

WELCOME TO YOUR
CONVERSATION

COMMUNITY TALKS EDMONTON: WARD DENE SESSION #3

A community-driven approach...

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. Community Talks is Iron and Earth's engagement initiative designed to spark conversations about how environmental, social, and economic changes impact people across Canada. This report summarizes the third and final community conversation hosted in Ward Dene (Northeast Edmonton) and Sherwood Park, Alberta, in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation. This event series is funded by generous support from Alberta EcoTrust Foundation and Natural Resources Canada.

Key takeaways

- **Negative Experiences Accessing Supports:** Participants shared overwhelmingly negative experiences accessing support services in the past, whether it be those focused on employment, sustainability, or health.
- **Community-designed job program:** When asked what their ideal job training program would look like, participants discussed many ideas including: a clear track record of placing trainees in paid positions, a human-focused approach that values each individual's history and experience, mentorship opportunities, and wage transparency about pay grades. Indigenous participants emphasized that employers must educate themselves on colonialism and avoid tokenizing and exploiting their Indigenous employees.
- **Visions of Community Energy:** When asked about their interest in community energy projects, participants were interested in solutions that could unite the community and benefit the community-long term. Particularly in light of the separatist protests, people wanted the community to feel united in accessing affordable, reliable energy that financially benefits the community.



About Participants

- **15 people** participated in the third Dene session
- 59% of participants in this event self-identified as **Indigenous**
- 53% of participants identified themselves as **people of colour**
- Most participants were in the **30-54 age group** (71%), followed by 55+ (18%), and 15-29 (12%)
- Most participants fell within the **“low-income”** income bracket making up to \$49,999 annually
- 35% of participants **worked** in construction, trades, transport, or equipment operations

Excerpts

“People should be working together and not fighting, because there’s a common goal. We’re all in this boat together, we’re all struggling. The high, rising costs of housing, of gas, of food, of everything, we’re all going through the same thing.”

“We have a broken system here. Let’s fix it and let’s stop putting band-aids on that underlying issue, and start going from there.”

“Honestly, it doesn’t seem like there’s any kind of programming that educates the public to lean towards the greener alternatives. I’ve never heard of anything.”

Feedback

Overall, satisfaction levels from the event were high, with 88% of the 15 attendees reporting that they were either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with their experience.