



O-day'min, Edmonton



#3 (of 3)

O-DAY'MIN, EDMONTON: WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN APPROACH...

This report summarizes Iron & Earth's third community conversation, hosted in Ward O-day'min on September 16th, 2023 in Edmonton, Alberta. It concluded our three session series in the ward as part of the Communities Transition Program, in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation, Alberta Ecotrust, Alberta Environmental Network, and Climate Justice Edmonton.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

This conversation was the third and final workshop in this ward. The conversation was structured around discussion questions on housing, community engagement, and educational supports, based on issues of interest in the two prior conversations. Three themes emerged from this conversation:

- **Renting experiences:** Participants focused on the challenges experienced by renters in O-day'min, calling for lower utility bills and more mechanisms for those renting to take control of their energy use. They also highlighted the experiences of unhoused people in the community, arguing that they are often left out of conversations about sustainability
- **Changing the public consultation model:** Participants discussed the barriers they encounter in reaching local government and a desire to see the public consultation model revamped to be more interactive, conversational, and action-oriented.
- **Workforce supports:** When asked what supports they require to thrive in the net-zero economy, participants specifically requested updated curriculums to match our rapidly changing economy, further expansion of funded skills-training opportunities, and greater support for job-hunting in the digital age.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

- 19 people participated
- 47% of participants were **Indigenous**, and 32% were **people of colour**.
- In terms of **gender**, 58% of attendees were women, 26% were men, and 16% were of two-spirit and/or non gender conforming
- 58% of participants self identified as low income (below \$53,413 annually).

QUOTES

"I watch natural gas prices, the energy crisis, people don't even talk about [it]. People don't realize what's going to happen in the next five years...People won't be able to afford to heat their homes."

"There's a lot of vulnerabilities that come with being a renter."

"There's a lot of reasons why a lot of communities aren't engaged, because they have been left behind. They don't vote because they have been left behind. They know that nobody cares about them."

Feedback from Participants:

4.2/5

satisfaction rate on the session

"Very respectful conversation."

"I enjoyed the session."

100%

participants learned something new during the discussion

"It was [a] fascinating, in depth exploration of challenges ... to shift matters in a more equitable direction for all beings."

"If utilities specifically were a little bit more reactive, renters might have a little bit more skin in the game when it comes to green energy and living in sustainable housing."

"Academia and schooling and education hasn't caught up with where the industry is."

"It's really hard to find something — if you wanted to work in renewable resources and find something in that kind of new field, I don't think students know where to look."

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communities@ironandearth.org
780 652 3286
www.communitytalkscanada.ca