

Memorandum

To: Stakeholder Advisory Committee

From: Jordan Penic, Sr. Manager, Engagement & Indigenous Relations

Date: November 3, 2021

Re: IESO Business Update – Indigenous Energy Support Programs

The following is an update for members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee on the Indigenous Energy Support Programs.

The IESO's [Corporate Indigenous Policy](#) is a commitment to our relationships with Indigenous peoples, with mutual trust, accountability, understanding, and respect as the critical foundations. Our goal is to build the capacity of Indigenous people and communities, and create opportunities in support of fair and equitable participation in the electricity sector. One of the ways that the IESO supports capacity building is through the Indigenous Energy Support Programs.

The Indigenous Energy Support Programs promote broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector by supporting community capacity building, including energy planning and renewable energy project development, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects. The programs aim to build this capacity to support community energy planning and projects.

The programs are:

- [Community Energy Champion Program](#) - Support communities and organizations to hire a designated energy worker
- [Indigenous Community Energy Plan Program](#) - Support communities and organizations to develop and maintain an updated energy plan
- [Education and Capacity Building Program](#) - Support communities and organizations to build capacity and job-readiness skills
- [Indigenous Energy Projects Program](#) - Support communities and organizations to develop energy projects and partnerships

For the 2021 Indigenous Energy Support Programs intake, a total of \$4,635,982 in funding has been approved for 47 Indigenous communities and organizations. Six new Indigenous

communities/organizations are taking part in the Energy Support Programs for the first time. Most applications are community-led initiatives and projects, with a handful demonstrating innovative renewable solutions for their community, including 12 new designated energy workers. Further details on the results will be available when communities are notified and agreements are in place.

Prior to the 2021 intake, 164 Indigenous communities and organizations had accessed the programs; 76 completed community energy plans; 108 capacity building initiatives; 67 full-time Community Energy Champion positions in communities and organizations; and 547 energy projects were supported.