

# Focus Forward for Indigenous Youth

Charitable Registration No. 70916 7092 RR0001



FOCUS FORWARD  
For Indigenous Youth

## Focus Forward for Indigenous Youth Partnership with Demand Renewables

### Organization Summary:

Focus Forward for Indigenous Youth is a registered charity that helps to provide Indigenous youth the opportunity to develop hands on skills by working on community driven projects from start to finish. Project specifics are strategically selected by the community, ensuring the community can find their own unique solution.

### Wiikwemkoong Greenhouse for Change Project Summary:

Focus Forward has consulted with community stakeholders from the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and the decision was made to construct a four-season greenhouse nestled into a sloping hill adjacent to their high school. Construction began in the spring of 2018 and we ran student programming during July and August where a group of 13 students were able to be mentored by the housing department of the local Band in constructing the insulated concrete form (ICF) walls of this unique greenhouse. Additionally, the students installed a 5-kW Net-Metered Solar System on their high school that was generously provided to us by **Demand Renewables** at a discounted rate. The students went through a five-day intensive solar workshop ran by the North American Solar Academy where they learned solar fundamentals and practiced mounting the solar panels indoors before installing the system on the roof of their high school.

### Upcoming Projects

In our work with Indigenous Communities I have found there is a strong cultural desire to be self-sufficient and solar is a technology that aligns perfectly with these values. Therefore, the strong partnership we have with **Demand Renewables** is vital to achieve our community partner's food & energy sovereignty goals. A perfect examples of this is a 15-kW PV system scheduled to be installed in the Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan this summer again provided to us by **Demand Renewables**. The solar PV system will cover all the energy demands of one of few fully self-sufficient, carbon free, four season greenhouses in northern Canada. The synergy between clean renewable energy and sustainable food systems is a model that we are helping educate youth and empower communities with to scale and implement these collaborative solutions themselves.

As our organization grows and develops many more projects, the need for strong partnerships to help implement solar in indigenous communities across Canada is crucial.



### Cedric Pepelea, CRE

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