

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ Climate Action Project

The Southern Gulf Islands are disproportionately impacted by the climate emergency declared by the Capital Regional District and the Islands Trust. They are particularly vulnerable to risk of wild fire, drought affecting food production, seasonal water shortage and shoreline erosion caused by sea level rise and increased coastal storm surges.



The ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ Climate Action Project developed and delivered 3 five-day (30 hour) intensive educational programs that combined current climate science with Traditional Knowledge of the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ people to inform and support decision-making on land use and climate action at both the local and regional levels.



ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ means "Relatives Of The Deep" in ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ and refers to the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ creation story for the Gulf Islands. Long ago, ᑕᑕᑕᑕ (the creator) selected some of the most virtuous ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ people and cast them into the sea to create islands - ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ. These "relatives" became what we know as the Gulf Islands. ᑕᑕᑕᑕ asked the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ to look after these relatives and promised in return that these relatives would look after the people. This project supported the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ people in exercising this reciprocal stewardship obligation under ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ law.

The project was coordinated by the SGI Community Resources Centre in cooperation with the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ Leadership Council and the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ School Board. The courses were delivered at Poets Cove Resort on South Pender with financial support from the CRD and CRC along with in-kind support from the resort, community organizations and local trustees to promote educational/cultural tourism and contribute to a more resilient economy. The CRC also acknowledges the generous support of the Real Estate Foundation of B.C.



The resort is located at ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ,ᑕᑕᑕ the site of an ancient ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ village. The Bedwell Harbour basin (ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ) has a rich 5000+ year history of indigenous occupation and archaeological evidence of early expressions of Northwest Coast Art.



The first course focused on the history of ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ and the ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ world view of reciprocal stewardship to inform land use decision making and climate action in the Bedwell Harbour basin.

[Course #1 Indigenous perspectives on eco-cultural revitalization](#)

The second course supported development of youth leadership in the Southern Gulf Islands and explored each Island's climate change challenges and examined each Island's climate action strategies to respond to these challenges.

[Course #2 Youth Leadership for Climate Action in the Southern Gulf Islands](#)

The third course broadened the focus to the larger archipelago of the San Juan and Gulf Islands and explored cross border relationships in responding to the climate crisis in cooperation with University of Victoria, Western Washington University Salish Sea Institute and the University of British Columbia.

[Course #3 Climate Change in the Salish Sea Archipelago](#)

Together these courses provided a holistic place-based framework for land-use planning and climate action that supported community resiliency and promoted Indigenous stewardship in their traditional homeland. The courses taught innovative strategies to mitigate the challenges of climate change in the Southern Gulf Islands and the Salish Sea.

