

Climate Change in The Salish Sea Archipelago - Course Summary

The Climate Change in the Salish Sea Archipelago was successfully delivered between February 16 and 21, 2020. Seventeen adults attended and completed the course, 3 participants from the WSÁNEĆ First Nation and 7 from Pender and other Gulf Islands, 4 from other areas in BC, and 3 from the Lummi community in Washington State. The participants represented a broad mix reflecting the more wide-spread focus of the Course.

The course was facilitated by Deb Morrison, PHD and learning scientist with University of Washington College of Education and Maeve Lydon, MS program director of the University of Victoria's Living Lab Project.

The highlight of the course was looking at climate change and the effects of decolonization in a larger Salish Sea perspective, including cross border relations with the Lummi community in Washington State.

The course began Monday morning with a theme of healing, truth and reconciliation including a ceremonial water cleanse at dawn in the ocean followed by Elder Belinda Claxton (SELILIYE) describing WSÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge as depicted in the 13 Moon Calendar. This was followed in the afternoon by the Kairos blanket exercise with Lillian Underwood which provided participants with an experiential journey into the history and impact of colonization and the resulting suppression of Indigenous natural laws.

The theme for Day 2 was Changing Lands and a field trip to Medicine Beach with input from Tsawout Elder SELILIYE, as well as National Parks and Pender Conservancy representatives. In the afternoon Dr. John Price gave an insightful presentation on the roots of colonization in the Pacific North-west and the claiming of title over un-ceded Coast Salish territory through the racist Doctrine of Discovery. An evening of poetry with award winning WSÁNEĆ poet Kevin Paul completed the day.

The theme for Day 3 was Changing Seas with presentations from Margo Venton on protection of the Salish Sea eco-systems at Brooks Point overlooking Boundary Pass and the international border.

Earl Claxton Jr. (WETXÁITEN) presented a traditional salmon pit cook for lunch. The afternoon session included presentations from Shirley Williams and Troy Olsen from White Swan Environmental and time on the land at Hay Point.



Dr. John Price on decolonization



Gathering for the Feast

Day 4 was dedicated to panel presentations on local, national, and global climate action initiatives and solutions and panels on indigenous resurgence and climate resilience followed in the afternoon with group workshops in areas of special interest.



Course 3 Action Plans

Day 5 was spent debriefing, sharing action plans, and completing course evaluations. The [Course 3 Curriculum](#) outlines in detail the richness of the course content . The [Course 3 Evaluation](#) illustrates the positive impact of this course for the participants. Using the evaluation feedback, the course facilitators and evaluator identified the [Course 3 Lessons Learned](#) from this pilot program to provide guidance for future courses. The [Course 3 Video](#) is a reflection of the moving experience the course had for participants.