



## BC First Nations Recycling Initiative **2021 IN REVIEW**







## ABOUT US

The First Nations Recycling Initiative (FNRI) supports recycling in First Nation communities throughout British Columbia. We collaborate directly with First Nation communities across BC to provide information about BC's recycling stewardship programs and support local community collection events and existing recycling programs. We work together on projects to recycle tires, appliances, residential packaging and paper, electronics, beverage containers, batteries, power equipment, and health products.

The following stewardship programs were partners in the First Nations Recycling Initiative throughout 2021: Call2Recycle, ElectroRecycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Health Products Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, Return-It, and Tire Stewardship BC.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tim Jones, the Field Services Specialist for the FNRI remained actively engaged with communities in 2021 despite challenges due to the pandemic and weather conditions. He communicated with community contacts via virtual meetings, emails, and phone calls to facilitate removal of recyclable FNRI program material during collection events in conjunction with communities and local governments. This role also maintained ongoing relationships with First Nation communities, participating stewardship programs, other Indigenous industry groups and local, regional, and federal governments.

Community engagement involved a site visit, when possible, to determine FNRI support and assess participation. In some cases, the community contacted the FNRI to participate in a scheduled site visit, while at other times FNRI was asked by the local government to participate. A site visit with the FNRI, local government and community is beneficial to learn what is required firsthand and how to support activities and collaborate.

Prior to site visits, there are many contacts made and emails exchanged during the coordinating process, not only with the community but also the local government. Typically, the individuals involved with recycling work within the public works, operation and maintenance or housing departments of First Nation communities while other times a particularly engaged community group can reach out to the FNRI for assistance.

### Total number of in-person community visits (13):

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Bonaparte Indian Band    | 8 Squiala First Nation        |
| 2 Coldwater Indian Band    | 9 Stz'uminus First Nation     |
| 3 Ditidaht First Nation    | 10 Tzeachten First Nation     |
| 4 Lower Nicola Indian Band | 11 Tla'amin Nation (Sliammon) |
| 5 Malahat Indian Band      | 12 Upper Nicola Band          |
| 6 Seabird Island Band      | 13 Wei Wai Kum First Nation   |
| 7 Skeetchestn Indian Band  |                               |



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT/REGIONAL DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT

### Tim worked with the following Regional Districts (9) this year:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Regional District of Mount Waddington   | • Thompson-Nicola Regional District    |
| • Cowichan Valley Regional District   | • Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako |
| • Comox Strathcona Waste Management (Comox Valley Regional District & Strathcona Regional District) | • Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  |
| • qathet Regional District  | • Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine |

When not possible to travel in person, correspondence was done through video meetings, emails and phone calls.

## OTHER COLLABORATIONS

The FNRI placed priority in 2021 on collaborating more closely with other existing groups which share goals of supporting recycling programs within Indigenous communities. These groups include the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group ([IZWTAG](#)) and Indigenous Services Canada ([ISC](#))'s First Nations Waste Management Initiative. Collaboration took place through FNRI's attendance at some of IZWTAG's quarterly and annual general meetings (upon invitation) as the FNRI is an associate member of IZWTAG. The FNRI also continued its established quarterly meetings with ISC. The first working group between all three groups took place in the Fall 2021, with plans to meet more frequently in 2022.

Tim also sits as a representative on MARR's Local Government Advisory Council Meeting.

## NEWLY UPDATED RESOURCES

In Fall 2021, we revised the First Nations Recycling Initiative Resource Guide to focus on individual stewardship program information, including what items are accepted by each program and what to consider when collecting program material for responsible disposal.

FNRI published revised versions of the [First Nations Recycling Initiative Resource Guide](#) and [BC First Nations Recycling Initiative Program Overview](#), which provide the most-up-to-date information about each participating stewardship program.



We are happy to share electronic or paper copies with anyone interested!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to visit our website to learn more about the FNRI, read past annual reports, and access other resources: [RecycleBC.ca/First-Nations-Recycling-Initiative](https://RecycleBC.ca/First-Nations-Recycling-Initiative)

You can contact us by email at [info@fnri.ca](mailto:info@fnri.ca).

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!

