

Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change

17 – 20 August 2009

Inuvik, Northwest Territories

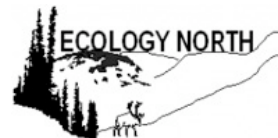
Final Report

Compiled by Jennifer Grant and Katherine Mackenzie



Arctic Athabaskan Council

Climate Action Network Canada Réseau action climat Canada



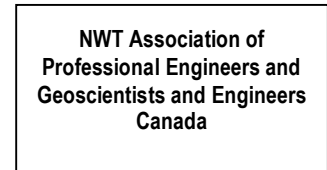
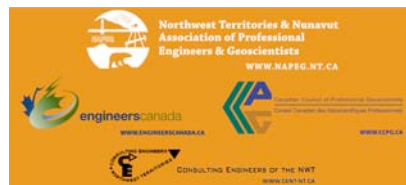
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Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change

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Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change

Climate change will affect us all, but particularly the North and the younger generations. The Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change brought motivated young leaders together in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, from August 17 to 20, 2009. These individuals were selected because of their interest in climate change in the Arctic and Subarctic. The four day summit was a challenging and inspiring mix of outdoor field trips, indoor lectures and participatory activities.

The summit built the capacity of young leaders to speak on climate change at home, nationally and internationally. 2009 is a critical year, as the international community negotiates what countries' greenhouse gas reduction targets and other commitments will look like after 2012. It is vital that northern voices are heard during these negotiations, and one goal of the summit was to help make this happen. The objectives of the summit were for young leaders to:

- build their leadership skills;
- learn to effectively communicate the impacts of climate change locally and globally;
- develop a joint set of recommendations to federal global climate agreement negotiators; and
- stimulate stronger climate action by leaders in the North.

A great deal was accomplished over four days thanks to the collective group cooperation and energy. The young leaders:

- built their capacity with the help of 13 presentations on a variety of topics;
- exchanged powerful stories about their personal experiences with climate change;
- created a declaration voicing their concerns about northern climate change (see Appendix A); and
- last but not least, they made upwards of 60 new friends to network with in the future on this critical issue.



Group photo at the Wellness Centre.

Photo: Natalie Ashbee

1. Background

1.1 Why Have a Summit on Northern Climate Change?

Young people have a major stake in climate change action. The outcome of the upcoming international climate negotiations will largely determine whether or not the world will be able to avoid dangerous climate change. Climate science tells us that to have a reasonable chance of avoiding the worst impacts of climate change global greenhouse gas emissions must peak and begin to decline by 2015. Youth are already taking significant action at the international level on climate change. So far, however, there has been limited discussion in the North about climate change policy. At this critical moment, there is an urgent need to strengthen and support the network of young leaders in the North concerned about climate change, and to connect this network with national and global youth movements. The world will be watching the United Nations climate change talks in Copenhagen this December, and young leaders must be ready to make themselves heard.

The Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change was designed to help participants build their leadership skills; learn to effectively communicate the impacts of climate change in their communities and around the world; connect with youth across the North and learn how young people can influence policy; create a set of recommendations for climate change negotiators at the United Nations talks; and to stimulate stronger climate action by leaders in the North and federally.

1.2 The Northern Voices Coalition

In September 2008 the Arctic Athabaskan Council, Climate Action Network Canada, Ecology North, Gwich'in Council International, and the Pembina Institute met to discuss how to ensure that northern voices are heard on the critical issue of climate change. The coalition was brought together by a common concern that the Government of Canada is not responding to climate change in a responsible and effective manner. Climate change threatens the livelihoods of people around the world and will have devastating impacts in Northern Canada if humanity does not drastically decrease its greenhouse gas emissions.

The Northern Voices Coalition created the Inuvik Declaration in September 2008 (available at <http://arctic.pembina.org/pubs/1747>), calling on Canada to do its fair share. After working together during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008, the coalition decided to organize a meeting for young leaders focused on climate change impacts and policies. The organizations that make up the Northern Voices Coalition are described in turn below.

The Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) is an international treaty organization established to represent the interests of United States and Canadian Athabaskan member First Nation governments in Arctic Council forums, and to foster a greater understanding of the common heritage of all Athabaskan peoples of Arctic North America. AAC is one of six Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council. The AAC was formed in 2000 and the founding members include: Council of Yukon First Nations, Dene Nation, Kaska Tribal Council, and 15 Alaskan Tribal Governments. AAC membership represents approximately 45,000 Athabaskan peoples whose historical range was three million square kilometers. Strategic priorities of the AAC are primarily climate change, biodiversity and contaminants. In accomplishing our goals, AAC works in partnership with Indigenous organizations, communities, governments, researchers and environmental nongovernmental organizations around the world.



Arctic Athabaskan Council

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Climate Action Network Canada Réseau action climat Canada

Climate Action Network Canada is a coalition of more than 50 organizations from across Canada working together to prevent catastrophic climate change and promote sustainable and equitable solutions. We are the only network in Canada that brings labour, development, faith-based and aboriginal groups together with national and provincial environmental organizations in a united effort to fight global warming. The network is coordinated by a secretariat based in Ottawa.

For a list of member organizations see:

<http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/about/members/organizations.html>

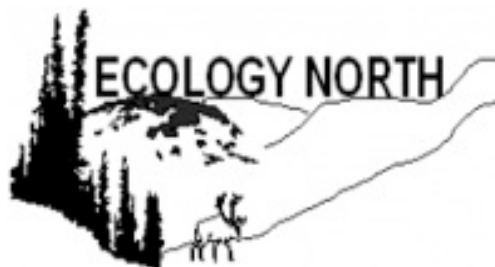
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Founded in 1971, Ecology North is a leading environmental organization based in Yellowknife and a member of Climate Action Network Canada.

Ecology North has three main objectives:

- promote public environmental education and awareness
- promote sustainable living
- reduce the impact of climate change



Its work has included:

- working with Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN);
- participating in a number of workshops throughout the Northwest Territories on climate change adaptation, including co-hosting the 2007 Climate Change Leadership Summit;
- working on a project to strengthen the NWT's overall response to climate change including the development of a carbon pollution tax;
- working with the Dehcho First Nations and the Tlicho Government to start regional climate change planning.

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Gwich'in Council International (GCI) was established as a non-profit organization in 1999 by the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Inuvik, NWT, to ensure all regions of the Gwich'in Nation in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska are represented at the Arctic Council, as well as to play an active and significant role in the development of policies that relate to the Circumpolar Arctic. The founding members of GCI includes six Alaskan Gwich'in communities (Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Birtch, Circle and Venetie) and two Gwich'in representative bodies in Canada — Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation representing Vuntut Gwitchin in Old Crow, Yukon, and Gwich'in Tribal Council representing four communities in the Beaufort Delta region in the Northwest Territories. In total, the Gwich'in Council International founding members represent approximately 9,000 indigenous peoples of Gwich'in descent. The GCI Secretariat rotates between the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Inuvik, NWT and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon.

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The Pembina Institute was founded in 1985 by a group of citizens concerned about the impact of oil and gas development in Drayton Valley, Alberta.

The Pembina Institute is a national, non-profit sustainable energy think-tank. Its mission is to catalyze the transition towards sustainable energy production and consumption. Issues such as climate change, energy equity, energy security and economic and social development are global issues. Part of Pembina's strategy is to influence key international decisions, work in partnership with counterparts in other countries, and make sure that Canada plays its part in a global transition. The organization's work includes:

- influencing federal and international climate policy through research and advocacy;
- providing research for governments, communities, and companies on adaptation, and the implications of oil and gas development (including oil sands);
- engaging in provincial and territorial climate change initiatives.



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2. Summit Agenda

Day 1 August 17: Midnight Sun Recreation Centre, Inuvik

Time	Activity
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Participant Sign In
1:00 – 1:50 pm	Welcome and Introductions
1:50 – 2:10 pm	Icebreaker
2:10 – 2:30 pm	Thinking About Climate Action
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Climate Change Across the North: Delegates presented on climate change impacts in their region (environmental, social, cultural, economic).
3:45 – 5:00 pm	Climate Change Across the North continued
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Dinner and Keynote Address: Michael Byers, University of British Columbia – “On Thinning Ice: Climate Change, Sovereignty, and the Future of the North”

Day 2 August 18: Field Trip to Wellness Centre on Mackenzie River

Time	Activity
8:30 – 9:30 am	Travel to Wellness Centre by boat
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Traditional Lifestyles and Survival Skills in a Changing Climate: discussion with Elder Charlie Snowshoe from Ft McPherson, NT
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Traditional Knowledge, Science and Policy (presentations and participatory exercise)
4:30 pm	Travel back to Inuvik
Evening	Optional tour of Inuvik Community Greenhouse

Day 3 August 19: Midnight Sun Recreation Centre, Inuvik

Time	Activity
8:30 – 9:30 am	Review of day’s agenda and debrief
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	International Climate Policy: Video address by Sheila Watt-Cloutier and mock international negotiations participatory exercise

Summit Agenda

12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Breakout Sessions #1 Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arctic Sovereignty and Security - Whitney Lackenbauer• Universities of the Arctic - Andy Greenshaw• Arctic Council - Bernard Funston
3:30 – 5:00 pm	Breakout Sessions #2 Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon Neutral North - Arctic Energy Alliance• Media Relations - Roland Semjanovs• Climate Change Adaptation - Ryan Hennessey, Northern Climate ExChange and Susan Evans, World Wildlife Fund
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Communicating Climate Change: Interactive session about how to create and present personal stories that will inspire and motivate your audience.

Day 4 August 20: Midnight Sun Recreation Centre, Inuvik

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:30 am	Review of day's agenda
9:30 – 11:00 am	Development and editing of Summit Declaration
11:00 – 12:30 pm	Brainstorm and small group discussion of next steps (action planning)
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 pm	Continuation of Action Planning and Group Farewell and Individual Commitments
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Press conference

3. Summit Outcomes

3.1 Session Notes

Participant Sarah Glover volunteered to take notes during the summit. Her note taking was invaluable for the development of this report. We are grateful for the effort and time Sarah put into recording the summit proceedings.

3.1.1 Day 1: Welcome Statements

The summit was opened with welcoming comments from the following dignitaries and elders:

- Chief Herbert Blake of the Inuvik Native Band, President of the Nihtat Gwich'in Council
- Michael Miltenberger, Government of the Northwest Territories Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
- Richard Nerysoo, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, former Premier of the Northwest Territories
- Elder Robert Alexie Senior

Elder Robert Alexie Senior noted in his opening comments that he'd "like to know what's happening" on the climate change front. He worries about getting up river and moose hunting. Caribou migrations are also changing for future generations, which will change the food supply and the way caribou are hunted. Robert does tours, and notices many things changing: including the unreliability of going out in the spring with dog teams and Ski-doo's. He offered powerful solutions: looking out for one another and our land, allowing for an untouched environment, and taking care of our garbage — basically, to "leave it as it is."

3.1.2 Day 1: Climate Change Across the North

Participant and presenter Robin Urquhart led a discussion. Participants divided into four groups and worked through the following questions:

- What climate change impacts are you and other experts noticing in your region?
- How are these changes affecting your life and the lives of those around you?
- What can be done in your region, nationally and globally, to minimize impacts and ensure the well-being of the environment and its people?

Northwest Territories

- There is a lot to learn about changes. Youth must be involved so they can inform friends and family. We must raise awareness through youth networking, anti-idling campaigns, lobbying, conferences, regulations and policies.

- Changes in animal populations have occurred, including decreases in ducks and songbirds. There has been an increase in thunderstorms, and more insects have appeared. Meat is flakier and tastes different. Mammals are smaller and deer and cougars are moving to the North, with muskox moving south. Fish drying is no longer operational.
- There is a change in ice break-up and freezing dynamics, which changes how communities prepare for both. Trees are changing earlier and are growing above the tree line.
- Climate change is leading to health implications, including increased stomach cancer levels. The *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria (a prelude to stomach cancer) has been found in 70–80% of people in some communities. There have been changes on individual and community levels.



Map showing participants' home communities.

Photo: PJ Partington

The Provinces

- Coastal erosion is happening, with spring flooding occurring in coastal communities. The climate of the ocean is changing. Due to changes in precipitation, there are increases and disparities in water. Biological changes in aquatic ecosystems are resulting, like the depletion of fish stock, as are chemical changes, like acidification. Dead zones are being created from pollution. Hydrology is difficult to predict.
- Infrastructure instabilities are occurring and transportation systems are becoming more unpredictable.

- Changes in agriculture are leading to issues in food security, surface water and drinking water problems. Industries and communities must adapt to changes, extreme heat events, and storm events. One example is maple syrup production, which has been hard hit. Soil and atmosphere systems are changing drastically, with too much or not enough precipitation.
- We must consider human health impacts.
- Most southerners see climate change as something that will happen in the future due to a disconnect from information and impacts, especially about the impacts northerners are facing.
- There needs to be public education and social marketing to make climate change personal and relevant to policy makers; explaining why it is a reality, and putting a face to the North and climate change.
- The North is regarded as a “resource bank,” so Canadians must balance resource development with environment cycles. We must change our perspective on what we are calling resources. Societies are often present minded, and need future forecasting through media, documentaries, stories and by making linkages. There needs to be a focus on northern people rather than just state sovereignty.

Nunavut

- Changes in permafrost are occurring, leading to mudslides and houses and other infrastructure being destroyed. There has been more precipitation in the summer, with changes in temperatures over all seasons. Lakes and ponds are drying, changing fishing cycles, and lowering sea levels. People are traveling a lot further to hunt and have to be cautious, for example bringing their tents in case of storms.
- Plants are disappearing due to climate changes. New invertebrates can be found in waters, and plants are growing sooner in the season. There are discrepancies in the amounts of multi-year ice; some locations are free of multi-year ice, which can be both advantageous and disadvantageous. Melting ice is limiting transportation, and unpredictable ice is dangerous.
- There is much more rain in Iqaluit.
- The youth are worried about food security, including the affect of Brucellosis on caribou and meat, and the impact of ice presence on hunts for belugas, ringed seals and caribou. The taste of meat is changing, which may indicate a change in nutrition. It is expensive to fly food in to the North, and there is a growing inability to access local traditional foods. Caribou migrations are different and narwhales are becoming stranded.

Yukon

- There are extreme changes in temperature. This has created an issue for food security, as people need to travel further across land to get food (for example in Old Crow, where there is no road access). New insects and birds are being introduced, like the spruce beetle at Haines Junction. There have been problems with bears going into towns to escape forest fires, and there is increased siltation in fish spawning beds. In Whitehorse, the snow composition is wetter and heavier. In Dawson, salmon populations are changing, with a decrease in their run, and a change in appearance and taste, possibly indicating a change in their health.

- Positive impacts have also resulted, like an increase in the water table and more productive greenhouses due to warmer temperatures. For hunters, bison populations have increased.
- Additional research must be done, which should be accessible to the general public and presented to the community in question.
- There needs to be an improvement in waste disposal, and actions must take place where people live and work to decrease GHG emissions and overall energy and resource usage.



Yukon participants discuss climate change impacts.

Photo: Jennifer Grant

3.1.3 Day1: Climate Change Across the North — Formal Presentations

We heard from the following presenters to learn more about the impacts of climate change in the North and some innovative solutions.

Old Crow Food Security Options Project (Katelyn Friendship)

- The project has been developing strategies to deal with climate change. Old Crow is the northernmost community in the Yukon with a population of approximately 300 people, and is in traditional Gwich'in territories. There have been changes in vegetation, disease in animals, and a decrease in caribou. Permafrost is also degrading.
- The concept of health adaptation stemmed from workshops. Youth researchers are now helping to create a documentary and are being trained in their region. There has been a decrease of availability in traditional foods, and market foods are expensive (to ship as well). Residents are turning to traditional storage methods, as well as participation and involvement in traditional events (including for physical fitness).

Break-up in the Mackenzie Delta (Holly Goulding)

- River ice hydrology has a dominant control on hydrologic extremes. Higher floods are taking place in open water. Two forces play a role: a downstream force (dependent on ice thickness and strength), and an upstream force (influenced by snow pack size and melt rate). These forces influence communities as far south as Jasper. Ice jams and island complexes take place — a backup of ice jams caused flooding in Aklavik, with some flooding in Inuvik.
- Changes in discharge result in changes to ecosystem structure and productivity. Impacts can be seen in transportation, traditional lifestyles, and community flooding. Trends of historical data can help plan adaptation for extremes, and be relevant to community locations.

Northern Terrestrial Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change (James Hudson)

- International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) chambers warm temperatures in small land areas to simulate climate change. Several important factors influence ecosystems, like temperature, precipitation, water and nutrient availability, parasites and pathogens, carbon dioxide and nitrogen presence. Human disturbance plays a part through development and contaminant influx.
- Vegetation responses to climate change have included: migrations, the changing of tree/shrub-lines, and a decrease of lichens (important for winter forage of caribou).
- There has been a change in timing, and feedback loops, with an uncertainty of carbon sources and sinks.
- Berry production timing has changed for harvests in northern communities. Population changes have occurred (caribou/shorebirds) to the extent that there can be a trophic mismatch (a change in timing for predator and prey relationships).
- Challenges include few research sites, no sustained measurements, little baseline data, and the high costs of northern research.
- The future of research must consist of multi-disciplinary community research, with more monitoring and observations. Projects must be long term with field assistants and researchers coming from and staying in the North. Research should involve local people, not just academics. Some good examples are in Old Crow, the Arctic Net (Lavalle), and Territorial Parks.

3.1.4 Day 1: Keynote Michael Byers — On Thinning Ice: Climate Change, Sovereignty, and the Future of the North

In the evening, keynote Michael Byers gave a presentation, “On Thinning Ice: Climate Change, Sovereignty, and the Future of the North.” Michael Byers holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Mr. Byers shared his personal experiences with the Canadian Coast Guard Icebreaker and his views on historic and ongoing international disputes; the political power of the Inuit on sovereignty; and the irreplaceable cultural, economic and environmental values of the high Arctic.

3.1.5 Day 2: Field Trip to Wellness Centre

Day two allowed participants to explore the northern landscape with a boat excursion along an arm of the Mackenzie River to the Inuvik Wellness Centre. Delays in boat departures provided time for participants to network. Upon arrival, we proceeded with two sessions: “Traditional Lifestyles and Survival Skills in a Changing Climate” and “Traditional Knowledge, Science and Policy.” We had hoped to venture out of doors however we were limited from going too far from the Wellness Centre due to recent and frequent visits from local grizzly bears.

Charlie Snowshoe, Elder from Fort McPherson

- Charlie is a Gwich'in Elder living in Fort McPherson, NT. He lived in tents on land when he was very young and then spent time on the land with his family after finishing his schooling.
- People in communities used to dry fish in summer, and would prepare for the ice in the fall, when they would hunt caribou for meat. People would move into mountains after New Year's for caribou and this was true until the 1970s.
- There is a large Dene Nation across the Northwest Territories, which received land claims in 1992; this also allowed for the protection of land and water. Charlie was concerned about self-determination, especially when the oil and gas industries began to arrive. The companies set up rigs and used vehicles that had a deep impact on the ground. They started to talk about pipelines, but the elders spoke out with the sovereign people's support. There was a strong voice against the pipeline, and the government listened to it. There are now environmental threats to the region, including the downstream threat from Alberta's oil sands (e.g. tailing ponds). The communities are attempting to put a stop to the activities in the oil sands.
- Charlie has witnessed several of the impacts of climate change. For example, hunting must now occur across father distances on land. Some rivers have much lower water levels with much erosion. Permafrost is moving deeper into the soil, and ice



Boat travel to the Wellness Centre.

Photo: Jennifer Grant



Group discussion at the Wellness Centre with Elder Charlie Snowshoe.

Photo: Jennifer Grant

thickness on water bodies has in some regions gone from 4 ½ feet to dead break-up and fast movement. Fish used to be dried outside, but the heat now practically cooks them in the summer, making drying difficult.

Daniel T'seleie: Science of Climate Change

Daniel T'seleie of Ecology North gave an overview of the science of climate change. He explained the carbon cycle and feedback loops and discussed the scientific method. He noted that the earth is experiencing unprecedented high temperatures. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) includes 194 countries' representatives on physical, climate change vulnerabilities, adaptation, and mitigation. The IPCC doesn't conduct research, but compiles thousands of studies from the world's peer-reviewed journals.

Global warming must be kept to less than 2 C because of tipping points — if we go higher than two degrees of warming (global average compared to average temperature before the industrial revolution) we'll experience really severe climate change impacts. More severe weather events are expected, with uninhabitable areas to result, especially in communities near or lower than sea level. There may be major resource conflicts. Canada must decrease its emissions drastically as this is a matter of justice for the world's vulnerable people who could lose their homes and even their lives.

Cindy Dickson: Council of Yukon First Nations

Cindy discussed the Northern Contaminants program and the role that Indigenous organizations played in the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs). She used this example to show how indigenous northern people have been effectively involved in the negotiation of international treaties. She discussed the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge into policy-making — traditional knowledge holders are experts just as people with PhDs are experts. She said that the University of the Arctic should allow community members to sit on the advisory committee for Masters and PhD students, allowing for a recognition program for communities. People from the north and south should work together and with others around the circumpolar Arctic. Youth outreach is instrumental for education, as is encouraging leaders and elders to participate.



Group work at the Wellness Centre.

Photo: Roland Semjanovs

P.J. Partington: Rocking the Climate Change Policy Process in Canada and Internationally

- The global temperature change is less than 1 C so far, and can remain less than 2 C if nations cut their emissions by half by 2050. Policy improves the chances of minimizing change, but policies still have to be updated. Emissions are greater now than the worst-case scenario.
- There is a need to understand where emissions come from (land use, biomass, transportation, etc.). Policy should serve as a framework for collective action: measures to be taken in industry, individually, and by acting together. Action must be coordinated among actors — international, national, regional, provincial/territorial, First Nations, and municipal.
- A toolbox for change includes: voluntary (agreement), informational (education), command-and-control (regulations and standards), market-based (carbon tax or cap-and-trade system), and incentives and subsidies.
- Industries must address industrial regulations and innovation. Power generation should consider demand (energy conservation and efficiency) and supply (renewable energy); transportation and fuel efficiency must be addressed, including a change in modes, and a conversion to electric/renewable fuels; buildings must become more energy efficient. A price must be established on emissions, like a carbon tax or cap-and-trade system, with incentives to innovate and change behaviours. There is no way to ban all pollutants through command-and-control, so reductions must take place.
- It is still important to regulate depending on gas emissions, even though there are limitations. Carbon pricing requires political will. Canada is reviewing its national approach to climate change, with a target of 3% below 1990 by 2020. Canada's Climate Change Accountability Act is not helpful internationally, but maintains the four pillars of technology transfer, mitigation, adaptation, and finance.
- To create policy change, there must be outside and inside governmental pressure. The UN negotiations have a great impact. Approaches include: attending sessions, participating, meetings with delegations and ministers, hallway meetings, articles, and actions like the Fossil of the Day.

Participants were then asked to complete an activity in breakout groups. Each group selected an issue of choice (e.g., one group chose managing greenhouse gas emissions from the oil sands), and the best policy(ies) to respond to the issue. Participants were encouraged to think about the “ask”: a strategy, allies, dates/deadline, and relevant orders of government.

Solar Energy – Ecology North and Arctic Energy Alliance

The afternoon at the Wellness Centre concluded with two concurrent outdoor sessions regarding the installation of solar panels at the centre. The outdoor sessions used interactive activities to explore with participants the challenges and opportunities of photovoltaics. Staff from Arctic Energy Alliance and Ecology North collected raw data for a RETScreen analysis. (RETScreen is clean energy project software developed by the federal government.) Based on the RETScreen analysis, staff at AEA and Ecology North are recommending installation of six 175 watt solar panels and a grid tied inverter. The next stage of the process is to finalize proposals to the World Wildlife Fund and the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Once project funding has been finalized, Ecology North will work with

the Gwich'in Tribal Council to develop and issue a request for proposals to design, engineer and install the proposed system.



Presentation on Wellness Centre energy use.

Photo: PJ Partington

3.1.6 Day 3: Opening From Sheila Watt-Cloutier (Video Presentation)

A special video presentation was pre-recorded for the summit by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, former International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council. Ms. Watt-Cloutier made an address asking young leaders to engage their communities and communicate a heartfelt and real story on climate change. She suggested framing a narrative in the context of the story of the Inuit. She noted that climate change is affecting mobility and ice and snow-based cultures and that we are witnessing a divided and disconnecting world, where northern resources will be damaged. Canada needs a human-centred northern policy. The Inuit have a deep connection to land, and supporting the safety and health of their people requires long-term thinking. The people and planet are one — all are connected to a shared atmosphere and humanity. A disconnect creates a divide from nature, food sources, the environment, and each other. We must rise together courageously, and carry a sense of responsibility, purpose and calling in life.

3.1.7 Day 3: Understanding International Climate Policy Through Mock Negotiations

In the international negotiations session participants were divided into eight country teams, representing both “developed” and “developing” nations. Countries were asked to develop positions regarding two topics. The topics were: 1) By how much will developed nations decrease their emissions by 2020, and 2) How will the developed nations support the developing nations in adapting to climate change and/or in decreasing their emissions, and what will developing nations commit to do in return?

Each country gave an opening statement based on backgrounders they had received. After the opening statements, countries had one hour to negotiate proposals amongst themselves. Following the negotiations, countries were brought back to plenary and a mediated session of

negotiations followed. Disagreements arose between many of the countries. The developing states and the European Union (represented by the Netherlands) generally agreed on strong emissions reductions for developed nations, and also the creation of an adaptation fund for developing countries. The session ended with a debrief by Graham Saul of Climate Action Network Canada on the session and the current international negotiations.

3.1.8 Day 3: Power of One by Marcelo da Luz

Marcelo da Luz (www.XOF1.com) joined us at lunch for a presentation on his journey to build a solar car and drive it to the Arctic Circle. Marcelo's dream was not only to reach the Arctic Circle, but also to deliver on a promise to set the world distance record for a solar car. Marcelo's inspiring and humorous story was well received with much laughter and a standing ovation.



Participants and MP Dennis Bevington with Marcelo da Luz's solar car.

Photo: PJ Partington

3.1.9 Day 3: Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1: "Sovereignty, Security and Sustainability: Northern Strategy in an Uncertain Circumpolar World" — *Whitney Lackenbauer, associate professor of history at St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo*

Whitney examined the history of sovereignty and security practices in the Canadian North since the Second World War, with particular emphasis on the role of and impacts on northern Aboriginal peoples. He looked at contemporary issues related to sovereignty and security, such

as the so-called polar “race for resources” and the Northwest Passage dispute, and discussed approaches to implementing a sustainable Canadian strategy for the Arctic that balances northerners’ priorities with broader Canadian interests.

Breakout Session 2: “Universities of the Arctic — What is Needed and What Makes Sense?” — *Andy Greenshaw, Board of Governors, University of the Arctic and Associate Vice President (Research), University of Alberta*

Canada is the only Arctic nation that does not have a university north of the 60th parallel. We have a long-standing tradition in Canada of southern academics coming to the North and taking the results of their work to the South. This breakout session discussed the needs of northerners and how those needs may be served by development of northern post-secondary education and northern research.

Breakout Session 3: “Arctic Governance and the Arctic Council” — *Bernard Funston, Executive Secretary, Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group and President, Northern Canada Consulting*

Bernard reviewed the origins of the Arctic Council, its role and how it operates. He discussed the Arctic’s increased prominence internationally, and the different interests that groups have in the Arctic (it is seen as a homeland, frontier, laboratory and wilderness).

The Arctic Council is a high level forum that invokes coordination, cooperation, and interaction among Arctic communities. It is an important forum for soft policy (as decisions made here are not binding, the Council has tended to play a role in coordinating research and in facilitating important discussions amongst nations and Indigenous organizations). Nations need to rethink who should participate in Arctic governance. Ways to connect people to the issue of climate change must be found, allowing them to see the Arctic in relevant terms and as a homeland for communities.



Bernard Funston’s breakout session.
Photo: Katherine Mackenzie

Breakout Session 4: “Carbon Neutral North: Northerners Taking Action on Climate Change” — *Andrew Robinson, Arctic Energy Alliance*

Northerners are concerned about Climate Change. Our climate and weather are changing faster than many other parts of the world. We know that burning fossil fuels like heating oil, diesel and gasoline will make the climate change even faster. Going Carbon Neutral means that you take responsibility for all of your greenhouse gas emissions. There are three steps: 1) Become more energy efficient, 2) Switch to renewable energy sources and 3) Purchase carbon offsets.

Participants selected real-world, northern case studies and created action plans for how to make them carbon neutral.

Breakout Session 5: “Climate Change Adaptation” — *Susan Evans, World Wildlife Fund and Ryan Hennessey, Northern Climate Exchange*

Susan Evans of the World Wildlife Fund and Ryan Hennessey of the Northern Climate ExChange explored the concept of adaptation and its importance in managing the projected impacts of climate change in the North. The session explored how different aspects of adaptation, including resilience, adaptive capacity, and vulnerability, can affect goal development and the implementation of actions.

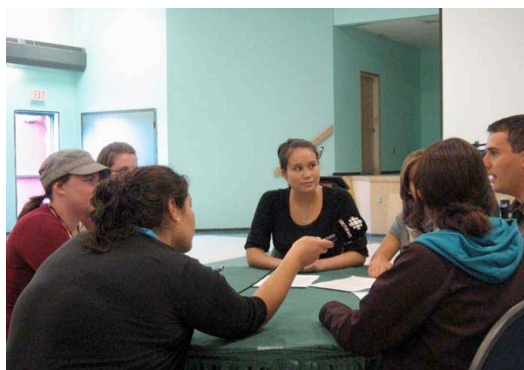
Breakout Session 6: “Working with the Media” — *Roland Semjanovs*

This presentation discussed how to effectively bring your issue to the public table. The session covered: The five commandments for writing a good press release; How you can deliver what the media needs; How to use social media effectively to get your message across; and, the five commandments for developing an effective public presentation.

3.1.10 Day 3: Communicating Climate Change Through Storytelling

This evening session, facilitated by Jennifer Grant of the Pembina Institute, discussed how to communicate climate change through personal storytelling. Often people are overwhelmed by the enormity of climate change, and this can make motivation difficult. Jen covered the importance of how debates are framed, some of the key issues that make action on climate change difficult, and the importance of choosing your words carefully when explaining climate change.

We discussed the importance of stories and relating to your audience in a human, emotional way. Most of the session was spent creating and telling personal stories in small groups and in plenary.



Press conference to present declaration.

Photo: PJ Partington



Young Leaders' Climate Change Mural.

Photo: Katherine Mackenzie

4. Action Plans and Next Steps

Day four focused on the discussion, editing and unanimous approval of a declaration and the creation of action plans for post-summit actions after the summit. The declaration is attached as Appendix A.

To ensure participants had an opportunity to network, share ideas, and think about implementing actions post-summit, an action planning session was held on the last day. After discussing the declaration we had a brainstorming session to think about potential actions. Ideas raised include:

- Powershift Canada: get youth from across Canada, especially the territories, to the PowerShift youth climate change conference in Ottawa October 23–26
- 350.org Day of Action: organize an action in your community and coordinate with the global campaign; October 24th International Day of Action
- letters to government (MPs, MPPs/MLAs) and other decision makers
- arrange meetings with territorial politicians regarding summit declaration and territorial policies
- coordinate ourselves regionally and organize actions
- hold a press conference in Ottawa with the three northern MPs, during same trip meet with other politicians, bureaucrats (e.g. the negotiators) to express our opinions
- media stories to raise awareness
- video and photos: share our stories on youtube, other venues, including policy asks
- creating art! Film festivals, screenings in classrooms of films like *The Age of Stupid*
- hold another summit on climate change for northerners, developed for indigenous people by indigenous people
- create a comprehensive list of organizations and initiatives across the country working on climate change, also creating networks to facilitate working together



View from the Wellness Centre.

Photo: Jennifer Grant

- anti-idling campaign in Inuvik — working with town council, cooperating with youth

The delegates self organized into groups based on their interests from this brainstorm and created actions plans for a number of the above ideas. Action plans were created for: PowerShift, Ottawa press conference / meetings with leaders, the October 24th International Day of Action, and the anti-idling campaign in Inuvik. Working groups were also created to help manage cross cutting tasks — internal communications, engaging politicians, media relations, and regional specific groups for a pan-Canadian committee.

5. Participant Evaluation

We conducted an online evaluation of the summit. The response rate was 55%. Overall, participants felt that the summit was a very worthwhile experience. On a scale of one to five, with five being excellent and one being poor, 90% of survey respondents rated the summit as a four or five out of five. Approximately 10% gave the summit a three out of five.

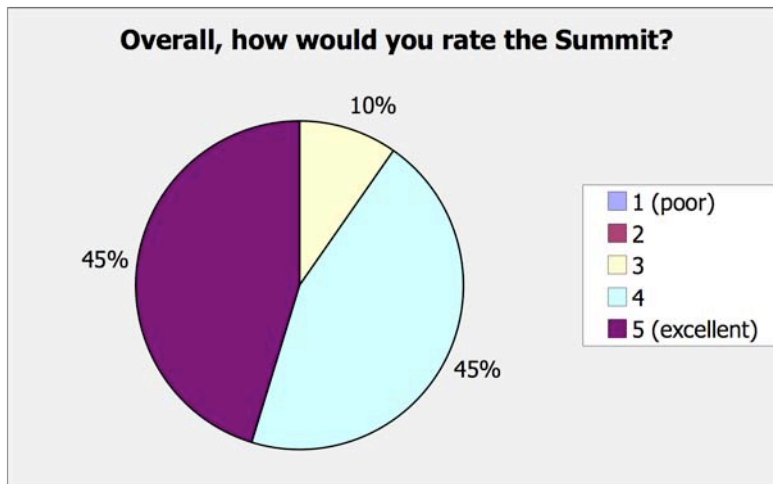


Figure 1 Participants' Overall Rating of the Summit

Participants overwhelmingly (96% of survey respondents) felt that the summit achieved its objectives. Participants stressed that the summit was a great opportunity to meet young leaders from across the country, particularly the North, and to develop a strong network of people who will work together in the future. A common comment was also that the summit helped to put a human face to climate change (especially for those delegates from southern Canada with little previous experience in the North). Participants' comments during the summit were also very positive. The summit organizers continually checked in with participants (both formally during morning debriefs and informally one-on-one) to help ensure that the summit was meeting their needs.

Some of the favourite sessions included: the mock United Nations' climate change negotiations, Elder Charlie Snowshoe's talk, communicating climate change through storytelling, and the smaller breakout sessions. Overall the participants felt that the summit was very well facilitated.

Participants also provided some constructive criticism. Based on participant feedback, the objectives of the summit could have been explained more clearly to participants. Approximately 70% of respondents said that the objectives were clear, but 30% said that they were not. One participant commented that the summit tried to do too much — education on climate change science, impacts and policy options; action planning; field trips etc. — and that it would have been better to focus on fewer sessions to delve into the specific topics more deeply. A common comment was that more time was needed for dialogue, Q&A sessions after presentations, and to

report back from the breakout sessions. Another participant noted that the wide range of participants (in terms of experience, knowledge and expertise) made it difficult for the summit to meet everyone's needs. Additionally, a number of people commented that the large group plenary format was a difficult forum for some people who were not used to speaking in public, especially on the first day before everyone had a chance to meet.

While designing the summit, the organizers were aware that bringing together such a diverse group of people would be challenging. However, we felt that it was important for people from all walks of life to be present and to have the chance to share their stories and to learn from each other. While pre-reading materials were provided to the participants before the summit in order to help prepare them for the week, most people did not get a chance to read them thoroughly. Sending the pre-reads out earlier (more than 10 days ahead of time) would have been preferable.

A few participants commented that it would have been good to have more northern indigenous representation, including representatives from Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. During participant recruitment the organizers did reach out to people and organizations in these regions, but were unsuccessful in receiving any applications. We spent a great deal of time in the lead up to the summit contacting people all over the three territories in order to have the best representation possible from all communities and in particular indigenous people.



The Blanket Toss

Photo: Natalie Ashbee

What words best describe the Summit? (choose as many as you like!)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	41.9%	13
Comprehensive	38.7%	12
Too rushed	22.6%	7
Too long	0.0%	0
Stimulating	67.7%	21
Awful	0.0%	0
Skimmed the surface	19.4%	6
Too slow	0.0%	0
Productive	61.3%	19
Informative	74.2%	23
Inspiring	77.4%	24
Confusing	3.2%	1
Well paced	12.9%	4
Not productive	3.2%	1
Satisfactory	3.2%	1
Dull	0.0%	0
Well structured	35.5%	11
Too short	6.5%	2
Boring	0.0%	0
Unsatisfactory	0.0%	0
answered question		31
skipped question		0

Figure 2 Participants Describe the Summit

Participant Quotes

“I believe every participant walked away from the Summit with renewed inspiration which came from the amazing new friends made and experiences shared.”

“I really enjoyed hearing from local elders, and Michael Byers’ talk was excellent. I was amazed by the youth from Nunavut who got up to tell stories halfway through the summit.”

“I enjoyed meeting people from all over Canada with a shared passion in acting now. Learning perspectives I never anticipated, and being able to communicate my own issues and thoughts without the feeling of being ‘underprepared’ or not educated enough on the issues. It was definitely an inclusive group.”

“I enjoyed hearing from both scientists and elders in conjunction so that both types of knowledge could be considered side-by-side. It was also good to have politicians at the summit like Michael Miltenberger [GNWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources] and Dennis Bevington [Member of Parliament, Western Arctic] that we could informally chat with and interact with.”

6. List of Organizers, Presenters and Delegates

Organizers & Presenters	
Michael Byers - University of British Columbia	Bridget Larocque - Gwich'in Council International
Marcelo da Luz - Power of One Solar Car Project	Katherine Mackenzie - Pembina Institute
Cindy Dickson - Arctic Athabaskan Council	Darcie Matthiessen - Arctic Athabaskan Council
Susan Evans - World Wildlife Fund Canada	PJ Partington - Pembina Institute
Dorothy Frost - Old Crow	Doug Ritchie - Ecology North
Bernard Funston - Arctic Council	Andrew Robinson - Arctic Energy Alliance
Jennifer Grant - Pembina Institute	Graham Saul - Climate Action Network Canada
Andy Greenshaw - University of Alberta	Roland Semjanovs
Ryan Hennessey - Northern Climate ExChange	Charlie Snowshoe - Elder from Fort McPherson, NWT
Whitney Lackenbauer - University of Waterloo	Daniel T'seleie - Ecology North

Participants were selected based on geographical distribution and their interest in northern climate change. The call for participants went out through all five organizations' networks across Northern Canada and also the south. We distributed bursaries to many of the participants to support them with travel and accommodations costs. There was no registration fee for the summit.

List of Organizers, Presenters and Delegates

Yukon Delegates	NWT Delegates	Nunavut Delegates	Southern Delegates
Alice McCulley	Antonia Dryneck	Sandi Vincent	Laura Franceschini
Merran Smith	Kari Hergott	Natasha Aaluk	Joel Hilchey
Holly Goulding	Shannon O'Hara	Terry Aknavigak	Maryam Adrangi
Dayna Thompson	Amber Simpson	Shelly Angutingunirk	Emily Slofstra
Lia Johnson	Paul T'seleie	Joe Tularialik	Will Greaves
Robin Urquhart	Pierre Marchand	Nathaniel Chouinard	Chris Lefebvre
Katelyn Friendship	Elena Lukawieki	Teevi Aooloo MacKay	Natalie Ashbee
Cynthia James	Moses Hernandez	Angulalik Pederson	Andrea Rawluk
Meghan Hajash	Brendan Callas	Pamela Gross	James Hudson
Sebastien Roy	Dawn Tremblay		Peter Kikkert
Allie Winton	Rhonda Francis		Erin Myers
Nicole Cook	Kate Snow		Joshua Prowse
Anne-Marie Legare	Amy Thompson		Marc-Andre Belcourt
Sarah Glover	Jessica Newcombe		
Chelsea Charlie	Margaret Akoaksion		
Lacia Kinnear	Eric Kagyut		
	Daniel Fehr		
	Albertine Dafoe		

7. Appendix A: The Declaration

THE DECLARATION OF THE YOUNG LEADERS' SUMMIT ON NORTHERN CLIMATE CHANGE IN INUVIK, NWT - AUGUST 20, 2009

In August 2009, sixty young Canadians gathered in Inuvik, Northwest Territories for a summit on climate change. We are from communities across Canada and are united by the magnitude of the climate change crisis, so much so that we were moved to tears by our shared experiences. We call for immediate and coordinated global action, as the world faces no graver threat. We must act now if we are to avoid dire consequences. The only thing that frightens us more than climate change is our governments' failure to respond to it.

We, the young leaders, declare that:

Climate Change is a Human Issue

Our lives have already been altered by the impacts of the climate crisis. Climate change has affected our health, our food security and our cultural identities. As northern leader Sheila Watt-Cloutier told us, "climate change is not just an economic story, it's not just an environmental story, it's a human story."

Our North is Highly Vulnerable to Climate Change

Emissions from around the world have led to the present-day reality of climate change. The rapid changes we have seen and experienced in the Arctic show us how vulnerable the North is. As landscapes change, many animals face the prospect of extinction and those who have contributed the least to climate change are being most affected by it.

Climate Change is Happening Now

Our North is warming, our ice is melting, climate change affects us. The immediacy of the crisis was illustrated in Pangnirtung, Nunavut, in the spring of 2008. Erosion and flooding washed out an essential bridge and the community experienced a loss of all water and sanitation services. These families faced the dangers and realities of climate change first-hand.

We Must Act Now

It is not too late to prevent further devastation. Canada must now be a leader in reducing emissions and motivating the world to act. We also have the responsibility to help vulnerable communities adapt. Leaders at all levels must develop and implement policies that will address the climate change crisis. As summit delegate Joel Hilchey, 26, stated "We can change the way the world does business. This is our opportunity."

The time for a strong, concerted response is now.

8. Appendix B: Young Leaders' Post-Summit Articles

Below are two articles written by summit participants Emily Slofstra and Joel Hilchey.

Futile to ignore manmade climate change – to understand the environmental impacts, Emily Slofstra visits the North

By Emily Slofstra

September 2009

With the Copenhagen climate negotiations commencing in December, it is important that Canada does not repeat past performances as a laggard on the issue of climate change mitigation. As political leaders make their way north to emphasize Canada's Arctic sovereignty, the North would be better used as an example of why Canada should care more about climate change.

The science of climate change is rarely debated anymore. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international Nobel Peace Prize winning organization, has stated that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. An interim goal for most nations is a reduction of 25 to 40 per cent by 2020.

Our leaders obviously do not see the severity of the situation, as Canada's current goal is a cut of three per cent by 2020. For the general public, it's understandable that number campaigns such as 350.org (the reasonable amount of carbon dioxide that should be in the atmosphere, as opposed to the current 386 parts per million) or 2 degrees (if the planet warms more than 2 degrees, the effects will be catastrophic) might be difficult to comprehend; politicians should be enlightened enough as to understand the magnitude of these problems.

As residents of southern Ontario, we might already be experiencing climate change, mostly in the form of extreme weather events which could've been a factor in the unexpected tornado that hit Durham on August 21. Canada's North has more difficulty in such escapism: energy is harder to procure and living costs are already expensive.

I began to fully comprehend this imbalance when I visited Inuvik, Northwest Territories, for the Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change this August. Across the globe it is those who have the least control over climate change that will feel the greatest effects. Canadians who depend on the land directly will be most affected by these changes, northerners especially so.

Much research is being done with scientific evidence that sea ice is receding and that the thawing of permafrost could affect carbon levels, but the personal hardships and experiences from both elders and youth that I was able to hear were much more compelling.

It was difficult for me to sit and listen to my new friends speak about close community members falling to their death through the ice. The ice was once sturdy and safe, but is no longer predictable.

Or, to hear elders like Charlie Snowshoe discuss how species from the south are moving north and those from the north are moving south; this makes for new difficulties and challenges in hunting, which has been the way of life in many communities for centuries.

Furthermore, more than one elder community member commented that “the meat tastes funny,” which could mean troublesome changes with certain species.

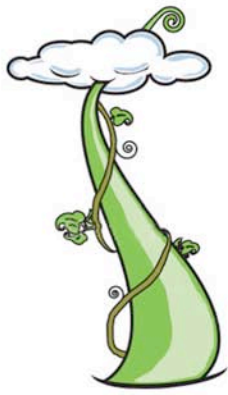
This signals a future problem with the already many health implications from a shift in reliance on hunting to processed food. Sometimes the severity of these issues is extremely difficult to comprehend, as the Earth goes through natural cycles and ecosystems change over time; Charlie Snowshoe understood this, yet commented, “I don’t call it climate change. I call it man-made change.”

There is no doubt that man-made climate change is occurring, and it is up to our government to join with other world leaders to implement strong regulations that will cut greenhouse gas emissions. If these policies are not put in place, the North as we know it will be devastated.

Perhaps instead of focusing on military strategy when Stephen Harper and other politicians visit the North, stories of community members should be heard and discussed. The facts are there, and these personal tales of change and death prove that climate change is happening now.

As citizens of southern Canada, we should use all our resources to reduce our emissions on personal and industrial levels. If we don’t, it’s not just the polar bears that will suffer; it’s the people, too.

Available online at: <http://thecord.ca/accounts/18/articles/19816>



The BEANSTALK

~SUCCESS, LEADERSHIP, AND Reaching FOR THE SKY~

The official NEWSLETTER of
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INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

Scientists agree: Climate change is happening. Ten years ago, people weren't so sure, but if you're still using the sentiments from back then to form your opinions, get with the times.

This August, I had the privilege of being one of 60 young Canadians who gathered in Inuvik, NWT, for the young Leaders Summit on Northern Climate Change. Inuvik is Canada's Northernmost community with enough in it to be called a "town", and it's situated on the mighty Mackenzie River delta, just 100km from the Beaufort Sea. Small scrub-trees. Colourful buildings. Vast open landscapes. It's beautiful.

If you still doubt that climate change is happening, get with the times. Just ask an Inuit - they'll tell you a day's worth of stories. They'll tell you about the disappearance of multi-year ice, and the changing migration patterns of caribou herds. They'll tell you about heartbreaking deaths of friends whose snowmobiles fell through the ice. They fell through in April, when they were traditionally safe until June. Climate change affects traditional lifestyles.

The Inuvik Summit was an opportunity to bring Northerners together and connect them with other leaders from across Canada's South - Every territory and nearly every province was represented. It was a chance to meet new friends. Joe from Kugluktuk, Nunavut, won the limbo contest. Brendan from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, showed me a video of his band. Natalie from Lethbridge, Alberta, told me about the Metis prayer* she had tattooed on her arm. Each of these new friends had their own story of why they cared about climate change, and each was equally compelling. It's so much harder not to care after you know people. Unfortunately, many Canadians still haven't found a reason to care. Is it possible people just aren't looking hard enough?

If you believe climate change is simply about the temperature getting warmer, get with the times. Climate change brings more extreme weather and increases variability. Deserts get bigger. Storms get more powerful. Everything gets more unpredictable. While Canadians complained about a rainy summer, USA suffered its worst drought in 50 years. Actually, so did Argentina, China, Kenya, Australia, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. Argentina's food production was down by 50%. Climate change is about food security.

"Because of the complexity of the problem, environmental skepticism was once tenable. No longer.

It is time to flip from skepticism to activism."

- Michael Shermer

Founder & Editor of Skeptic Magazine



Joel in Inuvik, NWT, August 2009

Pictured here with the Inuit statue, "Circle of Friends"

Inuvik is an interesting town: The population of 3500 is a fairly good mix of Gwich'in, Inuit (Inuvialuit), Metis, and white people; it provides a good life for most of its people (though there are some problems); it's a mix of culture (though they don't always get along perfectly); and, thanks in part to its isolation, it has a very strong sense of community. Whatever comes their way, they can pull together and make it through.

If you believe climate change doesn't permeate every area of our lives, get with the times: It's about traditional lifestyles. It's about food security. It's about foreign policy, energy security, global economic systems, insect-borne diseases, water availability, and ecosystem resiliency. It's about how much your Nintendo Wii costs to ship from Japan. It's about the quality of human and animal life as we know it on this planet.

In a small way, Inuvik could represent the globe: The globe provides a good life for most of its people (though 1 in 5 live in extreme poverty – and the poor will be hit hardest); it's a mix of cultures (though cultures frequently fight wars with each other); and, it's conceivable that people will one day realize the isolation of our planet, and this may help bring about a stronger sense of global community. It will be a community that's capable of pulling together and dealing with the toughest challenges. I believe that day will be very soon - its time has come.

This is about SO much more than “environmentalism.” Get with the times.

**The Metis Prayer:*

Just in case you were interested about Natalie's tattoo, she said the full prayer was quite long, but there were 4 ideas that she used on her arm. I really liked it.

Make us strong.

Make us proud.

Make us thankful.

Make us one.

Natalie, by the way, was one of the most well-spoken and thoughtful people I've ever met - the type of person who radiates wisdom. It was such a privilege to spend time with her and so many others this summer at the Young Leaders Summit.



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