



For Immediate Release

September 8, 2016

Solar4All: Our Allegiance to Land, Air, Water, and Sun

Keepers of the Athabasca participates in the Solar4All campaign. Our information tables this summer in Athabasca, Slave Lake, High Prairie, North Country Fair, and Sucker Creek Pow wow, were met with so much enthusiasm, and hundreds of signatures. Solar4All believes that everyone who wants to access solar energy should be able to do so. We think small-scale distributed solar facilities — owned by individuals, First Nations, cooperatives, and community groups — could play an important part in Alberta's energy system and provide economic opportunity for millions of Albertans. Government can provide leadership in the following areas:

- Policy and Regulatory
 - Policy that recognizes the value of distributed energy and sets targets for individual and community-owned renewable energy (CORE)
 - Financial incentives (feed-in tariffs, gross metering and PPAs) to encourage and facilitate micro-generators
 - Community ownership mandates (set-asides) for utility projects
 - Fair grid access and pricing for small-scale solar (both grid-tied and off-grid)
 - Subsidies to climate friendly renewables producers at least similar to the subsidies to climate impactful fossil fuel producers.
- Capacity Building and Start-Up Support
 - Provide project grants for preliminary work on CORE facilities
 - Implement legislation that enables supportive financing for CORE facilities
 - Simplify grid interconnection
 - Lift the 1 MW system cap in the Micro-Generation Regulation
 - Prioritize community energy projects in First Nations and on Métis settlements
- Financial
 - Provide low-cost financing for community-owned projects
 - Property-assessed community improvements (PACE)

We are meeting with Infrastructure Minister Danielle Larivee to pass along the postcards that her constituents have signed supporting greater access to solar power on September 16, 2016. We will talk about our interactions with Albertans throughout summer 2016, and the incredible support for the petition and postcards. The Solar4All petition will be tabled in the Legislature next month.

After our successful solar installation with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation last year, Keepers of the Athabasca is now involved in two solar installation projects, one each with Fort McMurray First Nation, and Beaver Lake Cree Nation.

Crystal Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation: "As First Nations move toward reclaiming our self sustaining systems based on natural law, breaking down systemic oppression, and enforcing our self governing structures we do so with the hope that banking on the sun, the success of First Nations economic sovereignty based on our inherent and Treaty rights will bring balance to our Mother Earth and all living, breathing beings."

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