



CITIZEN DIALOGUES ON CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Ontario and Nunavut Regional Dialogue Report

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Moving Canada Forward



**Ontario and Nunavut
Regional Dialogue Report
Toronto, ON
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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 Ontario and Nunavut Regional Dialogue

On September 22-23, 2017, 29 citizens from Ontario and Nunavut gathered in Toronto to participate in the fourth 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:

- Wanted a focus on building community self-sufficiency.
- Stressed the need to focus on standards and accountability.
- Emphasized the need for consultations with all communities (including providing education and support).
- Stressed that decision-making works best when it is collaborative across communities.
- Desired immediate action on reducing GHG emissions and promoting renewables.
- Wanted a clean, healthy and preserved natural environment. It's not all about GHGs.
- Wanted flexible options and choices for people and for communities of all sizes.
- Emphasized the need for transparent, accountable and non-partisan governance.

- Showed a clear interest for evidence-based innovation, research and development of all forms of energy.
- Wanted Canada to lead by example in the global arena.
- Expressed a need to focus on education and awareness to change behaviours and attitudes.
- Expressed a strong recognition of the needs and importance of communities and the need to build better connections between communities, including north and south.
- Raised the fact that action is not just the responsibility of the government. They raised the importance of P3 (private-public partnerships), individual and community-based solutions.

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. Supporting innovation, research and education (20 votes)**
- 2. Sustainable, clean, natural environment (14 votes) and Effective and transparent government (14 votes)**
- 3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions/increase renewables (10 votes)**
4. Reduce consumption and waste (7 votes)
5. Equality, inclusiveness and accessibility (6 votes)
Economically feasible (6 votes)
Globally competitive (6 vote)
6. Locally-empowered solutions (4 votes)

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 29 participants were then asked to vote for their top three favourites from the combined list of actions.

1. 13 votes - Northern Strategy

- a. Federal and territorial governments consult with northern communities on how to conserve energy.
- b. Educate northern people on energy futures.
- c. Support northern communities to develop and implement strategies to develop renewable energy in the North.
- d. Support northern communities to secure/unlock innovative financing for renewable energy.

2. 12 votes – Accountability for Government, Canadians and Companies to meet shared energy goals, including GHG emissions reductions

- a. Regulatory enforcement to stop harming the environment.
- b. Reduce bureaucracy and red tape to speed up environmental enforcement.
- c. Have unbiased, non-partisan, independent third party to monitor compliance and government waste.
- d. Create buy-in among all levels of government for a national energy policy.

12 votes - 3P (private-public partnerships)

Create a mechanism for 3p private-public partnerships to:

- a. Conduct research and development.
- b. Create educational opportunities for GHG reduction strategies.
- c. Support self-sufficiency in energy for communities.
- d. Enhance community economic development.
- e. By enabling communities to innovate with new technologies to improve energy efficiency and production and sell any excess back to a 2-way grid (self-funding).

3. **11 votes – Canada becomes a world leader in establishing strict norms/standards and regulations for industries at home and who are exporting to Canada to reduce GHG emissions, waste and social/environmental impacts**
 - a. Federal government sets strict regulations within a reasonable timeframe with strong incentives to motivate consumers and industries

Full list of breakout group recommendations

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

Group 1

Name of recommendation: **Canada's clean and healthy future**

Recommended Action #1 – Canada becomes a world leader in establishing strict norms, standards and regulations for industries at home and exporting to Canada to reduce GHG emissions, waste and environmental/social impacts.

- I.e. reducing consumer packaging.
- Federal government to set strict regulations within a reasonable timeframe with strong incentives to motivate consumers and industries.

Responsible for action: The Federal government would be responsible for implementing this action.

Recommended Action #2 – Reform education from Kindergarten to post-secondary to support innovation in clean technology, renewable energy and environmental awareness.

- I.e. centres of excellence, training programs, schools for innovation in renewables (similar to what Saudi Arabia has done), grants and funding.
- Limit the brain drain.

Responsible for action: The Federal government would be responsible for setting guidelines and provincial/territorial governments would adapt according to their strengths and needs, guided and supported by institutions (universities and incubators).

Recommended Action #3 – Federal government takes decisive, transparent and accountable action to move Canada towards clean and resilient energy.

Responsible for action: Federal government in collaboration (there was some debate amongst the group about this term) with provinces and territories.

Acceptable costs/impacts:

- Possible impacts on our trade agreements, but could lead to more sovereignty.
- Possible increase in cost of consumer goods and services.

Group 2**Name of recommendation: The People's Policy: Leading the way**

Recommended Action #1 – Carrots and Sticks

- Tax breaks for companies to create long-term, meaningful careers/work (not jobs) in medium-sized cities, as well as to clean up operations, reduce GHG emissions and retrofit.
- Tax breaks for individuals to reduce their GHG emissions.
- Transparent assessment of compliance by appointed ombudsperson.
- Accountability: pay back taxes if goals are not met.

Responsible for action: All levels of Government under federal lead with a coalition of diverse stakeholders, the National Energy Board, higher learning institutions, a consensus among all parties, us as citizens with informed judgement.

Recommended Action #2 – Education across all levels

- Standardize education across all levels to allow best talent to work across different places.
- Focus curriculum on careers in the environmental sector (guidance counselors).
- Educate the educators: better university teachers, not just researchers, focused on energy.
- Fund innovation at the high-school and university levels.

Responsible for action: Regional jurisdictions for education, provincial and territorial governments, school boards, deans.

Recommended Action #3 – Raise awareness

- Increase public knowledge about individual action and impact.
- Publicize best practices, including from other places.
- Has to be non-political: use plain language, create an independent arms-length agency that will communicate, use public service announcements.
- "This message is NOT brought to you by the... government"

Responsible for action: Ombudsperson, new agency that is independent from the political game with support from service clubs such as Lions etc.

Group 3

Recommended Action #1 – Accountability for Government, Canadians and Companies to meet shared energy goals, including GHG emissions reductions

- Regulatory enforcement to stop harming the environment.
- Reduce bureaucracy and red tape to speed up environmental enforcement.
- Have unbiased, non-partisan, independent third party to monitor compliance and government waste.
- Create buy-in among all levels of government for a national energy policy.

Recommended Action #2 – Incentives for adopting existing technologies and initiating change in behaviour:

- Short-term win.
- Redirect from polluters to pay to incentivize adoption of green technologies (e.g. a carbon tax with exemptions for farmers, rural areas and certain regions or a manufacturer's rebate).
- Funding to subsidize electric cars, solar, off-grid power, tiny houses.
- Increase energy taxes to reclaim savings for better energy efficiency and subsidize increased adoption of green technologies.
- Low-interest loans for up-front adoption of technologies that reduce long-term energy consumption.

Recommended Action #3 – Funding for Research and Development

- Develop innovation hubs with P3s (such as the innovation hub in Waterloo).
- Education: change education curriculum to support energy and environmental awareness/solutions through mandatory courses.
- Online engagement: such as crowdfunding and crowdsourcing to attract investment/prize competitions.
- Cut ineffective programs that don't work towards the overall energy goal for 2050 and redistribute funds.

Group 4

Recommended Action #1 – National Energy Plan

- Federal government in collaboration with provincial/territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments will:
 - Design, develop and articulate a national energy plan that implements the transition to low-carbon energy with timelines and appropriate resources (human and financial).
 - Educate local governments on how to advance innovative green energy.
 - Provide support for research to existing scientific, private, public and academic institutions on strategies to accelerate the reduction of GHG emissions in communities in Canada.

Responsible for action: Federal Government in collaboration with Provincial/Territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments.

Recommended Action #2 – 3P (private-public partnerships)

- Create a mechanism for 3p private-public partnerships to:
 - Conduct research and development.
 - Create educational opportunities for GHG reduction strategies.
 - Support self-sufficiency in energy for communities.
 - Enhance community economic development.
- By enabling communities to innovate with new technologies to improve energy efficiency and production and sell any excess back to a 2-way grid (self-funding).

Responsible for action: 3Ps

Recommended Action #3 – Northern Strategy

- Federal and territorial governments consult with northern communities on how to conserve energy.
- Educate northern people on energy futures.
- Support northern communities to develop and implement strategies to develop renewable energy in the North.
- Support northern communities to secure/unlock innovative financing for renewable energy.

Responsible for action: Federal and territorial governments in collaboration with communities.

Group 4 Minority Report: Pipelines

A minority report is a separate report presented by a member(s) of the group who disagrees with the majority.

Recommended Action: The Federal Government to implement immediate action to advance construction of the Kinder Morgan and Energy East pipelines to deliver/transport Canada's fossil fuels to tidewater and to offset imports to the East Coast from nations that do not uphold Canadian values (i.e. human rights).

- Stop adding conditions to industry that will delay or stop construction.
- Provide \$1 billion to incentivize immediate action.

Summary of votes by recommended action: ¹

Group #	Recommended action 1	Recommended action 2	Recommended action 3
1	11 votes	6 votes	0 votes
2	2 votes	9 votes	5 votes
3	12 votes	6 votes	2 votes
4	5 votes	12 votes	13 votes
Minority report	4 votes	n/a	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.

¹ 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. 5-6.