

# Youth Leadership for Climate Action in the Southern Gulf Islands

## Curriculum Framework

This 5-day course is part of the TĒTĀĆES Climate Action Project and is being coordinated by the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre in cooperation with the WŚÁNEĆ Leadership Council and the WŚÁNEĆ Tribal School.

Included is the original curriculum framework. The actual schedule that was developed from this framework and delivered Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is included at the end of this document.

The focus of this course is building leadership capacity with Island and indigenous youth (age 15-30) to contribute to community resiliency and promote a sustainable green economy in the Southern Gulf Islands and related communities.

The course will examine how WŚÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge in combination with climate science can inform climate action to meet the challenges of climate change in the Gulf Islands and Saanich Peninsula.

TĒTĀĆES – “Relatives Of The Deep” in SENĆOŦEN, refers to the WŚÁNEĆ creation story where what we now call the Gulf Islands were created by XÁLS (the sacred creator) as relatives for the W ŚÁNEĆ to look after and in turn these relatives would look after the people. This reciprocal stewardship model will bring a holistic perspective to the course.

The course includes supported presentations from the WŚÁNEĆ First Nations and from each of the four Gulf Islands focusing on climate action strategies that will mitigate some of the adverse impacts of climate change. The course will promote inter-island communication and collaboration to respond to the “climate emergency” for the Southern Gulf Islands that has been declared by the Capital Regional District, the Islands Trust and the WŚÁNEĆ leadership Council.

The course will take place at Poet Cove Resort at a reduced rate for accommodation and meals as an in-kind contribution. The course includes a trip to each of the Southern Gulf Islands hosted by Island Trustees to meet with community organizations and leaders who are engaged in climate action and related activities.



SELILIYE (Belinda Claxton), Dr. Nancy Turner and Judith Lyn Arney making cedar roses.

Course enrolment will be limited to 24 participants with 8 seats reserved and supported with scholarships for W̱SÁNEĆ youth participants and 8 seats reserved and supported with scholarships for youth from the four Gulf Islands. The remaining 8 seats will be open to all applicants with a preference given to youth from the Gulf Islands and the Saanich Peninsula. A secondary goal is to establish ongoing relationships between W̱SÁNEĆ and Gulf Island future climate action leaders.

Funding for the development of the curriculum has been provided by the Capital Regional District, the Community Resource Centre (CRC) and the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board. Funding for course delivery March 26 is provided by the Real Estate Foundation of BC and the CRC. Donations are being sought to support the student scholarships.

### **Curriculum framework**

This course explores the 5,000 year plus settlement history of the outer Gulf Islands – Pender (S,DA’YES), Saturna (TEKTEKSEN’), Mayne (SḴFO̱ḴEL) and Galiano ((HALQEMEYLEM) and reviews how each Island has evolved following European settlement. The curriculum examines how W̱SÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge in combination with climate science can inform climate action to meet the challenges of climate change in the Gulf Islands and Saanich Peninsula.

The goal of the course is to inform, engage and empower the course participants to recognize climate risk, to identify available solutions to meet those risks to and to advocate for climate action necessary to achieve those solutions.

The course will examine the challenges of the climate crisis at the level of the individual, the family, friends, community, and homeland. The course will explore climate solutions related to:

- Energy conservation and renewable energy,
- Water conservation,
- Food security,
- Transportation,
- Emergency preparedness, fire protection
- Ecological restoration

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

1. Understand how indigenous approaches to the stewardship of land, fresh water, the marine environment, plants, and animals can be applied to inform and complement climate science.
2. Understand current innovative approaches and initiatives to the stewardship of these vital assets which are being pursued on the Gulf Islands today.
3. Identify steps they can take to apply the knowledge and experience from this course to their specific community circumstances.
4. Recognize the resources that are available to undertake action in their community
5. Identify a specific climate action that they will pursue when they return home from the course

The following outline is a “framework” and the final course curriculum will be shaped by this framework, by the feedback and guidance from the October curriculum symposium, by the lead instructor, the presenters, and the course participants.

## Draft course schedule

### **Day 1:** The challenge of decarbonizing and decolonizing

- Welcome (course lead); opening prayer (PENÁĆ); introductions.
- Lessons from the TĒTÁĆES creation story – “Relatives of the Deep”
- Lessons from the ŁÁUWELNEW flood story – WŚÁNEĆ “The Emerging People”
- Bringing a holistic world view perspective to the climate emergency and climate action.
- From climate science to climate action (the Optimistic Environmentalist)
- Salish Sea Stars – igniting climate action • Greta Thunberg: No one is too small to make a difference
- Climate Action Journal – course project
- A tour of SXEDQELANEW’s Longhouse (SELILIYE); 13 moon calendar installation; Reburial site; Elders TĒTÁĆES map.
- Kairos blanket exercise (Lillian Underwood) break, debrief
- Ecological restoration: Healing the land-healing ourselves

### **Day 2**

- Restoration and protection of the land (Judith Lyn Arney on reserve land. Course participants engage in daphne removal Hay Point reserve land)
- Earl Claxton Jr. Traditional salmon pit cook for lunch
- (Bus to Medicine Beach) -Restoration of the sea, foreshore, protection of species – Eel grass project, forage fish, salmon, orcas (Pender Conservancy & Sea Change Marine Protection Society)
- Remembering the Ancestors ( E,HO, site of a 5,000-year-old Coast Salish village)
- time with the land (journal)
- Film Dust & Bones

### **Day 3**

- Bus to the Ferry to Galiano (breakfast on board)
- Bus to Millard Learning Centre
- Welcome by Penelakut Elder Augie Sylvester
- Galiano resiliency initiatives (Galiano Conservancy)
- Participant reflections (with nachos)
- Bus to ferry

### **Day 4**

- Bus to the ferry to Mayne Island (breakfast on board)
- Welcome by John Aiken (Elder John Elliott – tbc)
- History of WŚÁNEĆ on SKFOKEL – Mayne Island, Lessons for reciprocal stewardship
- Mayne Restoration and protection of the sea (Sea Change Marine Conservation Society)
- Water taxi (tbd) to Saturna
- Welcome by Dan Claxton (tbc)
- Saturna Resiliency initiatives
- Water taxi (tbd) to Poets

### **Day 5**

- climate action projects (a 2-minute pitch from each participant to gain support for a personal climate action project that can be activated in the next 90 days)
- Opportunities for continuing climate action education (resource guide)
- course wrap/evaluations/networking for climate action

**TĒTÁĆES: Climate Action Project – Indigenous Perspectives on Eco-Cultural Revitalization**

Sunday March 1	Monday March 2	Tuesday March 3	Wednesday March 4	Thursday March 5	Friday March 6
	Breakfast 7:30-8:30 Welcome prayer	Breakfast 7:30-8:30	7:15 ferry to Galiano Breakfast on board	7:15 ferry to Mayne Breakfast on board	Breakfast 7:30-8:30
2:30 Swartz Ferry to Otter Bay Pender Island	Introductions PENÁĆ - TĒTÁĆES creation story ŁÁU, WELNEW the flood story - WSÁNEĆ Julie Johnston- From climate science to climate action  Kairos Blanket exercise Lillian Underwood	On the land - Hay Point Judith Arney - Eco-cultural restoration removal of invasive species Healing the land, healing ourselves.  Earl Claxton Jr. Salmon Pit cook	Bus to Millard Learning Centre Galiano Conservancy Penelakut Elder welcome  Galiano's greatest climate change challenges and current climate-action projects	Welcome Michael Dunn W SÁNEĆ history on SKŦOŦEŁ  Mayne Conservancy - protecting the foreshore from climate change  Water taxi to Saturna	Climate Action Project Presentations  Moving forward together
	Lunch 12:00 – 1:00	Salmon Pit cook	Lunch 12:00 – 1:00	Lunch 12:00 – 1:00	Lunch 12:00 – 1:00
Welcoming: SELILIYE (Belinda Claxton) PENÁĆ (David Underwood) Tye Swallow Paul Petrie  Cedar brushing – 4:30 – optional swim - SELILIYE	Julie Johnston- From climate science to climate action  Steve Dunsmuir - personal identity, individual strength , and creative thinking in the face of the climate challenge debrief	Bus to Medicine Beach  Strategies for protecting the marine environment. Sea Change Society & PICA  Remembering the Ancestors	Galiano con't — climate-resiliency and food systems  Renewable energy strategies  Pizza at Babes in the Woods	lunch on Saturna. SEEC - Saturna Ecological Education Society;  SIMRES Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society	1:00 -1:30 closing  Ferry to Swartz 2:45
Welcome Dinner 6:00	Dinner 6:00	Dinner 6:00	Ferry to Pender 6:05	Dinner 6:00	