

# Yukon Youth Outside (the box)

*An experiential summit to discuss Climate Change*



Yukon Youth Outside (the box) Final Report

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Prepared by Jessica Thiessen

for Johanna Smith, Yukon Government Climate Change Coordinator



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## Executive Summary:

On August 29, 2007, 24 Yukoners between the ages of 16 and 27 packed up their gear and made their way out to Sprucewind Camp at Marsh Lake. On the shores of the flooding lake and surrounded by beetle killed trees, the youth were tasked with the question: What would Youth do, in place of the Yukon Government, if asked to solve Climate Change?

Over the course of the three day camp the group moved through a series of teambuilding, problem solving, reflective, and group discussion based activities. Quickly and almost cohesively, the participants graduated from feelings of fear, overwhelming helplessness, and pessimism, to separating fact from fiction, determining how they could be most effective, and finding hope in action. Day One was a sharing of feelings and basic knowledge. Day Two was an overwhelming determination of the complexity involved in tackling Climate Change. Day Three began with mild panic at the lack of time available to find a solution and ended with passion focused on an accomplishable outcome.

Ultimately, the most important outcome of this event was the transition experienced by each participant. We feel that this process is relevant and important, not only for youth, but for all Yukoners as they come to terms with, and find solutions to, Global Warming. Time must be taken to understand the implications of Climate Change and acknowledge the accompanying fear involved. Next, time must be given to understand the overwhelming complexity of the issue. Finally, one must decide upon a focused course of action and proceed to devote all available resources to an effective outcome. It is important to note that cooperation and collaboration are integral at every stage. In order to maintain focus and hope, one must ensure two way information transfer. An increased understanding of work in and outside of the community allows each contributor to maximize their effectiveness and minimize frustration as they work toward completing their piece of the puzzle.

This short report is an overview of the recommendations, feelings, suggestions, thoughts, and questions that surfaced throughout the process that Yukon Youth Outside (the box) went through. Please see the accompanying slide show which is the product of this transformation. For more details regarding the process, please see the Event notes attached in the appendices.

## Day One

Before they were given any information, the participants of Yukon Youth Outside (the box) were asked to divulge their uncorrupted thoughts on the topic of climate change. The following is a snapshot of our first day discussing Climate Change.

### Thoughts

- New green things are superficial, like a band aid
- Danger and threat tactics are not doing enough
- Fuel efficient cars aren't driven enough
- We need to just buy less; change behaviors and attitudes
- It is frustrating that it seems that saving the environment damages the economy
- Recycling historically has been an indication that societies are not managing resources well
- Why no regulations on SUV/Hybrid vehicles?
- Need more technology
- Society's immediate involvement needed now
- Leadership is needed on a bigger scale; civic responsibility is important but businesses and government must be stronger (re: California)
- We should strive to be Petri dishes and challenge assumptions
- No quick fix, this issue is a time bomb
- Climate Change seems inevitable; how can we make good when rushing forward?
- Panic affects action but the problem is so urgent
- Solutions may include giving up a lot but we may discover new gains
- We may not ever be completely green but other places, like Europe, have better practices that we can follow

### Feelings

- Disappointed in our actions so far
- Helplessness of huge spectrum of concerns
- Concerned about grave consequences, about the future
- Concerned that people are not worried and don't think it's a problem.
- Confused; what can I do?
- Feel helpless; how can we make everyone realize how big this problem is?
- Feel overwhelmed - Climate change is a massive issue with so many variables
- Worried about health concerns such as air quality
- Concerned with designing cities to address city sprawl
- Governments never seem to take decisive action
- Feel cynical
- Feel frustrated, we must act intelligently and quickly
- Concerned about negative focus of issue
- Change will not happen over night
- People have power to influence politicians, not the other way around
- Feel pessimistic
- Something new must be done; feel ignored and annoyed
- Feel fear and frustration
- Small actions and bad habits add up
- Must share ideas, hopes and fears with other people
- Every little bit counts

## Day Two

The group proceeded to discuss recommendations for Yukon Government and effective communication of these thoughts. The Action Highlights are a summary of the discussions that led to the Key Messages set out in PETERS Plan.

### Action Highlights

#### Planning

- Leadership
- Intelligent building, expand the downtown core with apartments, group houses etc. by using space that is unused
- Partnerships! Regular cooperation and communication
- Centralized list of work on climate change
- Fill inner city space with mix of homes and businesses instead of sprawling suburbs
- Build suburbs closer together, rather than separating them by large green spaces. In other words, destroy forest in town rather than out of town for the purpose of housing
- Cities need sustainable, effective, land use management
- Full service curb-side recycling and composting available to all residents, businesses, schools, campgrounds etc.
- Intelligent city planning: public transportation, green spaces, bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure; further development of local recycling facility
- Pilot project to have compacted recycling centers in communities outside of the city. Such as: Pilot Mt., Mary Lake, Menden Hall, Pine Ridge etc. With a bi-monthly pickup of the recycling.

#### Education

- Educate everyone, keep us informed, use positive encouragement
- Work for awareness: campaigning with direct, personalized messages (eg. the anti smoking campaign, bathroom stall posters)
- Build and include curriculum for early education and classes in high school
- Mandatory climate change integration into school programs
- More bursaries etc. for environmental programs and clubs
- Public education for all Yukoners; focus on understanding of the impacts of climate change and personal responsibility; focus specifically on different demographics
- Workplace education (Have accessible programs/examples for people to model in the workplace)
- Weekly/monthly newsletter/flyer about climate change
- Use unlikely advertising to get attention of people that don't give a "darn" (eg. make beer educational)
- Local beer with facts and cool images/sayings
- Green cans/bottles
- Advertise the truth

## Transport

- Improve public transportation (more frequent, more reliable, better routes, free bus passes)
- Regulations related to fuel efficiency such as mandatory emission checks
- Tax high emission vehicles
- Fines for idling in parking lots
- Regulations on recreational vehicles
- Lower registration fees for fuel efficient vehicles; taxes on inefficient vehicles; vehicle limits on households
- Buses and carpools for residents living outside of city limits
- Park n' Ride stations at the Carcross cutoff (Robert service way & Mayo road stocked with bikes or a shuttle to downtown)
- Twice a day shuttles from out of town; Business synch work hours with out of town shuttles
- Bike trails from Porter Creek & other places to downtown
- Convert bike paths to ski/skate lanes in the winter
- Improve/expand/build up safe bike lanes
- Smaller/handi buses for lesser used bus routes or during non peak times
- Research into alternative fuels for bus
- Make bus routes run Friday, Saturday nights, and Sundays
- Have walking school buses (groups) for young children
- Supply bicycles to businesses for in town errands
- More bike racks in accessible safe places
- Support alternative fuel and oil

## Energy

- Move the Yukon towards energy sustainability and away from dependence on fossil fuels.
- Change mindset, energy should be wind, water etc.
- Work toward communities with self-sustaining power
- Sustainable energy for all Yukoners: renewable, clean, efficient, with a focus on conservation.
- Explore and facilitate the use of renewable energy resources for home heating
- Invest in wind and solar energy
- Diversify the energy economy

## Responsibility

- Choose local food and products first
- Lead the country with regulations and incentives
- Make government departments green (lead by example!)
- Workplace improvement: Green commuting, efficient appliances, paper-saving, compost/recycle, green audits
- Fleet: fuel efficient vehicles
- Energy efficient buildings
- New buildings should meet highest standards
- Extension on GreenHoG book (focus on snowmobiles, ATVs, facts and technologies to reduce impact on climate)
- Energy audits; create energy quotas; emission competition.
- Encourage existing infrastructure like composting
- Ban plastic bags; bio-degradable cornhusk bags and packaging (see Scandinavia)
- Higher taxes on businesses that use lots of packaging
- Business which provides packaging is responsible for it, use less
- Target people who are not already interested (info at snowmobile stores etc.)
- Cycling timers for vehicle plug ins
- Starting car early in cold – 2 minutes vs. 30 minutes
- Model enviro-friendly home; show not more expensive or lower quality

## Supply Locally

- Government, local business and individual Yukoners should look to purchase first locally, then from Canada for all foods and goods
- Reduce dependence on outside and support local resources
- Subsidize subsistence and low impact lifestyle (eg. pay for day of work on garden, garden cheques, bursaries for greenhouses, more community/subdivisions gardens)
- Local grocery stores stocking local food products appropriate to the season. permanent farmers market/fruit stand.
- In grocery stores have information about where produce came from, environmental impact, and carbon cost
- Government financial aid to local farmers eg. farmers funded per acre of land used for farming
- Aid for the start up of individual and community gardens
- Education about soil quality, harvesting strategies etc. made available to the general public (workshops)
- Free gardening kits (eg. quality soil, basic seeds, soil testing kits)
- Promote local and other hunting in the Yukon
- More education programs about hunting (workshops)
- More community gardens in communities and subdivisions.
- Local lumber or from eco-friendly company from south

## Key Messages

After two days of discussion, the participants created PETERS Plan. On their way to punchy, one line messaging, these were the most important recommendations the group wished to convey.

### Planning

*“Plan for a green city by focusing on high density, centralized housing and curbside collection of recyclables and compost for all sectors.”*

### Education

*“Education is necessary to recognize our impact on the environment and to take on climate change.”*

### Transportation

*“Minimize green house gas emissions and maximize efficiency through transportation infrastructure and public awareness.”*

### Energy

*“Move the Yukon towards energy sustainability and away from dependence on fossil fuels”*

### Responsibility

*“It is the responsibility of Yukoners to adopt green practices at home and in the work place with help from government sponsored programs and incentives.”*

### Supply locally

*“Governments, local businesses, and individual Yukoners should support the harvesting, production, processing and consumption of local resources, as well as community driven initiatives (i.e. Community gardens).”*

On day three, the group pulled together their thoughts, feelings, and recommendations to create their final product. The slideshow (final product) depicts the event’s most important messages conveyed by markers and skin. It follows the same progression of fear, anxiety, and hope that the group experienced in their short time together.

Yukon Youth Outside (the box) concluded with a circle discussion which allowed each participant to share their feelings about the event. With great cohesion the group expressed hope, inspiration, and pride in their work.

This event was a great success as it allowed time for each of the participants to proceed through a continuum from fear (about the implications of Global Warming), to anxiety (about the complexity of the issue) and arriving at hope (by engaging in the solution). We believe this process is valuable and strive to inspire others to follow our path. We are willing to make a difference and we challenge you to do the same.

## Appendix 1: Event Agenda

### Yukon Youth Outside (the box)

July 31, August 1, August 2  
Agenda

All participants should arrange drop-offs, pick-ups, and/or parking to and from Environment Yukon at 10 Burns Road (across from the airport). Each participant will be responsible for their own sleeping bag/sleeping pad, pillow, clothing (warm and cool, hat, rain gear, boots, runners, etc.), personal toiletries (bug spray, toothbrush, etc.) utensils, cup, bowl, plate, and any other eating utensils you may need. Tents and food will be provided.

<b>Tuesday July 31</b>	7:30	<i>Bus leaves Environment Yukon</i>
	8:30	<i>Arrive Spruce Winds, Marsh Lake</i>
	8:45	<i>Introduction to Yukon Youth Outside (the box)</i>
	9:00	<b>Equinox Rox</b> <i>Ice Breaking fun times</i> <i>Team Building Games</i>
	12:00	<i>Lunch</i>
	1:00	<i>Free time</i>
	2:30	<b>Focus Session 1: Pooling facts and gathering data</b> <i>What do we know about Climate Change?</i> <i>What have people been saying about it?</i> <i>What have we read about it?</i>
	4:00	<i>Snack Time</i>
	4:15	<b>Focus Session 2: Reflections and Risks</b> <i>What's your first reaction?</i> <i>What concerns you most about this problem?</i>
	6:00	<i>Wrap up / Homework</i>
	6:30	<i>Dinner</i>
	7:30	<i>An Inconvenient Truth and Arctic Climate Impact Assessment</i>
	9:30	<i>Free Time</i>
	11:00	<i>Tent Time</i>

**Wednesday  
August 1**

9:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
10:00	<i>Regroup and Reflect</i>
10:30	<b>Focus Session 3: Exploring significance, implications, and options</b> <i>How urgent is it that we solve this?</i> <i>What will happen if we don't do anything?</i>
11:15	<i>Snack Time</i>
11:30	<b>Focus Session 3: Continued</b> <i>What options are available to us?</i> <i>What are the implications of each of these options?</i>
1:00	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00	<b>Focus Session 4: Decision Making</b> <i>What needs to be done about Climate Change?</i> <i>Who needs to do it?</i> <i>When and How?</i>
4:15	<i>Snack Time</i>
4:30	<b>Focus Session 5: Setting Priorities</b> <i>Rockmocracy</i>
5:15	<b>Focus Session 6: Recommendations</b> <i>Discuss and Decide</i> <i>Plan for Thursday</i>
6:30	<i>Dinner</i>
7:30	<b>Equinox Rox</b> <i>GPTeaming with Portable Low Ropes Challenge Course</i>
9:30	<i>Free time</i>
11:00	<i>Tent time</i>

**Thursday  
August 2**

9:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
10:00	<i>Sandbagging Marsh Lake</i>
11:30	<b>Focus Session 6: Creating the Product</b> <i>What do our recommendations look like?</i>
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30	<b>Focus Session 7: Presenting the Product</b> <i>How can we communicate our decisions most effectively?</i> <i>Do it!</i>
3:00	<i>Wrap Up, Snack Up, and Pack Up</i>
4:00	<i>Bus Leaves for Whitehorse</i>

## Appendix 2: Full Event Notes

### DAY 1 – July 31st

#### Equinox Rox - Ice Breaking fun times, Team Building Games

*Equinox Rox led the group of 24 participants through team building and problem solving activities. These included:*

- *Name Game*
- *Rope Tag*
- *Lava Rock Tag*
- *Dead Ant*
- *Bonkers*
- *Over the Electric Fence*
- *Electric Maze*

#### Focus Session 1: Pooling facts and gathering data

*The conference started off with an introduction and journaling at the Friendship circle at Spruce Wind. Each participant was handed out a journal, for their personal use only.*

*They were given 15 minutes to write in their journal answering:*

- 1) Why are you here?*
- 2) What do you think you can contribute to this process?*

*The facilitator then set out the guidelines for the process of the conference including time for questions and comments.*

- There are no dumb questions or comments in this process
- If you are going to laugh at someone's comment make sure that they are laughing with you, do not assume
- *COMMENTS:*
- Every person is important
- Complete this whole process together. You will get as much out of it as you put in
- We are scared of nature and its uncertainty so we try to control the environment and modify it and we see dramatic changes and transformation
- The whole is greater than the sum of all parts. Process changes people and inspires them to make a differences, spreading like a virus

## **Focus Session 1: What do we know about climate change?**

*The group gathered around the friendship circle and held a popcorn discussion where feelings and thoughts about climate change were exchanged.*

- New green things are superficial, like a band aid.
- Does trendiness affect climate change?
- Every little bit counts
- Danger is not doing enough
- Fuel efficient cars aren't driven enough
- We need to just buy less, and change behaviors and attitudes
- Solutions may include giving up a lot but we may find out that we are actually gaining something.
- There are many people that do not have the opportunity that we have
- We may not ever be completely green but other places, like Europe, have better practices that we can follow.
- It is frustrating that it seems that saving the environment damages the economy.
- It would cost Whitehorse residents \$200 extra in taxes to have full service recycling, but the political powers need the support of constituents.
- There also is the cost of shipping and driving to pick up recycling that need to be considered.
- Implications of actions can be complex and it is important to think through each action or idea
- Recycling historically has been an indication that societies are not managing resources well.

## **What have people been saying about Climate Change? What have we read about it?**

*The group split into 5 groups and was instructed to put down 10 phrases or sentences that could be answered true or false. These could be ideas, rumors, or facts regarding climate change. When the group rejoined they split in half to make teams (the Climate Cling-Ons vs. the Climate Banishers) and took turns attempting to correctly answer the questions the other team had designed. .*

### **Questions:**

- 1) Marsh Lake is flooded because of climate change.
- 2) Is climate change human caused?
  - IPCC 95 % certainty
  - Discussion between teams
  - Facilitator- Here the popularity of climate change can backfire (uncertainty in science translates as uncertainty in the media and the public loses trust in the science).
- 3) When you buy a 'Reel' lawnmower you can get a %50 rebate from ESC.
- 4) Different areas of the earth will be affected in different ways.
- 5) Dilution is the solution to pollution.
- 6) Social change is necessary in order to do something about climate change.

- 7) Eat Locally/Eat Organics
  - *Organics are better because it allows for carbon sequestration.*
  - *Normal agriculture removes CO<sub>2</sub> from soil.*
  - *Eating organics also depends on the distance traveled.*
- 8) There will be a major change in animal populations and species distributions.
- 9) Bananas are the #1 carbon producing fruit.
- 10) Climate change is already killing people.
- 11) If you are going to idle for more than 10 seconds it is more efficient to turn off your vehicle.
- 12) Gulf Stream is going to freeze.
- 13) Flying is the most fuel efficient way to travel.
- 14) The tree line will decrease.
- 15) Water used for oil drilling is wasted; it can never get used again.
- 16) It takes 90 years to grow a roll of toilet paper.
- 17) Money is driving political agenda rather than people.
- 18) Sun drives climate change
- 19) Due to climate change the Sámi people of Russia are decreasing in number.
- 20) Hershel Island is disappearing.
- 21) Global water levels are rising and Marsh Lake is flooding.
- 22) The hole in the ozone has been directly linked to the rise of hair metal in the 1980's.
- 23) Increasing global temperature is a trend
- 24) Livestock is the greatest contributor to green house gases.
- 25) Permafrost is melting
- 26) Temperature changes are different across the globe.
- 27) Climate change was predicted by Coniferous.
- 28) Landfills produce methane gas that can be released in the atmosphere if not handled properly.
- 29) Industrialization has raised the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> from ~275 ppm to 355 ppm.
- 30) We don't need to change.
- 31) The world's oceans act as a global carbon sink.
- 32) Polar bear populations are decreasing dramatically due to the Arctic ice melting.
- 33) Climate change will affect both natural and man made environments.
- 34) Rising temperatures destroys coral reefs.
- 35) Flying is a very large contributor to green house gas emissions.
- 36) Climate change will also produce cooling as well as global warming.
- 37) CO<sub>2</sub> is the main anthropogenic greenhouse gas.
- 38) Public transportation and more intelligent/efficient city designs are a good solution to reducing the usage of fossil fuels.
- 39) Chinese cashmere goats are contributing to climate change.
- 40) Japanese car companies are outperforming the American car companies.
- 41) The slash & burn method of deforestation practiced in many rain forests is a main contributor to global carbon emissions.
- 42) The technology we have today can reduce climate change.

- 43) We don't need to change because it won't affect us. (We will be dead & gone.)
- 44) Main greenhouse gases include CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and water vapor.
- 45) Today we only have 20,000 hunter/gatherers left in the world.
- 46) Hydrogen fuel cells require a primary energy source and therefore are not yet a clean solution.
- 47) Natural gas is a very limited finite resource and only adds some years to our ability to use fossil fuels as an energy source.
- 48) 99% of scientists say it's a crisis.
- 49) Weird, erratic weather patterns are more common.
- 50) Climate change doesn't exist

## **Focus Session 2: Reflections and Risks**

*The group gathered around the 'Friendship circle' to discuss any issues that they were concerned about in regards to climate change. The discussion started with the facilitator asking:*

- 1) *What's your first reaction?*
- 2) *What concerns you most about this problem?*

*Each participant first recorded their feelings in a private journal, then shared with the group as a whole.*

- Helplessness of huge spectrum of concerns.
- Disappointed
- Concerned about grave consequences.
- Concerned about education. Society's immediate involvement needed now.
- Concerned that people are not worried and don't think it's a problem.
- Confused. What can I do?
- Concerned about future. There are so many changes happening so quickly and more action is needed for this.
- People don't realize that it is a big problem.
- Feel helpless.
- How can we make everyone realize?
- Climate change is a massive issue with so many variables.
- Feel overwhelmed.
- Feel overwhelmed by big problem. There is no quick fix, issue is a time bomb.
- Worried about health concerns such as air quality.
- Concerned with designing cities to address city sprawl. Governments never seem to take decisive action.
- Feel cynical, seems inevitable.
- How can we make good when rushing forward?
- Small actions and bad habits add up.
- Feel helpless, what can 1 person do? We are only 25 people in a whole territory.

- Concerned about policy, why are there no regulation on SUV/Hybrid vehicles.
  - Need more technology.
  - Concerned that not enough people do anything. We all need to do what can be changed around house.
  - There is not enough environmental education.
  - People do not care that they are making us go downhill when we want to go up.
  - Feel overwhelmed. Important to do the little things.
  - Concerned that we are losing all we have, food/shelter/space.
  - Feel urgency of problem.
  - Feel there is panic, which affects action.
  - Feel frustrated, we must act intelligently and fast.
  - The problem speaks to me about lifestyle. We must change for fulfillment, not in response to fear.
- Q.) What lifestyle are you talking about? A.) Consumption
- First reaction is one of sickness.
  - Citizens must protect the world for generations after us.
  - We are not well informed and need to consume less. There is a consumption disease.
  - Concerned about negative focus of issue and the power the government has.
  - Change will not happen over night. We must share with other people.
  - People have power to influence constituents, not constituents influence people.
  - What was national health care concern is now shifted to climate change.
  - Feel pessimistic.
  - Something new must be done.
  - Feel ignored and annoyed.
  - Worried about north, ie. Invasive species.
  - Feel fear and frustration. There are many layers to this discussion. Leadership is needed on a bigger scale. Ex. Civic responsibility is important but businesses and government must be stronger (re: California). We should strive to be Petri dishes and challenge assumptions.

*Facilitator challenged youth to think of Yukon Initiatives. Those named included*

- Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)
- Yukon Environmental Network (YEN)
- Environmental Educators of the Yukon
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Raven Recycling
- Yukon Carbon Fund
- Wood street school
- Yukon College
- Birding community
- Great green growers

*An organization like YCS is staffed by 4 people. They are responsible for the advocacy of environment, representing an alternative opinion in the community, public education and political critique and we all knew who they are and what they do. The Yukon has been held up as a Petri dish (a leading community) internationally for many of its climate change efforts. And yet, we now see so little hope.*

*As a group of 25, if we each share with 3 people we will be able to spread the way we feel about it all.*

*Participants were then asked to think of one word about climate change to share how they felt and close the session.*

- Renewability
- Sustainability
- Education
- Stewardship
- Perseverance
- Ignorance
- Policy
- Hopeful
- Responsibility
- Communication
- Hope
- Equilibrium
- Renewable
- Leadership
- Change
- Caring

*After each individual had shared their feelings the discussion continued as people elaborated on some of their feelings and concerns.*

- We don't have enough time; if we leave it to just a few people it will not spread fast enough.
- You can't just lecture, you must spark enthusiasm. Economy will get priority over environment.
- (Facilitator) *What can we do to be effective?*
- We are so small, such a small part of a big part.
- (Facilitator) *80% of Nunavut is under 30 and there is a similar majority of young people across the North, if youth all voted we would run the place..*
- People that showed up to this workshop already care and do stuff
- (Facilitator) *Do we want to make people care, or the government care, or a combination?*
- People are set in ways; they will not care until they are directly affected
- You have to be about to fight for it and lead by example
  - Initiatives are important, saving people money makes them happy.  
E.g. Hybrid vehicle rebate (vehicle itself is so expensive)

- University students have the power to make their own lifestyle choices, such as where to live.
- Subsidizing organic choices will make them more available for other people (Farms instead of roads).
- Why not be a tycoon of solar power and not oil?
- Government will only implement stuff that people will support and want.
- Political science topics in university seem to be concerned with climate change. Youth are worried about it but baby boomers are only worried about retirement.
- Youth should get involved and vote.

*The facilitator assigned the participants homework for the evening to reflect on and write in private journals.*

- 1) *What recommendations would you like to make to Yukon Government?*
- 2) *What is most important piece of your recommendations?*

*As a final activity the group gathered to watch 3 videos in the loft at Spruce Wind.*

- *An Inconvenient Truth*
- *Arctic Climate Impact Assessment*
- *Arctic Youth Network : Declaration on Climate Change from Youth of the Arctic*

## **DAY 2 – August 1<sup>st</sup>**

*After breakfast, the group joined together for a warm up name game and Clothes Pin tag. The conference then regrouped at Swan Haven to begin the day's discussion.*

### **Focus Session 3: Exploring significance, implications, and options**

*The facilitator introduced the session as the 'What' day. The group spilt off into 6 groups and was given 5 cards per group. The groups were instructed to write the 5 most important topics that they wanted to discuss today. They were instructed that what came out of this session would be what would drive the agenda for the day. The participants were also reminded that that consensus must be reached for anything recorded in group.*

#### **2) Plan**

- Partnerships: Reporting system/communication. Cooperation. Organization/website with managed list of climate change organizations.
- Further developing of the local recycling facility and ensuring that recycling and compost is accessible, perhaps mandatory. Ex: campsites, local businesses.
- Intelligent city planning. Fill inner city space with mix of homes and businesses instead of sprawling suburbs.
- Planning: Cities need sustainable, effect, leadership. Land use management.
- Full service recycling and composting available to residents and businesses.
- City planning: public transportation, green spaces, bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure.

#### **3) Education/Educate/Educating**

- Education/ awareness: campaigning with direct, personalized messages. Curriculum for early education and classes in high school. More bursaries etc. for environmental programs and clubs.
- Public education for all Yukoners. Understand the impacts of climate change to prepare to act.
- Promoting the addition of climate change into standard high school and elementary school's curriculum.
- Integration into schools, such as faculty member.
- Ad campaigns.
- Education directed at older generation.
- Public education to raise awareness on people's personal responsibility towards climate change, in places such as schools and workplaces.
- Education is necessary to recognize our impact on the environment.

- **Transport**
  - Improve public transportation and other alternatives (carpool/bike)
  - Improve public transportation (more frequent, more reliable, better routes, initiatives to the public)
  - Subsidize fuel efficient vehicles and 4-stroke recreation vehicles.
  - Regulations related to fuel efficiency such as: mandatory emission assessments of older vehicles. Regulations on recreational vehicles. Rebates on fuel efficient cars. Registration fees. Taxes on inefficient vehicles. Vehicle limits on households.
  - Further promoting the traditional transportation related measures such as buses and carpools, namely for residents living outside of city limits and government employees.
- 4) Energy**
- Change mindset. Energy does not equal oil. Energy should be wind, water etc. Self-sustainable community power. Alternative energy means.
  - Sustainable, Energy for all Yukoners: renewable, clean, efficient, conservation.
  - Money and research into alternative energy technologies.
  - Explore renewable energy resources for home heating.
- 5) Responsibility**
- Home: Encourage existing infrastructure, compost. Energy quotas. Emission competition.
  - Local food/markets.
  - Workplace improvement: Promote green commuting, efficient appliances, paper-saving methods, compost/recycle programs, green audits.
  - A list of easy actions for Yukoners to make their lives more eco-friendly (include: appliances, vehicles etc.)
  - Regulations/ Incentives: California, leadership, Petri dish, discounts, rebates, encouragement.
- 6) Supply Locally**
- Lead Canada in supporting and developing local supply of all goods
  - Making localization of goods and services a priority (subsidizing, bursaries, co-op's)
  - Promote local foods and goods (community gardens, personal gardens)
  - Subsidies for local farmers, including organic farmers.
  - Regulations on farmers/agriculture land. Information in stores for public education on food. Only bio-diesel fleets to drive here. Community gardens in communities. Could be youth run, include public education.

### **Focus Section 3 continued**

*Focus session 3 began with the group playing the 'Gordian Knot game' which encourages teamwork as the group tries to untangle their bodies from each other. This game progressed from groups of 5, to 10, and then a large 'knot' that included all participants.*

*After the game, the priorities identified from the morning session (Plan, Educate, Transport, Energy, Responsibility, and Supply Locally) (nicknamed PETERS PLAN) were separated into two groups of 3. Participants then divided among themselves and joined one of the three workshops to brainstorm for thirty minutes. This process was repeated with the other 3 priorities.*

*The goal of these workshops was to come up with a sentence that summarized the brainstorming behind the priority headings.*

*It was noted that there was not an area in PETERS plan to address land use and oil & gas development.*

#### **1. Plan**

***Plan for a green city by focusing on high density, centralized housing and curbside collection of recyclables and compost for all sectors.***

Infrastructure: affordable, hi-density living that is attractive. Increase density rather than spreading out. Improve on downtown. Build city more intelligently. More affordable apartments downtown. Discourage urban sprawl- fill in the city we have already.

Recycling: Household pickup funded from money from territorial government.

Expand Porter Creek pilot compost project. Recycling for fast food restaurants.

Recycling in communities that don't have them. Compost/educate at school.

Community gardens and lawns turned into gardens. Pilot community in Copper Ridge.

Waste management. Urban laws- strong regulations to prevent pollution, effective immediate

#### **2. Education/Educate/Educating**

***Education is necessary to recognize our impact on the environment and to take on climate change.***

Environmental ethics and actions.

Environmental stewardship is worth learning. Environmental stewardship needs to take a central role in education.

Environment Day. Older generations/ adults. Everyone can contribute.

Schools, business/public education. Use smoking campaign as example.

Education about climate change is the 1<sup>st</sup> step of action

### **3. Transport**

***Minimize green house gas emissions and maximize efficiency through transportation infrastructure and public awareness.***

Public transportation: huge buses are not full. Vans could be used instead of bus.

Fleet should be renewable low emissions.

Buses not scheduled at correct time.

Investigate Park & Ride, how to increase popularity of buses.

Shuttles for out of town commuters (Ex. Mayo rd. and Carcross.) Formal organize carpooling system.

In Vancouver/Victoria there are vans that have a driver that pick people up at house.

Could we contract hotel shuttle drivers for the same?

Destination board for fleet vehicles.

Bike lane improvements. Bikes locked up so that public can have use of them.

Mandatory checks on old vehicles.

Service day at gas stations to demonstrate correct air pressure, signs up at hoses.

Address ATV/Snowmobile riders.

Tobogganing, ski trails, and skate paths for inner city commuting.

### **Energy**

***Move the Yukon towards energy sustainability and away from dependence on fossil fuels.***

Renewable 'Green' energy sources. – Appliances, homes, electricity

Harness extra energy in the summer to be used in wintertime

Heat pumps

Proper insulation, efficient appliances

Conservation/change habits.

An energy efficient community.

### **4. Responsibility**

***It is the responsibility of Yukoners to adopt green practices at home and in the work place with help from government sponsored programs and incentives.***

- Following government regulations: energy quotas, workplace audits, green practices (specific position created for this person in government.)
- Specific list for Yukoners of green practices. Green identification in home and workplace need to be promoted and encouraged through government programs and incentives, as well as personal will.
- Set emission requirements, 4-stroke engines.
- Government departments go green. Position in the Department of Environment. (Private contract?)
- Grocery stores with local/organic food. Fruit stand, more food at farmer's market. List of local food and where they are available.
- Encourage existing programs: recycling, composting, bike trails.

## 5. Supply Locally

*Governments, local businesses, and individual Yukoners should support the harvesting, production, processing and consumption of local resources, as well as community driven initiatives. (i.e. Community gardens)*

- Government, local business and individual Yukoners should look to purchase first locally, then from Canada for all foods and goods.
- Reduce dependence on outside and support local resources.
- Subsidize for subsistence lifestyle: pay for day of work on garden, garden checks, bursaries for greenhouses, more community/subdivisions gardens, and local farmers.
- Local grocery store. farmers market and fruit stand.
- Local lumber or from eco-friendly company from south.

## Focus Session 4: Decision Making

*The group gathered together on the Swan Haven porch to discuss how they wanted their product to be presented and to whom it was important to reach with their message. Other issues considered included the specifics of the message, type of language and medium.*

- Main Ideas that were considered included: Movie, Calendar, and a Re-usable shopping bag.
- There was concern about whether the group will be able to present the product live to the Minister and what the final use of any product they create will be.
- It was suggested that product could have more impact by accompanying the report at a presentation.
- It was voiced that it was important to the youth that the message got to the Minister.
- Public awareness of what the youth have created will put more pressure on the Minister to acknowledge and act.
- “Bare facts” calendar could include nude photos with messages/statements covering.
- Public presentation such as in the main administration building was brought up.
- Having a protest was suggested.
- Showing up to question period could have an impact as the large group would get noticed. It was then remarked that the Legislative Assembly is not currently sitting.
- Have discussion with minister in a sit down situation to present product and results from conference.
- Invite the minister to a situation that may be out of his usual context, such as tea or a pub crawl
- What is important to participants was that the youth’s concern was made visible to the general public.
- Do formal and informal event so that both youth and minister take turns being out of traditional comfort zone.

- Venue such as Wood Street or Lepage Park may provide an opportunity to show movie and give calendar to those in attendance.
- Show movie and give calendar to people
- The movie/presentation could grow on the idea suggested from facilitator: Hand/legs with words or statements written on them.
- There is much concern about timing as lots of the participants leave for school and finish up working before the end of August.,
- It was brought up that an advantage to using film as the medium would mean the other ideas could easily be pursued, such as using stills as posters or printing on grocery bags. It would also reduce the time needed to edit the final product.

*The facilitator then held a secret vote of how the youth wanted their message to be communicated:*

- 1) *Short crisp direct words (Majority of votes)*
- 2) *Slightly more elaborated sentences*
- 3) *Paragraph*

*Based on the vote it was decided the group would move forward with short words and if this didn't allow for a sufficient amount of detail a summary could also be included. The group then took a break to return and work further on the key areas they had identified earlier as issues. (Plan, Educate, Transport, Energy, Responsibility, and Supply Locally.)*

## **Focus Session 5/6: Setting priorities & Recommendations**      5 Pm Swan Haven

*For the final session of the day the group split among the 6 focuses decided earlier in the day. This included Plan, Educate, Transport, Energy, Responsibility, and Supply Locally. The facilitator encouraged the participants to split their time with what was important to them or interested them. Within the hour allocated for this workshop the participants were encouraged to utilize the flexibility of this workshop and move between groups as they saw fit. The participants were reminded that they had reached the part of the workshop to address the 'How' and to come up for recommendations.*

*Before the beginning of the session the group expressed some concern over this direction through asking the facilitator questions.*

Q.) I am concerned that we do not have enough education or background to back up recommendations. I feel like we are not competent enough to be making recommendations.

A.)The role of youth is to push ideas with passion and heart. We are not supposed to have all the answers; not supposed to be the experts. Stick up for what you would like to see, what you feel. This youth commentary is important. Think back on the friendship circle and focus on the most poignant things said there.

Q.) Is this a publicity stunt for the ministers? What role are the youth playing?

A.) We own this process. This is youth run, edited, and produced. If we are not happy with the results of our work it is our responsibility to follow up and express those feelings of unease. It is our responsibility to continue to ask for action 2 weeks from now, 4 months from now and 2 years from now. We are government funded, but that does not limit this process, it is ours.

## 1) Plan

Compost in all schools

More available/affordable housing, apartments downtown. Build houses before big box stores.

Build suburbs closer together, rather than separating them by large green spaces. In other words, destroy forest in town rather than out of town for the purpose of housing.

Curbside collection ALL over the city and encourage it in communities. Have the recycling pick-up as well. Have it in all schools and business

Pilot project to have compacted recycling centers in communities outside of the city.

Such as: Pilot Mt., Mary Lake, Menden Hall, Pine Ridge etc. With a bi-monthly pickup of the recycling.

Expand the downtown core by/with apartments, group houses & such by using space that is unused, rundown houses near the clay cliffs with still having expanding suburb divisions just on a smaller scale.

Bike lanes

Stop Sprawling suburbs

Let's build out city intelligently

Keep downtown alive

Everyone wishes for a greener city.

## 2) Education

Mandatory climate change integration into school programs.

Action Program within school with at least one devoted faculty member

Anti-climate change campaign( public)

- Bombardment (Put it in your face)
- Bathrooms

Workplace education

- Have accessible programs/examples for people to model in the workplace

Weekly/monthly newsletter/flyer about climate change sent to schools/mailboxes

- Updates, examples of other people
- Helpful hints

To get to people (youth) that don't give a "darn"- make beer educational

- Local beer with facts and cool images/sayings
- Green cans/bottles

Teach Me (Us)

Advertise the truth

Educate Everyone

Keep us Informed – Send me a Climate Newsletter (*electronic*)

Use electronic emails (reduce paper)  
Positive encouragement  
Appeal to different demographics  
Provide Programs (models) – Green action committee  
Bombard public with advertisement  
Pressure

### **3) Transport**

Bike trails from Porter Creek & other places to downtown.  
Improve bike lanes  
Park n' Ride stations at the Carcross cutoff  
Robert service way & Mayo road with bikes. (Monthly payments to access locks) or  
a shuttle to downtown  
Smaller/handi buses for lesser used bus routes or during non-peak times.  
Research into alternative fuels for bus  
Create ice path on millennium trail for people to skate work.  
Promote carpooling. More organized and official carpooling networks.  
More bus routes, more frequent.  
Make bus routes run Friday, Saturday nights, and Sundays.  
Have walking school buses (groups) for young children  
Expand/build up safe bike lanes  
Subsidize fuel efficient vehicles.  
Tax high emission vehicles  
Have mandatory emission checks  
Fines for idling in parking lots  
More bike racks in accessible safe places  
Supply bicycles to businesses for in town errands  
Support organic taxis  
'Support alternative fuel and oil  
Limit number of cars per family  
Shuttle buses twice a day for out town subdivisions  
Business synch work hours with out of town shuttles  
Survey to see what time is convenient, how many residents are interested.

### **4) Energy**

There are alternatives to oil, lets be brave and use them  
Invest in wind and solar energy  
In case you hadn't noticed, fossil fuels are here forever.  
Diversified energy economy  
Sustainability now  
Sustainability is not oil drilling

## **5) Responsibility**

Yukon specific list outlining practices, facts and technologies to reduce impact on climate.

Making government departments green (Lead by example!)

Fleet: fuel efficient vehicles

Energy efficient buildings

Energy audits

Heating/AC control

New buildings should meet set standards

Composting in offices and bathrooms

Create a local grocery store

- Local food products (elk meat, fruits/veggies, other products i.e. Bold rush)
- Doesn't have to be open all the time
- Content varies with season

Ban plastic bags from stores

Bio-degradable cornhusk bags (re: Scandinavian countries)

Higher taxes on businesses that use lots of packaging

Businesses who provides packaging is responsible for it, use less

Extension on Green HoG book

- Focus on snowmobiles, ATVs etc.
- List would need research

Target people who are not already interested

Pamphlets to snowmobile stores

Plastic on windows – not a rumor

Plugging in car- cycling timer

Starting car early in cold – 2 minutes vs. 30 minutes.

Model House

- All enviro-friendly
- Live demo
- Show that it is not more expensive or lower quality

Top Headline: Yukon Territory Bans Plastic Bags!

### **• Supply Locally**

Government financial aid to local farmers

Aid for the start up of individual and community gardens

Education about soil quality, harvesting strategies etc. made available to the general public (workshops)

Farmers funded per acre of land purchased and used for farming.

Promote local and other hunting in the Yukon

More educating programs about hunting (workshops)

In grocery stores have information about where produce came from, environmental impact, and carbon cost.

If someone expresses an interest in gardening, have free gardening kits available. (i.e.

Quality soil, basic seeds, soil testing kits, information packages etc.)

More community gardens in communities and subdivisions.

Change to rules and regulations behind purchasing and maintaining agricultural land.  
Neighborhood associations

*The day finished off with a round circle in the upstairs of Swan Haven. The results of the 1 hr. workshops were read out loud to the whole group. There was slight confusion among participants as some groups had spent their time brainstorming actions while other workshops had focused on creating catch phrases related to the subject. This created a mixture of recommendations and punch lines. The session was ended and participants were asked to continue discussing over dinner.*

### **Equinox Rox - GP Teaming with Portable Low Ropes Challenge Course**

*The group split into three groups each tasked with completing a series of challenges within an allotted time frame. The group decided to split the challenges between each other to complete the puzzle. Challenges were a mixture of team building and problem solving tasks. Equinox then led a circle discussion of team dynamics observed during the session. Each participant was then asked to identify their role in the workshop by choosing a descriptive word from a pile and explaining why they chose that particular descriptor.*

## **DAY 3- August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Morning- Sandbagging at Swan Haven*

### **Focus Session 6: Creating the Product**

*After lunch the group joined up together to work on the final product.*

*The Government of Yukon representative then left to allow the participants space to complete their product without her input. She advised that the report would be used in the political sphere to inform her work on the Climate Change Action Plan.*

*The group was then given 5 minutes to reflect and write in their journals. The Facilitator directed this time by asking everyone to think about:*

- 1) What concerns you most about this process, outcome and product?*
- 2) What excites you most about this process, outcome, and product?*

*The group then went through a circle discussion to allow everyone to share their thoughts:*

Excited to get started but worried about time

Excited about project. Want to be sure that a good framework is laid down so that if people are not able to continue they will still feel like they are involved.

Worried it will fall apart after conference

Concerned about after the conference, don't want people to stop thinking about climate change once we leave.

Concerned about product and how our work will be used. Don't want Yukon Government to just be able to say "look we consulted youth". Excited about the coming together of youth and developing relationship with government so we can act as watchdogs.

Concerned about time. It would have been nice yesterday to have made decision about this part of process.

Happy to see all the interest in climate change. Hope government will read what we come out with and plan Yukon future. Would like to see results in months coming up.

Concerned that it will be put on backburner.

Concerned about all the different project ideas and idea gathering from yesterday evening workshop, were we supposed to do recommendations or punch lines?

Concerned about the time that any legislation takes and the publicity of youth involved.

We are such a small group and therefore may only have a small impact so hope that this group expands and talks about products and impacts that are possible after this.

So excited to get hands dirty. Concerned that realistically our product will not be widely viewed unless we put a lot of work into pushing it.

Concerned about all our open choices, don't want to take too big of a bite off then we can chew. Concerned about time to create product and attendance at event.

Concerned that we will take a lot of deliberation to get a consensus and get something done

Concerned that we all are tired after the morning but excited about the large group and how much fun the whole workshop has been  
Excited to be part of this group of youth, but concerned that we won't come up with anything that will finished.

*The group then split into two. One group worked on wordsmithing the highlights of past days discussions and the other worked on what the product would look like, feel like, sound like, etc.*

*The group then voted on all of the phrases (78) that had come out of the three days of brainstorming and the editing of the wordsmith group. They decided on 27 impact statements and set to work.*

*Each participant then took turns writing on each other. With their statements strewn across body parts they lined up in the forest for a "photo shoot". Individuals, pairs, and groups of participants had their photos taken and it was decided that these would be strung together in Flash to make a mini movie.*

*Volunteers were assigned post conference work to decide on the flow of the photos, accompanying music, and presentation to the Minister.*

*Sandy and Brodie to do photographing*

*Sofia to take care of sequencing of photos*

*Music/other decisions to be discussed a la facebook*

*To conclude the conference, participants gathered in a friendship circle and shared their thoughts on the 3 day event. There was a big exploding high five that ended in a dogpile and then everyone climbed on the bus and headed for home.*

**Workshop Participants:**

Adria Collins, Alex Jobin, Amanda Wren, Andrew Craigen, Brodie Smith, Charles Laberge, Colin Mackey, Daphnee Tuzlak, James Walton, Jamie Wintermute, Jonothan Lowey, Justine Scheck, Kelsey Metropolit, Kelsey Russell, Lia Johnson, Meagan Grabowski, Melissa Mark, Monique Chatterton, Raphael Roy-Jauvin, River Walton, Sam Bamford, Sandy Mackay, Sofia Fortin

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**Photos by:** Brodie Smith and Sandy Mackay



