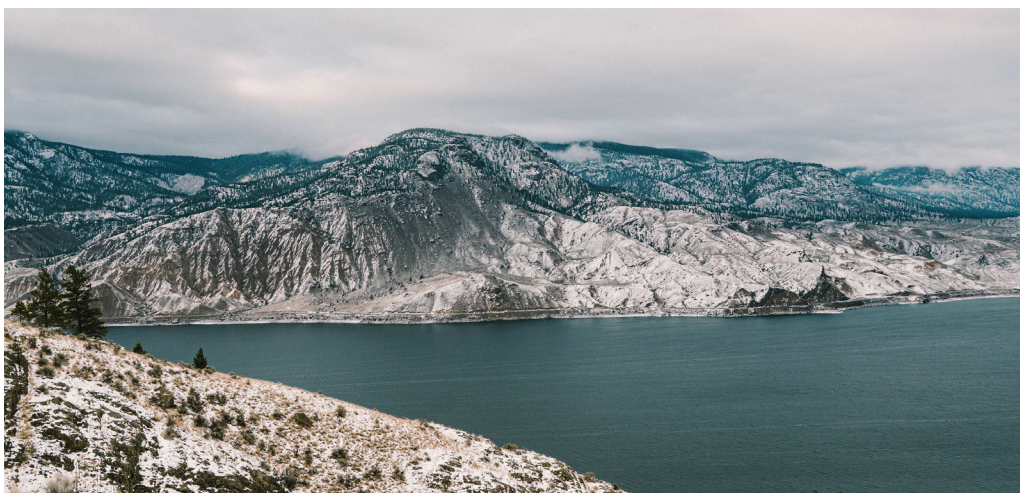




2022: Quarter 2

# Newsletter







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## Letter from the Executives

Hello, my name is Grand Chief Michael LeBourdais of Whispering Pine First Nation, and I am writing to you on behalf of the Western Indigenous Pipeline Group (WIPG).

The past few months have been challenging, particularly for Indigenous communities. The rise of inflation has resulted in a higher cost of food and basic necessities. The war on Ukraine has driven up fuel prices. Flooding has impacted remote and vulnerable areas. All while impacts from the disturbing history of the residential school system continue to affect communities across BC and Alberta. Yet, our Indigenous communities continue to prevail. We continue to be resilient and to strive to achieve wealth for our future, so that we can better support our people and better protect our land.

WIPG was formed to acquire a major stake in Trans Mountain for the benefit of Indigenous communities who live along the pipeline. It was founded by Indigenous leaders from Alberta and British Columbia who are passionate about ensuring environmental stewardship is done through an Indigenous lens.

Our focus is on understanding the needs and interests of our communities on a nation-to-nation basis.

It is important that all communities impacted by Trans Mountain learn about the opportunities available to them. Purchasing Trans Mountain is a generational opportunity to build back wealth into a community and ensure Indigenous people have a seat at the table moving forward.

By purchasing Trans Mountain, Indigenous communities will ensure their environmental, community and economic goals are met. **Furthermore, our organization is structured so that our partner Indigenous Communities make zero financial contribution and have full autonomy over quarterly distributions.**

If we haven't already connected, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your community to discuss WIPG with you.

*Sincerely,*

Grand Chief Michael LeBourdais  
Executive VP and Director, Western Indigenous Pipeline Group







## Events

As the nation wakes from the pandemic and the realization of climate change has put world leaders on stage to set policy on net zero mandates, industry and communities are coming together and finding solutions to the challenges that would ensure a sustainable future. The networking and exchange of ideas that conferences facilitate help to move the dial on reconciliation forward – and WIPG aims to play a critical role in that.

### *Timeline*

#### **FNMPC Towards Net Zero Conference**

At the FNMPC: Towards Net Zero by 2050 Conference, Chief David Jimmie, Chair of Western Indigenous Pipeline Group introduced the Honourable Minister, Jonathan Wilkinson, Natural Resources Canada. In his introduction, Chief Jimmie highlighted on the Canadian government's climate goals, the opportunities given Canada's resource-rich environment and the growing development of technology to reduce GHG emissions.

"But most, if not all of these projects will occur on the traditional territories of an impacted Indigenous community. Today, as we face a renewed challenge of energy security, the nation needs to consider its obligations to ensure that the energy transition benefits all in our shared environment."





## Energy Roundtable



Coming out of last year's United Nations climate meeting in Glasgow, Canadian climate change policy will seek to cap oil and gas emissions and fast track the electrification of the economy. However, energy transition will last for decades and traditional energy demand has returned to pre-pandemic levels. The many competing technologies in the race to net-zero, and the mix of energy types that will get us there remains unclear. However, at the heart amongst these debates, it is clear that the interest and rights of Indigenous communities as land owners and stewards need to be properly reflected.

At the 17th Annual Calgary Energy Roundtable conference, Joe Dion, CEO of the Western Indigenous Pipeline Group spoke to the critical matter of First Nations ownership of Canadian natural resource projects. As the nation navigates through the energy transition, it is important that we all be smart, environmentally and socially, as well as prosperous without trading one problem for another.



## Canada 2020: The Indigenous-led Economy

Reconciliation must be central to any vision for the future of Canada. Key to this ongoing project is a deeper understanding of economic inequality faced by Indigenous communities across Canada, the people and projects that are working toward closing the gap, and the opportunities this shift can foster for the Canadian economy. In Ottawa, David Jimmie, Chief & CEO of Squiala First Nation & Chairman and VP of Finance of Western Indigenous Pipeline Group spoke at Canada 2020's "The Indigenous-led Economy" event that featured prominent Indigenous Leaders from across Canada.

Chief Jimmie moderated the "Leading by Example" panel that included Thomas Benjoe from FHQ Developments, Corey Ellis and Philippe Forest from Growcer, and Margaret Kenequanash from Wataynikaneyap Power on solutions-oriented, Indigenous-led economic development projects, with an eye to the future.

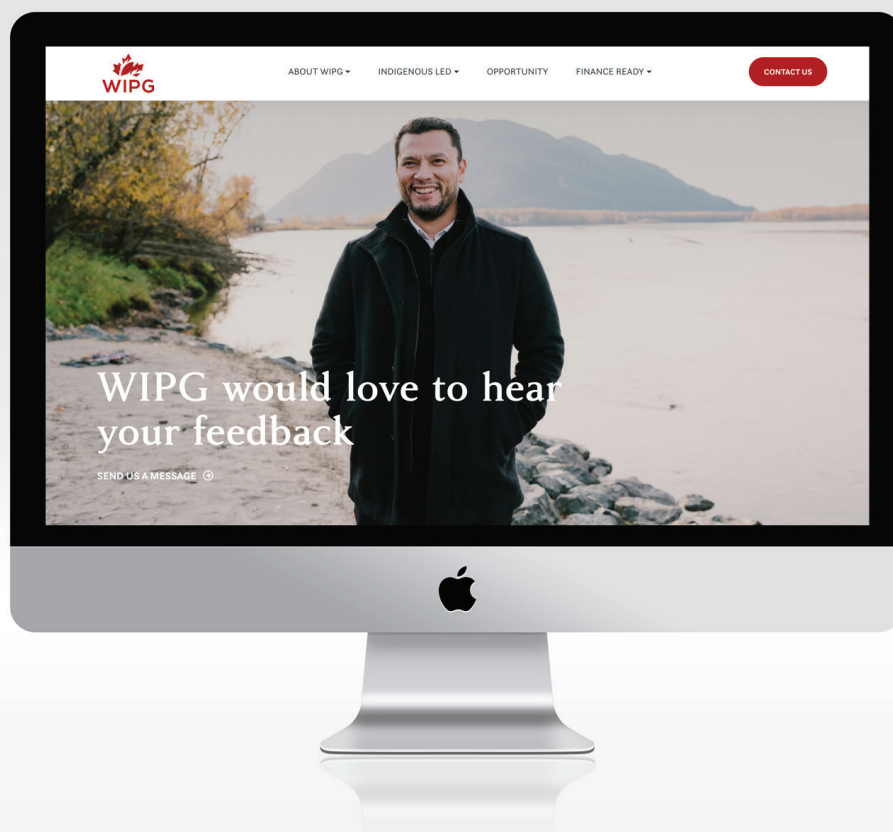


# Save the Dates

To ensure continued engagement and communication with our signed Nations, WIPG plans to host several events throughout 2022 that will invite community leaders and support teams to participate in. These include but are not limited to:

- » WIPG Regional Summits
- » Official Community Engagements

Please be sure to watch out for emails or notifications from the WIPG team or from your regional coordinator. You can also follow WIPG on Facebook and LinkedIn to receive the latest news, announcements, and updates on the organization. Looking for something more personal to your community? Please reach out to your regional WIPG representative to receive information and a presentation to learn more about WIPG, in-person or online.



## We Want to Hear From You

Have questions about WIPG? Want to learn more about the government process?  
Looking to share a concern? [Reach out to our team via the Feedback link.](#)



# WIPG Profile Feature



## An Interview with Chief Greg Desjarlais from the Frog Lake First Nation

*The perspective of a community leader on the path to economic prosperity through kept traditions and gained autonomy.*

**Please share a little bit about yourself and what has inspired you to become the leader of your community and a grand chief of Treaty 6 First Nations?**



My name is Greg Desjarlais from the Frog Lake First Nation (FLFN) of Treaty 6 Alberta. I'm the son of Alma and the late Albert Desjarlais and come from a family of 10 siblings, I am the father of three and grandfather to five. Prior to taking a role in community leadership I've been involved in the oil and gas sector for now over 25 years; the industry has sustained and provided for my family and community for many years. Since 2012, I have served three terms as council and am currently in my second term as chief of FLFN. I have also served as the grand chief of the Treaty 6 First Nations and just finishing off our term as the tribal council tribal chiefs in Alberta.



I have always been interested in politics all along. My parents had profound influence on this as they would often invite me to attend in Alberta association meetings, local elections, and from those gatherings I got intrigued by the way how leaders would captivate their audience in order to push for change and be a voice for the people. For me it has always been about representing the elders, the children, and even the unborn future generations that can't get to today's hypothetical table. That is the way I look at it, trying to improve the life of my people and to create hope and empowerment are the matters that I focus my leadership on. As First Nations people, having faced all the atrocities that we've gone through, we are now all on a healing journey and for at least my community, I aim to restore all the happiness in our people's lives but also to work hard, to be kind and work together with everyone in our space, trying to be deserving children of our creator.

**We often read and watch about the great successes that FLFN has had over the years with the new developments in its community and participation in deals and partnerships. What is the side of FLFN that the public don't usually get hear about that has been foundational to the communities prosperity?**

I want to say our people have always been prayer people, ceremonial people, and that's something that is unwritten. Our community hosts various ceremonies throughout the summer, commitments made by various elders and individuals that often emphasizes on our health and the life that we lead here on earth. Our teachings allow us to recognize the spiritual connection each and every one of us posses with mother earth and her elements; the grass, the wind, the sun that has a name, where we pray to these, and we give thanks for. My father would tell me "Feed your flame with good things, feed your body with good things, and keep your internal fire burning bright to live a good life where you're happy".

So whenever we plan to do something as a community, we come together with our elders and members at a pipe ceremony, we sit on the ground and we pray about things we're challenged with but also, we go to ceremony to give thanks and to live in gratitude because when one lives in gratitude things work out good for that person.





**When heading into a negotiation at the table as a First Nation community leader, what are some of the key decision points and considerations when representing the voices of your people?**

I think most importantly when you look at each First Nation community across Canada, we are all again unique and we all have our own economy. We have our own needs off the land whether the moose or fish that provides wild meat, or the local berries or plants for its medicinal properties that, for industry, it could be a weed, but for us is likely an ingredient to somebody's cure. We often express to industry to respect the autonomy of our people and as stewards of the land. I, myself come from a lineage of herbal medicine people and know very well that a cure or solution for one is not sufficient for all. This is why finding a balance between the economics and governance is key to ensure the longevity of our planet.

When we are moving forward on these projects, we are trying to look at long-term sustainability that will not only sustain but improve the quality of life for my members, the elders, and the unborn. So, whether a project provides the necessary safety measures that looks after the environment and can generate prosperity for at least 30 - 40 years, that's some of the things that we look at in my leadership.

First Nations are now transitioning away from the old business models of receiving only accommodations that expire. We now talk about ownership, revenue sharing and as recommended in the calls to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), industry must work with First Nations and to realize our involvement not only can improve the prospects of a project but also improves the housing, education, and infrastructures of our communities.

**Why do you believe Canada should leverage on Indigenous-led projects and organizations, like WIPG, more so than ever during this critical moment where we are all going through a transitory period?**

First Nations been talking about climate change and respecting mother earth's fresh drinking waters since perpetuity. We now see carbon capture plants are being implemented in Alberta here now that we're all concerned about the air. So, I believe you can have a green pipeline, I think you can have all these projects go green and even create by-products of water, but First Nations need to be part of the solution as we were never part of the problem. We agreed to live and co-exist on this land, to share, and we're now just trying to take our rightful place as First Nations people to improve the quality of life. A lot of people in society don't see the day-to-day challenges that we have on First Nations territory; where we are 40 to 50 years, maybe even 60 years, behind towns and cities on infrastructure. Some of us have no access to hospitals, we may get to see a dentist once a year, many nations are finally restructuring modern high. We shouldn't have the bus start kids to town, we should have the means to teach them on the reserve, teach the language and the culture of our communities and be proud of who we are. and I think that respect is a big one that First Nations are part of the solution for Canada and part of the solution to the underfunding of these agreements that Canada pushes on First Nations and makes us rely on these programming well we want to be involved in business and being able to be involved in more pipelines, these wind farms, these carbon sequestration plants, these oil and gas refineries, so we could provide a quality of life for our people that's not there currently.



# WIPG Profile Feature



## An Interview with Grand Chief Michael LeBourdais of Whispering Pines

**Any experiences growing up has had an impact in terms of what you wanted to do in the future and shaped your style of leadership as Chief?**

At the time, the opportunities living in interior BC was always limited. If you were not involved in agricultural, you would then be positioned somewhere in natural resources or development. My transitions in school was initially to be a mechanic but when I got out of high school, graduation was on Friday and by the following Monday, I was working in Calgary building houses as a carpenter. During those years I was often faced with a nudging thought that this path can't be all that there was to an 'Indians' life. By the time I returned to post-secondary, graduating with a diploma in resource management at BCIT and economics at Thompson River University, I soon realized that the taught curriculum and materials did not apply to the Indian life. When engaging my professor at the time on this topic, we would hold long conversations on the Indian Act, land development on reserve...etc. I also had connected at the time with Chief Clarence Jules Sr. of Kamloops Indian Band, who was one of the first Indigenous leaders to promote businesses on reserve and started taxing industry to support on-reserve infrastructure development. We shared philosophies about why poverty was common on reserve, why First Nations experience a lower quality of life, and why our health index would often score lower than the average Canadian. However, when Chief Jules Sr. succeed in having the band take on the ownership of taxation, it



also instigated First Nations to exercise their jurisdiction and authority over taxes on reserve. On the onset this was faced with a lot of opposition and outrage by community members as well because some believed it was a form of assimilation. However, if you peel back to the foundations of trade and governance, the Secwépemc people did impose tax on its members many years ago. The 32 communities would gather at Green Lake and the leaders would do a review to see which nations were doing well and which were experiencing more challenges than others. Decisions would then be made around what would be shared between the nations; a redistribution of wealth which is the purpose of taxation. Once I became the Chief of Whispering Pines, it was clear that development of on-reserve infrastructure and attracting residential, commercial and industrial businesses were priorities to ensure the wellbeing of the community that was inhibited by the Indian Act.

**Aside from the commercial aspect, what were other opportunities that was important to the transition of your community from of the challenges, as a result of the Indian Act or was not available till self-governance was achieved?**

It's important that we have trade not only in the commercial sense but also in knowledge. For example, when in training of Indigenous rodeo, we would often learn from neighbouring nations. We can see there are several nations that have been very successful to generate wealth amongst members and others who are working towards it and as there are many factors behind the success, there is much to be learned from those with community-wide plans that can be modelled after.

When working in economics, a realization that members didn't own any of their assets meant no longer term financial sustainability. It has taken these nations' leaders to work through the legal and financial documents and appeal or strategize work arounds to regain ownership and determine how economics on reserve could be fashioned and measured that allowed members now to grow wealth and gain higher education to continue the work of their community leaders.

Indigenous groups and associations had also began creating courses for administration, band managers, and those interested with dedicated band management curriculum. These courses that were initially offered within specific regions eventually morphed and became a Canada-wide program for Indigenous leaders to now be able to speak the language of governance in Canada. It then became a question of how these positive results could be achieved consistently. This is when the idea of creating Indigenous schools started to form. For example, since building out the curriculums at the Thompson River University, we've just completed the largest cohort at the school of 72 students which means opportunity for 72 more Indigenous individuals to receive higher up positions that would not have been available yesterday.





**What are some of the criteria that nations in the interior of BC look for when considering new natural resource projects on the lands?**

As far as the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council is concerned, if you want to be in partnership with Whispering Pines, if you want to be in partnership with Kamloops, if you want to be in partnership with Simpcw for example, you have to agree to the Heritage Act of British Columbia, the Environmental Act of all three bands and the tribal council that would give comfort to band members. When considering the accounting, often proponents do not take in the tens of thousands of years post-project impact to the project area that are always top of mind to us. We too often see proponents going to nations with a pre-developed plan and wish list that does not include the perspective, consultation, and accommodation of the Indigenous landowners. We often find resolution when industry turns their ear to listen and fully understand the unique mandates of communities. Of course, you can never expect to have one model to receive all nation consensus but the process doesn't change as with any relationship development exercise. The reason Whispering Pines agreed to joining WIPG is because it is fully Indigenous-led from communities along the impacted right of way, meaning our ability to directly influence in managing the aspects related to the land, air, water, and wildlife.











# Pembina pipelines delivering lasting sustainability

## Sustainability at Pembina

As part of Pembina's commitment to environmental stewardship, we minimize our footprint and create safe solutions to protect the wildlife that makes the land and water near our assets their home. In all our work, the Environmental Management team works closely with regulators to ensure our impact is minimal. We conduct studies and assessments to understand local environmental features and potential impacts our project or assets may have, and take steps to protect local wildlife and habitats.

## Our Community Partnerships

### Pembina partners with organizations to support and protect ecosystems and wildlife

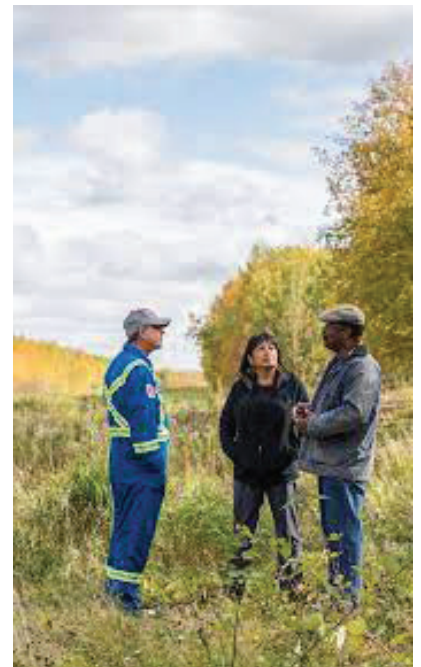
Pembina partners with organizations to support and protect ecosystems and wildlife. One example of this is our partnership with Ducks Unlimited.

Pembina's \$1 million investment will conserve approximately 2,000 acres (809 hectares) of important wetland and grassland habitat in key areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan. These ecosystems naturally filter harmful nutrients and pollutants from water; keep lakes and rivers clean; reduce the harmful and costly effects on communities from floods; store large amounts of carbon, preventing it from being released into the atmosphere as greenhouse gas; and provide homes for wildlife.

*"Pembina is embracing the opportunity to adapt, respond, and contribute to a more sustainable future. Sustainability has a significant role in all areas of Pembina's business and our ability to incorporate it will create long-term value for all our stakeholders."*

- Scott Burrows, President and CEO

To learn more on Pembina's sustainability commitments, visit:  
<https://www.pembina.com/sustainability>





# Connect with your WIPG Regional Coordinator Today

WIPG's staff supports our indigenous board to ensure that communities that join WIPG are fully included and informed of all aspects of the project. Some of them you may have already met, but please expect to hear us in the weeks to come as we pursue this critical piece of economic reconciliation.

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
<b>Community Relations</b> Vancouver Island	<b>Chief Gordon Planes</b>	<a href="mailto:gordon.planes@wipg.ca">gordon.planes@wipg.ca</a>
<b>Community Relations</b> BC Interior	<b>Keith Matthew</b>	<a href="mailto:keith.matthew@wipg.ca">keith.matthew@wipg.ca</a>
<b>Community Relations</b> Alberta	<b>Josh Dion</b>	<a href="mailto:josh.dion@wipg.ca">josh.dion@wipg.ca</a>
<b>Community Relations</b> Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley	<b>Tanya Corbet</b>	<a href="mailto:tanya.corbet@wipg.ca">tanya.corbet@wipg.ca</a>

## Let's Stay Connected

*Connecting our Communities for shared understanding and benefit*

**Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn**

Western Indigenous Pipeline Group's (WIPG) leadership is focused on oversight over cultural, environmental, and community aspects. To ensure best efforts are put forward in engaging with represented Community leaders and members, WIPG has launched:

 **WIPG Facebook: [facebook.com/WIPG.Canada](https://facebook.com/WIPG.Canada)**

 **WIPG LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/wipg](https://linkedin.com/company/wipg)**

**We would love to hear your feedback and/or inquiries at [wipg.ca/contactus](https://wipg.ca/contactus)**







**Western Indigenous Pipeline Group**



**Quarter 2: 2022 Newsletter**

Follow us and stay up-to-date with WIPG news, events, and announcements.