

*Alberta* ■  
CLIMATE  
LEADERSHIP  
— Discussions —

**ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS DISCUSSION SUMMARY**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

## ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Alberta's Climate Leadership Discussions engaged with a wide range of Albertans to help inform the province's action plan on climate change. The engagement process was led by Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel with support from the Climate Change Secretariat, within the Department of Environment and Parks. The engagement process included Aboriginal engagement, public open houses, online engagement, and technical stakeholder sessions.

This Discussion Summary illustrates the range of comments received at three Aboriginal engagement sessions. The Panel held engagement sessions with Aboriginal Peoples in Calgary, Edmonton, and Fort McMurray on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 respectively. Invitations to provide input were extended from Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel to all of Alberta's 48 First Nations; one non-status Nation; eight Métis Settlements; and the Métis Nation of Alberta, which includes the head office, six regional offices, and 32 local offices. The Panel invited Aboriginal input through three engagement sessions or via an online or written submission. A link to Alberta's Climate Leadership Discussion website was also provided. A draft Discussion Summary was shared with participants after the sessions.

Attendance at these sessions is outlined in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1**  
**Participation**

Date	Location	First Nation Participants #	Métis Participants #	Total Participants #
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	Calgary	4	1	5
September 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Edmonton	17	18	35
September 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Fort McMurray	4	3	7
	Total	25	22	47

**Note:** The following information uses the term 'meeting participant' to refer to those First Nation and Métis representatives who spoke during the meeting.

These summaries are not intended to connote consensus among the meeting participants, nor are they considered a verbatim account of what was said. They are a summary of the meeting and presented in an effort to uphold the meaning of the discussion that occurred.

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>QUESTION 1: Why is it that you are here today?</b>
<b>Calgary Session, September 1, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	The environment is important. We want to work towards collaboration and have our voice heard.
Meeting Participant	It is important to hear from all community members, not just representatives.
Meeting Participant	There is a lack of social outreach through energy development. There are social impacts of resource extraction practices.
Meeting Participant	We want to observe what Alberta is doing to protect land, wildlife, water, etc.
Meeting Participant	There are concerns from community members for water quality (e.g. blue-green algae) and quantity (decreasing water levels).
Meeting Participant	What role does development have in the decline of water quality and quantity? There have been blue green algae blooms potentially coming from emissions and development.
Meeting Participant	Industrial equipment is causing impacts and pollution.
Meeting Participant	Economic opportunities within the community are also impacting water. Elders have raised concerns and the community has identified impacts and has worked towards mitigating, changing, and finding different alternatives to the problem.
Meeting Participant	Elders are bringing forward concerns and looking for the community to resolve the problems.
Meeting Participant	Traditional users are having concerns for fish and wildlife health – what about for future generations?
Meeting Participant	There are concerns for the scale of pipelines impacting sacred sites.
Meeting Participant	There are concerns for the ability to hunt/access wildlife, etc. as it relates to cumulative impacts; not just for today but for future generations also.
<b>Edmonton Métis Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Education is key for our children.
Meeting Participant	Interested to see how things change over time.
Meeting Participant	It is important to see and participate together as we move forward with action.
Meeting Participant	It is important to get feedback from different people in the community.
Meeting Participant	A lot of industrial development is occurring in the region. Want to become educated and get to know what is going on related to industry.
Meeting Participant	Concerned about climate change and the effects on the community. Interested to think about mitigation strategies. Searching to learn more about the changes happening.

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
Meeting Participant	To find ways to be heard by government. Coming to get direction from government – to find out what climate change is for the sake of communities and children. Agriculture is very important to our community – it is a sector that is affected by and affecting climate change.
Meeting Participant	We have a responsibility to act – the change we have seen in recent decades is astronomical. We are permitting the use of harmful substances (i.e. insecticides) – it is our duty to think hard about this and find solutions.
Meeting Participant	Interested in policy change and want to contribute to this change. Uncertainty of reclamation is already a great concern and climate change adds to this concern. The conversation about climate change often focusses on emissions, but we also need a focus on resource conservation policy.
Meeting Participant	An interest in policy development as well as affecting policy development.
Meeting Participant	Communities notice changes when on the land – decreased water quality in lakes, etc.
Meeting Participant	To gather information about climate change. To see what the government's plans are.
Meeting Participant	Climate change is a global issue. We all play a role and we all need to be engaged. Aboriginal people have a unique role as stewards of the environment. Alberta should be playing a lead role in developing policies because it has taken a lead role in contributing to climate change issues.
Meeting Participant	To gather information and hear peoples' stories. There are concerns in the community related to berry harvesting, fishing, etc.
Meeting Participant	To find out what Alberta's view of climate change is – especially around industry. Seeing changes in environment and populations around community. How do these fit together?
Meeting Participant	This is an opportunity to bring environmental concerns to the government and to ensure Aboriginal concerns are integrated into policy. How do our concerns match with others?
Meeting Participant	This is a learning experience and an opportunity to gather information and hear stories and see what solutions we can come up with.
<b>Edmonton First Nation Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Fundamental policy, regulatory, and legislation changes need to occur in the province to meet some of the issues with climate change and climate standards. Particular focus is needed on industry policy as industry is the biggest contributor to the destruction of land.
Meeting Participant	Policy is lacking around land disturbance, economic sustainability, etc.
Meeting Participant	We need to ensure there is land and water for future generations.
Meeting Participant	Industry is taking up more and more, there is less Treaty land available. The air, water, wildlife, and medicines are contaminated.

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Meeting Participant	Encroachment of disturbance into the mountains is disturbing water and land. There is water being re-routed and disturbance of tectonic plates through fracking.
Meeting Participant	There is sickness in all communities, not just First Nations; it's a concern for all.
Meeting Participant	There is less and less areas and space to practice Treaty rights, this impacts Elders, hunters and gatherers.
Meeting Participant	Climate change is a global phenomenon; we need information on who are the contributors and culprits. We need to understand the picture from international, national, and provincial scales.
Meeting Participant	Pollution in other areas of the globe is coming here.
Meeting Participant	46% of greenhouse gas emissions coming from oil and gas in Alberta impacts 100% of our rights.
Meeting Participant	Alberta on a per capita level is one of the largest emitters on the planet.
Meeting Participant	As a G8 country, we play a role in setting standards.
Meeting Participant	We have to find ways to decrease our emissions from oil and gas, and transportation through policies. We need progressive policies and ways to enforce them.
Meeting Participant	We have constitutional rights that are intrinsically linked to stable climates and ecosystems
Meeting Participant	We should be at the helm of those policy developments.
Meeting Participant	Canada has refused to take part in international protocols on climate change.
Meeting Participant	The boreal forest is the lungs of the country; clear cutting is making it sick.
Meeting Participant	We've given information on how First Nations are being impacted by policy legislation.
Meeting Participant	An understanding of Treaty rights needs to be reflected in decisions. There should be a First Nation representative on the Panel to ensure that guiding principles are created in a way that's respectful of Treaty people's perspective.
Meeting Participant	Aboriginal representation should have academic, traditional, and oil and gas backgrounds.
Meeting Participant	Climate change is caused by a lot of factors. The key to success is offsetting impacts. The climate has changed before, it's not just emissions. Offsetting has reduced emissions.
Meeting Participant	Carbon offsetting works, carbon credits aren't reducing emissions.
Meeting Participant	We need to work to reduce our individual footprint. We have the biggest footprint in North America.
Meeting Participant	Pollution is accumulating right now. Nothing is in place right now for how industry is handling cumulative effects.
Meeting Participant	Treaty rights were never considered when government started talking about climate change.

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Meeting Participant	You need to change the law, and create laws that will change things and consider cumulative impacts.
Meeting Participant	The first steps of this process should have been providing information. The second part should have been information sharing.
Meeting Participant	There are lots of differences in issues between surface mines and in-situ.
Meeting Participant	The Panel can't expect that we understand climate change right now because we don't.
Meeting Participant	We should have been more informed before this session.
Meeting Participant	Government should have developed a conference style sessions where there can be presentation on impacts to Treaty people and presented in a way that can be understood.
Meeting Participant	The stewards of the land can't understand the land anymore. Pollution, government, residential schools, and organized religion have all had impacts.
Meeting Participant	We need to get back to the basics, culture, and identity, after so much influence has occurred. We need to take the past and use it to identify what we need today and in the future.
Meeting Participant	We still have the knowledge, culture, and traditions but it's dwindling.
Meeting Participant	Coal mining has a lot of impacts and emissions and needs to be discussed.
Meeting Participant	We need to understand what it was like before, how it is today, and how it should be in a future context. We need Elder's perspectives brought forward and people with knowledge and perspectives to paint the picture.
Meeting Participant	Pristine lands are being lent away and then impacted by chemicals from industrial development. There are impacts to water, berries, etc. We don't understand what is polluted and what the pollution is. We can't drink the water anymore, or go to where we used to be able to drink the water.
Meeting Participant	We don't have the context around climate change; we need further explanations.
Meeting Participant	The window of opportunity isn't enough, the notice is too short. There are 80 years of impacts, it will take 80 years to get it back to what it was; don't expect solutions within a few months.
Meeting Participant	There is nothing done on consultation and regulatory approvals to influence decision making.
Meeting Participant	The AER has always been pro-industry. It will take the new government time to evaluate the AER.
Meeting Participant	Climate change is not a priority with industry during planning or development.
Meeting Participant	The AER/ACO does not address cumulative effects.
Meeting Participant	I don't want to see the same process out of LARP. Concerns were stated and connected to traditional knowledge systems related to the land. We were undermined in the final report and our concerns were put aside.

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Meeting Participant	This process is another rubber stamping on First Nation consultation with short notice.
Meeting Participant	The ACO and AER are geared to industry and money. They look at individual projects in isolated ways. There are no disapprovals, only approvals.
Meeting Participant	What is missing is the process of incorporating our input and knowledge into the process.
Meeting Participant	How are you incorporating our knowledge into the process?
Meeting Participant	Projects shouldn't be isolated – need to look at cumulative impacts.
Meeting Participant	Elders will always speak about cumulative impacts. The definition of equivalent land capability from an Elder's perspective is restoration to a pre-impact state.
Meeting Participant	Our definitions and thresholds will always be way higher. We need to know how you're going to be incorporating our input into this process. Treaty rights are usually not included or considered when incorporating our input.
Panel Member	What can we do that's better? How can we incorporate your input?
<b>Fort McMurray Session, September 14, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	People are being impacted and we need to find out how they will participate meaningfully.
Meeting Participant	The region of Fort McMurray is the epicenter for the energy hub which is one of the largest contributors to Greenhouse Gases but the area is also central to economy. When we speak about addressing climate how to we find a balance between environment and economy? What is the transition like? How do we participate in this process? These are the things that we want to know.
Meeting Participant	There is a future generation and my voice is needed to impact policy changes in Alberta. We see other provinces forging ahead and we are hopeful that new government's intentions will be long lasting. The test is if what we say here will influence policy changes
Meeting Participant	Responsible development is in line with our principles. Economic development is the driver that feeds the area and the country. Responsible and sustainable development need to be paired with economic development. Community members are seeing changes on the landscape; however, it is hard for community members to see difference between local and global impacts. We are in a unique position and it is our role to translate that information from what community members are seeing and what provincial and federal legislation and policy is telling us. There are significant air impacts being experienced and data that is being collected by various groups is telling different stories. We are being impacted by air quality changes – we have to call our kids inside, we do not hang our laundry out, alarming air incidents that have required responses have been occurring, these events are happening all the time. There have been a lot of discussion with technical people about how to best support local air quality – we see an opportunity to talk about improved standards that would support having a more sustainable environment in these discussions.

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	This topic is important from traditional land use perspective and a technical perspective as well.
Meeting Participant	There has been a change in government however policy that has been built in the last years (that is already in motion like LARP, etc.) that we would like to see changed. There are political statements being made but we do not see that in policy change yet.
Meeting Participant	There are significant air impacts being experienced and data that is being collected by various groups is telling different stories. We are being impacted by air quality changes – we have to call our kids inside, we do not hang our laundry out, alarming air incidents that have required responses have been occurring, these events are happening all the time. There have been a lot of discussion with technical people about how to best support local air quality – we see an opportunity to talk about improved standards that would support having a more sustainable environment in these discussions.
Meeting Participant	This topic is important from traditional land use perspective and a technical perspective as well.
Meeting Participant	There is a focus on climate change and the environment and we need to remain engaged.
Meeting Participant	The Indigenous voice is being lost in decision making. We are hoping that that approach will change and that our voice will be included in this and future processes.
Meeting Participant	We were optimistic at the start of the LARP engagement process and invested heavily with our time and resources. When the plan was released as a draft, it appeared our conversations were not considered. We would like to know if our conversation today will be included in the climate discussions.
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>QUESTION 2: What does successful action on climate change look like?</b>
<b>Calgary Session, September 1, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	There's a lack of capacity for protecting important and sacred sites.
Meeting Participant	Working towards conserving water quality and quantity, monitoring, and being more mindful of the resources; not wasting.
Meeting Participant	Increased First Nation involvement in monitoring.
Panel Member	What does increased involvement look like? Does it involve Traditional Ecological Knowledge?
Meeting Participant	It's balancing traditional knowledge and western science.
Meeting Participant	It is also keeping youth in the community through education and awareness of traditional knowledge; stressing the importance of both traditional knowledge and western science to youth.
Meeting Participant	It is also about bringing both Elders and technical staff together.
Panel Member	How are water allocations in the province involving and affecting First Nations?



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Aboriginal Relations Participant	First Nations manage water on reserve. There are partnerships between the Nations and the federal or provincial governments. Managing drought is complicated between on and off reserve and between private and public lands. The issue of Treaty rights to water is managed through water agreements. Regional water supply and water needs assessments are being used to reduce water conflicts.
Meeting Participant	The community wants to protect water but doesn't necessarily get involved in initial water licensing and allocation decisions for industry.
Meeting Participant	Success would look like being more involved in the water allocation/application/ decision making process.
Meeting Participant	Water applications aren't presented up front; it comes along with the rest of the project application through the ACO process.
Minister Phillips	What are the impacts of policies specifically designed to price carbon?
Meeting Participant	Communities have a lack of information around innovative technologies, which companies are good or bad emitters, and which companies have been penalized.
Meeting Participant	There is a gap in information on the reputation of companies relating to emissions.
Meeting Participant	Communities also lack the capacity to review all projects or properly review each project.
Meeting Participant	Some communities may not be involved in oil and gas but could be involved through carbon credits via natural areas on reserve.
Meeting Participant	There is a lack of knowledge out to community members around carbon credits/pricing.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be a balance between economic opportunities and environmental protection. Carbon pricing could be based on economics or environmental factors.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be a balance between community wellbeing and protecting valued environmental components (i.e. water, indicator species, etc.)
Meeting Participant	There are challenges within the community to try and do everything with limited capacity. There needs to be capacity for education and outreach, youth, sustainability, business opportunities, and environmental protection.
Meeting Participant	Success would be being able to have a better balance within communities.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be a balance between air, water, and money; air quality is decreasing and there are health impacts at all ages.
Meeting Participant	What good is money if you can't walk outside because of poor air quality? Success would be less health issues related to air quality for all ages.
Panel Member	Do you see opportunities in your community for renewables, or more renewable production on reserve?
Meeting Participant	Some Nations are starting and looking to do more of it. Success would be being more involved in renewable

CONVERSATION SPEAKER	DISCUSSION SUMMARY
	production.
Meeting Participant	It takes time and money to do more solar and wind power.
Panel Member	Are there other land use challenges related to renewables?
Meeting Participant	Land planning occurs on reserve.
Meeting Participant	There is a lack of knowledge and awareness amongst resource development people on social impacts and social decision making when they are working in communities.
Meeting Participant	Success would be better education for people coming into communities no matter what kind of energy development or use there is.
Meeting Participant	Success would be cultural sensitivity for industry coming into a First Nation territory. It should be mandatory for workers to understand and respect the people and territory that they're on.
Panel Member	What are the issues around the energy efficiency of housing and buildings?
Meeting Participant	Schools are starting to use solar energy to help operate the school.
Meeting Participant	The issues around energy efficiency and housing would be whether it's more expensive; if it saves in the long term it may be in the best interest of the community.
Meeting Participant	More robust policies/regulations on air, water, and environmental standards/quality indicating who makes the decisions and how the decisions are made.
Meeting Participant	Increased cultural awareness/sensitivities, more awareness and inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives.
Meeting Participant	More policies, standards, and training around specific cultural and social impacts for companies entering each community. It should be mandatory training (like first aid, etc.), but can't be one size fits all.
Meeting Participant	More public forums, more community outreach; engagement with communities that haven't had an opportunity to speak.
Meeting Participant	Venues for comfortable and free public dialogue.
Meeting Participant	Individuals and communities being able to build careers from development coming in; increased capacity for individuals and communities to participate in development.
Meeting Participant	More mindfulness around impacts of development on current and future generations.
<b>Edmonton Métis Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	This is a global issue and conversation. We are seeing changes in the environment. There is a need for positive changes – purification of water, air, and in relation to what's happening in Fort McMurray. Industry plays a significant role. The question is too big to pinpoint a single answer.
Meeting Participant	It will take long term planning. There is currently very little education around the issues. We need education

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	about this topic for our children. Issues of climate change should be in the curriculums.
Meeting Participant	This needs to be a worldwide conversation.
Meeting Participant	Need awareness of what is happening – an Elders’ Climate Change Advisory Group should be developed to contribute to this. Elders have seen the changes over time and they can bring cultural wisdom. Their wisdom and knowledge needs to be heard above the scientific studies.
Meeting Participant	Aboriginal communities live on the land – they know the issues at the community level. There needs to be a role of Aboriginal communities in planning. There is a responsibility of various sectors to start changing the footprint we are leaving behind. Need to make sure Aboriginal perspective is integrated to ensure rivers, animals, and our environment, are protected.
Meeting Participant	Farming, parks in the community’s area takes away from hunting and harvesting grounds. Spraying in farming is killing bees and impacting our health.
Meeting Participant	Need to think about the implications of government policy. Government has promoted agricultural spraying – pesticides and insecticides – it spreads to animals and other areas of concern. Government hasn’t adequately taken into consideration Métis community members – it needs to seek advice from local communities.
Meeting Participant	Finding alternative methods (i.e. no spraying, etc.). Specifically concerned about Round-up Ready Canola – why is it not banned here?
Meeting Participant	Answers to questions like why we can only eat one fish per week from some areas of Alberta.
Meeting Participant	There are cancer related diseases due to chemical effect on food – both agriculture and fish. Need to have information and answers from government. Why is there a different set of rules for industry?
Meeting Participant	Government has an opportunity to take a leadership role and can take bold steps.
Meeting Participant	There is an opportunity to talk to Aboriginal communities (e.g. on the effects of spraying).
Meeting Participant	Hope of stopping or challenging the process/decisions and industry.
Meeting Participant	It is frustrating – communities do traditional land use studies, but feel they can’t do anything to stop effects from industry (e.g. fracking).
Meeting Participant	The concerns are global – we all share the same air and water. It is difficult to identify action to enable change because people are afraid to take bold steps.
Meeting Participant	Need to take bold actions that may be bad for industry, but good for people and communities.
Meeting Participant	It is critical to educate the broader Métis community on climate change issues, including within the urban setting of Edmonton.
Meeting Participant	Ongoing discussion with Aboriginal communities is critical. Those who have initiated these discussions

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	should come to our communities and listen to the Elders and community members.
Meeting Participant	Should ask all the people (e.g. a referendum).
Meeting Participant	Everything we do impacts our environment, but is climate change really due to human activity or is it natural? Need additional research and facts to address these questions.
Meeting Participant	Need to inform Albertans about what is meant by climate change (does it include broader environmental issues?). It is confusing.
Meeting Participant	Need to restore areas that are already damaged (e.g. Wabamun Lake, etc.). Repairs and prevention would begin to make things better.
Meeting Participant	Need policy for sectors other than oil and gas (e.g. alternative energy, green buildings). Could include incentives.
Meeting Participant	Need restrictions/regulations on development/activity (e.g. dams on the Peace River, spraying, etc.).
Meeting Participant	There is lack of trust for the government. The government needs to begin to take on a new role with a focus on informing and educating. The government should seek to provide reliable information to increase peoples' trust. It needs to invest in finding clear cause and effect. People need reliable information so they can make informed decisions and affect positive change.
Meeting Participant	We all need to act – we need to do this together.
<b>Edmonton First Nation Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Albertans need to start understanding the First Nations people, history, Treaties, and cumulative effects within our context.
Meeting Participant	Alberta hasn't taken the initiative to understand Treaty.
Meeting Participant	Have us educate Alberta and industry.
Meeting Participant	We should be better represented in Alberta's institutions, including government and industry.
Meeting Participant	Fact sheets are inappropriate for First Nation's engagement. There should be oral presentations and information sharing.
Meeting Participant	There should be better integration of First Nations culture into processes and practices.
Meeting Participant	Recommendations from the Panel should be that the systems in Alberta related to industrial development (royalties, licensing, etc.) need to have fundamental change in policing of industry. Industry is currently policing itself.
Meeting Participant	Alberta's Northeast has some of the highest emitters: oil, uranium, dams, gas. Those living on the land and exercising rights are the ones who feel the impacts in Treaty 8.

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Meeting Participant	A recommendation should be for government to take a step back and look at how the scale of development and rate of approval is affecting climate change, as well as the health of people, wildlife, and plants.
Meeting Participant	Cumulative impacts are making community members go out further and further to exercise rights. This in turn increases the footprint of the members in order for them to access these places.
Meeting Participant	People living out on the land know the impacts, see and live them.
Meeting Participant	In the past, government has picked and chosen recommendations; there hasn't been full implementation of all of the recommendations.
Meeting Participant	The province needs to step up to ensure that the people living on and off reserve have the opportunities to reduce footprint: i.e. renewable/solar energy, recycling program pilot for northern Alberta, etc.
Meeting Participant	The province needs to help use reduce our footprint/emissions.
Meeting Participant	The provincial systems are broken across all jurisdictions.
Meeting Participant	Should seek consent for power lines that go through communities.
Panel Member	How do we get away from a list of a thousand little climate change projects into a framework that captures the climate change projects that need to occur?
Meeting Participant	Why doesn't the First Nations have their own regulatory body? Everything can be brought to us so we can look at it through our perspectives.
Meeting Participant	The province in the past has not done a good job of managing resources.
Meeting Participant	Allow each Treaty body to manage and bring knowledge forward in order to understand the issues; let the people make the decisions.
Meeting Participant	Non G8 countries have invested in renewables.
Meeting Participant	Instead of investing in renewables that are aligned with indigenous perspectives, we're going against that. Why aren't we being told possible options regarding renewables, economic opportunities, sovereignty, etc.?
Meeting Participant	Our people are not informed on these issues enough. We've been told that our economic driver is oil and gas. Instead of finding ways to diversify and reduce emissions, we're trying to reconcile the current economy.
Meeting Participant	The price of carbon is a leader of the economy; we're not a part of that economy.
Meeting Participant	The green/renewable sector is a huge economy.
Meeting Participant	We need to integrate First Nations at the higher level of conversations on policy development and then translate it back and inform the community.
Meeting Participant	Communities aren't informed of the opportunities of renewables or the impacts of the current economy.
Meeting Participant	Communities are only informed of the current industries that are surrounding them.

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Meeting Participant	Communities are dealing crisis after crisis. They haven't had the opportunity to look past that.
Meeting Participant	We need a process and a policy that respects everyone including the economy and indigenous peoples.
Meeting Participant	Our people don't have the knowledge. Free, prior, and informed consent: you need to share input and receive input after. To be real participants, First Nations need to be informed of all high level knowledge prior to having conversations.
Meeting Participant	When we try to reconcile renewable alternatives with non-renewable companies, they try to take away our land and way of life.
Meeting Participant	There are different opportunities for renewables in different portions of the province. However, there are still impacts related to renewables.
Meeting Participant	We can't limit ourselves because of the fear of change, new structures, and new opportunities.
Meeting Participant	There are many issues to address, not just cumulative effects, or renewables, or carbon pricing, it's all of it. We need to share information with our communities to find solutions. A multi-prong approach is needed with new structures and new opportunities.
Meeting Participant	Youth are important. Through education, adding to the curriculum around these issues is important so that the conversation starts today and solutions will come from the youth in the future.
Meeting Participant	Youth should always be included in these discussions, indigenous or not. The solution rests with the young. We need to disseminate correct knowledge and information to the youth from all communities.
Meeting Participant	Meaningful consultation with Aboriginal people from all treaties needs to occur. The policies on consultation need to be changed.
Meeting Participant	Encroachments are happening because we don't have the voice in stopping projects. We need a consultation policy where First Nations can stop development from occurring on their territory.
Meeting Participant	Differences between First Nations should be honoured - success looks different for each community. Need to remember you are dealing with sovereign nations.
Meeting Participant	Remember the history; neighbours need to understand who we really are (relationship with the environment, laws, values, etc.). It didn't start at residential schools. We have a long relationship with each environment that we live in. Neighbours have forgotten that they once used to live off the land also. Once they realize this, they will also realize the impacts.
Meeting Participant	Education is the way to go. Traditionally, we all used to have our own professions, everyone had a place and a role and we've forgotten that. We need to remember the roles we used to play and our neighbours need to understand those roles.
Meeting Participant	It all comes down to natural law - we need to know what natural law is. Our neighbours need to understand natural laws.

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Meeting Participant	You can see the impacts of climate change in the wild in nature. Where plants are growing by themselves without chemicals; different areas will have different indicators to measure the impacts of climate change.
Meeting Participant	There are different indications for the impacts of climate change for different regions and different First Nations. You can use traditional knowledge “indigenous indicators” to understand what is happening to land, air, and water and the impacts of climate change.
Meeting Participant	Alberta has to start learning and protecting the areas that still have natural indigenous animals and plants. Those will be the real indicators of how the environment is being affected and changing.
Meeting Participant	You can tell how far climate change has already affected us through traditional knowledge.
Meeting Participant	The earth can't keep up with the changes anymore. The world does change (i.e. ice change). It's the earth's way of cleaning itself.
Meeting Participant	Since the industrial revolution the earth has changed so quickly and people have seen so much change in the past 100 years, it is too much for the earth. The earth is going to try to do what it can; any industry has impacts.
Meeting Participant	It's hard to define what a successful policy looks like when your perspectives, ideologies, and values differ so greatly from those who are developing policy. The people with foundational understanding of the land and water aren't being considered in policy development. Triggers and limits aren't in consideration of what indigenous people need. Government is developing policy without considering the impacts of indigenous rights. Need to recognize our limits and thresholds for systems (e.g. the Athabasca River)
Meeting Participant	You need to understand the rights and needs and knowledge and combine them into science and policy development.
Meeting Participant	Reduction of greenhouse gases and the stabilization of our economy are needed in the policy.
Meeting Participant	We don't have the understanding of how climate change is impacting the rights of indigenous people.
Meeting Participant	You need to understand the impacts before you develop the policy.
Meeting Participant	You need to combine and include indigenous knowledge into policy development. Policy needs to be developed not just for industry but also for indigenous people and their rights.
Meeting Participant	We need to have information sharing before we provide input. We need to both understand each other in order to work together.
Meeting Participant	We are heavily reliant on oil and gas, but we are hostages in these economies because we weren't involved in the discussion of building these economies. If we're not involved at the forefront and left on the sidelines of renewable energy economies, we will also be viewed as adversaries to new renewable economies.
Meeting Participant	It needs to be about whether we can survive on this planet, not about balancing the budgets.

CONVERSATION SPEAKER	DISCUSSION SUMMARY
<b>Fort McMurray Session, September 14, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Environmental monitoring program that is geared to the land users and the elders would be integral. Include Traditional Ecological Knowledge in this process.
Meeting Participant	We are seeing low water levels and the berries were early this season. Our people are seeing these changes and we would like to get this information to people and have that information valued.
Meeting Participant	We need feedback as well on input that we submit to processes like this.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be more government supported community based monitoring.
Meeting Participant	Community based monitoring services are vital. It would be a big loss to government to lose out on this.
Meeting Participant	We have attended these sessions in the past and we have shared all of this information in the past. What is being done with that information?
Meeting Participant	We want action or these discussions are redundant.
Meeting Participant	We do not get communications on the status to the policies and plans and initiatives.
Meeting Participant	We have trains with toxic materials on them running through our communities. This needs to change. All it takes is one bad accident.
Meeting Participant	The panel should make recommendations and stand by what you are doing, options seem like they achieve less. Don't give in to industry.
Meeting Participant	I was at the Edmonton session and was told that this is not a consultation process and that it is an Engagement process. There is no indication of whether this information will be acted on or how it will be considered. If this government is serious about UNDRIP it is going to have to incorporate free, prior, and, informed consent.
Meeting Participant	We have a good idea of local impacts but we do not understand the broader global impacts because we have not been engaged in these discussions. Our communities need to be effectively engaged.
Meeting Participant	There has to be safeguards put in place for the panel that recognize indigenous peoples rights and the time that is necessary for free prior and informed consent.
Meeting Participant	There has to be a dual education piece to this process – government understanding the effects on us and us understanding effects on a global scale. Addressing climate change will impact economics; we would not be able to forge ahead with oil and gas projects in the same way that we have in the past.
Meeting Participant	There are currently no incentives for clean energy in Alberta.
Meeting Participant	Clean energy is a huge industry and we need aboriginal incentives to participate.
Meeting Participant	You have come here and invited representation from all First Nations and Metis groups; that is a good start and in the past this was not done for some initiatives.



CONVERSATION SPEAKER	DISCUSSION SUMMARY
Meeting Participant	Past processes were not true engagement or consultation. Government drafted products were shown and then short timelines were given to review and respond.
Meeting Participant	Don't want to repeat the mistakes that were made in the LARP process.
Meeting Participant	Some technical meetings given to discuss past initiatives between government and aboriginal groups which is also a favorable approach.
Meeting Participant	If there was consideration of our feedback in past processes it was not shown nor did we get feedback about how our input was considered; that should change going forward.
Meeting Participant	Engagement in the LARP process was okay, but it was the follow-up that was lacking. The community invested heavily in time and resources and felt encouraged by it. However, in the plan it looked like our conversations were not even considered.
Meeting Participant	We conducted our own sessions with the community and we got a lot of very useful information; this was not seen in the plans that were developed in the past.
Meeting Participant	The 'what we heard' was not a useful document because it does not tell us how our input was considered.
Meeting Participant	There have been numerous technical reports done and we can participate and provide those; but I am not sure what good that would be.
Meeting Participant	At the bureaucratic level there is a continuation with the same processes that have been in place and they do not match the political statements being made.
Meeting Participant	We do not want to see this process being a checkbox. There needs to be a mutual respect.
Meeting Participant	Need more information sharing about how input from the Aboriginal groups was considered, how it will be shown in the final product, and what else is being done with that information.
Meeting Participant	Why is it important that government is here today?
Meeting Participant	The Premier should lay down policy and an operational approach to reducing GHG stating that we are going to slow down oil development. We need understand the current technology and how it affects climate change. Government should have conversations about offsets. Government should also revisit LARP to better reflect the input from aboriginal groups. Government should admit the mistake that were made in the past and commit to going back to address that. Government should increase level of conservation and issue conditions to departments to do this.
Meeting Participant	According to UNDRIP, First Nations communities should be treated as sovereign nations. There is no mutual respect in LARP – it did not respect government to government relationships.
Meeting Participant	Government should reduce the rate that we are developing.
Meeting Participant	We should return to the levels that we had in 2002-2003.

CONVERSATION SPEAKER	DISCUSSION SUMMARY
Meeting Participant	There is a baseline difference between what western science and what Traditional Ecological Knowledge tells us. This needs to be discussed.
Meeting Participant	Reduce emissions and levels of production – you cannot do one without the other.
Meeting Participant	Make sure that new equipment reduces emissions. There should be continuous improvement and capital investment will be required.
Meeting Participant	Industry currently meets just the minimum requirements. The Alberta Energy Regulator doesn't do enough to enforce requirements.
Meeting Participant	Respect of indigenous peoples conservation zones. These are currently not safeguarded.
Meeting Participant	We need to have a cap on carbon and a price on carbon across all sectors.
Meeting Participant	If we do not have areas respected for aboriginals you may have communities challenging renewable energy projects in the future.
Meeting Participant	Reflect UNDRIP in policies.
Meeting Participant	We need to understand and know what needs to be done at a local level to impact state level and global level.
Meeting Participant	There is still an acceptance of sacrifice zones and we need to make sure that Indigenous rights are not affected by these zones.
Meeting Participant	Why are the rivers so much lower this year? We need to understand these things.
Meeting Participant	Values are influenced by many things and these questions that you are asking are being influenced by values.
Meeting Participant	Government has a duty not just to consult but to conserve and to ensure that Indigenous communities' rights are protected.
Meeting Participant	We are looking for much stronger policies. Should the approach be what is best for Alberta or what is best for industry; are we considering these things and making sure we are doing what is best for Alberta (e.g. rail or pipelines)?
Meeting Participant	Policies need to keep the communities sustainable. Government has a duty to conserve and sustain Aboriginal communities
Meeting Participant	We should benchmark that from now to this time in the future we want to see these reductions. Where this is not done there should be levies put in place.
Meeting Participant	Most companies need to overhaul their technologies and it is going to be expensive; but it has to happen. We have to be serious about slowing down oil development and in our intention to meet future targets.
Meeting Participant	We need to slow down development and understand what those future targets are/will be.

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
Meeting Participant	This is a new start line not the finish line.
Meeting Participant	Set up a center of excellence, an academic body, to look at impacts, targets, etc. for the Province.
Meeting Participant	Most of the directives from the regulators (NEB, AER, etc.) need to include climate change. Directives on tailings ponds, water, etc. need to have directives that take into account climate change.
Meeting Participant	Introduce climate change into our curriculum; there needs to be more education and a shift in thinking.
Meeting Participant	Carbon taxing should be used for climate change research and to invest in green technology. Those revenues should be directed to addressing climate change. A
Meeting Participant	Aboriginal communities need to be involved in the management of carbon taxing if that is considered as an option. Money from that needs to go into our communities to make them more efficient; communities need to be less reliant on carbon.
Meeting Participant	What are we back filling this move from high intensity industries with?
Meeting Participant	While Natural Gas can be an intermediary while we update technology we have to recognize that gas is not a sustainable fix for these global level goals.
Meeting Participant	There are several key articles in UNDRIP from the climate change aboriginal perspective (UNDRIP 23, 25, 26, 32, 37). These promote fostering a new relationship with Nations.
Meeting Participant	Conservation areas will be critical in relationship going forward with Indigenous peoples.
Meeting Participant	We need to be up to date on the contributors to climate change. We have a good understanding of local impacts but not global ones.
Meeting Participant	How would carbon taxes be distributed to aboriginal communities (it can happen model example T'Sou-ke Nation in BC).
Meeting Participant	There is a jurisdictional overlap that is an issue; does it fall to the nation to address this?
Meeting Participant	What about Federal involvement? How would processes discussed here today (e.g. carbon taxing) be enabled on First Nations lands? These same questions exist for the Province, Federal Government, First Nations, and Metis groups.
Meeting Participant	Concern about the impact to vulnerable populations about any policy changes.
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>QUESTION 3: What considerations are most important for your community in guiding decisions on climate change?</b>
<b>Calgary Session, September 1, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Inclusion of culture perspectives and sensitivities.
Meeting Participant	Water is an important consideration for my community.

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
Meeting Participant	A balance between respect for the land (water, air, land, and what it produces) and respect for the economy.
Meeting Participant	Consideration for traditional land uses within project areas.
Meeting Participant	Recognition of the Treaty rights of the community within the regulatory system.
Meeting Participant	Increased community awareness and involvement on projects.
Meeting Participant	Consideration of cumulative impacts from repeated industry use.
Meeting Participant	Companies being able to work with communities and involving them on the overall project; specifically monitoring and reclamation.
Panel Member	What are the differences between development on and off reserve?
Meeting Participant	On reserve, development won't occur where it would impact people.
Meeting Participant	Indian Oil and Gas Canada regulates development on reserve.
Meeting Participant	Cumulative saturated impacts of development make it near impossible to properly be involved in, or to fully understand the impacts of projects. Only a certain amount of development should be occurring. Today it is just one development after another.
Meeting Participant	Land should be allowed the time to rejuvenate itself.
Meeting Participant	Some communities are able to look more into the detail of projects than others based on the number of projects coming in.
Meeting Participant	Communities across the province are all different with different priorities, different land bases, etc.
<b>Edmonton Métis Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Transparency is an important consideration for my community.
Meeting Participant	Truth is an important consideration for my community.
Meeting Participant	Communities need capacity funding for gathering information on problems and finding alternatives. Some of the Elders have viable and valuable solutions.
Meeting Participant	Would like a one-on-one follow-up phase to gather information directly from communities.
Meeting Participant	Alberta has the knowledge and people available to be on the leading edge of global climate change policy. Government needs to help communities understand how they can be most effective in contributing to policy development and overall change.
Meeting Participant	Needs to be clear how these discussions will lead to policy and not just sit on the shelf.
Meeting Participant	Would like Aboriginal delegation sent to Paris and in key meetings with the provincial government to show

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
	the world that we are taking communities' issues seriously as they relate to climate change.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be trust in the process – there is overrepresentation of energy sector on the Panel. The Panel must ensure a sense of trust is created.
Meeting Participant	Need guarantee that input provided today will be heard and considered.
Meeting Participant	Need true action that results in changes that can be seen at the community level.
Meeting Participant	Need to hold industry accountable – suggest an Advisory Committee/Board.
Meeting Participant	The meeting today needs to be more than just a checkmark that the Aboriginal community was consulted.
Meeting Participant	Elders hold a great deal of knowledge. They need to be contacted soon as they are getting older.
Meeting Participant	The Métis community is not feeling represented well enough in key discussions and decisions.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be consideration around equality of involvement. If there is going to be trust, Métis wisdom needs to be heard. We have our Métis political and environmental scientists who need to be heard. We have not been provided the ongoing opportunity to be involved and have our voice heard.
Meeting Participant	The Aboriginal position needs to be put into place. Aboriginal wisdom is often not integrated.
<b>Fort McMurray Session, September 14, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	We feel we are protecting the environment by putting in statements on concern about potential projects and development.
Meeting Participant	We oppose development on a regular basis.
Meeting Participant	Community education in green technologies.
Meeting Participant	Conducting energy baseline studies with regard to consumption, sources, reducing cost, high consuming buildings, retrofit in the long term (solar, etc.).
Meeting Participant	The community would be willing to do almost anything as our focus is on the environment and health.
Meeting Participant	Communities are focusing on putting food on the table.
Meeting Participant	Making policy with consideration of future generation (7 generations).
Meeting Participant	Same information would come from the elders if this process visited the communities in a meaningful way.
Meeting Participant	Community looking for opportunities to make new green businesses and be less reliant on oil and gas.
Meeting Participant	More discussion with each community needs to take place.
Meeting Participant	Education, awareness, and modelling behaviors are important to lead the way on this topic.

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
Meeting Participant	Government incentives or tax credits to retrofit homes.
Meeting Participant	There needs to be more education about the options.
Meeting Participant	More thorough conservation offset process that protects the land most important to Aboriginal groups.
Meeting Participant	Are there really benefits to carbon offsets? Oil companies will use this as a way to not reduce their current emissions.
Meeting Participant	Reclamation also needs to be considered. Terms of projects needs to be considered to ensure that there is an incremental reclamation process.
Meeting Participant	Offsets need to have local co-benefits (i.e. Moose Lake, etc.); it cannot be international offsets.
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>QUESTION 4: What is your community doing now to take action on climate change?</b>
<b>Edmonton Métis Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	Gathering information and stories from Elders – their stories provide good information on how their lives have been impacted, which we can learn while they are still with us.
Meeting Participant	Traditional land use studies to identify what impacts development is having on medicinal areas, hunting grounds, etc.
Meeting Participant	Teaching children how to live traditional way of life.
Meeting Participant	The Elders go out within the community and outside the community to identify changes on the landscape and are keeping a record of changes they observe.
Meeting Participant	Taking personal responsibilities for recycling and other things such as that.
Meeting Participant	Implementing a recycling process at the landfill.
Meeting Participant	Implementing some solar energy options and constructing energy efficient buildings.
Meeting Participant	Conducting agricultural practices without chemicals and showing neighbors that it is a viable possibility.
Meeting Participant	Participating in regulatory hearings.
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>QUESTION 5: What key questions should the Panel be asking? What key messages do you wish to leave with the Panel?</b>
<b>Calgary Session, September 1, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	How is the relationship between industry, First Nations, and Métis? How will the relationship continue?
Meeting Participant	How are you including First Nations and Métis in development/projects?
Meeting Participant	What are the social impacts on the communities during and after development/industry has been there (need

<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
	to be mindful of generational impacts of decisions)?
Meeting Participant	How do we build broader and bigger capacity in communities?
Meeting Participant	How can we make climate change a priority to communities (language, scoping, etc.)?
Meeting Participant	Climate change doesn't bring the priority to the community; the term doesn't represent the issues.
Meeting Participant	Climate change touches everything; the concept isn't necessarily captured by the term. Should consider wording and language (perhaps shouldn't use climate change, but refer to land, air, water, wildlife).
Meeting Participant	How do you get an approach that you can customize to different communities' needs?
Meeting Participant	How do we develop capacity for you to have these conversations?
Meeting Participant	How do you get good quality information from rural, remote, low resource communities?
Meeting Participant	How can we build on a starting point (e.g. educate youth, get the community engaged in finding solutions)?
Meeting Participant	How can we work with youth to get them involved?
Meeting Participant	There needs to be education: going into the schools, reaching out and building awareness.
Meeting Participant	How can you/we be a part of the solution?
Meeting Participant	There needs to be a place for everyone, adults included.
Meeting Participant	What kind of economic/employment opportunities exist for community members?
Meeting Participant	Connecting, engaging, and creating ways to build opportunities needs to occur.
Meeting Participant	Reach out, engage, discuss, get Elders involved. Elders like it when individuals come to them in their own communities, not the other way around.
Meeting Participant	Go and talk to the specialists in the community; there are people that look after industrial development/relations, housing, waste, etc.
<b>Edmonton Métis Session, September 2, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	People are seeing decreasing quality when berry picking and fishing. People are being affected.
Meeting Participant	There is a situation with water. The well water is poor water quality and can't be used for drinking. People used to be able to drink the water straight from the lakes and rivers.
Meeting Participant	This is also affecting the farmers – there is less water available for their cattle.
Meeting Participant	Observation -The water doesn't flow anymore, it is more stagnant.
Meeting Participant	It is difficult to find berries to harvest due to clearcutting. Communities are not informed of developments

CONVERSATION SPEAKER	DISCUSSION SUMMARY
	before they happen. People can no longer drink the water in the area.
Meeting Participant	Need to stress importance of education of the future generations and involve entrepreneurs in our community. They can help to provide solutions.
Meeting Participant	Need for the development of programs and provision of funding to gather alternative energy options. Need to get more Métis people involved to find solutions to climate change (involve entrepreneurs in our community).
Meeting Participant	Need more studies on the health of wildlife, berries, etc. done by an independent third party. People need to know cause and affect relationships.
Meeting Participant	Industry needs to work with Aboriginal communities on wildlife health research.
Meeting Participant	Need more community involvement and more information provided to the communities.
Meeting Participant	Work needs to be done at the community level. Capacity funding needs to be provided at the community level to ensure meaningful contribution.
Meeting Participant	Develop new programs and involve Métis entrepreneurs. Provide funding to innovate and find solutions.
Meeting Participant	All sectors (coal, electrical, etc.) need to be involved in affecting change and finding solutions.
Meeting Participant	The Panel needs a better understanding of Métis communities.
Meeting Participant	Impacts are large and rapid. Action needs to happen.
Meeting Participant	Steps need to be taken.
Meeting Participant	The timeframe to provide information is rushed and set by government but are not held to the same timelines for action. Need new approach where the timeframe for action needs is the same timeframe for input so people feel something is being done.
Meeting Participant	Everything affects us as a community - need to grasp what the Métis community is and who we are.
Meeting Participant	Need to understand that Métis culture is diverse – includes the urban Edmonton perspective, not just the rural perspective.
Meeting Participant	Needs to be addressed globally and holistically – can't just focus on industry. Our actions create a footprint, even small ones (e.g. building a house with non-renewable resources). We need to consider all human activity, not just oil and gas.
Meeting Participant	Need education for our children – they need to know the information.
Meeting Participant	Métis communities should be involved in discussions on alternative energy sources at the community level.
<b>Fort McMurray Session, September 14, 2015</b>	
Meeting Participant	I have lots of information to share and leave the panel with.



<b>CONVERSATION SPEAKER</b>	<b>DISCUSSION SUMMARY</b>
Meeting Participant	I do not want to come across too hard, but I do believe that there needs to be a stronger consideration for Aboriginal values.
Meeting Participant	Increased value of consideration of First Nations values.
Meeting Participant	Will there be an opportunity for those were engaged in this process to see the results prior to going to the Minister?
Meeting Participant	I would caution that without getting input reviewed by the people that you engaged with before you send to the Minister you risk political fallout.
Meeting Participant	Minister stated that she would engage on a more nation to nation process after this process; we cautioned her on this approach.
Meeting Participant	There are many decisions need to be made at the elected level.
Meeting Participant	I have lots of information to share and leave the panel with.