

ᑕᑦᑖᑦᑕᑦᑕ CLIMATE ACTION COURSE EVALUATION

A summary of participant feedback to the Course 2 evaluation.

Course 2 was oriented towards youth and reflecting the theme to braid Indigenous knowledge with Climate action on the Southern Gulf Islands archipelago. 18 participants took the Course. 8 were from the ᑱᑱᑱᑱᑱᑱ community, 5 from Pender Island, and 5 from other Gulf Islands including Salt Spring, Saturna, Galiano and Thetis. 13 of the participants were young women (5 were young men), with 13 of under 20 and five between 20 and 30 years of age.

At the beginning of the Course participants were asked to fill out a feedback form asking what attracted them to take the Course, how they heard about it, what their existing level of knowledge was about items ranging from climate action issues facing the Southern Gulf Islands to their knowledge of Indigenous traditions and culture. The responses to these questions are included in the detailed feedback form. At the end of the Course participants were asked to fill out a more detailed evaluation of the Course with the results summarized here. All 18 participants filled out the initial feedback form and detailed evaluation form.

Participants were asked if the Course met their expectations. 17 of the 18 said yes. 1 said no – indicating that too much of the course took place inside. A number of participants said the Course far exceeded their expectations and was a once in a lifetime experience. All 18 said they would recommend the Course to others. When asked what they most enjoyed about the Course, the most frequent responses were: traveling and visiting the Gulf Islands (Galiano, Mayne and Saturna as well as Pender), learning ᑱᑱᑱᑱᑱᑱ culture, language, and knowledge from the elders; learning about the land, native plants, and conservation work; and communicating and networking with other like minded young people.

There were no overriding things participants didn't like about the Course, but a number of individuals expressed dislikes ranging from not enough hands on activities, better management of time by organizers, too rushed on Thursday trip to Mayne and Saturna, to standing in the rain, or the overuse of plastics for some of the meals. When asked how they would improve future Courses, the main ideas included planning in more group time for participants to share with each other, discuss what went on each day, and collaborate on action plans, as well as more hands on activities, and more time on the land and learning about native plants.

When asked how the Course had changed or transformed their way of thinking a number of participants said the course had helped them change how they viewed the world, feeling more connected to land and home, and more connected with First Nations culture and knowledge and more knowledgeable about the climate crisis. Follow-up actions that participants voiced included becoming more involved and volunteering in the community, especially with

restorative and conservancy issues, spreading the word to friends and schoolmates, and being more mindful of personal action to reduce their footprint on the planet earth.

Participants were asked to rate from 1 to 5 (where 1 was poor, 3 average and 5 excellent) a total of 19 items related to Course content, Course instruction, Course application, and Course organization. The responses were consistently positive ranging between very good and excellent. The only items that didn't receive a rating between very good (4) to excellent (5) was a 3.9 rating for Course Instruction – being presented in a clear and engaging manner. There were lots of written comments and ideas shared by participants that are included in the detailed results. By far the most expressed comment was thanks and gratitude for being able to take part in the Course and how much participants enjoyed it and learned from it. Words like “inspiring”, “amazing”, “eye-opening”, and “once in a lifetime experience” expressed the commitment participants voiced for Course 2.

[For detailed course evaluation click here](#)