



Community Talks - Edmonton, Alberta

Full Report on Session Two: February 22nd, 2025

Summary

This report summarizes the second community conversation hosted in Ward Dene/Sherwood Park, Alberta by Iron & Earth, in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation. This event series is funded through generous support from Alberta EcoTrust Foundation and Natural Resources Canada.

The second discussion in this series built upon themes identified in the first, including the high cost of living, environmental and health impacts of energy production, and a desire for a transition to energy systems that are safe, clean, and affordable. We asked participants what would make them feel more stable and hopeful about the future of their community. In response, they shared their need for a range of government supports to combat the high cost of living, including higher wages, rent caps and subsidies, and expanded access to government assistance programs. Community members emphasized their desire for job security, with an interest in more paid training opportunities with a guaranteed path to employment, as well as more support specifically tailored to Indigenous job seekers. Throughout the discussion, people remained skeptical towards the energy industry, demanding that companies be accountable to the communities they work in through direct financial support and transparency about development plans.

1. Introduction

About Iron & Earth

Iron & Earth (I&E) is a non-profit organization with roots in the fossil fuel industry that is working toward a future where the workforce is dynamically engaged in a thriving green economy. We envision broad participation in a Just Transition, leading to strengthened economic and climate resilience, expanded accessibility to sustainable energy solutions and meaningful careers. This vision extends beyond workforce mobilization to foster a community-driven transformation, where people actively contribute to a sustainable and equitable future, for their communities and the planet. Its mission is to enable sustainable, community-driven climate solutions and reduce barriers for those seeking a future in the green economy with programs that support greater job security, social protection, and more training opportunities as we move toward a low-carbon economy.

Iron & Earth believes community engagement is an effective way to influence sustainable participation in a Just Transition, and that community-driven solutions have a greater chance of becoming successful and sustainable in the long-term. Iron & Earth takes the time to build relationships and adapt to individual community needs whenever possible.

Community Talks is Iron and Earth's engagement initiative designed to spark conversations about how environmental, social, and economic changes impact people across Canada. It is committed to meeting communities where they are at, by supporting self-determined, community-driven solutions, and offering non-prescriptive support with programs that are designed by the community and for the community.

About David Suzuki Foundation

Through evidence-based research, policy analysis, education and citizen empowerment, the David Suzuki Foundation conserves and protects the natural environment to create a sustainable Canada. For a sustainable Canada, we need inclusive and equitable communities. The David Suzuki Foundation is proud to support Iron and Earth's Community Talks so that community members can identify the issues that impact them and the solutions to make their communities more resilient.

Why this community was selected to have a conversation

Edmonton and Sherwood Park are located within Treaty 6 Territory and within the Métis homelands and Métis districts 9, 10, and 11. These lands are the territories of many First Nations such as the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot).

Ward Dene, formerly known as Ward 4, occupies the northeasternmost border of Edmonton, covering Edmonton north of the Yellowhead Highway and east of 66 street. The word *dene* (pronounced DEH-NEH) refers to communities that live along the North Saskatchewan River.¹ The ward comprises a mix of rural land and neighbourhoods like Clareview, Kirkness, and McConachie. Demographic information on Ward Dene is limited to 2019, as municipal census collection is currently under pause due to budgetary constraints.² However, in 2019 the ward was home to approximately 85,000 residents.³ **Sherwood Park** originally named “Campbelltown” — borders the eastern edge of Edmonton and was initially developed in the early 1950s as a small housing one-hundred home community for workers employed in the nearby energy plants.⁴ As the urban centre of Strathcona County, Sherwood Park now comprises more than 70,000 residents, two-thirds of the total residents of Strathcona County.

This area was selected for community engagement due to its close proximity to energy production: these communities hold “Canada’s largest hydrocarbon processing centre.”⁶ Refinery Row — the unofficial name granted to a group of oil refineries and businesses servicing the energy sector — is located east of Ward Dene in West Sherwood Park.⁷ Explore

¹ Joannou, Ashley. October 4, 2021. “Ward Dene: New name, same boundaries for northeast Edmonton district.” *Edmonton Journal*. <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/edmonton-election-dene-ward-4>

² Cummings, Madeleine. November 2, 2022. “Some data users disappointed after Edmonton pauses municipal census again.” *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/data-users-disappointed-edmonton-municipal-census-pause-1.6637130>

³ City of Edmonton. November 24, 2022. “2019 Edmonton Municipal Census.” Tableau. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/city.of.edmonton/viz/2019EdmontonMunicipalCensus/2019EdmontonMunicipalCensus>

⁴ Strathcona County. January 29, 2020. “Sherwood Park history - housing.” <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/history-and-heritage/places/sherwood-park/history-of-sherwood-park/sherwood-park-history-housing/>

⁵ Strathcona County, 2022.

⁶ Simpson, Isobel J., Marrero, Josette E., Batterman, Stuart, Meinardi, Simone, Berletta, Barbara, and Donald R. Blake. December 2013. “Air quality in the Industrial Heartland of Alberta, Canada and potential impacts on human health.” *Atmospheric Environment* 81, 702-709. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S135223101300705X>

⁷ Explore Strathcona County. n.d. “The Industrial Heartland.” <https://explorestathconacounty.com/ourplaces/the-industrial-heartland/>

Strathcona County describes the refineries as “their own little cities” due to their size and the number of people who are employed in the refineries.⁸

On February 1st 2025, United States President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to impose a 25% tariff on Canadian goods, with a slightly lower rate of 10% on Canadian energy resources.⁹ At the time of the event, the status of the enforcement of tariffs was unknown, creating a sense of uncertainty that was on the minds of many attendees. Given their closeness to Edmonton’s industrial sector, residents of the Ward Dene and Sherwood Park communities could be strongly impacted by these cross-border tariff policies affecting businesses and consumers.^{10 11} Given their close proximity to the beginning of the energy production supply chain, residents of this ward have a unique and urgent perspective to offer on the topics of climate change and energy transition in the face of inflation and the rising cost of living.

⁸ ibid.

⁹ The White House. February 1, 2025. “Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Imposes Tariffs on Imports from Canada, Mexico and China.”

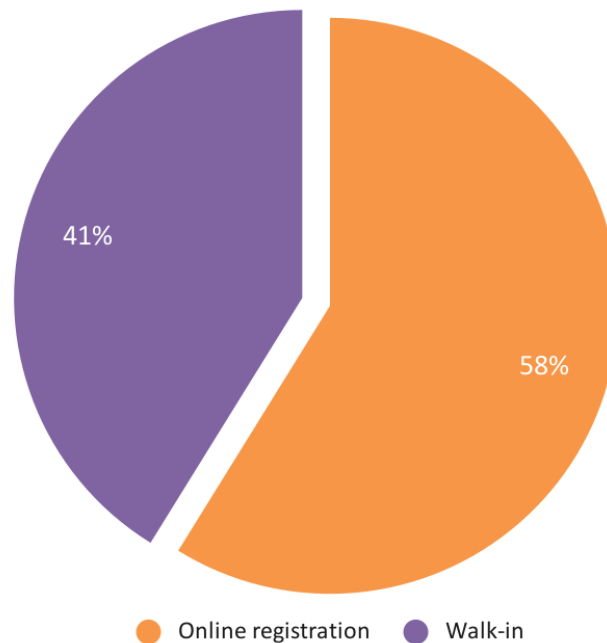
“<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-imposes-tariffs-on-imports-from-canada-mexico-and-china/>”

¹⁰ Government of Canada, March 28, 2025 “Canada’s Response to U.S Tariffs on Canadian Goods”
<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/programs/international-trade-finance-policy/canadas-response-us-tariffs.html>

¹¹ PBS NewsHour, “A timeline of Trump’s tariff actions so far,” April 3, 2025,
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/a-timeline-of-trumps-tariff-actions-so-far>

About the conversation participants

Figure 1.1 - Prior Registration Rate



For the second event in Ward Dene/Sherwood Park, 44 people registered online in advance and 20 (67%) attended the session. 14 people attended without prior registration, making the total attendees number 34. *Figure 1.1* outlines the breakdown of attendees who had registered in advance, and those who filled out the registration form on the day of the session. The following analysis is based on the registration forms of those in attendance. Some demographics charts include 2021 Census Profile data¹² of the Edmonton population from Statistics Canada wherever relevant, to provide a comparison of the attendees' representation to the community demographics.

¹² Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023.
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed March 13, 2025).

Figure 1.2 - First Time Attendance

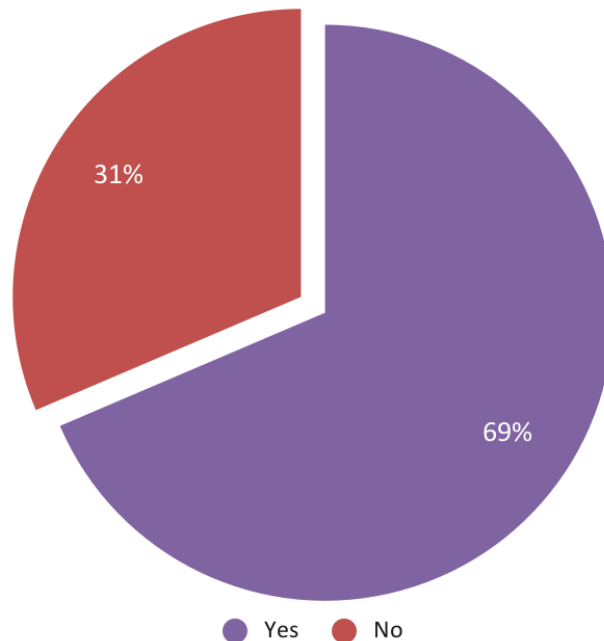


Figure 1.2 shows that most participants had been to a previous Community Talk session by I&E.

Figure 1.3 - Outreach Method

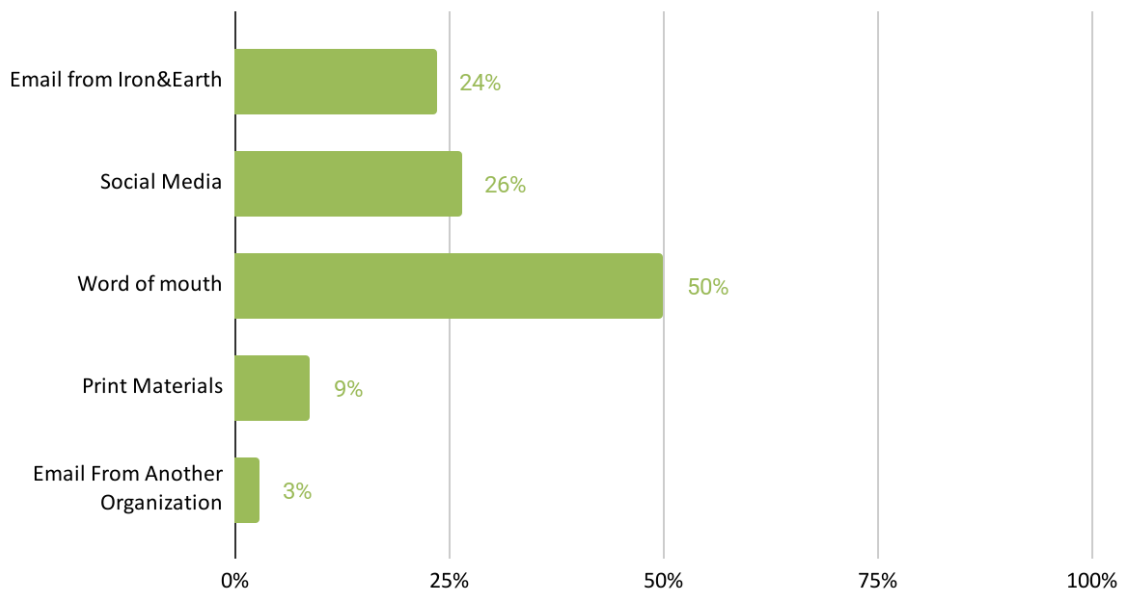


Figure 1.3 demonstrates the various methods of how participants were informed about the community conversation. The top two most successful outreach methods were word of

mouth (50%), followed by social media (26%). Note that this question allowed for multiple answers.

Figure 1.4 - Accommodations

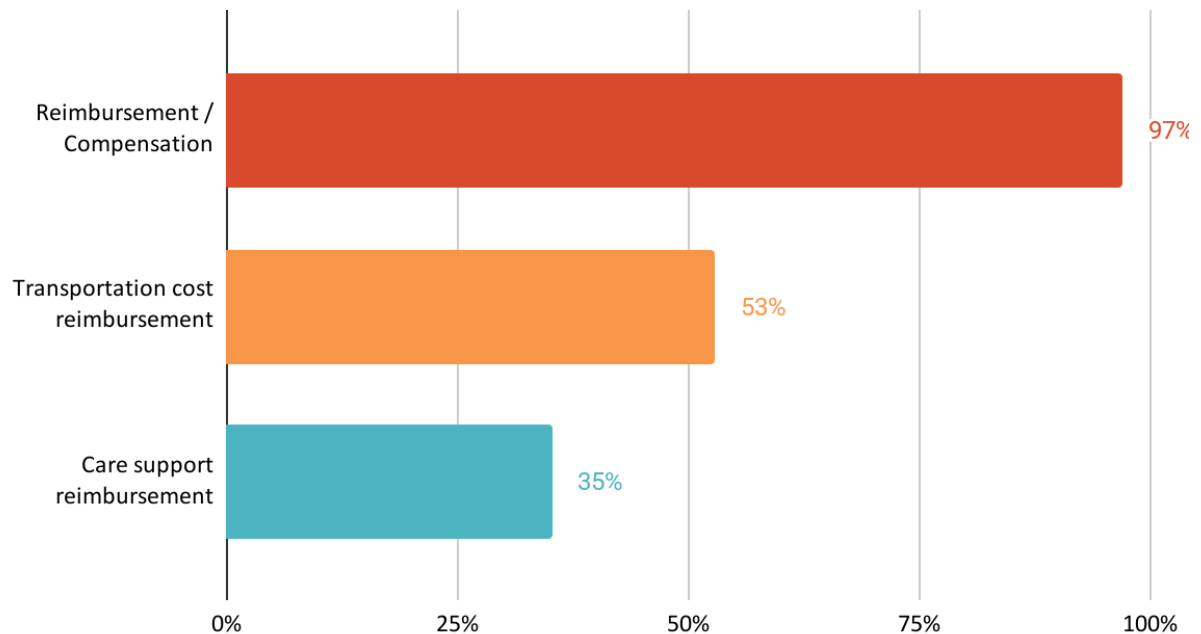


Figure 1.4 shows that nearly all attendees chose to receive an honorarium for their participation. About half of the attendees opted for reimbursements for transportation costs, and a third opted for care support. The accommodations, provided as monetary deposits, were available to all participants.

Figure 1.5 - Age Groups

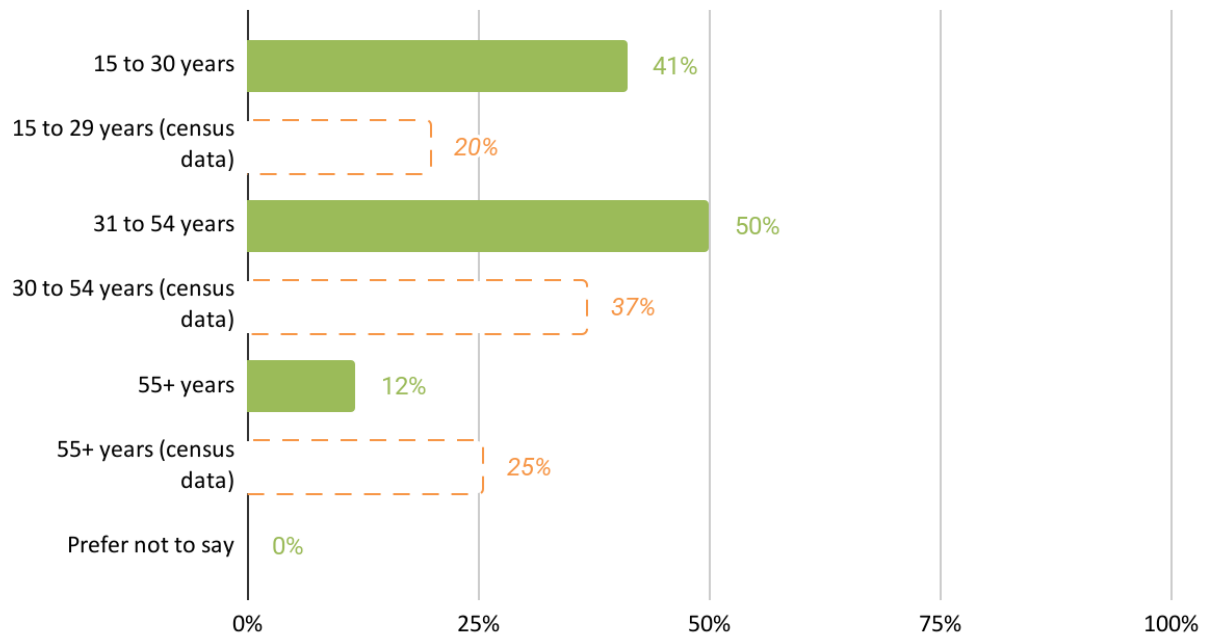


Figure 1.5 provides details on participants' age groups, demonstrating that half of the attendees were 31-54 years, and 15-30 is the next highest age group representation. The 55+ age group saw the least representations at 12%. The Canadian census data categories are slightly different than those operationalized in this report. Statistics Canada includes the category of 0-14 years old, however, participation in our events is restricted to those 15 years old and up.

Figure 1.6 - Gender Categories

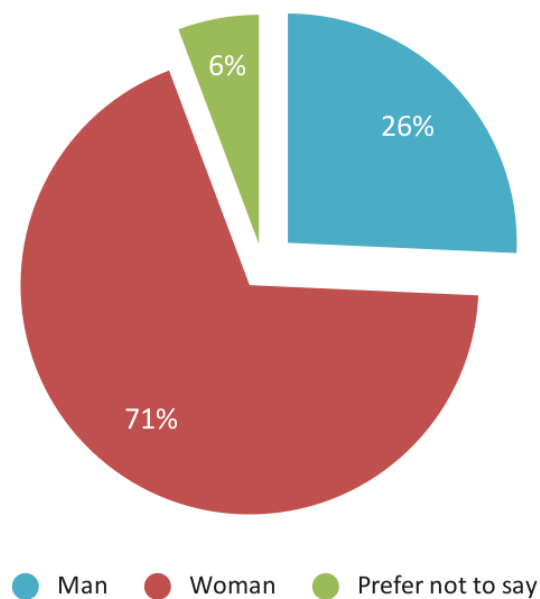


Figure 1.6 shows that women represented 71% of attendees at the first Ward Dene/Sherwood Park community conversation.

Figure 1.7 - Language Spoken At Home (Attendees and Census Data)

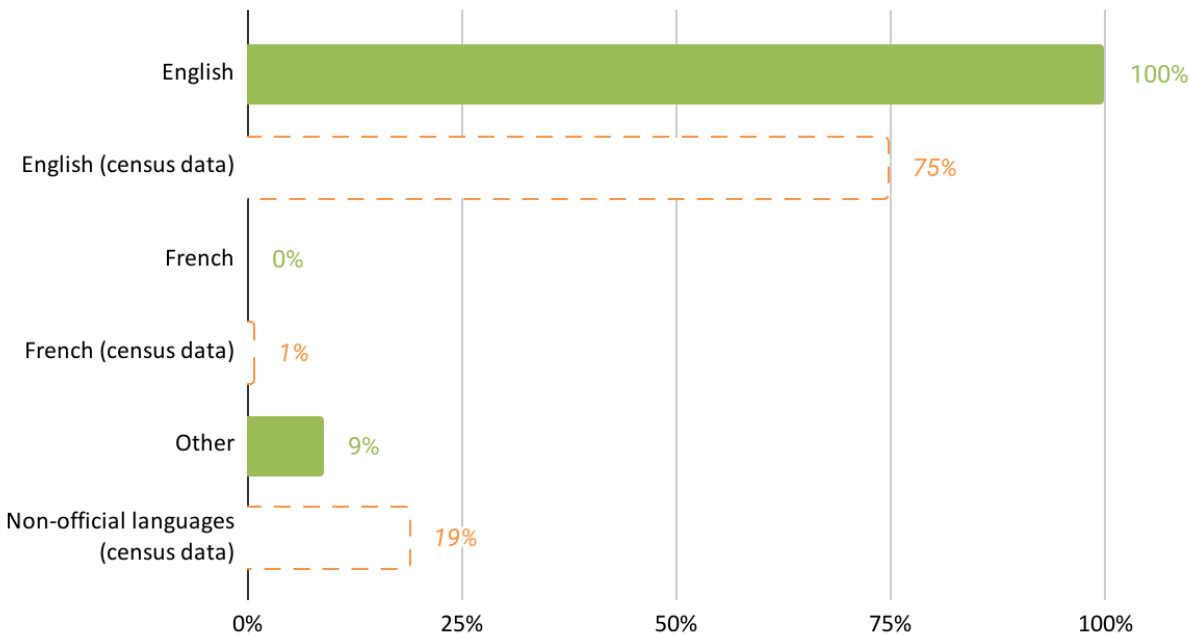
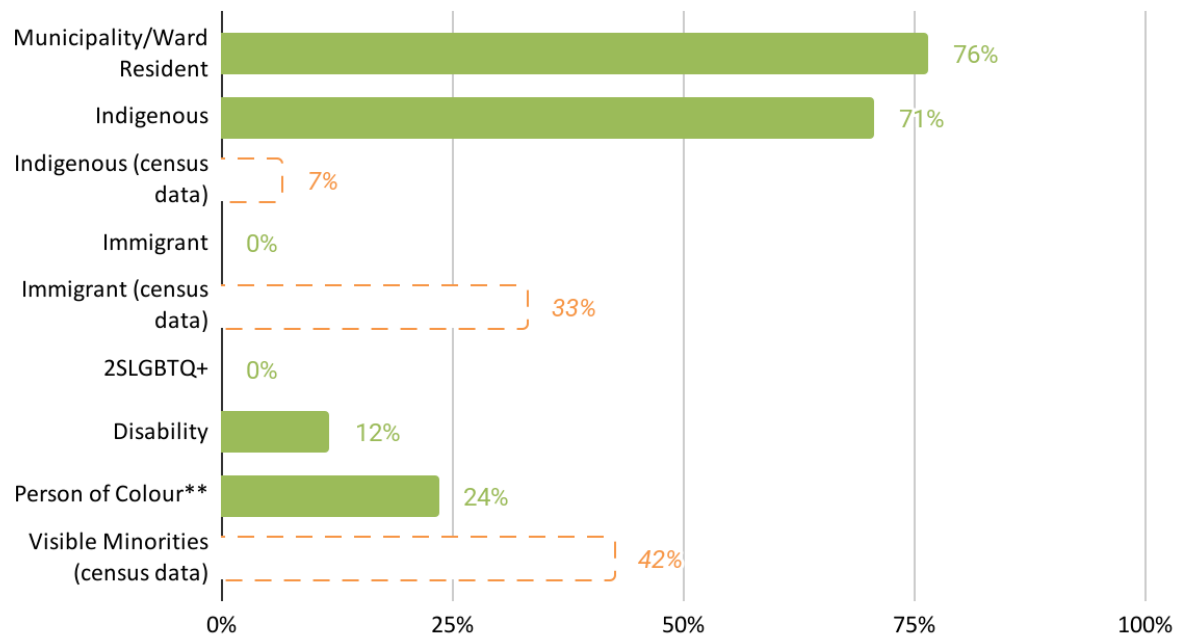


Figure 1.7 shows that all attendees speak English at home and none speak French. 9% of attendees who chose the “Other” option specified that they also speak Cree. Compared to the census profile, English speakers were overrepresented at this event. Note that “English”, “French”, and “Prefer Not To Say” are provided as default answer options in the registration forms, while the third option “Other” prompts participants to enter an unlisted language. Although participants were able to choose more than one entry, the provided options might have affected the representation of non-official languages.

Figure 1.8 - Identification Categories (Attendees and Census Data)



As detailed in Figure 1.8 above, 76% of attendees are residents of Dene Ward. Over 71% of attendees identify themselves as Indigenous, while 24% identify as person of colour. Compared to the demographics percentages from census data, the representation of Indigenous attendees is high, while immigrant representation is lacking. Persons of colour, compared in the chart to the category of “Visible Minority” in the census profile, lacks the appropriate representation of the demographics percentage.

Figure 1.9a - Income Levels

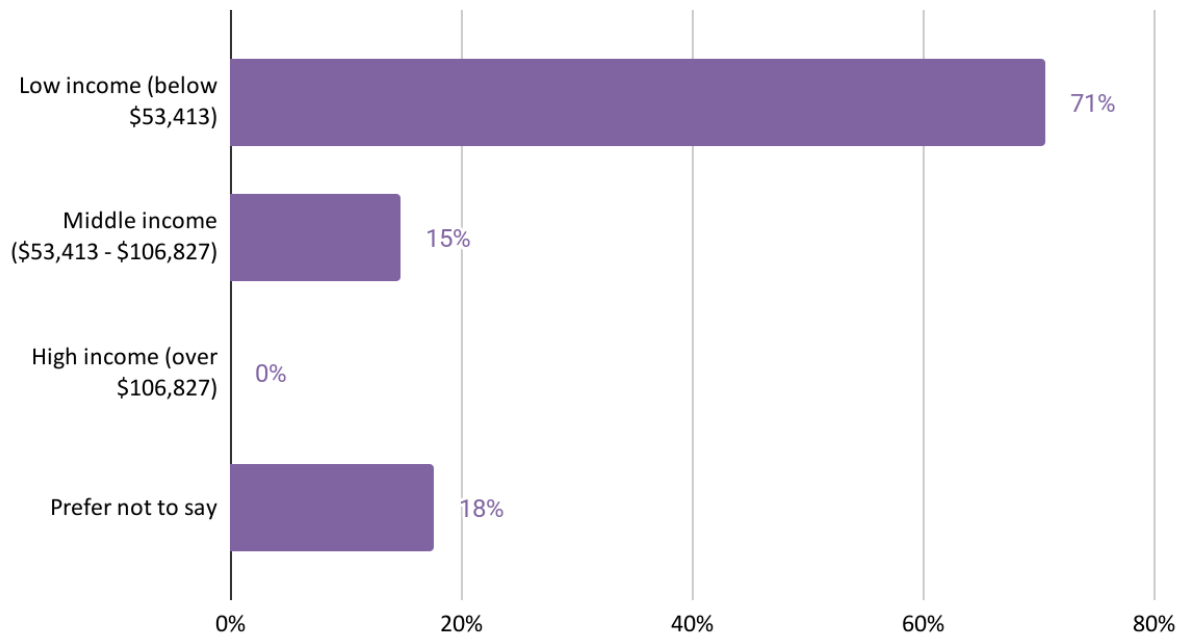


Figure 1.9b - Income Levels (Census Data)

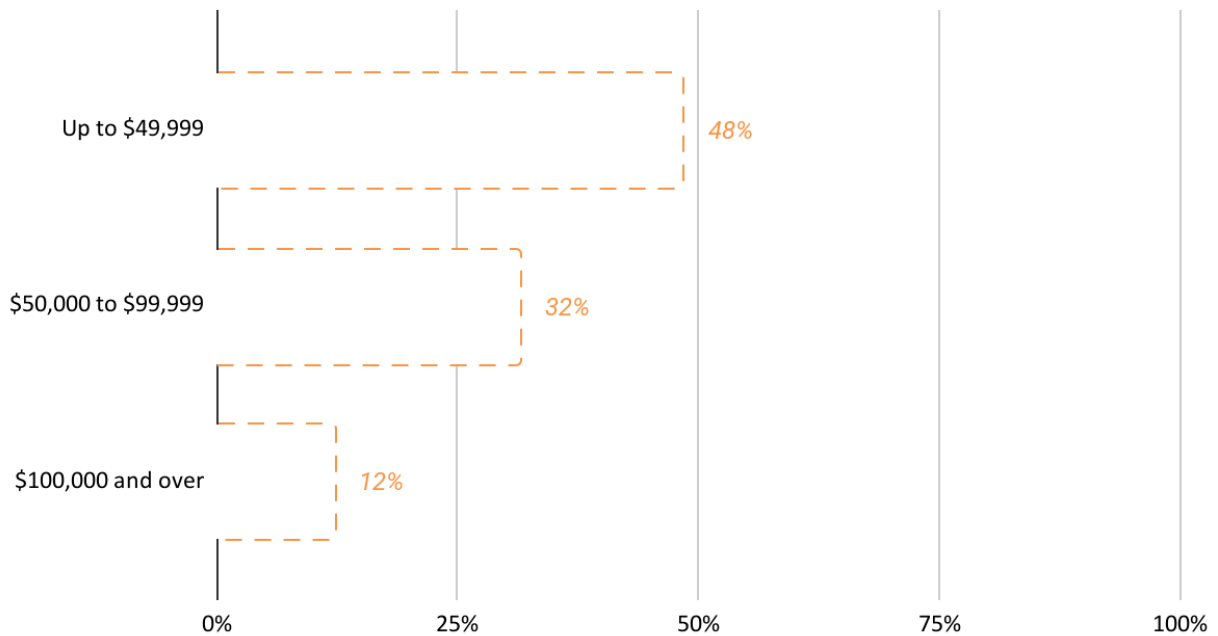


Figure 1.9a shows that over 50% of attendees are low-income, defined in the form as earning below \$53,413. Figure 1.9b provides the income levels of the Edmonton population before tax.

Figure 1.10a - Job Sector Categories

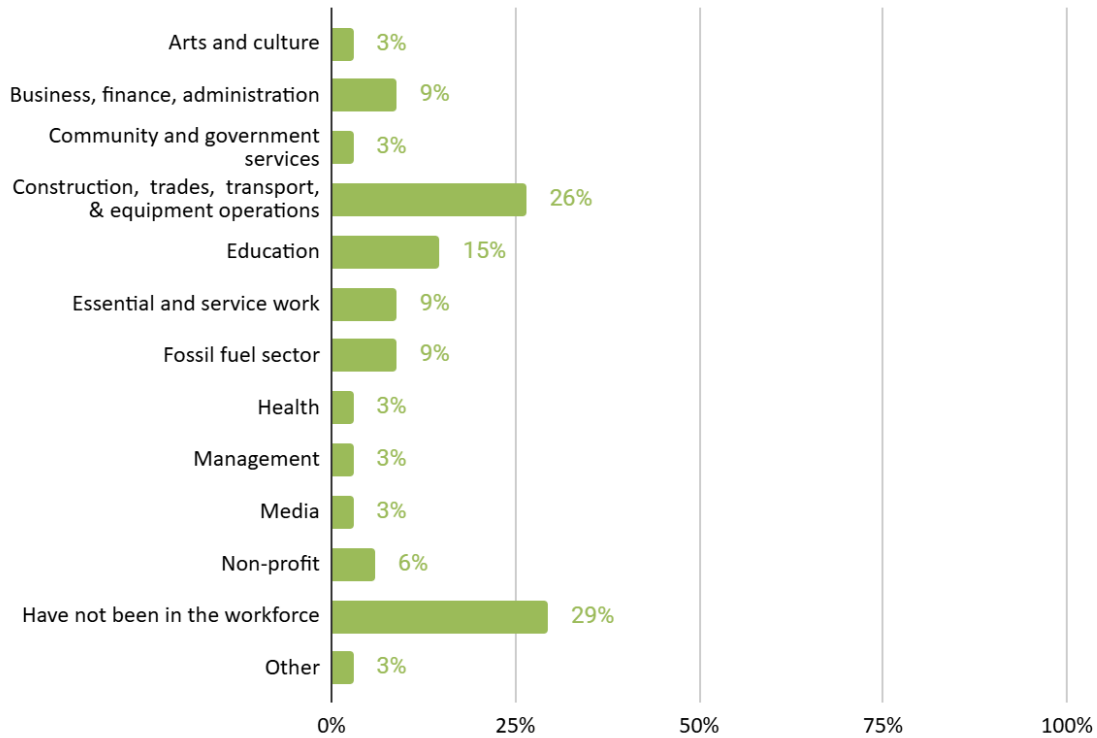


Figure 1.10b - Job Sector Categories (Census Data - NOC Categories)

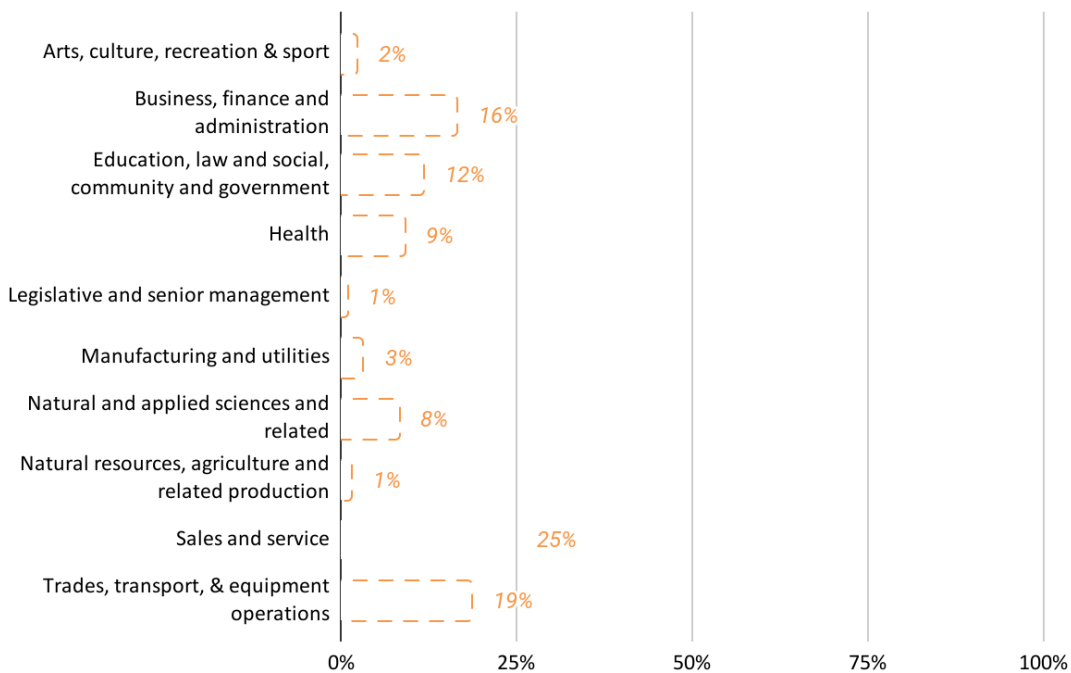


Figure 1.10a shows the breakdown of attendees' jobs. For this question, some attendees chose one or more industries. A third of attendees have not been in the workforce, while 25% are working or had worked in construction, trades, transport, and equipment operations; followed by 15% in education. For comparison, Figure 1.10b shows that a quarter of the demographics in Edmonton are in sales and service; followed by trades, transport, and equipment operations at 19%, and business, finance, and administration at 16%.

The Community Conversation

Community conversation events are designed to foster a welcoming and collaborative space where community members can engage in discussions about local issues with their neighbors. To achieve this goal, we carefully consider language use, ensuring facilitators avoid terms that may be polarizing. For example, instead of introducing the term “climate change,” facilitators referred to “extreme weather events.” Similarly, rather than introducing “energy transition,” discussions framed the topic as “changes in the local economy.” This approach allows participants to naturally guide the conversation and introduce these terms themselves. Our facilitators are trained to steer discussions away from specific political figures or parties to keep the focus on community issues. For further details on the language used during this session, please refer to our event script (see Appendix A).

This event took place at the Kingsway Legion in Ward Dene on February 22nd, 2025, with a turnout of 34 participants. Participants were assigned to three breakout tables, each led by a trained facilitator. A fourth standby table, facilitated by the Community Engagement Officer was also included due to the large turn out. The goal is to always have 4 to 6 participants per table, ensuring balanced conversations where each participant has an opportunity to speak, and the facilitator can effectively guide the discussion. To ensure accurate transcription, facilitators used recording equipment rather than relying solely on written notes. Notepads were also available for participants who preferred expressing their thoughts in written or graphic form. To respect each participant's consent and data preservation preferences, all names were anonymized and assigned numbers.

Following the formal conclusion of the session, many participants stayed behind to inquire about the next engagement session and requested additional information about Iron & Earth. The atmosphere remained lively and positive, with participants socializing and arranging carpooling to public transit.

2. What We Heard

Introduction

The second Ward Dene/Sherwood Park community conversation built upon themes identified in the first event. During that conversation, participants spoke at length about the rise in the cost of living, the impacts of living and working close to energy production sites, and their desire for more energy options that are safe, clean, and affordable. In response to those discussions, we posed to following questions to participants:

1. What tangible support would make you feel more stable about you/your family's economic future?
2. What do you want the relationship between the local energy industry and your community to look like?
3. What would give you hope for the future of your community?

Three key themes emerged from this conversation. They demanded a greater government response to the unaffordable cost of living, including regulating higher wages, implementing rent caps, providing subsidies for high-cost expenses like rent, and expanding accessibility criteria for assistance programs. They discussed a need for job security, sharing an interest for paid training opportunities that include a clear pathway to employment. Community members were skeptical towards energy companies and want industry to be more accountable to the community, through financial support and transparency about their future development plans.

Cost of Living Supports

Throughout the discussion, participants often returned to the notion that the cost of living has become unlivable in their community. The idea that “things have gone up in price” and “prices never go down” was common, as was the idea that the quality of life in Edmonton and Canada at large has gone down. “The general sentiment is that the quality of life in Canada is decreasing,” shared one person. Someone else agreed: “[If] you're gonna have kids you want to know that their quality of life in the future is going to be okay.”

Housing, food, and energy were the most common costs discussed. Participants expressed a strong feeling of uncertainty about meeting these expenses in the future: “It's hard to budget for stuff every paycheck, not knowing how much everything is going to be because everything just goes up every month and prices are always fluctuating on groceries and gasoline.” The possibility of tariffs from the United States contributed to this stress: “With Donald Trump threatening to raise tariffs, what's going to happen now?” Another participant

shared that if tariffs are implemented, their financial future would be threatened: “I don’t know if I’d be able to afford everything.”

Community members suggested many ways the government could better support them through difficult economic times. Some participants pointed to increasing the minimum wage as one measure: “The government should definitely be able to put a cap on prices going up or raise people’s wages,” shared one individual. Another person remarked: “Today’s minimum wage [is] like \$15.00 an hour? I don’t know how people survive on that.” Others expressed enthusiasm for guaranteed income support: “A guaranteed income...[because] not everybody can support themselves, leaving school or transitioning to the workforce.” One participant emphasized that existing support systems are not calibrated to today’s economic conditions, saying: “How about indexing the supports with inflation?”

Rent subsidies and affordable housing were repeatedly discussed as one area of particular interest. “It’s either pay the rent or starve,” shared one individual. Another person reiterated this idea: “Affordable housing, that’s the big one, because rents [are] just getting crazy right now. All my money is going to rent.” One Indigenous participant commented on the injustice of not being able to afford to live on their land, asking the government to “help cut rent down...to help us to live on this land that we belong in.”

Participants also requested changes to existing supports to make them more accessible to struggling community members: “Subsidies to be made available to anyone and everyone, rather than having to be in a complex situation [to be] eligible.” Another person elaborated on how confusing bureaucracy can be when experiencing poverty: “[We need] a resource management centre, because I know part of my life was lived in poverty, and it’s probably the time that I [most] needed assistance, but I didn’t have time or energy or knowledge on how to do that.” Another participant echoed that, when you’re in dire financial position, navigating the bureaucracy of accessing support is unthinkable: “You can’t see past your next paycheck. How are you supposed to plan a six-week program of doing anything?”

Job Security Supports

Difficult economic conditions were discussed by participants in tandem with a need for stable employment, with many community members reflecting on how difficult it is to find a job. “I don’t know how people find jobs nowadays,” shared one person. “There’s no ‘help wanted’ signs anymore. You got to go on these online places...[but] you can put in one hundred resumes at one hundred different places and still not get anything back.” Participants discussed this phenomenon as occurring across industries, including hospitality and the trades.

Tradespeople present were vocal about the difficulty of navigating boom-bust work conditions. One boilermaker repeatedly called the cycle one of “feast and famine.” One participant who works in carpentry agreed with this sentiment, commenting on the frustration of not always qualifying for employment insurance (EI) depending on how many hours they’ve worked: “Since I got into trades, I told my kids, we’re going to make good money and then we’re going to suffer.” The following anecdote captures how the boom-bust cycle of trades work creates instability, particularly for young people trying to break into the industry:

I had my journeyman ticket before the boom...when the boom came, there were all these [young people] who don't have tickets who are trying to get trained. Then you’ve got the 65 year old journeyman who doesn't want to show them how to do it, because he wants to keep his job...then four years later, they're coming up on their journeyman ticket [when] the crash happens, and then nobody's paying them, so they're not gaining any hours in their blue book to get their ticket. Two years goes by and their blue book becomes invalid, and now they don't have their apprenticeship. We need to build stability.

Young people entering the workforce and older tradespeople making career transitions were often discussed as those at the greatest disadvantage in the job market. Youth lack the experience needed to distinguish themselves from a saturated, well-educated pool of applicants: “It’s [always], ‘We’re looking for somebody with a little bit more experience.’ How [do] you get the experience if you don’t first let me into the door?” Experienced tradespeople looking for new opportunities may not have qualifications to set them apart from other applicants: “You probably didn't need schooling when you started initially either, so all of a sudden you require a degree or something, it’s hard.”

In response to financial uncertainty and a changing job market, participants expressed a desire for more paid training programs, including more programs getting people involved in renewable energy. “I'd like to see more social programs to help people get into more sustainable energy industries, because right now I have no idea how to do that,” shared one person.” When asked what support they desire from their governments, several people stated that they want more paid training opportunities, because “courses aren’t cheap. If you don't have a job and you're trying to get in, you're kind of out of luck.”

Crucially, participants were interested in paid training programs with a clear pathway to employment: “They should have programs where you do the program and then they're obligated to get you a job. You finish your course, but then you're not guaranteed a job, and now you're stuck with this debt that is outrageous.” Another person shared their frustration

trying to find job security in the energy sector, demonstrating that it can be equally difficult to find stable work in clean energy as it is in oil and gas:

I started a free [net zero] certification program.... but I found that it was frustrating for me after a while. A few years later, I realized they just wanted us for the grants and stuff like that and [after it was over] they basically said, 'Okay, well we don't need you any more. So, you can go.' I could have went back into the solar panel field, but I mean, it's just like oil and gas. There's pros and cons to both, you know.

Several participants discussed a desire to have more recruiting events run by Indigenous people, for Indigenous job seekers. For example, when asked what would give them hope for the future, one participant said: "I would like a lot [more] Indigenous conferences with job insights." Another person stated they want, "More Indigenous recruiters." Someone else in the group agreed: "More programs out there for tickets for Indigenous people who don't know how to find that, especially Indigenous people living off-reserve. It's really hard to find local resources."

Accountable and Transparent Energy Industry

Overall, much like the first Community Conversation, participants expressed a sense of skepticism towards energy companies and fear about how oil and gas production may be negatively impacting their health and the environment. "We don't really have a say in what goes on in our air quality anymore," stated one person. Another participant shared a story of how their community had been impacted by energy production: "There is a part of my reserve...[where] oil and gas was involved and they had a spill there...it did not grow back properly...no animals would go in that area." Some community members who had experience working in oil and gas were particularly fearful about potential negative impacts: "It's scary to live close to those refineries...I know that from experience because I worked in a lot of refineries and know what they're capable of and I know what goes on in them."

However, participants discussed feeling as though these harms were not always taken seriously. "Well, the way it seems like things are handled is out of sight, out of mind," shared one person. Another person agreed: "I'm pretty sure they only have to come with the reclamation plan. They don't have anything to force them to do it, they only have to make a plan." One participant discussed what they described as a "colonial mentality" of energy companies engaging with Indigenous communities:

I have never seen [a corporation] come into our community to say, 'Look, we recognize we did this extraction. We're here to contribute to the community.' They

have never come there to create a partnership or any kind of showing of any accountability.

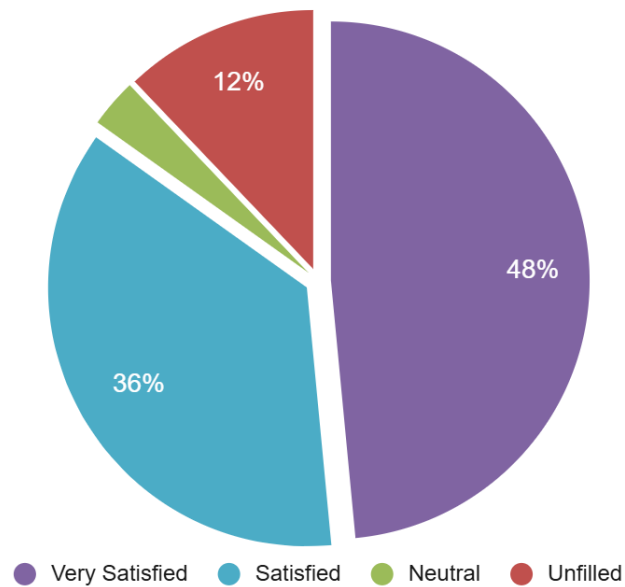
Looking to the future, community members demanded that energy companies be accountable to the communities they work in. Participants frequently mentioned a desire for financial accountability to the community: “I would like to see more money coming to the community...there is a lot of revenue coming from there, but it's not impacting the community like it should be.” This idea is elaborated upon in the following quote:

I hear a lot of [companies] saying that they donate to the communities and stuff like that, but I don't see any of that in my community...I don't see where's all that money going. I don't know where they're putting all that extra community money into. Because I bet you if they actually did put it in the communities, their communities would be a lot better. Every community would have a park or more infrastructure on our roads.

In addition to financial support, participants discussed a desire for more transparency from energy companies about their long-term plans for the community: “ [We need] transparency. We need to know what's actually being built here...you also need to know what's going on behind closed doors and how it's going to affect us later on, not just today.” Another person expressed wanting more meaningful engagement from energy companies: “[I want] opportunities just like this, but organized by these companies so you can show up and get an honest representation of what they are doing.”

3. What We Learned

Figure 3.1 - Participant Satisfaction Levels



We shared a Google feedback form at the end of our session which was completed by 33 of 34 participants. The analysis of the feedback forms only takes into account the filled out forms.

As shown in *Figure 3.1*, from the provided options: “Very Unsatisfied”, “Unsatisfied”, “Neutral”, “Satisfied”, and “Very Satisfied,” almost half of the participants rated their level of satisfaction as “Very Satisfied” (48%), followed by “Satisfied” (36%), and lastly “Neutral” (3%).

Figure 3.2 - Feedback Form Results

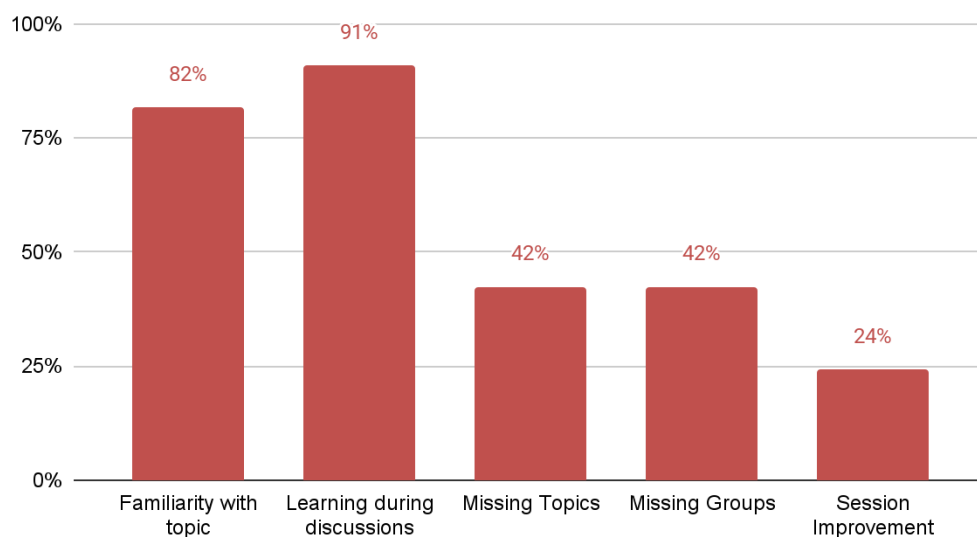


Figure 3.2 provides a summary of the rest of the questions: familiarity with discussion topics, learning experience during the discussions, missing discussion topics that participants would have liked to explore more, and suggestions for future sessions improvement.

82% of participants were familiar with the topics prior to the discussion, and 91% participants learned something new about the conversation topics during the discussion.

42% of respondents identified missing topics in the conversation, such as more support for young single mothers, concern for safety in public places and during commutes, mental health issues, current Indigenous issues, and community safety. 42% also felt that there were some groups missing from the discussion, such as environmental groups, Native counselling services, influential business corporations representatives, leadership such as chief of council, police and medical personnels, or their family members and friends. Feedback on the discussion includes more diversity, longer time for each question, less open-ended questions, and cold beverages other than water.

For future activities, 88% of attendees would like to continue the conversation and 85% would like to be contacted for future projects or activities relating to these topics.

Conclusion

The results of the second Ward Dene/Sherwood Park community conversation confirm findings from the first event indicating that participants are worried about meeting basic needs like housing, food, and utilities. While they are deeply concerned about the impacts of living nearby or working in oil and gas production facilities, they are also pragmatic about needing jobs to secure their financial futures.

Participants described a range of government supports that could help them manage their everyday expenses. They mentioned a desire for an increased minimum wage, caps on rent and subsidies to make housing more affordable, and an interest in expanding criteria for existing programs to make them accessible to more people who need them. On the topic of job security, community members expressed concerns about finding stable employment, requesting more paid training opportunities with direct pathways to employment. Participants also wanted more job hunting support programs created by and for Indigenous job seekers. People had a skeptical disposition towards energy companies, demanding that companies that work in Ward Dene and Sherwood Park be more financially accountable to the community and transparent about their development plans.

Overall, satisfaction levels from the event were high, with 84% of the 34 attendees reporting that they were either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with their experience. 91% of participants learned something new from the discussion.

4. Next Steps

Iron and Earth will proceed with using these findings to inform the third and final installment of the Ward Dene/Sherwood Park community conversations. Once all three events conclude, the findings will be verified with the general public through continued community engagement efforts, before being mobilized through a local advocacy campaign, to bring these findings to the attention of local decision makers. Iron and Earth will return the findings to community participants to continue the dialogue. Eventually, our team will begin to verify the findings with the broader Edmonton community to ensure that the voices present at our engagement events reflect the perspectives of the general rest of the community. If you would like to learn more about the program's progress and the work that takes place after the sessions, please contact us at communities@ironandearth.org.

Appendix A

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

Script for Facilitating an Iron and Earth Session - Second Dene 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: 4:45:pm/when max capacity is reached; 50 people

START TIME: 4:30 pm

END TIME: 6:30 pm

SETUP START TIME: 3:30 PM

SETUP PERSON:

- Set up presentation slides on projector
- Registration: Checking registered names and hand out registration forms if they haven't filled them, for those unregistered. Ensure all participants sign the provided letter of consent.

SESSION INTRODUCTION: 20 Minutes

Session Overview Introduction:

Greetings everyone and welcome to the Second Community Conversation hosted by Iron & Earth in Dene ward in Edmonton. This series of discussions is taking place here with a focus on livelihoods, climate change, and opportunities and developments related to achieving a net-zero economy.

[primary facilitator introduce themselves]

- *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 North Saskatchewan River Territory 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.

We are grateful to have David Suzuki Foundation as our local partner. Funding for this event is generously provided by Alberta Ecotrust Foundation.

This is Iron & Earth's Second session with the Dene and Sherwood Park communities with the goal of building relationships that go beyond a simple consultation process. We aim to meet communities where they are at, to understand their ideas on extreme weather events, the transition, potential solutions, and their level of preparedness on each of these issues. We shared with you a 1-page highlights from our previous communities so that you have an idea of what to expect from the session. We recognize that each community is different.

After our conversation, we'll create a brief report to serve as a resource for understanding the needs and desires of community residents. We'll share it with you, our outreach network, key stakeholders, decision-makers, and publish it on our website.

For the rest of this session, we'll talk about your community and its current challenges. Your breakout group will address three questions about the 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 or graphic 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 6:30PM

If you haven't filled out our registration or consent forms please fill it and give it to one of our facilitators.

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 3 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: Human driven extreme weather events and increasing global temperatures, are having significant impacts and posing major challenges for communities
- Energy Transition Opportunities: The shift from an energy mix based on fossil fuels to one based on renewable energy sources.

What's going on in Dene?

- The City of Edmonton has been experiencing a variety of concerning weather events including heat waves, cold snaps and extreme precipitation events.
- This area is undergoing a period of rapid development of agricultural lands, with lots of new projects and businesses seeking out the community as a place to invest and build
- In 2025, both Edmonton and Strathcona County will have municipal elections, making this an important time to gather community priorities.
- Refinery Row — the unofficial name granted to a group of oil refineries and businesses servicing the energy sector — is located east of Ward Dene in West Sherwood Park. This close proximity to energy production is one important reason why we're having this conversation here.

BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS: 60 Minutes

[Facilitators remember to turn on recorder in the breakout group]

[Participants must do some kind of round table of names at the beginning of the breakout recording. This is only for reference purposes, the name will not show in any of our results]

1. Question 1 - 20 Minutes

- Preamble: In the last session, participants often talked about the rise in the cost of living (particularly energy and grocery costs), and a desire for job security.
- Question: *What tangible support would make you feel more stable about you/your family's economic future?*

2. Question 2 - 20 Minutes

- Preamble: In the last session, participants spoke at length about the various health and environmental impacts of living and working close to industrial areas.

- Question: *What do you want the relationship between the local energy industry and your community to look like?*

3. Question 3 - 20 Minutes

- Preamble: In the last session, people shared a lot of negative feelings about energy production of all forms, expressing a desire for more energy options that are safe, clean, and affordable.
- Question: Within this context, what would give you hope for the future of your community?
 - Followup note: *This can be related to energy development, future employment opportunities, or anything you envision for your community.*

BREAK: 10 MINUTES

Reporting back to the room: 5 minutes

CONCLUSION: 20 MINUTES

Desired outcomes and impacts of this project

We conduct three sessions within each community. This is the Second for Dene Ward and Sherwood Park; we will complete one more session after this one. We'll create a report for each session, and these reports will summarize the needs and desires of Dene Ward and Sherwood Park residents. We'll share these reports with our outreach network and key stakeholders and decision-makers, as well as publish them on our website for public access.

If you're interested in learning more about the program's progress and post-session work, please reach out to communities@ironandearth.org and one of our team members will be happy to provide an update.

Please share your feedback on this conversation. Let us know if there's anything important we missed, anything you learned, or anything else you want to tell us!

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

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that all reimbursements are subject to a processing time of 10 business days and can only be received via an e-transfer or direct deposit.

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

Payment Policy:

We offer two convenient payment methods:

1. E-transfer (requires auto-deposit activated and correct email address)
2. Direct Deposit (requires a void cheque, handed in person at the event or emailed to communities@ironandearth.org within 1 business day)

Should these options not be suitable for your situation, we encourage you to contact us to discuss solutions. For administrative purposes, we are unable to process honorariums or stipends through cash or cheque payments.

Please be advised that payment processing typically requires up to 10 business days for completion.

[SESSION END]

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