



CITIZEN DIALOGUES ON CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest
Territories and Saskatchewan
Regional Dialogue Report



**Alberta, Manitoba,
Northwest Territories and
Saskatchewan
Regional Dialogue Report
Calgary, AB
September 15–16, 2017**

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Purpose of document

This report was independently prepared by Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and funded under a contribution agreement from Natural Resources Canada. This publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Simon Fraser University, Natural Resources Canada or the author.

The purpose of this document is to provide regional dialogue participants with a summary of the key outcomes and recommendations that emerged at their workshop. A separate report for decision-makers, stakeholders and members of the public will be released in October 2017 to compare the results of all regional dialogues, including the information contained in this report.

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About the Citizen Dialogues on Canada's Energy Future

The Citizen Dialogues on Canada's Energy Future are an attempt to approach conversations about energy differently, and they are the first ever cross-Canada deliberative dialogue process where randomly selected citizens advise the federal government on energy policy.

Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue was selected by Natural Resources Canada to independently design and implement five regional dialogues as part of the Generation Energy public consultation, including Vancouver (British Columbia and Yukon), Calgary (Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Saskatchewan), Toronto (Nunavut and Ontario), Montreal (Québec) and Halifax (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island). A further pan-Canadian dialogue is taking place in Winnipeg.

During September and October 2017, these dialogues are engaging 145 Canadians in a deep conversation on energy. Coming from different hometowns, perspectives and backgrounds, these randomly selected participants are sitting down at the same table to learn about each other's lives, ideas and aspirations.

These events are intended to produce high-quality citizen input into how Canada can balance energy issues such as greenhouse gas emissions, jobs and international competitiveness. Together, participants are seeking a shared path forward in shaping Canada's energy future, informed by the best evidence-based information available and the spirit of curiosity.

Outcomes from the Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan Regional Dialogue

On September 15-16, 2017, 26 citizens from Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan gathered in Calgary, AB, for the second Regional Dialogue on Canada's Energy Future. The format included both large group plenary discussions and focused working sessions within four parallel breakout groups. Over the two days, participants:

- Explored how energy impacts their lives and the lives of other Canadians.
- Reviewed evidence-based information about Canada's energy profile and explored diverse perspectives about potential approaches to Canada's energy future.
- Developed potential visions for Canada's energy future and voted upon criteria to guide the development of group recommendations.
- Worked in small groups to recommend three key actions to create an energy future that is in the best interest of Canada as a whole.

This dialogue report provides a summary of key outcomes from the regional dialogue, including key messages that summarize the narrative that emerged over the two-day workshop, a list of decision criteria selected by participants and the recommended actions developed by participants in small groups.

Key messages

At the end of two intense days of deliberation and dialogue, the facilitation team noted down a series of messages that summarized the qualitative narrative that emerged over the course of the workshop. These key messages were reviewed and confirmed with participants in plenary discussion to ensure that they accurately portray participants' beliefs.

Participants:

- Called for a long term, non-partisan framework that will be stable beyond election cycles.
- Recognized the importance of oil and gas to the Canadian economy.
- Expressed a desire for and recognition of the need to transition to renewable energy in a measured way.
- Expressed a desire to significantly reduce the GHG emissions of the oil and gas sector.
- Stressed that the desired transition is not just about reducing GHGs, it's also about cleaning up and protecting the natural environment.
- Stressed the need to preserve, retrain and create new jobs.

- Emphasized that remote communities in the North, Indigenous, rural need access to affordable and cleaner energy.
- Expressed a preference for the Federal Government to work in a collaborative way with provincial/territorial/municipalities and Indigenous governments.
- Stressed that collaboration should improve between provinces, territories, and First Nations.
- Wanted incentives to create and implement new alternative energy technologies/renewables and cleaner conventional energy.
- Wanted a future with energy options.
- Wanted a healthy, diversified and resilient economy.
- Called for self-sufficiency in energy.
- Wanted Canada to be internationally competitive.

Criteria

Participants were asked to suggest criteria that should guide their breakout group when developing recommendations for Canada's energy future. The themes that emerged from this activity were confirmed with participants through plenary discussion. Next, the lead facilitator presented participants with a list of four criteria that had been pre-identified by Natural Resources Canada. These were: (1) Jobs; (2) International competitiveness; (3) Greenhouse gas reductions; and (4) Innovation.

These two lists of potential criteria were then combined so that participants could vote on the criteria they believed to be most important. Participants received three votes each, with the understanding that the top 3-5 criteria would be used to guide the development of their group recommendations.

The voting results were:

- 1. Economic viability and jobs (11 votes)**
- 2. Balancing environment and economy (10 votes)**
International competitiveness (10 votes)
- 3. Consider the natural environment (9 votes)**
- 4. Impact on people, including Aboriginal people (8 votes)**
- Transition to low-carbon and renewable energy (6 votes)
Fairness across regions, accessibility & affordability (6 votes)
Evidence-based and informed (6 votes)
Long-term, sustainable view (6 votes)
6. Binding rules (1 vote)

Top group recommendations

Each breakout group was tasked to create recommendations for Canada's energy future that are in the best interest of Canada as a whole. The timeframe for these recommendations was the year 2050, a full generation into the future. Within their recommendations, each group was asked to propose:

- Three key actions.
- The actor responsible for carrying out each action.
- An explanation of how the recommended actions meet the top decision criteria.
- What costs or impacts the group was willing to accept and why.

Each breakout group presented its recommendations in plenary with the proposed actions posted on the wall. All 26 participants were then asked to vote for their top three favourites from the combined list of actions.

- 1. 15 votes – Pursue new technology to use renewables**
 - a. Invest in Canada-wide research: universities, schools.
 - b. Host conference involving broad spectrum of ideas in Canada.
 - c. Select one university to be centre of tech development.
 - d. Investigate technology that is working and establish targets for implementation
- 2. 12 votes – Develop an energy charter:**
 - a. Create a national energy policy network.
 - b. Conduct multi-stakeholder consultation that will encourage transition from high GHG to low GHG and moving → green.
 - c. By non-partisan, national body.
 - d. Long term (to 2050) policy that create guiding principles (including periodic reviews).
 - e. Review best practices other countries.
 - f. Education and retraining.
- 3. 11 votes – The federal government will work with provincial/territorial/municipalities to create an incentive program to:**
 - a. Work with oil and gas companies to reduce GHGs by 80% by 2050. Stretch target of 100%.
 - b. Design, produce/develop and implement alternative energy to achieve a 50-75% in GHG by 2030.

[Funding mechanism to be negotiated e.g. Carbon tax, royalties.]

Full list of breakout group recommendations

The full list of recommendations developed by all four breakout groups are summarized below.

Group 1:

Recommended Action #1 – Build and expand national infrastructure to satiate internal demands (e.g. pipelines, export terminals. E-W grid) and export to external markets (e.g. energy to the North and foreign markets). Retrofitting existing infrastructure.

Responsible for action: private contractors funded by private sector and incentivized by government

How it meets the criteria:

- Lower repl. higher GHG
- New industries
- Export technology
- Bolstering current industries
- Economic development

Recommended Action #2 – Fund Green Initiatives: Use high GHG resource revenue to replace existing high carbon producing practices with green initiatives (e.g. re-insulation, solar cells) by providing tax rebates, incentives, tax credit.

Responsible for action: Federal, provincial and Indigenous gov't

Recommended Action #3 – Energy charter:

- Create a national energy policy network.
- Conduct multi-stakeholder consultation that will encourage transition from high GHG to low GHG and moving → green.
- By non-partisan, national body.
- Long term (to 2050) policy that create guiding principles (including periodic reviews).
- Review best practices in other countries.
- Education and retraining.

Responsible for action: Federal government

How it meets the criteria:

- Jobs
- Leader in GHG standards
- Stable policy

- National environment and Aboriginal

Group 2: The Great Debaters

Recommended Action #1 – Regulations for the environment and Indigenous rights that:

- Has measurable and significant results
- Respects Indigenous rights based on existing agreements
- Respects the Species at Risk Act
- Adaptable to change over time (e.g. new technologies come, as results are known)
- Enforceable regulations on carbon emissions that are realistic

(Group disagrees on carbon tax, so this means other types of regulation).

Recommended Action #2 – Incentives for low carbon and clean technologies.

- Support for NWT to connect to Southern electricity grid (funded by all Canadians).
- Government funds retrofits for existing properties, including benefits for those who have already done this.
- Learn/partner with other countries to create solar/wind/geothermal electricity.
- Look at a range of the technology alternatives.
- Fund this with fossil fuel incomes.

Recommended Action #3 – Maximize development of fossil fuels to produce wealth and jobs.

- Benefits all Canadians through equalizations.
- Done in a way that doesn't economically harm any regions.
- Benefits Canadian-owned rather than foreign-owned companies.
- Use better and cleaner production technologies.
- Build pipelines that are regulated for environmental protection.

(Action not unanimously supported, 4/5 group members in agreement).

Group 3: The Lounge Hounds

Recommended Action #1 – Federal government will work with provincial/municipal government utilities regulators, energy producers and distributors to create a coast-to-coast-to-coast two-way electric grid with green and renewable energy:

- Special accommodation for remote Northern and rural communities.
- Electromagnetic protected.
- Funding line levies, infrastructure \$.

Recommended Action #2 – The federal government will work with provincial/territories and the private sector to create a retraining program for conventional energy employees (4 votes):

- Legislated
- Employees would register and be eligible for retraining programs
- Government to identify eligible jobs sectors

[Funding mechanism to be negotiated, E.g. carbon tax, EI.]

Recommended Action #3 – The federal government will work with provincial/territorial/municipalities to create an incentive program to:

- Work with oil and gas companies to reduce GHGs by 80% by 2050. Stretch target of 100%
- Design, produce/develop and implement alternative energy to achieve a 50-75% in GHG by 2030.

[Funding mechanism to be negotiated e.g. Carbon tax, royalties.]

Group 4: 50 by 50

Recommended Action #1 – Pursue new technology to use renewables:

- Invest in Canada-wide research: universities, schools.
- Host conference involving broad spectrum of ideas in Canada.
- Select one university to be centre of tech development.
- Investigate technology that is working and establish targets for implementation.

Goal: 50% renewable by 2050

Responsible for action: Federal government, private sector partnerships, universities, scientists

Recommended Action #2 – Protect environment and resources for future generations of Canadians:

- Include stronger and better protections for environment in trade agreements (NAFTA, etc.).
- Protect Canadian ownership over natural resources and lands (including national parks).
- Increase corporate accountability (e.g. caution fees, remediation funds).
- Ensure Canadian authority over resource development.

Responsible for action: Federal government NRCan, provincial government, elected officials, policy experts

Summary of votes by recommended action: *

Group #	Recommended action 1	Recommended action 2	Recommended action 3
1	7 votes	9 votes	12 votes
2	3 votes	0 votes	2 votes
3	2 votes	4 votes	11 votes
4	15 votes	4 votes	n/a

What happens next?

A separate report for decision-makers, stakeholders and members of the public will be released in October 2017 to compare the results of all regional dialogues, including the information contained in this report. A subset of participants from each Regional Dialogue will attend a pan-Canadian citizen dialogue, which will take place in Winnipeg October 11-13, 2017 in parallel to Natural Resources Canada's Generation Energy Forum. The purpose of this dialogue will be to draw upon the recommendations from the regional dialogues to create a final set of recommendations that are in the best interest of Canada as a whole. Participants in Winnipeg will have the opportunity to present their ideas to stakeholders and decision-makers.

* Note: In this updated version of the report, we have included the number of votes received by each action in a summary table rather than in the list above. The purpose of the list is not to evaluate the popularity of individual actions, but rather provide an account of the full list of – sometimes overlapping – ideas developed by participants. The voting exercise was used to identify areas of overall interest, which is reflected in the list of most popular actions on p. 5.