



CITIZEN DIALOGUES ON CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE

British Columbia and Yukon Regional Dialogue Report



**British Columbia and Yukon
Regional Dialogue Report
Vancouver, BC
September 10–11, 2017**

Updated: 16 November 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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Simon Fraser University’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. (2017) Dialogue Report, Citizen Dialogues on Canada’s Energy Future, British Columbia and Yukon Regional Dialogue

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 British Columbia and Yukon Regional Dialogue

On September 10-11, 2017, 30 citizens from British Columbia and Yukon gathered in Vancouver to launch the very first 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 local communities and on Canadian-made solutions for their energy future.
- Strongly supported a shift to renewable energy.
- Recognized that the transition to a low-carbon energy future will be costly and stressed their desire to protect remote communities and vulnerable populations, particularly those who are dependent on fossil fuels.
- Highlighted the importance of a healthy environment, healthy people and healthy communities as part of their energy future.
- Wanted a focus on evidence-based science and research.
- Expressed a strong interest in supporting innovation and technological solutions.

- Wanted a diversity of options in how they arrived at their energy future.
- Showed a clear interest in a connected grid across the country, both east-west and north-south.
- Expressed a desire for more connection between regions, including taking care of each other across regions and linking transportation more efficiently.
- Had a desire for strong federal leadership including recognition of the need for leadership/partnership with other levels of provincial and territorial government, First Nations and local communities / municipalities.
- Expressed a sense of urgency to act (approximately two thirds of participants supported the addition of this item to the list of key messages).
- Raised the possibility of using a carbon tax or green tax to fund the transition to a low-carbon energy future.

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. Healthy people / healthy environment (15 votes)**
- 2. Renewable / reduces greenhouse gas emissions (13 votes)**
- 3. Affordability (10 votes)**
- 4. Canadians first / Energy sovereignty/security (9 votes) & Jobs (9 votes)**
5. Local control over production and distribution (8 votes)
6. Future, diverse, innovative solutions (7 votes)
7. Rigorous, evidence-based, thoughtful implementation (6 votes) & Speed and adaptability (6 votes)
8. International competitiveness (3 votes)
Collaborative / flexible process (3 votes)
9. Fairness (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 30 participants were then asked to vote for their top three favourites from the combined list of actions.

- 1. 12 votes – Build and retrofit energy infrastructure for all Canadians:**
 - a. Do this through partnerships with the federal, provincial, territorial, First Nations and utilities (including local government).
 - b. Include a coast-to-coast-to-coast, two-way electricity grid.
 - c. Include state-of-the-art, new, clean and efficient oil refineries.
- 2. 11 votes – “Tax redistribution”:**
 - a. Eliminate government subsidies for industries producing GHG emissions & redistribute funds to innovative industries.
 - b. Retraining programs and education in innovation and technologies.
 - c. Fulfill current international obligations but be mindful and selective of further obligations such as foreign aid.
 - d. The Federal government would be responsible for implementing this action.
- 3. 10 votes – “Power for the people”:**
 - a. East-west grid for Canadians First.
 - b. Low-cost energy under federal jurisdiction with all utilities that are all crown corporations with drastic and fair anti-corruption measures.

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: Power and community-based tax redistribution**

Recommended Action #1 - Tax redistribution

- Eliminate government subsidies for industries producing GHG emissions & redistribute funds to innovative industries.
- Retraining programs and education in innovation and technologies.
- Fulfill current international obligations but be mindful and selective of further obligations such as foreign aid.

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

Recommended Action #2 - Power for the people

- Create an east-west grid for Canadians.
- Develop low-cost energy under federal jurisdiction with all utilities that would be crown corporations with drastic and fair anti-corruption measures.

Responsible for action: The Federal government would be responsible for developing this infrastructure with provincial and Indigenous government input and support.

Recommended Action #3 - Community-planned infrastructure across the country

- Communities invest in rapid transit and rural connectedness with federal support equitably across the country.

Responsible for action: Communities would be responsible for implementing this infrastructure with support from the Federal government.

Acceptable costs/impacts:

- The participants would be willing to accept an increase in income tax with mitigations for low-income people.
- They foresee a 30-year period for transitioning to electric vehicles.
- There would be a loss of jobs when transitioning to new and cleaner jobs.

Group 2**Name of recommendation: Energy Transition Action Plan (ETAP)**

Recommended Action #1 – Create and publish our evidence base

- 18-month timeline research plan with 5 experts picked from each province:
- 6 months to select people, 6 months to meet in Ottawa, 6 months to come up with an action plan.

Responsible for action: Federal and provincial ministers would be responsible for implementing this plan

Recommended Action #2 – Approve and improve cleaner or essential oil infrastructure with federal jurisdictions

- New standards in place 10 years from now.
- Federal government, provinces and First Peoples would be responsible for implementing.

Recommended Action #3 – Efficiency and electrification action plan

- Our country has diverse communities.
- Exemptions to price increases would have to be made for certain communities in order to protect those with no options and proliferate electric transportation.

Responsible for action: All levels of government, including Indigenous governments would be responsible for implementing this plan with support from the education system and small businesses.

Group 3

Name of recommendation: Leading the way forward

Recommended Action #1 – A framework to regulate GHG in order to create a healthy environment and jobs, as well as to make energy more affordable for Canadians:

- This could be in different sectors (pulp mills, agriculture, vehicles for example).
- Carbon credit trading would be implemented.
- Regulations that prevent inter-provincial trade would be reduced.

Responsible for action: Government would be responsible for implementing this action

Recommended Action #2 – Support for research & development leading to technology innovation, improvements to current technology and technology that creates jobs:

- Carbon capture & storage technology for example.
- Non-carbon energy source.
- Support for entrepreneurs and innovators.

Responsible for action: There would be Government support to corporations and companies

Recommended Action #3 – Incentives:

- For individuals to reduce energy use.
- For communities to produce their own energy.

- To replace industries in resource dependent communities.
- To phase-out fossil fuels ex: transportation/trucking.

Responsible for action: The government provides incentives to individuals, communities and corporations.

Acceptable costs/impacts:

- The participants accept that there will be economic impacts and increased energy costs.

Group 4

Name of recommendation: Inclusive Regeneration

Recommended Action #1 – NRCan to establish a pan-Canadian arms-length organization (umbrella) accountable to Canadian tax payers that will fund/invest in:

- Research and (re)training
 - Clean power generation
 - Transportation
 - Affordable energy for diverse communities with a focus on transitioning to non-polluting
- Residential solar and wind
- New and innovative energy start-ups

Recommended Action #2 – Build and retrofit energy infrastructure for all Canadians through partnerships with the federal, provincial, territorial, First Nations and utilities (including local government):

- Coast-to-coast-to-coast, two-way electricity grid.
- State of the art, new, clean and efficient oil refineries.

Recommended Action #3 – Advance good governance (transparent, accountable, open)

- Consult and work across multiple levels of government and across internal silos.
- Create a framework for timely implementation with multisector partners and stakeholders.
- Continue to engage citizens in a more democratic consultation process.
- Develop a Canadian-first energy policy.

Summary of votes by recommended action:¹

Group #	Recommended action 1	Recommended action 2	Recommended action 3
1	11 votes	10 votes	7 votes
2	8 votes	0 votes	6 votes
3	8 votes	6 votes	7 votes
4	9 votes	12 votes	6 votes

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.