenous Nations to work with BC Hydro and the added benefit of reliability in case forest fires or natural disasters impact transmission from the mainland.

Southeast

There was an interest seeing revenue sharing with the Nations for BC Hydro generation plants in the Nations' territory upgraded to produce more power.

Supplemental meetings

Some input during the supplemental meetings with Indigenous Nations was specific to particular projects or infrastructure in a Nations' territory (e.g. the future of a specific small plant). However overall the input from the supplemental meetings was consistent with the themes that emerged from the regional workshops and themes which are described above.



Sample of what you said...

“We need BC Hydro to shift to a more proactive approach to planning new infrastructure. The current ad hoc, on-demand or project-driven approach is too limited and lacks the vision that we all need to build the infrastructure required for a low carbon future. More specifically, we recommend that BC Hydro take the necessary steps to build the transmission infrastructure to fully service the Skeena, Nass and Kitimat areas in order to anticipate and attract the new projects that will grow the load as reflected in our development scenarios and the forthcoming Blueprint. This infrastructure needs to be codeveloped in partnership with the impacted First Nations.”

“Healthy customer service, better communication strategies with clients, ongoing energy efficiency projects for newer homes (as well as old)”

“BC is at a state of upgrading infrastructure. factor that into your costing as it may be better to decommission some facilities. an example is the forest industry. most areas are harvested and need time to regrow. Really take a look at what mills or value added facilities will be needing power.”

“Design, planning, consultation etc are important to prepare for the future that we will live in.”

“First Nation[s] are preparing to move in the 21st century and have interest in clean energy, working with them is important.”

“be the company that truly incorporates First Nations values into their plans, don’t just give us lip service.”

“To get out of the mindset that building is the only solution. When asking people if they conserve energy most BC people would say yes. In reality when asked how many appliances and devices are plugging in, can they name this. Do they need x many lights on. Do they value our wilderness and would trade the building of more energy plants over people unplugging.”

Other comments from BCFNEMC on the 2021 IRP

The BCFNEMC identified the following issues that have been excluded from the 2021 IRP.

Revenue Sharing

In addition to early engagement of First Nations in the planning process as noted above, we see equity and revenue-sharing policies, now adopted in several other jurisdictions and widely used by industry in various sectors of the economy, being key to First Nations economic and social development, and to local or regional support for major projects. It is clear that major developments can and often do have significant adverse impacts on the local environment and First Nations lifestyles, while offering the majority of benefits to customers or shareholders far distant from those impacts. Yet government and Hydro continue a very restrictive and conventional approach to resolution and mitigation; it is disappointing that more progressive and inclusive concepts do not appear to be even referenced in the IRP documents. They are needed if government and Hydro are genuinely committed to improving First Nations relations, and if the IRP, when completed or approved, is to receive broad acceptance and support for implementation.

Export/Import Market Development

Most recent Hydro analysis indicates insufficient market opportunities for the foreseeable future, yet the legislative bill 17 proposed to alter the definition of clean energy opening the door to heavy imported “clean” energy. It remains our view that domestic needs, production, self-sufficiency reasonable pricing, clean energy and GHG emission targets should all continue to receive higher priority than future import/export possibilities.

Regional Planning

In our view, it is entirely possible for Hydro and the province to initiate planning first from a local or regional perspective and to build on those to form provincial plans and policy. Certainly, a combination of regional and province-wide approach is feasible. We believe that FN legal interests must be fully considered and incorporated at the outset of planning rather than at the end; First Nations and related regional land-use plans in the province should be a priority for completion; comprehensive cumulative effects assessments must be undertaken and carried forward. Taking these steps would unquestionably reduce future conflicts, increase First Nations access and interest in participation in energy development opportunities, enhance support for the IRP, and facilitate future Hydro-First Nation cooperation on other issues.

List of Appendices

Appendix A—Consultation Workbook and Additional Information Package

Appendix B—Workshop Slides

Appendix C—Regional Workshop Summaries

Appendix D—Written Comments from Survey

Appendix E—BCFNEMC 2021 IRP Indigenous Workshops Interim Report

Appendix F—BCFNEMC 2021 IRP Technical Advisory Committee Interim Report

Thank you to all who participated in these consultations. Your input is being considered as we develop our draft plan. For more information about the IRP and the next phase of consultation, please visit bchydro.com/cleanpower2040

