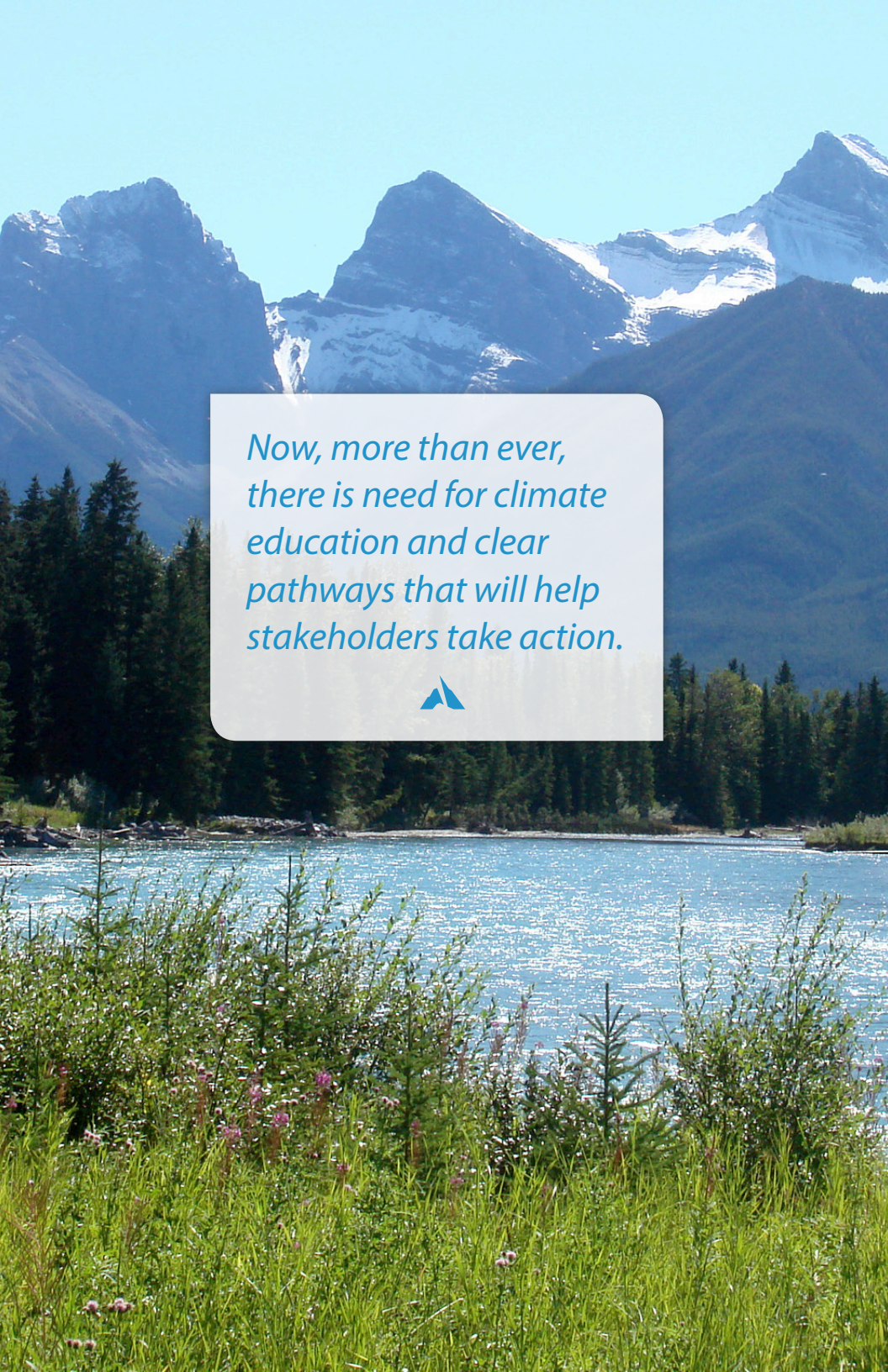




Building Climate Resilience in Indigenous and Rural Communities Program



*Now, more than ever,
there is need for climate
education and clear
pathways that will help
stakeholders take action.*

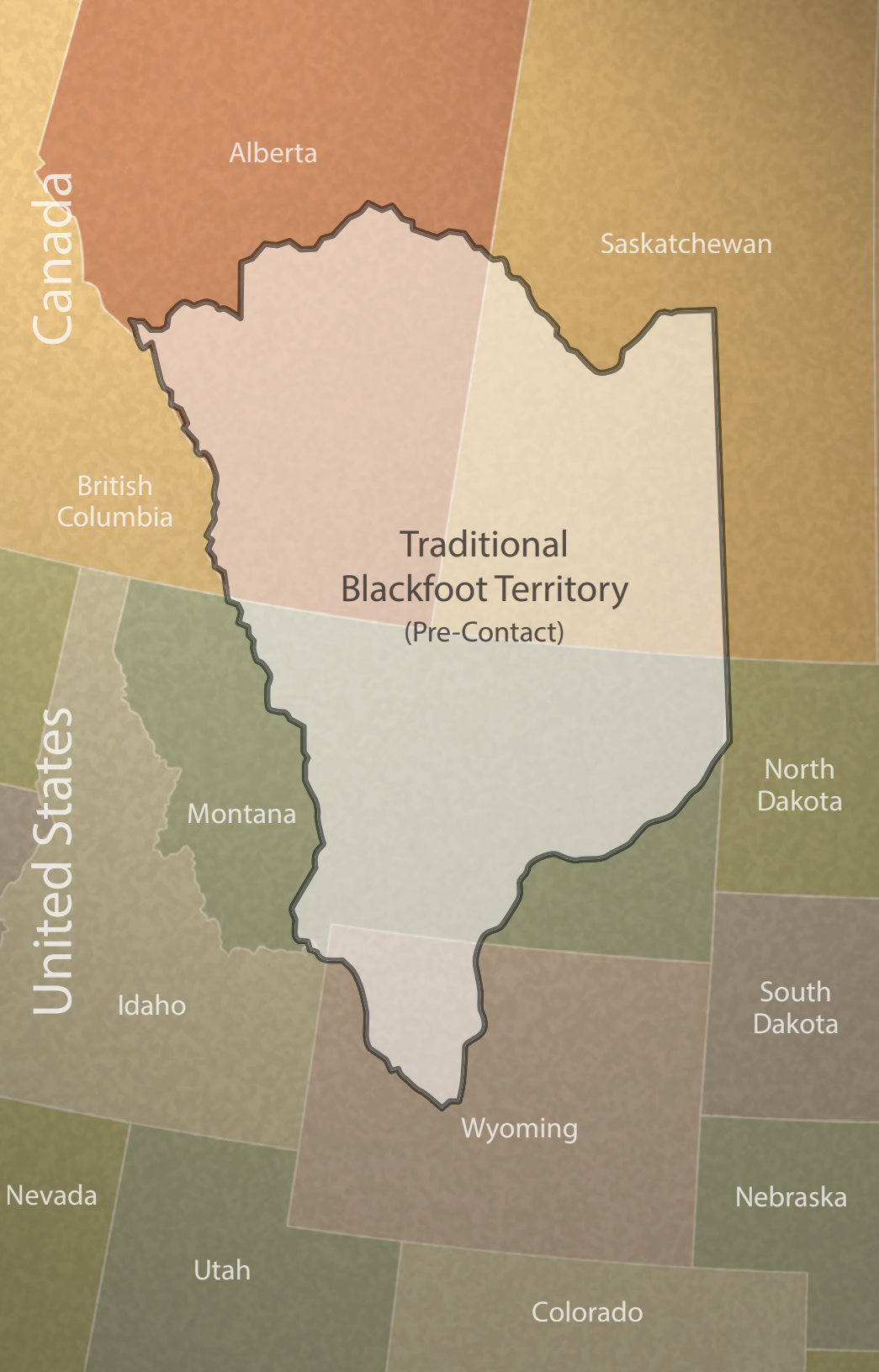


Building Climate Resilience in Indigenous and Rural Communities

Indigenous people, mountain and northern communities, and those who rely on large landscapes for their livelihoods, are particularly vulnerable to climate change symptoms. These are priority areas for The Rockies Institute (TRI).

Current projects include:

- Building Climate Resilience & Adaptation in the Kainai First Nation
- Comparative Pilot Project with an indigenous community in South Africa
- Partnering on a Renewable Energy in Indigenous, Northern and Remote Communities Initiative at the School of Environment and Sustainability in Saskatchewan



Building Climate Resilience and Adaptation in the Kainai First Nation

Project Description

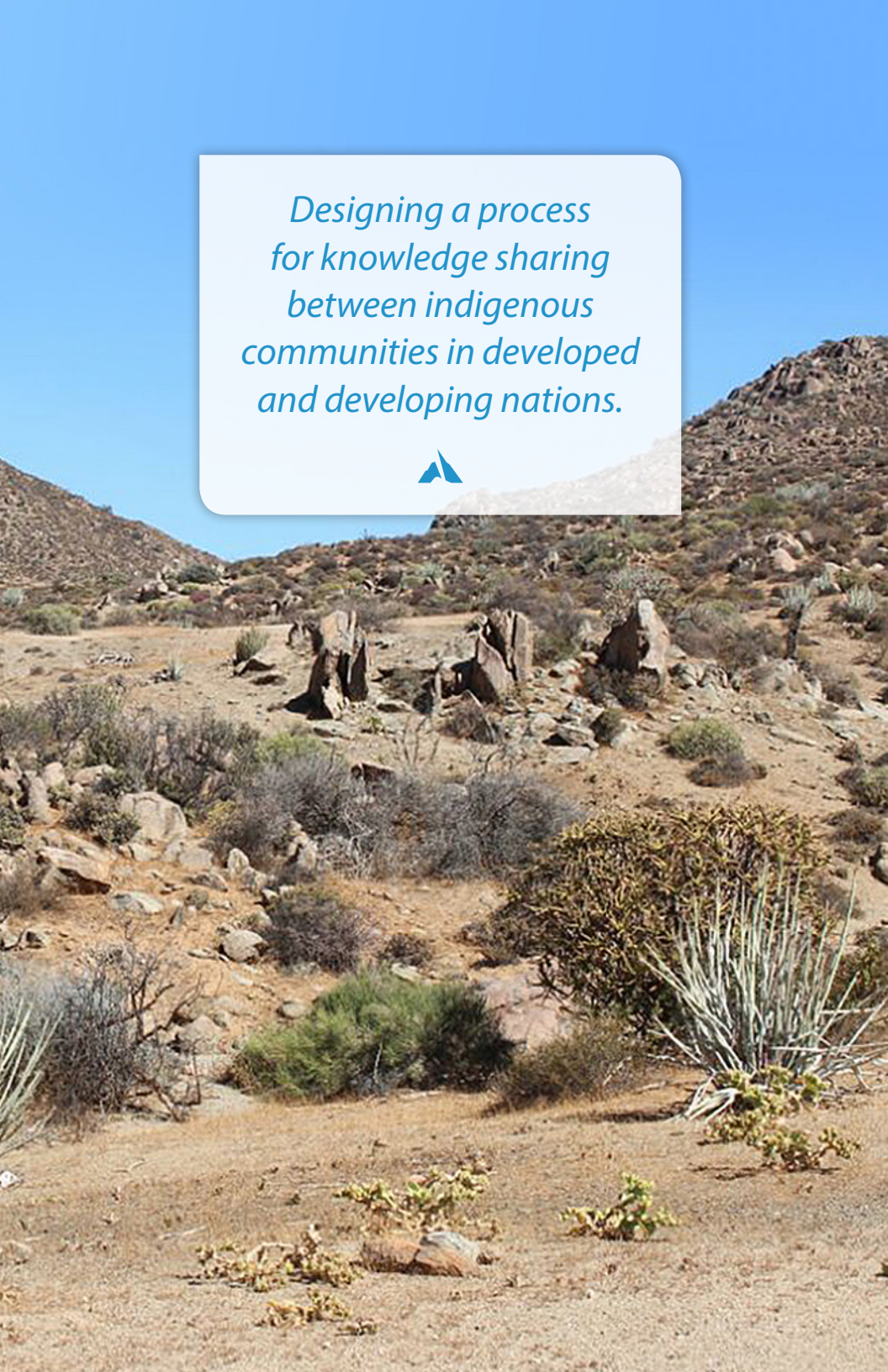
This project will build the Blood Tribe's capacity to address the consequences of climate change in the short, medium and long term. Increasing overall Tribal knowledge on climate change will help members address risks and plan for an uncertain and changing future.

Goals of Phase One are as follows:

1. Broadly increase Tribal climate change knowledge and skills through a series of education sessions
2. Create a new in-Tribe Climate Change Coordinator position
3. Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment and co-author an Adaptation Plan
4. Create opportunities for youth and Elder engagement through Knowledge Sharing Journeys such as *Traditional Plant Use* and *The Art of Climate Change* project
5. Share the outcomes of our journey with other tribes in the Blackfoot Confederacy and with indigenous communities around the globe where comparative analysis is relevant

Phase Two components would include supporting the Tribe to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies.





*Designing a process
for knowledge sharing
between indigenous
communities in developed
and developing nations.*



Comparative Pilot Project in South Africa

Lessons learned from our work in North America and in South Africa can provide a scalable participatory approach that can be replicated in other indigenous communities – transferable knowledge that can benefit communities around the globe. It is important to get local communities involved, but there is often a lack of capacity at the local level therefore it can be difficult to move ahead. How can indigenous communities overcome these challenges in order to adapt?


Collaborating with a network of indigenous communities, climate change adaptation and resilience experts, and leaders in other indigenous communities, we aim to establish a framework for capturing and sharing learnings.

To test this framework, the TRI team is developing a pilot study in collaboration with South African National Parks (SANParks). Points of comparison could be:

- how each community views their relationship with the natural world
- understanding of the term “climate change”
- current capacity to deal with climate change risks
- actions the communities are taking now with regard to changes they’ve seen or fear
- what is working well with these actions?
- what are barriers to moving ahead?
- where is additional support needed? (gaps), including knowledge/ education/tools

Outcomes of this project will include skills training for indigenous community members; the development of a guidance document; a process for deep knowledge sharing between communities; and a framework for indigenous community members to build their own adaptation plans and promote uptake by their elected local leaders and other community stakeholders.

TRI is currently seeking project partners and supporters for this initiative. If you are interested in learning more, please contact our project coordinator: karen@rockiesinstitute.com



“The Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of our planet are at the front lines of climate change.”

Greg Poelzer



Renewable Energy in Indigenous, Northern and Remote Communities Initiative at the School of Environment and Sustainability in Saskatchewan

The Rockies Institute is proud to be a partner NGO with the Renewable Energy in Indigenous, Northern and Remote Communities Initiative lead by Dr. Greg Poelzer.

Building on the Renewable Energy Report of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, this initiative brings together a network of professionals actively working to increase indigenous, northern, and remote communities' participation in the renewable energy sector in the circumpolar arctic and sub-arctic.

Stakeholders from indigenous communities, the energy sector, government, academia and NGOs will explore topics such as:

- Consultation, strategic environmental assessment and strategic impact assessment processes for indigenous, northern, and remote communities for renewable energy production and transmission projects
- Development of a value proposition for community-level renewables through identifying best practices, technological solutions and innovative strategies
- Opportunities and approaches for indigenous, northern, and remote communities to become independent power producers



Why Our Work Matters

Canadian indigenous communities have much to share with the world, but they too are faced with the symptoms of a changing climate system that threatens their well-being and ways of life. Climate change also exacerbates some of the current challenges faced by many indigenous communities including, loss of land and resources, economic marginalization, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment.

Knowledge exchange between western science and traditional knowledge could help the world meet its climate goals, but the process for building trust within and between communities and non-indigenous stakeholders cannot be overestimated.

The Rockies Institute has obtained seed funding to begin exploring these important concepts with indigenous communities. We are grateful to the following supporters:



About The Rockies Institute

The Rockies Institute is a not-for-profit organization with practitioners from all over the world and a home base in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Our mission is to help individuals, organizations, and communities build climate resilience and adapt to our changing environment.

We aim to close the gap between knowledge and action by working closely with stakeholders in co-designing projects and creating policies that weave climate change into decision making.



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