

ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕ CLIMATE ACTION COURSE EVALUATION

A summary of participant feedback to the Course 1 evaluation.

Thirteen participants took part in the 5-day Course. 3 were from the ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕ community, 8 from Pender Island, and 2 from Vancouver Island. There was a nice balance in ages, ranging from the 20's to the over 65 age group.

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.

Participants were asked if the Course met their expectations. All 13 said “YES” and all said they would recommend the Course to others. When asked what they most enjoyed about the Course, the responses ranged from time spent learning ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕ culture and knowledge, the community building with presenters and participants, time spent on the land (and in the sea), and the hope and empowerment that resulted.

There was no overriding things participants didn't like about the Course but when asked how they would improve future Courses, suggestions ranged from more attention to how to effectively braid Indigenous knowledge with climate science, more effective use of time including more time to debrief after the blanket exercise, more frequent breaks/down time, more time spent outdoors, more time spent in small groups and in developing action plans, more brevity in sharing/discussions, and having Harold Joe's film during the day rather than the evening. There was a lot of sitting and the need to break that up a bit.

When asked whether the Course had changed or transformed participants way of thinking there was a very positive “YES”. Participants were moved by the increase in understanding of ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕ history and cultural practices, concerned about the urgency around the climate crisis, and excited to put into action and share what they learned. When asked what actions they would consider taking as a result of the Course, it ranged from personal initiatives such as cleaning up the beach, eating more sustainably, pulling of invasive species, food self reliance, reducing carbon footprint and as one participant summarized it “ many small steps in all directions”. On a community scale there was renewed interest in working together with existing groups or forming new alliances dedicated to working in cooperation with the ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕ community and climate action advocates

Participants were asked to rate from 1 to 5 (where 1 was poor, 3 average and 5 excellent) a number of items (19) related to Course content, Course instruction, Course application, and Course organization. The responses were extremely positive. The only items that didn't receive a rating between very good (4) to excellent (5) were two items at 3.1 (average). They included "Course cost" at (3.1) and "Provided ideas for potential work/employment opportunities" also at (3.1). There were lots of written comments and ideas shared by participants that are included in the detailed results. The level of interest and feedback is a wonderful testament to the strength of support participants voiced for Course 1.

[For detailed course evaluation click here](#)