

## **ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ CLIMATE ACTION COURSE EVALUATION**

### **A summary of participant feedback to the Course 3 evaluation.**

Seventeen participants took part in the 5-day Course. The participants were much more diverse than the Course 1 participants reflecting the theme to braid Indigenous knowledge with Climate action for the Salish Sea area. 17 participants took the Course. 3 were from the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ community, 3 from Pender Island, 4 from other Gulf Islands, 3 from Victoria/Vancouver Island, 1 from other parts of BC, and 3 from the United States. There was a nice balance of men (10) and women (7), from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests, ranging from the 20's to the over 65 age group with most in the 30 to 50 and over 65 age range.

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. 15 participants filled out the detailed evaluation, since some left before the Course ended.

Participants were asked if the Course met their expectations. 12 of the 15 said yes, 1 said no, and 2 left it blank indicating they did not come into the Course with any expectations. The one person who said no had an expectation the Course was more about the intersection of Climate Change and First Nations knowledge and did not fully meet that expectation, however indicated he/she adjusted expectations and thoroughly enjoyed the Course. The two who left it blank both hoped there would be more focus on climate change. All 15 said they would recommend the Course to others. When asked what they most enjoyed about the Course, the most frequent responses were: the connection with First Nations presenters and participants - learning about ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ culture, language, and knowledge; the time to meet and network with each other, exploring intergenerational, cross cultural, transboundary, and multidisciplinary community building; time spent on the land (and morning baths in the sea); and the hope and empowerment that resulted.

The main things participants didn't like about the Course was: the coolness of the room; too much time spent inside compiling thoughts on paper with not enough time for discussion; and a desire for more time spent on the land. When asked how they would improve future Courses, there were a number of individual suggestions with the main recommendations suggesting more content on climate change and exploring possible solutions braided with indigenous knowledge, and more constructive opportunity early on to connect and share with each other.

When asked how the Course had changed or transformed participants way of thinking a number of participants indicated that they now had a much deeper appreciation and connection to First Nations knowledge, laws, and customs of caring for the land and the struggle First Nations people have had to be recognized and their knowledge honored. Follow-up actions that participants committed to included pursuing ongoing connection and action on reconciliation with First Nations, learning their language, planning of a tribal journey paddle in the Salish Sea, spending time on the land, and staying in touch with each other, sharing information and coalition building.

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) were two items including "Course cost" at (2.5 ) and "Accommodation" at (3.6). The course cost was a barrier for many to attend, and the accommodation was criticized for its location on a former First Nations village site and being rather lavish and out of keeping for the theme of the Course. There were lots of written comments and ideas shared by participants that are included in the detailed results. Most reiterated suggestions for improvement mentioned above including the need for more time for group discussion and collaboration around issues raised by presenters, better linkage of Course material and exercises, and more time spent in the field. The level of overall feedback expressed the commitment participants voiced for Course 3.

[For detailed course evaluation click here](#)