

Communities' Transition Pathways - O-day'min, Edmonton, AB

Full Report on Session One, January 21st, 2023

Summary

In January 2023 Iron & Earth hosted an event in Edmonton, Alberta as part of the Communities Transition Program. It focused on community challenges, impacts, sustainability, and achieving a prosperous future, with a particular emphasis on economic diversification and climate change.

The approach for this program is to host sessions facilitated by locals who give a general outline of the themes for the day (energy transition, climate, and livelihoods) but is unique in that participants shape the agenda for the day's session as well as two subsequent events in the region.

Three key interconnected themes emerged from the conversation: affordability, accessibility, and social support. Participants highlighted topics related to the increasing cost of living, including housing, transportation, food, and utilities. Being environmentally conscious was also identified as costly, with participants expressing challenges in accessing affordable resources. Accessibility was a key concern, including access to information, nature, and mental health support. Attendees also identified the need for tangible social support, including assistance with addiction, mental health care, and housing.

This conversation highlights several needs of the community, including affordable housing, food, transportation, and eco-friendly options. The community requires greater access to essential resources, information, and nature. Additionally, community organizations would benefit from increased funding and support.

94% of participants learned something new from the discussion, indicating space for further sharing and community-driven learning. Following this session, Iron & Earth plans to hold a second community discussion in O-day'min, to continue the conversation started in this session.

1. Introduction

About Iron & Earth

Iron & Earth (I&E) is a not-for-profit organization with roots in the fossil fuel industry. We create pathways to opportunities in the net-zero economy for fossil fuel workers, Indigenous Peoples, and their communities. Our programs lower barriers to building

community-led climate solutions for the sustainable future through engagement, training programs, infrastructure projects, and career platforms.

Why this community was selected to have a conversation

With the support of Alberta Ecotrust, through their Climate Innovation Grant, and the David Suzuki Foundation, Iron and Earth in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation's Sustainable Communities program, Alberta Environmental Network, and Climate Justice Edmonton, is completing a series of conversations in three Edmonton's wards with O-day'min selected as the first community for the series. "O-day'min" means heart-berry or strawberry in Anishinaabe¹. The ward was renamed O-day'min because it is a place where community gathers in the "heart" of Edmonton, with the North Saskatchewan River representing the "stem" of the heart, the waterways representing the vessels, and the people representing the veins. O-day'min is home to some of Edmonton's largest infrastructure like Roger's Place and Edmonton's Chinatown; community spaces such as community gardens and nightlife; and community support, housing, or shelters for university students, new immigrants, unhoused community members, and Indigenous community members, as well as many other hardworking Edmontonians from all walks of life.

While the impacts of climate change will be felt by all Edmontonians, we chose O-day'min as a starting point for these conversations because there are economic, environmental and social implications that will affect the everyday lives of people in this community. Community members have voiced concerns about declining economic opportunities and housing unaffordability in the area, which are issues that will be exacerbated by climate change and industry transitions. People in O-day'min, particularly in the downtown area, may be at a higher risk of the urban heat island effect as heat waves become more frequent². In particular, houseless community members are more vulnerable to extreme temperatures (both hot and cold), irregular seasons, and heavy precipitation. Ongoing conversations are also happening in the area pertaining to the need for more social housing, supports, and climate resilient infrastructure. These are the kind of issues that we wanted to hear about at our sessions.

We offered this session as a space to talk about these issues, understanding the diversity of opinions, and bringing the community together to find innovative solutions tailored specifically to the O-day'min community.

¹ <https://www.eopcn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/O-daymin-name-meaning.pdf>

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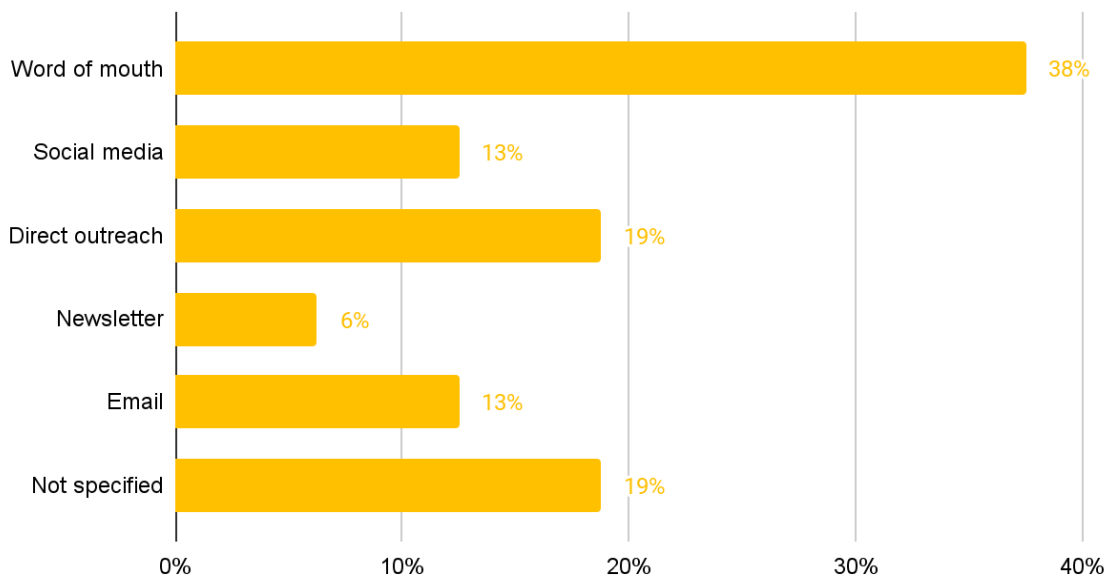
https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/Climate_Resilient_Edmonton.pdf?cb=1683668410

O-day'min had their first session in January of 2023. The main focus of this session was overall community challenges and family impacts, what a sustainable future might look like for the community, and how to achieve a prosperous future that works for the community and their needs.

About the conversation participants

Our objective was to bring together people from diverse backgrounds, including members of various industry and local government groups, of different ages and races, and with varying educational backgrounds. To achieve this, we used different methods to reach out to potential participants, such as social media posts, physical advertisements, and facilitated outreach led by our team, who provided us with an amplification document to use. In addition to posting on I&E's social media pages, we also shared the social media posts on community Facebook pages that are frequently used by local residents and university students.

Figure 1.1 - Outreach Results

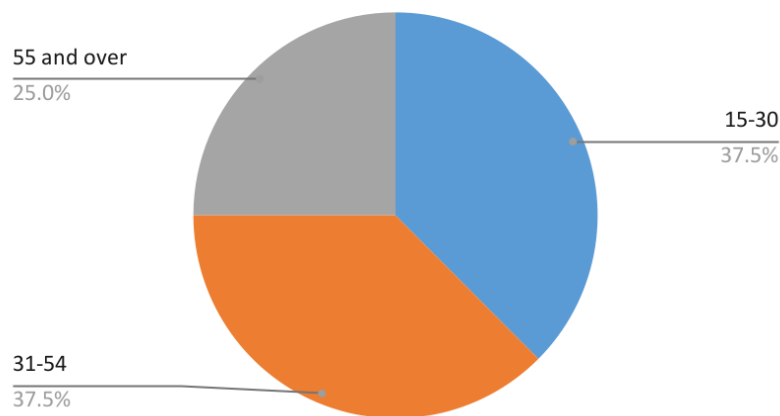


As illustrated in Figure 1.1 - Outreach Results, we found that most participants heard about the event from someone in their work and social network. Following word of mouth, direct outreach through phone calls and work organizations was the most effective form of communication. Social media such as LinkedIn was as effective as emails, while newsletters was the least effective form of outreach for the session.

The sign-up form included necessary registration details, as well as accessibility and demographic information. We took into consideration potential barriers to participation during our planning phase. We identified that the major accessibility supports were competitive reimbursement, child care assistance, and transportation stipend, which we included in our form. We also added an open-ended question for participants to list other accessibility requests that they may have, as we understood that each person's needs are different and that our planning might not include them all.

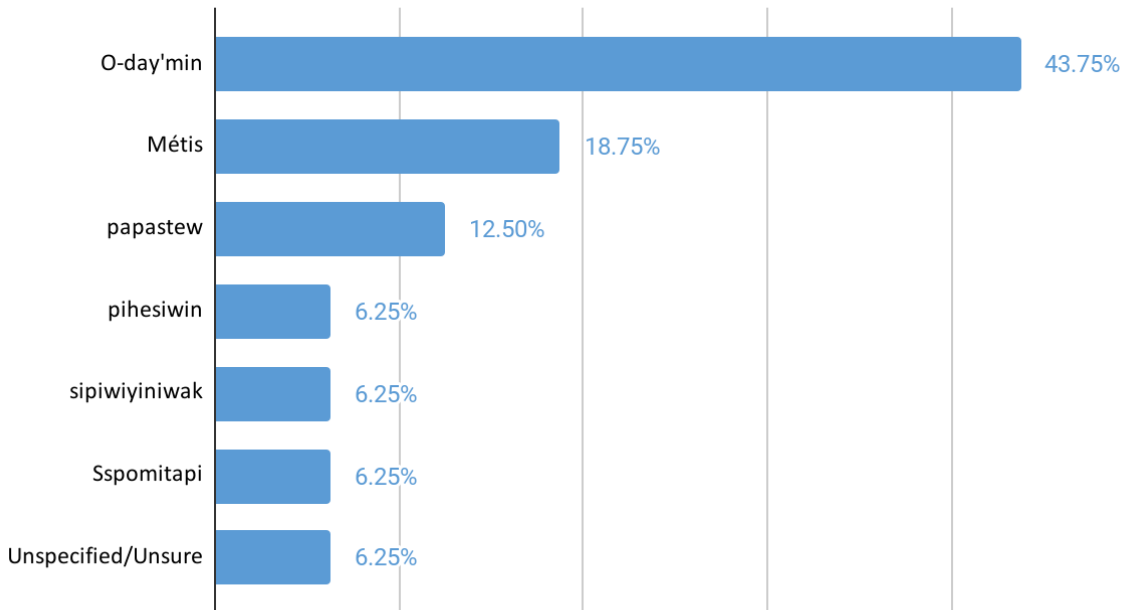
From the data collected, 87.5% of attendees opted for reimbursements with no accessibility or childcare support request during the session. 18.8% of the participants identified as racialized, and 6.3% described themselves as Indigenous. Our session was composed equally of self-identified women and self-identified men at 43.8% each, and 12.5% identifying as agender, genderqueer or gender non-binary.

Figure 1.2 - Age Groups



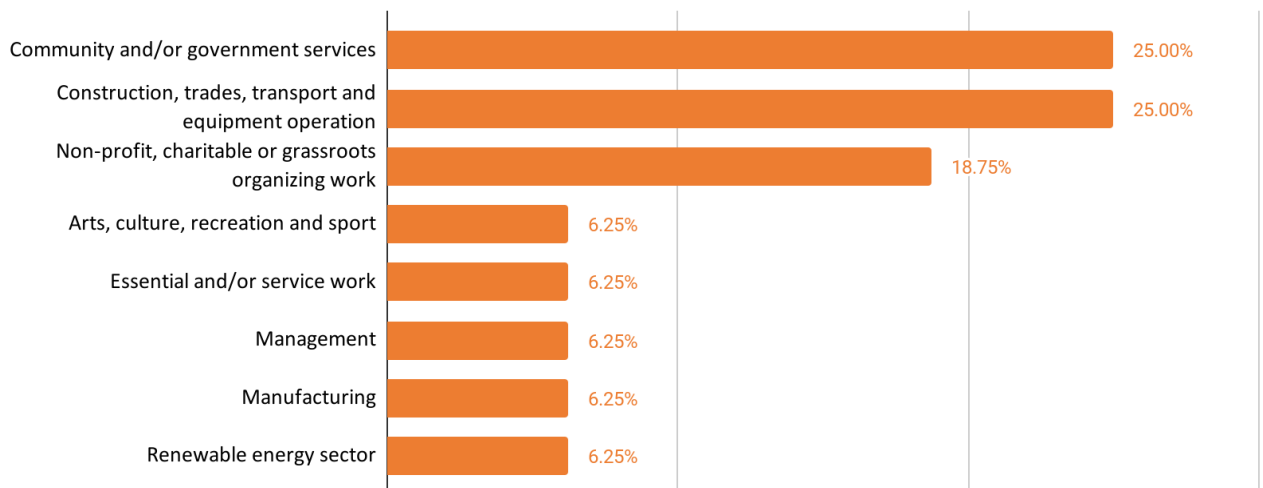
As illustrated in Figure 1.2 - Age Groups, 37.5% of attendees were in the 15-30 range, 37.5% were in the 31-54, and 25% were over the age of 55 and above. Additional demographics data shows that 81% of the participants spoke English at home, while 6% spoke English and another language, another 6% spoke only another language, and 6% spoke French at home. On the other hand, none of the participants described themselves as recent immigrants to Canada. 19 % identified as someone with a disability, while 25% identified as being part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. With regards to socio-economic status, 12% of the participants identified as low income, 69% identified as middle income, and 6% were high income, with the remaining 13% preferring not to say.

Figure 1.3 - Ward Residence



As shown in Figure 1.3 - Ward Residence, most participants reside in ward O-day'min. Other participants are residents of wards Métis and papastew, while a few came from wards pihesiwin, sipiwiyiniwak, and Sspomitapi. A small number of participants did not specify or were unsure of their wards of residence.

Figure 1.4 - Job Sector



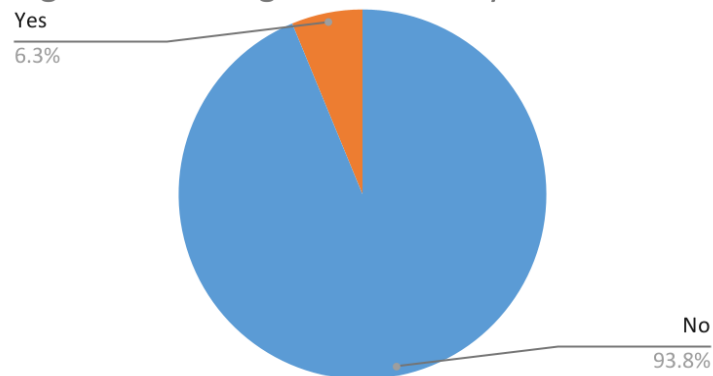
In Figure 1.4 - Job Sector, the data showed that 25% of attendees were part of the community and/or government services; and 25% were in construction, trades, transport and equipment operation. 18.75% were in non-profit, charitable or grassroots

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organizations; and 6.3% in each category: arts, culture, recreation, and sport; essential and/or service work; management; manufacturing; and renewable energy sector.

Comparing the participants' demographics data to the 2021 Census of Population of Edmonton from Statistics Canada³ shows that we succeeded in some areas, while we were not as effective in others. The census data shows that Edmonton's population is made up of 50% men and 50% women, equal to the gender division of the attendees at our session. In addition, the census data shows that 15-29 years old are 19.7%, 30-54 are 36.7%, and 55 and above are 25.4%. In comparison, the age groups of the attendees are overly representative of the 15-30 age group, and proportionally representative of the 55 and over.

Figure 1.5 - Indigenous Identity



The census data also shows 5.8% Indigenous population compared to our attendees' 6.3% Indigenous as illustrated in Figure 1.5 - Indigenous Identity, while the 13.3% immigrant population is not represented in our attendees' group. Meanwhile, for job sectors data, the attendees' population lack the high representation of the top 2 highest job populations in Edmonton: healthcare and retail. Lastly, we recognize the absence of racialized peoples and immigrants in our community session.

The Community Conversation

During our planning process, we took great care in the language we would utilize during our conversation and developed a comprehensive script that reflected this (see Appendix A). We wanted to make sure that the language was not confrontational or polarizing, and

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<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=4&DGUIDlist=2021A00054811061&HEADERlist=2,31,30,22,,10,9,8,7,11,,21,19,40,43,16,1&SearchText=edmonton>

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considered our target audience. This examination led to the avoidance of potentially contentious terms, such as “universal basic income” and “just transition.” Likewise, we used “human-caused extreme weather or environmental changes” when referring to climate change, and “energy transition” instead of “net-zero emissions” or “net-zero 2050.” Additionally, we focused on Edmonton and its peoples, leaving out any provincial, federal, or global associations. These considerations allow the participants to use any terminology they felt comfortable with and not feel the burden of imposed narratives.

The event took place at the MacEwan Roundhouse located in downtown Edmonton, Alberta on January 21, 2023. The venue was specifically chosen for its large open room, which allowed for a more comfortable space for the attendees to engage in discussions. The round room was organized into three tables with a capacity of 10 persons each. To facilitate the conversation, three trained facilitators were present at the event. One of the facilitators was also a Community Engagement Officer, representing Iron & Earth at a local level. The community sustainability manager was present to ensure that the event ran smoothly and to address any concerns or questions that arose during the session. Overall, the event was well-organized and provided a comfortable and engaging atmosphere for the attendees to discuss important community sustainability issues.

To record the session, as with the first in-person session done in Hinton, we used recording equipment instead of taking written notes in order to accurately determine the speakers, and to respect each participant’s consent and data preservation preferences. In anticipation of similar challenges faced in the first in-person session, we held the session in a larger room and divided the participants into 3 groups occupying separate tables, to reduce overlapping noises between the groups. Facilitators also reminded participants at the start of the discussion to be mindful of their voice volume. We found that in-person sessions provide a more informal space for participants to banter with each other, thus creating a friendly discussion where participants feel comfortable to share their thoughts and experiences openly. On the other hand, it leads to noise interference, verbal interruptions, and extensive exchanges of ideas that prove challenging for the transcription process. In comparison, virtual sessions as was done for the first Hinton session created structure due to participants’ ability to mute their microphones, participants taking turns to speak by using the “raise hand” feature, and visual aid in identifying speakers during the transcription process. On the other hand, participants were less likely to contribute spontaneously. For future in-person sessions, we will continue to implement the steps listed above to ensure effective discussions and transcription processes for in-person sessions.

2. What We Heard

During our session we asked participants the following questions:

1. What overall challenges do you see in your community? Are these challenges affecting you, your family/community? How are these challenges affecting you, your family/community?
2. What does a sustainable, prosperous future or meaningful change look like for your community? Who is responsible for taking action to reach this vision?
3. What do you think your community has to offer that could contribute to a sustainable, prosperous future? What resources or supports can you think of that would help your community make this a reality?

Three main themes resulted from the analysis of the session's transcripts: affordability, accessibility and social support. It is interesting to note that all three were identified both as challenges and answers towards a sustainable future, that they are interconnected and need to be addressed in tandem.

Affordability

When speaking about affordability, participants were highly cognizant of the increasing cost of life, from housing and transportation to food, utilities, and retrofits and solar panel installations for those wanting to become more environmentally conscious. One individual stated, "Our utility bill is [...] the size of a small mortgage," while another mentioned, "I can't afford a car. I'm an [...] administrator. We don't get that much money." A participant expressed their frustration through an example: "I bought grapes. This is my luxury of the week. I bought myself grapes. And they were delicious. And I thought to myself, 'This is so unfair.' I would like access to these grapes every week." When referring to being environmentally conscious, a community member explained that there is "such a cost with that, right. Like buying certain products that you know is fair labor, whatever, fair labor practices. It's radically more expensive," while another remarked, "It's very expensive to make a house that much more efficient if you don't have a house built in the last couple years. We work in construction, we know it costs a lot of money to build your house to just be even 90% efficient."

Accessibility

Accessibility was key for participants, including access to resources, information, and nature. With regards to resources, food, transportation and funding were highlighted by community members. When talking about access to food, an individual stated that in O-day'min there are few grocery stores, adding that "the ones that are there, are all the super expensive ones too." Another referenced to discussions of food security, indicating it was "something that we really need to - we haven't talked about really at all, especially

with [current] grocery prices." Some addressed solutions to food security by stating, "Having a space that you can get food for free, or grow it on your own, is really important, especially downtown."

While talking about access to transportation an individual indicated that the city is not

"friendly to pedestrians, to walking. ... I moved [to another neighbourhood] ... That was an adjustment because I'm used to being able to take transit.... And in this neighborhood, I can, but it takes much longer. So commuting to work on the days where I have to go - we have programs in different schools - those kind of didn't become an option anymore unless I took my car. But I share a car with my partner. So that becomes difficult as well."

Another stated, "If you want to get somewhere in the south side from where I live, it's an hour bus ride. You can bike faster than that, but there's not enough infrastructure to lead you. You gotta go on the road," while someone else indicated that many people "don't have access to a personal vehicle. Whether that's students or people who just can't afford it.[...] Needing to provide a variety of mobility options, so people can get around, just simply I think it's a human right to be able to get around." For participants, access to funding means money distributed to those who most need it, whether through community organizations or in the form of good paying jobs and universal basic income. These themes will be discussed in the following sections.

Access to information was also identified by community members. Some participants referred to the news, as someone indicated, "We don't have newspapers anymore. We have propaganda sheets. And that's what it is" with another reiterating "It's the same online [...] like enough of this propaganda. Give us the truth." Other participants referred to access to information coming from government, particularly City Hall, as someone stated that "a lot of people aren't up to date or informed on what's happening with city policy, and things get passed without a lot of input from citizens." Another reflected that "there are so many things in the city that there's just too much going on. How are you supposed to inform yourself about everything?" while someone else stated that "there's a lot going on in the city. It's so true. And even working within the city [hall], I don't always know all of the things that are happening. And it is quite a challenge."

Access to nature was explained by one participant as a wish to "see more mother nature and less of mankind's construction," another commented on the lack of parks in the city:

"I don't think there's a lot of natural spaces to gather. I think about Gordon Park, like really large. Or Hurlock Park. These big natural spaces. And it's a place for people to gather as a community. And also, the effects of being in nature and being around natural things is really great for mental health. So I think specifically in O-Day'min, there's like a few parks."

This statement was reaffirmed by others. At the individual level, a participant explained the difficulties of transforming their lives to have access to nature in their own backyards, with someone sharing that “I cut my lawn, or well my son's cutting the lawn. What I want to do is take a lawn and I've seen it, of wild grasses and vegetables. Integrate the whole thing. And you know how hard that is to do? It is hard.” Another indicated that “I'm in construction, I work 10, 12 hour days all summer, I don't want to come home and play in the yard for two hours.” Some participants reinforced the idea of starting small as a first step in the process.

Social Support

According to the American Psychological Association, social support is

“the provision of assistance or comfort to others, typically to help them cope with biological, psychological, and social stressors[...] It may take the form of practical help, [...] tangible support that involves giving money or other direct material assistance, and emotional support that allows the individual to feel valued, accepted, and understood.”⁴

We find this term is best to group this set of participants' ideas. As one community member stated, “We need support. We need all the services. We need addiction support, we need mental health care, we need housing support.” Throughout the discussion, participants not only looked inward but also referred to those most marginalized, specifically, the unhoused population. As one individual indicated, the community needs to make “sure that the people who are hit the hardest are given the tools that they need in order to adapt.”

Attendees highlighted the need for better support around mental health, with one participant expressing that, “Because we feel so anxious these days, some sort of much more mental health stuff needs to be kind of addressed.” Another stated that it should “be subsidized to some degree, [...] [as] part of our healthcare system. Like dental, mental health. I also think we should maybe take more of [...] generational and gendered approach.” Other participants expressed their frustration with the current state of these services as someone posed to the group: “Have you ever called the help line? you're gonna put yourself on no call back in three weeks. It's a lot,” and another mentioned, “There is a sliding scale [...] but it is very not accessible, like centrally [...] not located well.” One participant emphasized the need to start the support at a young age, as they said,

“We need to take care of our kids more [...], so much of this stuff starts at that school age level [...] so much can be addressed or seen sooner at that age and having better supports

⁴<https://dictionary.apa.org/social-support>

for kids in schools so that they know which way to go and find those supports as they age."

Aside from mental health, community members expressed the need to have spaces available around O-Day'min, as well as the city, where to cool-off, warm-up, and be accessible and free, with one participant asking, "Why do you need to go to a private establishment to cool down? Like you shouldn't be." Others referred to the importance of libraries as those kind of spaces while being cognizant of the realities people experience there, as one community member stated,

"Libraries are safe places for people to go, especially in O-day'min, to escape the natural elements. You're escaping the heat waves, you're escaping, you know, really extreme weather. But the way that those people are treated within those establishments is that 'they are less than I am', or like, 'why are they here? They're infringing upon an area that I think I have a right to exclusively.' And I think, yeah, we need more public places that offer refuge and just a place where you don't have to buy anything. You don't have to be of a certain income."

Another participant confirmed this assumption by stating that a library "it's a place for these people to go. And there's always like, someplace else. Like, where do you want them to go? The answer can't be away." One community member presented a great example of these kind of spaces available in the neighborhood

"The organization that I volunteer with, we recently moved to just north of Brent McEwan, and it's kind of set up like a hub. And it's a social service agency [where] clients, board members, volunteers, staff, everybody kind of congregate in the same space. There was a macramé thing today where we made macramé planters, but I didn't know who was a client, or who was a staff, or who was a volunteer. So it's meant to be just a place where you can drop in. It's free. It's public, as in like people can come and hang out. So I love that we've created that and in the community, and that's right in O-day'min as well. And it creates a space where people can feel safe and just hang out. Kids and teenagers can come and hang out and [the place is] just really welcoming."

Another tangible support identified by attendees was money, whether giving directly to individuals or to community organizations. Most participants referred to providing adequate funding to organizations that work in the frontlines, with one community member indicating that

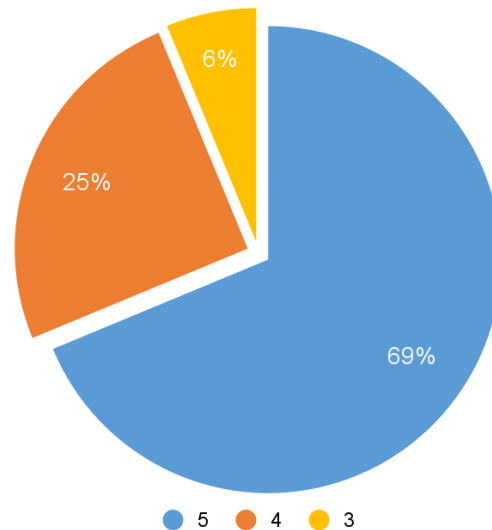
"A lot of the [community support] work that's being done is on the backs of people in the community that just decide to devote their time and their energy, and all that kind of stuff to these things - there's a lot of really great work that's happening, but none of these organizations have the resources or the supports available to really kind of live up to their full potential."

Another participant went further by mentioning that “some of these organizations have been doing this research work and community engagement and community support work for decades and decades and decades. They know exactly how to direct it.” An attendee with experience in similar organizations further stated, “I think we do amazing work. There's a bit of a song and dance with funding. You have to know how to get grants, you have to know - I've had to learn that skill, how to pitch a program.” Others reiterated similar ideas with one sharing the possibilities that these benefits would bring. “If you were to actually resource those organizations effectively, and actually give them a solid, kind of putting to stand on. I think that would be where you'd see a lot of really great change.” With regards to giving money to individuals, some discussed the possibility of universal basic income, with someone simply stating “\$2,000 a month. For everybody,” and others referenced the pandemic-era CERB program as an example of this.

3. What We Learned

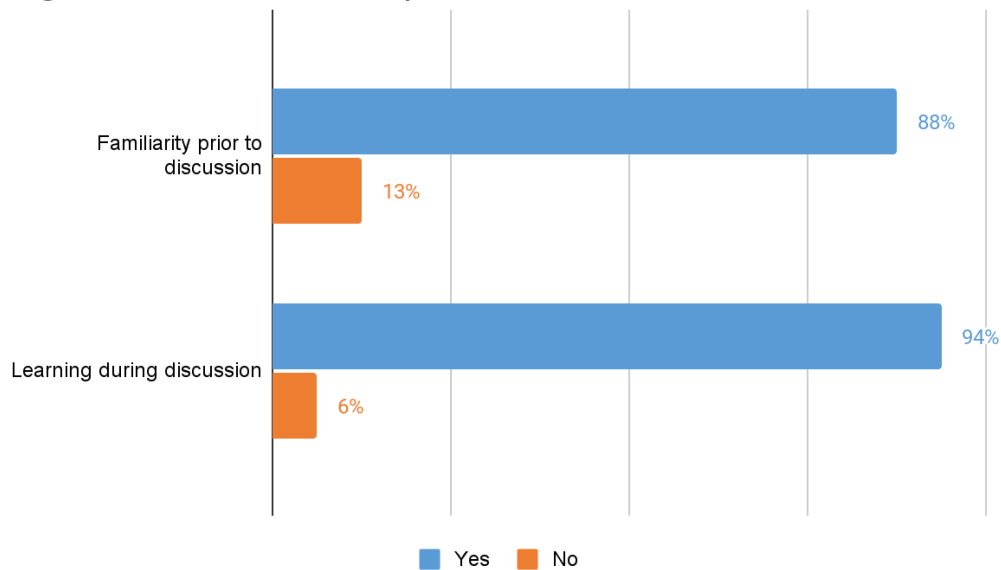
Feedback

Figure 3.1 - Discussion Satisfaction Levels



We shared a Google feedback form at the end of our session which was completed by all of our participants. The overall level of satisfaction by participants was 4.6 of 5. As illustrated in Figure 3.1 - Discussions Satisfaction Levels, the majority of participants rated the discussion 5 out of 5, representing high satisfaction with the discussion.

Figure 3.2 - Discussion Topics Feedbacks



In Figure 3.2 - Discussion Topics Feedbacks, 88% of participants were familiar with the topics prior to the discussion, and 94% of participants learned something new about the conversation topics during the discussion. 37.5% of respondents identified missing topics in the conversation, such as identifying issues that could be solved at provincial level, employment security and transition opportunities, and identifying who could benefit from the discussion. Meanwhile, 68.75% felt that there were some groups absent, such as Indigenous communities members, people who experience poverty and homelessness, people of colour, and city council members. Feedbacks on the discussion include: participants wanting to hear more about Iron & Earth and its strategies; to mix up the group members; and to have a personal microphone for facilitators.

Finally, 94% of attendees would like to continue the conversation, and 88% participants would like to be contacted for future projects or activities relating to these topics.

Conclusions

The community sustainability event held at the MacEwan Roundhouse was a significant success. Feedback from participants indicates that the event was a comfortable and engaging atmosphere to discuss important community sustainability issues. The planning process involved taking great care in ensuring that the language used during the conversation was not confrontational or polarizing, as reflected in the comprehensive script developed for the event. In tailoring this script to the target audience, we avoided potentially contentious terms such as universal basic income and just transition. The team also used extreme weather or environmental changes when referring to climate change,

and energy transition instead of net-zero emissions or net-zero 2050. Furthermore, the team focused on Edmonton and its people, leaving out any provincial, federal, or global associations. These considerations allowed the participants to use any terminology they felt comfortable with and not feel the burden of imposed narratives.

The session's analysis resulted in three main themes: affordability, accessibility, and social support, which were identified as both challenges and answers towards a sustainable future. The affordability theme was a significant concern during the session and was identified as one of the critical challenges facing the community. Participants were highly cognizant of the increasing cost of life, from housing and transportation to food, utilities, and retrofits and solar panel installations. Accessibility was also a key concern for participants, who highlighted the need for access to resources, information, and nature. Social support was another theme that emerged from the session, with participants identifying the provision of assistance or comfort to others as a critical element to help them cope with biological, psychological, and social stressors.

The feedback collected from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with a majority expressing high satisfaction with the discussion and a desire to continue the conversation. The event provided valuable insights and will serve as a foundation for future community sustainability initiatives. The event successfully created an environment where participants felt comfortable to share their thoughts and experiences openly, and the insights gathered will serve as a foundation for future community sustainability initiatives.

4. Next Steps

Iron and Earth would like to move forward with sharing the knowledge gained from this community event with the community of O-day'min and other communities across Canada. The dialogue this event generated could be an inspiration for future conversations, ideas, and community interests. A second event in O-day'min is in planning for July 2023. It will expand on the conversations that were had in the first session, and will also bring new ideas and perspectives from the community. Beforehand, a local campaign will be developed to bring in more diversity in our participants to achieve proper representation of the community's diversity in future sessions. Information regarding this second event will be made available in the coming weeks and months.

Appendix A

The following appendix contains the script that was used as a general guide by the facilitators for the first Edmonton Community Conversation conducted by Iron and Earth.

Script for Facilitating an Iron and Earth Session - First O-Day'min Session

CONVERSATION TIME BREAKDOWN:

1. Session Introduction: 20 minutes
2. Breakout Group Setup: 5 minutes
3. Breakout Conversations: 60 minutes
4. Break: 10 minutes
5. Reporting Back: 5 minutes
6. Session Conclusion: 20 minutes

TOTAL TIME: 120 minutes

DOORS CLOSE TIME: 1:40 pm

START TIME: 1:30 pm

END TIME: 3:30 pm

SETUP START TIME: 12:30 pm

SESSION INTRODUCTION: 20 Minutes

Session Overview Introduction:

Hello everyone and welcome to O-Day'min's first Community Conversation hosted by Iron & Earth. This is the beginning of a series of conversations happening across the city on the topics of livelihoods, climate change and energy transition.

[primary facilitator introduce themself]

- name
- pronouns (if desired)
- association with Iron & Earth

- *Why are you facilitating today? / provide goals for session*

We would like to acknowledge the Indigenous land where we are today within Treaty Six Territory and Métis Region 4 in amiskwaciy-wâskahikan, so-called Edmonton. The home of many Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Tsuut'ina, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Haudenosaunee, Dene Suliné, Anishinaabe, and the Inuit.

Funding for this event is generously provided by the David Suzuki Foundation and Alberta EcoTrust through their Climate Innovation grant.

Iron & Earth started this kind of community engagement last year in Hinton, Alberta with the idea of building relationships with people that go beyond a simple consultation process, meeting communities where they are at, to understand their ideas on climate change, the transition, potential solutions, and their level of preparedness on each of these issues. We shared with you a 1-page highlights report for our communities program so that you have an idea of what to expect from the session. We recognize that each community is different.

After this conversation is over, we will be writing up a short report about what was shared in this conversation. This report will hopefully be a useful resource for understanding the needs and desires of O-Day'min's residents and will be shared with you all, our outreach network and key stakeholders and decision-makers, as well as being published on our website.

We also want to develop a second session O-Day'min in the Spring where we can continue this process and facilitate a space for further discussion, where local ideas can lead to local solutions.

For the rest of this introductory session, we'll talk a bit about the O-Day'min community and the issues it's facing. Then we'll be sorting you into breakout groups to talk through 3 questions related to your community, its challenges and your vision for the future. There is also pen and paper if you prefer to share your ideas in a written form.

Each group will have a facilitator. You'll be in those breakout groups for about 60 minutes. With each question taking up to 20 minutes.

Finally, we'll come back together for a quick wrap-up and aim to be done by 3:30pm.

If you haven't filled out our registration or consent forms please fill it and give it to one of our facilitators. Also let us know if you are experiencing any accessibility issues.

IMPORTANT: This is a space that welcomes diversity of opinions, we ask that these conversations are approached with mutual respect and care. We endeavor to have a meaningful conversation with the participants who have diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and experience.

Privacy Policy:

We shared a letter of consent for you to sign. In it we explained the participation, reimbursement and confidentiality processes. From it:

We would like to highlight that we will be recording today's conversation, but the transcripts and documents collected will only be shared between Iron & Earth staff. After this process ends, the notes will stay with Iron & Earth. These notes will be used to produce our reports. However, your participation will remain anonymous.

We do want to include some quotes in the community and final reports, but they will have no name attached to them.

We also want to make sure that you know that you are free to leave at any point during this session. We truly appreciate your time and respect your privacy.

Lastly, we ask that you please do not record, or photograph the conversation.

Facilitator Introductions:

We have 2 other local facilitators with us today.

[Secondary Facilitators please introduce yourselves]

- name
- pronouns (if desired)
- association with Iron & Earth
- Why are you facilitating today? / provide goals for session

Conversation Introduction:

What is this conversation about?

- Livelihoods: Our livelihood is our means of meeting our basic needs, such as food and shelter
- Climate Change: The rise of temperatures and its impacts on weather systems are producing major challenges in the community and it is caused by human activities
- Energy transition: The shift from an energy mix based on fossil fuels to one based on renewable energy sources

What's going on in Edmonton?

- Edmonton has been experiencing a variety of concerning weather events including heat waves, cold snaps and extreme precipitation events.
- Overall, 75% Edmonton residents acknowledge that climate change is a concern and 70% want to personally do more to prevent climate change.

COMMUNITIES' TRANSITION PATHWAYS

- Edmonton municipal government is generally accepting of climate change and has implemented strategies and action plans to try to address some of the contributions and impacts of climate change within the city: Retrofit, grant and engagement programs are in place for climate change action. However, there has been noted lack of funding and accessibility issues with some of the programs.
- There have been some large transition projects that are in the works including Kīsikāw Pīsim Solar Farm, LRT expansions, Blatchford and vehicle ban in 102 Ave.
- The City of Edmonton passed funding for \$100 million for more bike lanes. Also approved 1.8 billion for roads.

What's going on in O-Day'min?

- New LRT line into downtown is closer to being finished and will hopefully open soon (has been delayed due to engineering miscalculations and construction delays)
- O-Day'min hosts many community gardens, which have benefits for people's wellbeing/health/access to food/access to nature, as well as climate mitigation benefits
- Sundance Housing Co-op in Riverdale has a retrofit project
- Oliver community league free libraries - potential future for other types of shared resources like tool libraries or bike kitchens/libraries that could be helpful for transition
- O-Day'min is home to some of the lowest income people in Edmonton and a large houseless population, particularly susceptible to the harms associated with climate change
- There is a large Chinese and immigrant population in Downtown. Concerns about anti-immigrant sentiment are prevalent. Especially when there are anti-Asian and right wing protests downtown (ex. Yellow vest protests)
- Many of the buildings are sponsored/owned by oil and gas industry
- Lots of apartments and high rises in Downtown Edmonton - fewer individual homeowners, and building managers less likely to reduce GHG's for buildings

BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS: 60 Minutes

Setting-up Breakout Groups: 5 minutes

[Facilitators please remember to turn on recording once you're in the breakout group]

[Participants should say their first names when they speak, so that they can be recorded. This is only for reference purposes, the name will not show in any of our results]

1. Question 1 20 Minutes

COMMUNITIES' TRANSITION PATHWAYS

What overall challenges do you see in your community? Are these challenges affecting you, your family/community? How are these challenges affecting you, your family/community?

2. Question 2 20 Minutes

What does a sustainable, prosperous future or meaningful change look like for your community? Who is responsible for taking action to reach this vision?

3. Question 3 20 Minutes

What do you think your community has to offer that could contribute to a sustainable, prosperous future? What resources or supports can you think of that would help your community make this a reality?

BREAK: 10 MINUTES

Reporting back to the room: 5 minutes

CONCLUSION: 20 MINUTES

Desired outcomes and impacts of this project

As we indicated in our introduction, we will be writing up a short report about what was shared in this conversation. This report will hopefully be a useful resource for understanding the needs and desires of O-Day'min's residents and will be shared with you all, our outreach network and key stakeholders and decision-makers, as well as being published on our website.

We also want to develop a second session O-Day'min in the Spring where we can continue this process and facilitate a space for further discussion, where local ideas can lead to local solutions.

We'd like you to take some time and give us your feedback on this conversation. This is your chance to tell us if there's anything you wish we had talked about, anything you learned, or anything else you want to tell us! We will also send this via email for those who are unable to complete it at this time.

[Share feedback forms and give time to fill them out]

On behalf of Iron & Earth, I'd like to thank you again for joining us. Have a wonderful rest of your day!



COMMUNITIES' TRANSITION PATHWAYS

[SESSION END]

[Collect remaining registration and consent forms and Audio Recording Devices]