

A more detailed summary of BCCIC youth consultation discussions:

We hosted consultations in-person at the Climate Solutions Hub at the University of British Columbia, with high school students from the City of Richmond at the Richmond Green Ambassadors Symposium, and at our “Youth Climate Ideas Jam” hosted by City Hive, Climate Guides and Student Energy.

Some of the common concerns we heard from BC youth were:

- Climate change currently impacts everyone and will continue to in the future; collective action must therefore be part of the solution.
- Current measurements of societal progress, such as economic growth, lack considerations of climate change.
- Climate change needs to be more effectively communicated to motivate behavioural change, and engaged with in a way that localizes/ brings the issue closer to home.
- Increased disparity between countries in their capacity to adapt to climate change, such as access to water or disaster relief, is not being sufficiently addressed.
- There is a disconnect between the changing climate impacts, and its effects. In Vancouver, we are impacted by smoke and sea-level rise, but this is not always attributed to climate change.
- The effects of extreme weather patterns, forest fires, and food insecurity are alarming.
- The links between climate change, increases in violence, and forced migration are stark and deeply concerning.
- The impacts of climate change are largest for vulnerable people who depend on the land for their livelihoods, such as Inuit, Metis, and Indigenous communities.
- Unprecedented rates of species extinction have accelerated due to climate change.
- Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and hegemonic privileges. Frontline communities are being affected, and the less fortunate are more strongly impacted.
- There are continued losses of ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples, and increased development is further compromising their protection.
- It's easy to talk about the weather, but it's harder to talk about climate change.
- There seems to be a disproportionate weight given to denial and uncertainty, when climate change is evidence-based and factual.

On the other hand, some of the hopes that young British Columbians brought up in our conversations included:

- Youth are looking for climate literacy to be better integrated into our education curriculums, in order to better inform future consumers, lobby producers, and infused public discussions with facts; being particularly cognizant of the critical climate timeframes of 2030 and 2050.

- Initiatives such as stronger carbon pricing, transportation electrification, energy efficiency, and renewable energy give us hope.
- There have been successful court cases in favour of climate action.
- In Vancouver, the political climate seems to be changing, and as a result we have seen more bike lanes, subsidized housing, and green roofs. As a result, Vancouver is becoming a more inclusive and diverse city.
- Dialogues about climate change, diversity in leadership, and intersectionality are becoming more mainstream.
- There is increasing awareness about the role gender plays in taking climate action. The Feminist International Assistance Policy and Gender Action Plan are hope-inspiring examples.
- We all have a right to safe, clean water and clean air, including and especially marginalized communities.

There is a lot of action that Canada needs to take, and youth have ideas about what that action could look like. Suggestions included:

- Canada needs transparent evidence-based decision making on climate policy.
- Canada needs to end fossil fuel subsidies and instead invest in rural community resilience.
(E.g. Kinder Morgan, Energy East, Kitimat LNG plant, Site C Dam)
- We need more climate action, and improved accountability from large emitters.
- Youth need to be civically engaged and activated on climate in order to better engage their peers.
- Youth need to be part of policy development and lobby politicians.
- Youth need more face-to-face time with politicians to express their concerns.
- The governments in BC and Canada need more stringent laws around extractive industries, and need to build capacity for compliance and enforcement. Extractive projects need to consider all externalities and evaluate their lifetime impacts.
- The BC government needs to have a more stringent annual allowable forestry cut, and promote industry practices that result in better replanting, diversity, resilience and forest fire responses.
- We need to prepare towns, particularly those in rural Canada and BC, for wildfires, earthquakes and other natural disasters.
- The BC government needs to do a better job of protecting salmon and rivers.
- Youth need access to platforms that will allow them to engage in climate action and be informed about contemporary issues.
- The BC government needs to make public transportation more accessible.
- Canada needs to increase financing to help other nations address climate change issues.
- Canada needs to increase its ambition to reach its stated Paris Agreement targets, which includes avoiding bureaucratic delays, protecting the land and water under federal jurisdiction, and generating and promoting jobs in the green economy.

- We need to increase climate literacy in the education system and fund youth work on climate solutions.
- We need better public education on waste management, recycling, and how to limit our consumption of single-use plastics. We need to target companies and specific industries to ban styrofoam and single-use plastics.
- We need to communicate the urgency of climate change without a doom-and-gloom narrative, and remove stigma around climate action. We need a shift in the discourse to one that emphasises hope and opportunity.
- Canada needs to increase our support for small businesses that are doing impactful work on climate action. We need to encourage local production and consumption.

Lastly, youth had some specific recommendations to the BCCIC Youth Delegation, including:

- Don't hesitate to ask naïve questions and relay this information back to youth.
- Spend time discussing tangible, actionable issues in lead-up, during and after COP.

Through our online survey consultation, we gathered a valuable set of data indicating some of the sentiments of BC youth towards climate and sustainability issues.

Below are some of the prominent questions asked, along with their aggregated responses.

Question: *What SDGs are you most concerned about as a Canadian youth? Pick 3.*



SDG 13: Climate Action
(61.1%)



SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy (35.4%)

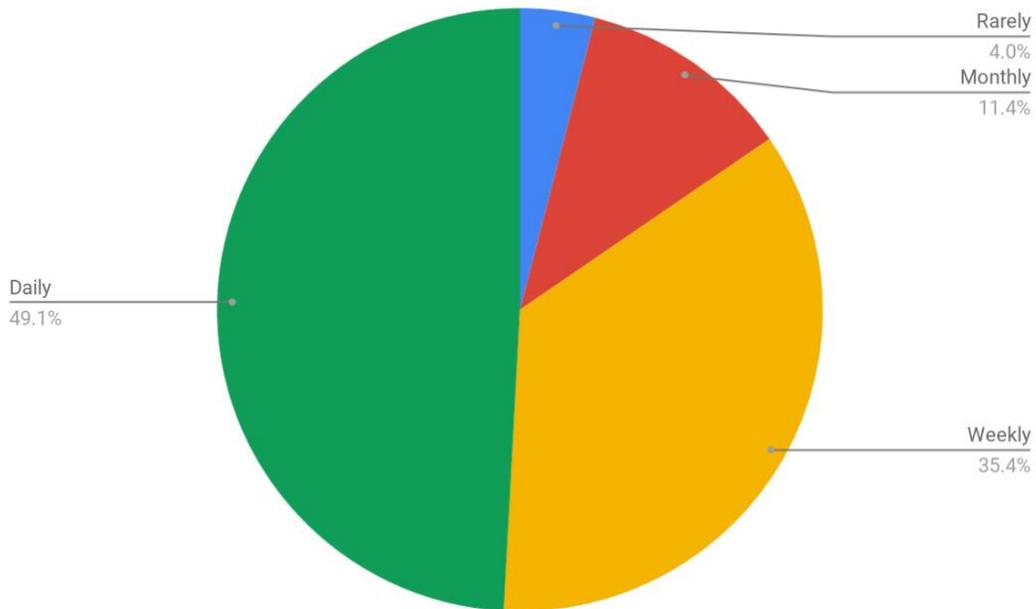


SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities (34.9%)

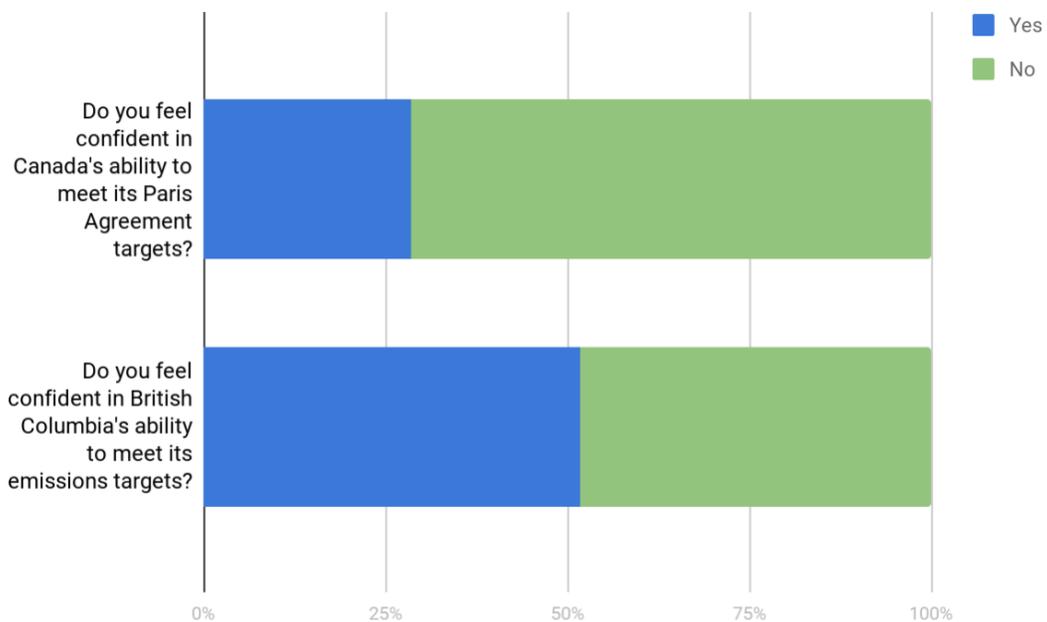
Here, respondents identified SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) as their top 3 choices, meaning that 61.1% of youth chose SDG 13 as a top 3 priority, 35.4% chose SDG 7 as one of their top 3, and 34.9% chose SDG 11.

The remaining questions covered how young British Columbians perceive the actions of both their provincial and federal governments on climate change, whether they are sufficient, and finally, how frequently they think about the consequences of climate change.

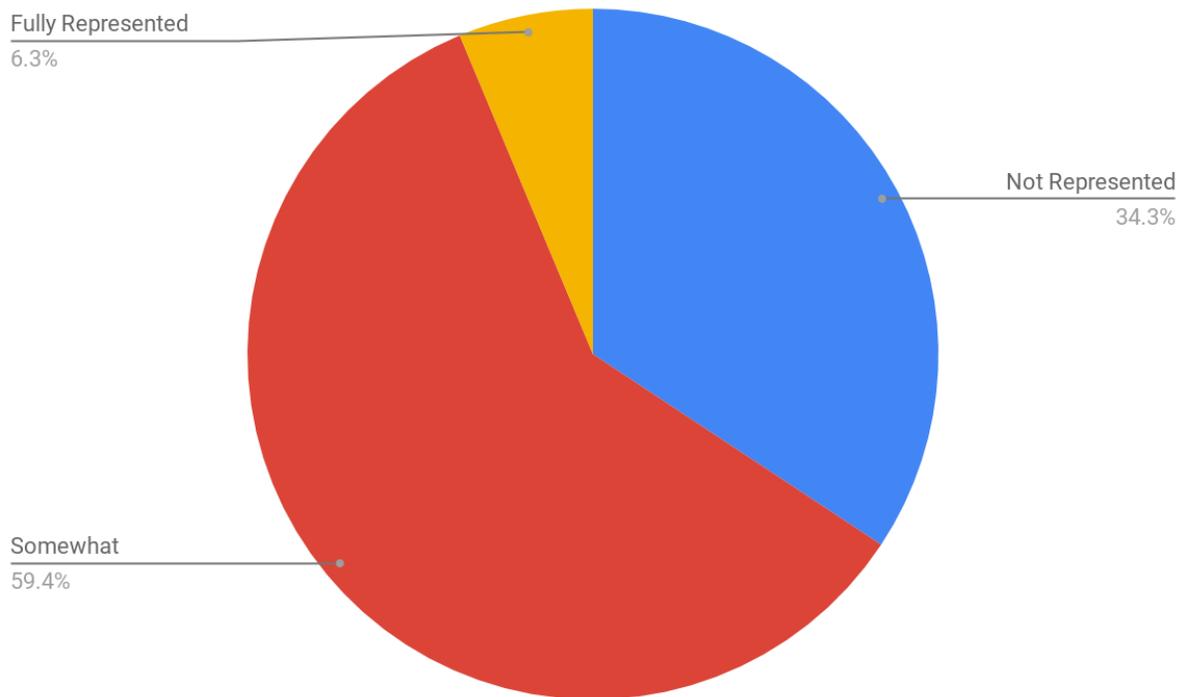
Question: *How often do you think about the potential consequences of climate change?*



Question: (a) *Do you feel confident in Canada's ability to meet its Paris Agreement targets?* (b) *Do you feel confident in British Columbia's ability to meet its emissions targets?*



Question: *Do you feel that your voice/concerns are represented in Canadian political discussions and decisions relating to climate change?*



In addition to the above insights, we heard from British Columbian youth that:

- A large majority of youth do not support major infrastructure projects endorsed by the Government of Canada, including TMX, Site C and LNG Canada.
- Reported barriers to taking action in their local communities included: Financial support and other resources, as well as feeling as though their voices are not being heard.
- There is a significant need for more accessible and reliable funding and support for youth-led initiatives; particularly those working with marginalized youth. The current gaps and needs include: a gap in terms of climate change; a need for something between micro and large grants; general support for youth-led initiatives/ entrepreneurs; Specialized focuses on marginalized populations (e.g. Indigenous youth, young women); and Technical Assistance (entrepreneurship guidance, implementing programs, fundraising).

The BC youth delegation looks forward to highlighting these concerns at COP24, and continuing to advocate for youth empowerment and inclusion.