

## Lessons Learned After Running Courses 1,2 and 3

Based on the participant evaluations and feedback from the 3 Courses there were a number of lessons learned and recommendations developed for each Course (see link under each Course). Many of the lessons learned and recommendations for future changes were common to all 3 courses and are itemized below:

- 1. Participants wanted more advanced information before the course started. Recommendations include:**
  - More clearly articulate and share course objectives, and safety/respect protocols.
  - Send course schedule and logistics a week before the course starts.
  - Send out *Saltwater People* with suggested readings before the course starts.
  - Send out pre-course survey before the course starts.
- 2. Participants wanted more emphasis on braiding Traditional Knowledge with Climate Science. Recommendations include:**
  - Provide more examples on how Traditional Knowledge can inform climate solutions.
  - Include a presentation of Traditional Knowledge and Climate science on each day with an articulation of how they can be braided, respecting their individual integrity.
  - More emphasis on climate solutions and developing a wholistic view of climate action.
- 3. Participants asked for more time to network with each other and develop action plans. Recommendations include:**
  - Plan for participants to share interests and background early in the process.
  - Plan for participants to network and share with each other throughout the course.
  - Provide time for an opening circle and check in and a closing circle to end the day.
  - Provide more small group exercises.
  - Encourage collaboration and team-work in developing action plans.
- 4. Sharing elder stories and traditional Knowledge were an important part of the Course and participants asked for a deeper connection with W̱SÁNEĆ culture, history, and traditional knowledge. Recommendations include:**
  - Include an optional water cleanse each day.
  - Include opportunities to hear the SENĆOŦEN language, the importance of it's revitalization, and learning SENĆOŦEN place names related to the land.
  - Include in the blanket exercise debrief a focus on the path forward to decolonization.
  - Include a cultural component in each course (poetry, singing, drumming, braiding cedar).
  - Include a ceremonial course closing on the final day.
- 5. Participants asked for more time on the land, learning from the land, and interacting with native plants, etc. Recommendations include:**
  - Add more time on the land for each course including visits to important sites on Pender such as Hay Point, Brooks Point, Medicine Beach. And for course 2 more time spent on each of the Outer Gulf Islands (Galiano, Mayne and Saturna).
  - Include more hands-on activities while on the land, such as the daphne pull, snowberry planting, eel grass planting, and/or ethno botany walks.