



Building Stronger Communities Together
in a Transitioning World

**A Strategic Plan for the Transition Away
from Oil and Gas and
Generate Responsible Renewable
Industries in Newfoundland and Labrador**

The Mixed Coast Collective Data Summary Report

2024



Table of Contents

Land and Labour Acknowledgement	2
About The Mixed Coast Collective	3
Overview	3
Mission Statement	3
Vision Statement	4
Summary of Event Goals of the Event	5
Summary of Presentations and Learnings	6
Next Steps	15
Conclusion	17
Event Demographics	18
Appendix A - List of Participants	21
Appendix B - Agenda	22
Appendix C: Background Summary of Equinor and the Bay du Nord Project	24



Land and Labour Acknowledgement

Thank you/Credit to ARCNL

Please do not copy/paste.

Email antiracismcoalitionnl@gmail.com for permission.

We stand here, in full acknowledgement that this is a land that has born witness to genocide and occupation. Newfoundland, as it is known colonially, was the land of the Beothuk who were victims of a successful genocide.

We acknowledge that Ktaqamkuk is the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Mi'kmaq peoples who have taken care of this land for centuries. We also wish to acknowledge the Inuit and Innu of Labrador.

We acknowledge that the white settler colonial state has been built through Indigenous genocide and land theft, the enslavement and labour theft of people of African descent through the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the fifteen thousand Chinese men who worked under exploitative conditions to build Canada's first transcontinental railroad, the internment and forced labor of twelve thousand Japanese Canadians, and the thousands of refugees and migrants denied refuge into so-called Canada throughout its history.

Today, we would like to honour these histories—past and present—as we join the call for reparation, Indigenous self-determination, and land back to its original protectors.

Let's remember the Red Nations's declaration, "no one is illegal on stolen land except for those who stole it." We acknowledge that we must work together to end sexism, occupation, settler colonialism, imperialism, racialized capitalism, sexism, genocide, and all forms of racism, here on this land and everywhere.

We acknowledge that we will never be free until all people are free.

Land Back!



About Us:

The Mixed Coast Collective



Founders: Kassandra Drodge (Left), Jude Benoit (Center), Robert Leamon (Right)

Overview

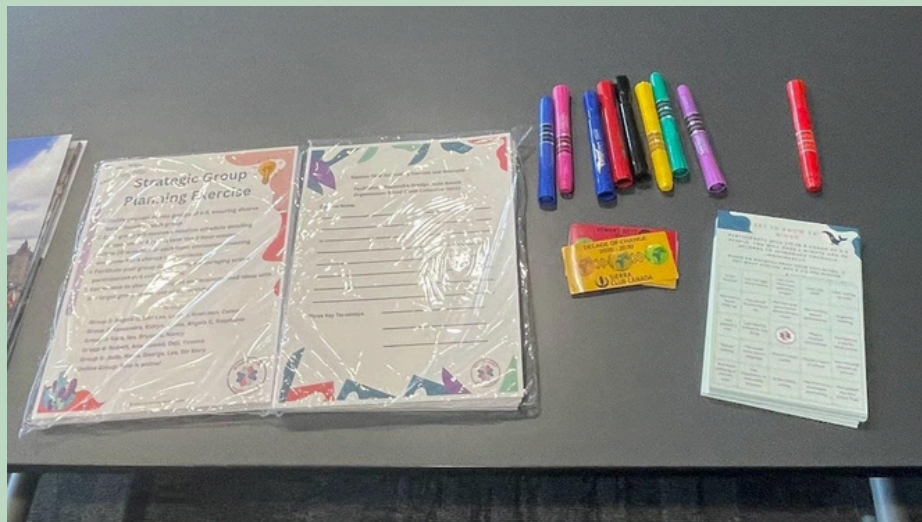
- The Mixed Coast Collective strives to be a leader of integral research regarding informed decision making processes for businesses, governments, and communities, when it comes to community development initiatives that touch on project feasibility, resource management, and data communication.
- We investigate and disclose the benefits, risks, and solutions to building communities and to enhance economic/social diversity within Newfoundland and Labrador by cultivating and strengthening relationships that encourage sustainable progress and stability among communities, policymakers, and businesses.
- We aim to foster a BIPOC centered approach to sustainable strategies, community mobilization tactics, and policy advocacy.

Mission Statement

- Our goal is to support a diverse array of industries and sectors and actors, fostering research, informed decision making processes, and innovation to build a resilient economy and support communities.
- Through collaborative partnerships, we aim to align interests among local communities, government officials, and businesses, ensuring clarity and confidence in our economic strategies. By stewarding progress and certainty, we strive to create an equitable, secure, and predictable environment that supports long-term economic growth and prosperity for all.

Vision Statements

- The Mixed Coast Collective is dedicated to intersectional research and innovative solutions that center holistic engagement processes and data collection to find the best practices in energy solutions, climate change, environmental conservation, and overall community development.
- The Mixed Coast collective believes in progressive research that is led by community based perspectives, intersectional data, integrity, and solutions in mind.



Summary of Event



- The strategy session brought together 26 participants (in-person and online) in May 2024 to highlight successful transition strategies into responsible renewable industries. Individuals from the province, across Canada, and the globe, spent the weekend at the ALT hotel in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador from May 3-5 2024 connecting with one another, talking about our related initiatives, and listening to some presentations from those who are actively working on just a transition plan and/or Equinor-out (or anti-oil) related actions.
- The aim of the event was to gather a group of local and national advocates and experts interested in environmentally conscious energy transition in Newfoundland and Labrador and to create a broader campaign condemning Equinor's project Bay du Nord.
- This event complimented the global efforts, and emphasized the need to share experiences and focus on where individuals and organizations are with regard to creating democratic energy solutions within Newfoundland and Labrador through provincial policies and responsible industrial development in renewables.
- Modular workbooks were crafted by the Mixed Coast Collective and used to help participants take notes and highlight key individual takeaways. Team centered workbooks were administered Sunday May 5 2024. The findings below showcase collaborative teamwork.
- The event involved a diverse group of participants with expertise and experience in community engagement, research strategies, marine sciences, renewable energy, environmental policy, sustainable systems, solar energy, and Indigenous civil/environmental rights.





Goals of the Event



1. Identify Context and Concerns:

Participants will deepen their understanding of the current situation in NL regarding oil and gas, including the implications of the Bay du Nord project, and explore pathways for a just transition to renewable energy.

2. Plan Specific Actions:

Working together, participants will develop concrete action plans for both the short and long term. These plans will include strategies to advocate for policy changes, engage communities, and mobilize resources to support the transition away from oil and gas. Additionally, participants will explore methods to secure commitments from stakeholders for this transition.

3. Establish an Effective Network:

To provide a platform for participants to connect with one another and establish an effective network of individuals and organizations committed to advancing the goals of a just transition plan.



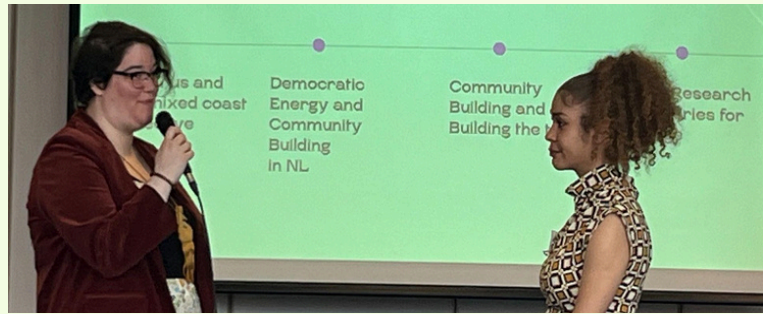
Presentations and Learnings



Presentation 1:

By: Kassandra Drodge & Jude Benoit, MCC Mixed Coast Collective

Deep Engagement, BIPOC Energy Democracy and Development. Uplifting Networks, and Two-Eyed Seeing in Indigenous Research



- **Affordability** is now a top of mind issue but door to door conversations with people in NL reveals people already feel worse off than, even after decades of the oil and gas industry being dominant in the province, and they are scared of uncertain economic and social changes that come along with industry collapse.
- **Information dissemination** and access to knowledge: Impact assessments for socio-economic/industrial projects like oil and gas are not written for the general public to understand and respond to.
- **Indigenous approaches to research** such as two-eyed seeing practices are needed to showcase the value of vernacular knowledge, especially in terms of longitudinal observation strategies for land and water.
- BIPOC climate activists, water/land protectors, and community members are put most at risk when there is not proper engagement between politicians, businesses, and industry, because of heightened militarized police presence during peaceful protests; that often result in abuse of police power and violence toward vulnerable populations.

Presentation 2:

By: Martin Norman Investor Engagement Lead, Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility

Who Decides? Financing & Corporate Strategies for Equinor

- **Investors** have a system to absorb information from NGOs, we are not their only source of information, but **we are an important source**.
- It is **financial risk + reputational risk** that drove withdrawal from tar sands, and that could be applied here to stop Bay du Nord and other international oil projects, and this could be doable.



Presentation 3:

By: Dr. Lori Lee Oates, Memorial University

The Resource Curse in Newfoundland and Labrador



- There are ways to reach people and to **reach the target audience**: social media, radio, TV, blogs etc.
- Broad coalitions are needed to address the electorate and educate.
- An **informed electorate** would know the dichotomy between protecting the economy and addressing climate change is a false one. For every \$1 invested in oil and \$2 is invested in clean energy.
- The Inflation Reduction Act in the US was supported by Biden because he got the support of unions for creating union jobs (there will be lots of jobs in switching away from fossil fuels).
- Mayors can be key leaders in de-growth etc. These can also be solutions to the inequality crisis as well.
- Many young people now want to decolonize and understand the impacts of the resource economy.

Speaker Series:

By: Deji Oparinde

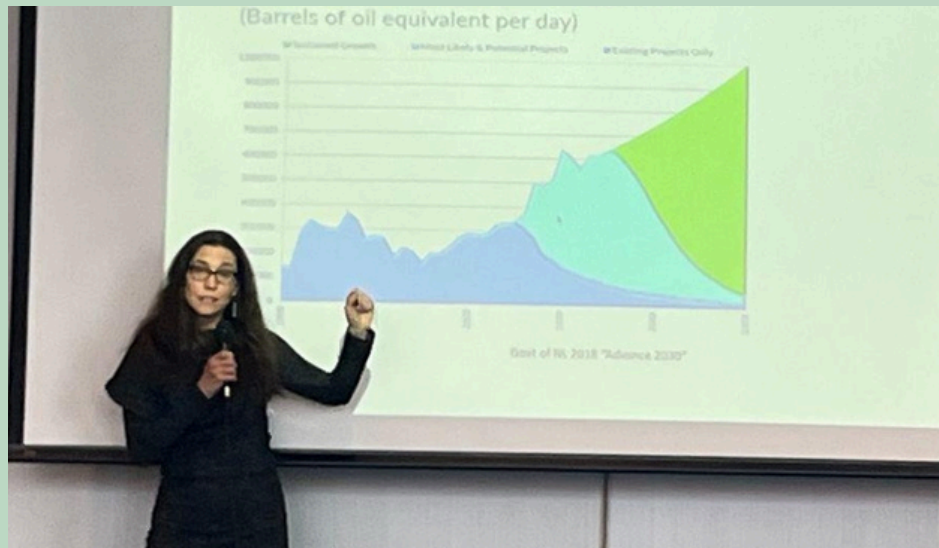
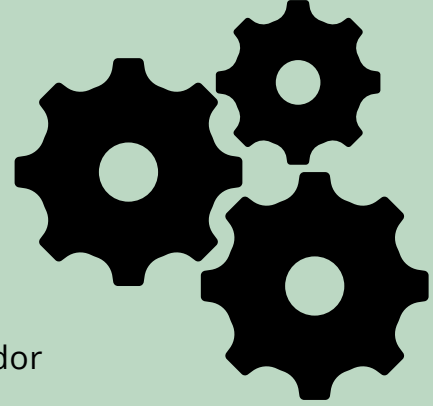


- Deji shared his perspective on the issues of increased oil and gas extraction from a global perspective.
- The oil and gas industry in Nigeria has led to loss of ability to use land and water for subsistence, and also to violence. Solar power was installed to give people power in places where there was no electricity; it was not a climate solution, it was a solution to not having access to electricity.
- Africa contributes only 4% to global GHG emissions and people there experience the worst impacts.
- There is a need for solar power in NL and opportunities to install more local EV chargers.
- People need to start making the connections between local actions and the global repercussions of consumption and energy use.

Presentation 4:

By: Dr. Angela Carter, Memorial University

Advancing Supply Side Climate Policy in Newfoundland & Labrador



Supply side climate policy is a way to get to root causes of climate change: oil, gas, and coal.
It's about a nine-years old research field, but communities have been doing this for decades.

Supply side policy can happen in many ways:

1. End fossil fuel subsidies or public financing
2. Increase taxes on production / emissions
3. Enact production quotas / cap & trade the right to extract, with compensation for not extracting
4. Divest from fossil fuels to undermine legitimacy or financial viability
5. Launch legal claims against producers
6. Prohibit exploration, extraction, or transportation of fossil fuels





Presentation 5:

By: Ruby Earle Platform London

Labour in a Transitioning World: Where are we now and what do we need to do?



- Platform UK has developed trusting relationships with workers in the offshore oil and gas industry. Initially, there were many challenges in getting responses to surveys. What ended up working was a campaign for an offshore training passbook, so workers don't have to duplicate expensive training.
- They held six workshops across Aberdeen to discuss in more in-depth discussions, ensured framing and link and lines of questioning would work with local workers, provided staggered timings for shift patterns; accessible, provided stipends for travel and expenses. These workshops identified barriers to energy transition. Ten demands endorsed by 90% workers and big offshore unions numerous climate and justice groups were the result: the Workers' Plan for Energy

Platform's Methodology and Lessons Learned document outlines how they achieved success:
<https://platformlondon.org/resource/our-power-offshore-workers-demands-for-a-just-energy-transition/>



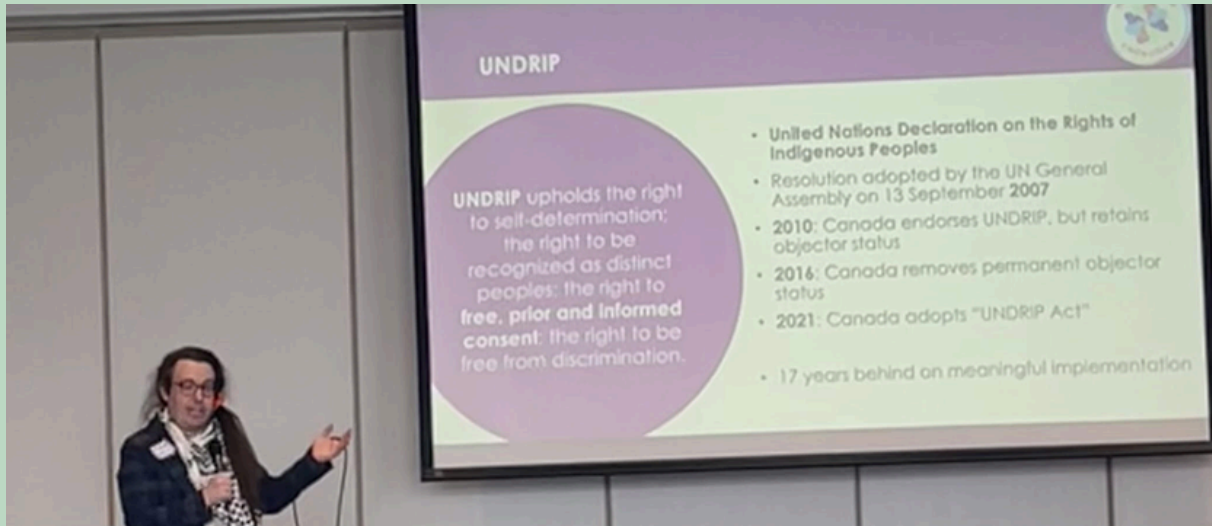
visit themccnl.com



Presentation 6:

By: Robert Leamon MCC Mixed Coast Collective

Indigenous Relationships, Sovereignty, and Future Plans for Climate Justice Organizing



- NL has a history of erasure of Indigenous populations but up to 9.3% of the population could identify as Indigenous. Solidarity with Indigenous actors has been successful in building movements, although COVID dealt a blow to this type of organizing.

1. **Shifting the discourse to UNDRIP, Indigenous Sovereignty**, and land and water protectors: this provides positive framing for land and water.
2. Building **solidarity networks** with Indigenous people and communities
3. Leading voices in **LANDBACK** and **Climate Justice**.

Key Takeaways

1. Increase community engagement initiatives, and in-person events (with children), to connect and talk about local issues, and assess community understanding of renewable energy projects.

Key Learnings: There was an overall shared need for increased in person events like the weekend session as folks felt like they were more productive and motivated to contribute to the overall goals of the event. They also felt like it was nice to connect after such a long period of time, where some have previously met online during the pandemic.

Key Questions / Challenges: It may be challenging to ensure that there is a diverse community and participant pool for these events. There will also need to be a diverse strategy for recruitment. Lastly, the need to ensure diverse voices are protected and heard, especially in small communities across the province.

Key Opportunities: Building knowledge, keeping people engaged and included. Possibly use feedback to shape future events and build rapport with local people and groups to maintain connections and build trust.

2. Propel effort towards community owned energy projects that have low environmental impact and focus on success indicators that are outside of surplus revenues.

Key Learnings: There is a need to focus on developing local energy solutions that benefit the community directly rather than continuing with traditional energy commercialization. There should also be a high consideration around the scalability of renewable projects in the province, especially since the province is not densely populated and many are concerned about the surrounding forests/waters in the midst of climate chaos.



Key Questions / Challenges: Discovering the barriers to implementing these projects such as financial buy in and responsible partnership, and if/how to upscale these projects if they are successful.

Key Opportunities: Creating empowered communities and sustainable, locally managed energy solutions in Newfoundland and Labrador. Create a higher knowledge of energy solutions in rural and urban context throughout the province.

3. Organize and plan actions that are informed by regional observations and quantitative data to pressure politicians informed on ways of how low carbon capture technology works.

Key Learnings: There is a lack of transparency felt around political competency regarding carbon capturing technology and efforts to truly invest in the necessary steps for a low carbon economy. Education and policies are needed to ensure they are making informed decisions as well as transparent processes that disclose problems/difficulty making informed decisions on renewable projects. Community individuals, youth, experts, leaders, and elders, should be included in creating these plans too.

Key Questions / Challenges: There is no formal strategic plan set to educate politicians and the public on the technicalities and/or regulations of environmental sustainability. There is not a set curriculum on how/what to educate leaders about.

Key Opportunities: Education and fact-based research are a key way to influence data driven policy and to strengthen conceptual models for renewable development and government involvement. Politicians and industry leaders must show the province they maintain competency with technical/operational/market knowledge of low carbon capture technology.



4. Establish an effective network to advocate for transparency around policies around oil and gas royalties and to stop massive public spending on oil and gas projects.

Key Learnings: There is an exponentially large amount of money sunk into oil and gas projects in comparison to training/recruitment/partnership necessary for the successful preparedness of welcoming renewable energy into Newfoundland and Labrador. Policies that challenge politicians and their spending of dollars in these industries, for example, for every dollar spent in oil and gas, another dollar should be spent in renewables.

Key Questions / Challenges: How to make public spending digestible to the public? Critical thinking skills in fiscal spending that are informed by accuracy and succession. What kinds of strategies work to make change? What actions/policies will make meaningful change that make sense to local people?

Key Opportunities: Creating strong public discourse on public fiscal spending with regard to energy projects and being able to create local influence within public spending policies. Create political awareness around public consumer needs. Stopping further investments in oil and gas.



Next Steps

- Full-time positions that are sourced from sustainable financing, for local ENGOs, community champions, consultants, and community organizations to dedicate more effort into seeking out policies, actions, and information that is relevant to successfully replacing fossil fuel projects with renewables in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- BIPOC centered frameworks and intentional space for supporting innovation and initiatives in those communities. For allied individuals/networks to uplift BIPOC work and ideas to ensure they are heard at the community, provincial, and federal level..

- Organize Regular Town Halls and Community Events: Including activities for children, to discuss local issues and assess community understanding of renewable energy projects. Make education campaigns accessible to accommodate, disability, age, gender/sexual orientation, socio-economic status, culture, language, and more.

- Public Awareness Campaign: Launch a campaign to educate the public about government spending on energy projects and the benefits of renewable energy investments.

- Identify Potential Projects: Conduct feasibility studies to identify potential community-owned renewable energy projects with low environmental impact with the support from provincial government actors.

- Engagement with Meaningful Partnerships: Work with local stakeholders to develop these projects, ensuring they meet community needs and environmental standards.

- Educational Campaigns: Design and launch an educational campaign to inform politicians and the public about low carbon capture technology and its importance for a low carbon economy.

- Policy Development: Advocate for policies that support investment in low carbon technologies and provide politicians with data-driven recommendations.

- Network Building: Create a network of advocates to promote transparency around oil and gas policies and challenge excessive public spending on these projects.

Conclusion

- In the dynamic landscape of energy transition, we aim to pressure Equinor to become a key player in renewable energy, guiding us towards a sustainable future. This involves creating full-time positions that are dedicated to organizing regular town halls, engaging with Equinor and its behavior, and creating tangible community events to discuss local issues and educate the public, including children, about renewable energy.
- Additionally, funding to be able to conduct feasibility studies to identify low-impact, community-owned renewable energy projects and developing these with local stakeholders is essential. We hope to see some ideas come to life such as the launch of educational campaigns to inform politicians and the public about low carbon capture technology, advocate for supportive policies, and build a network of advocates to promote transparency and challenge excessive public spending on oil and gas projects.

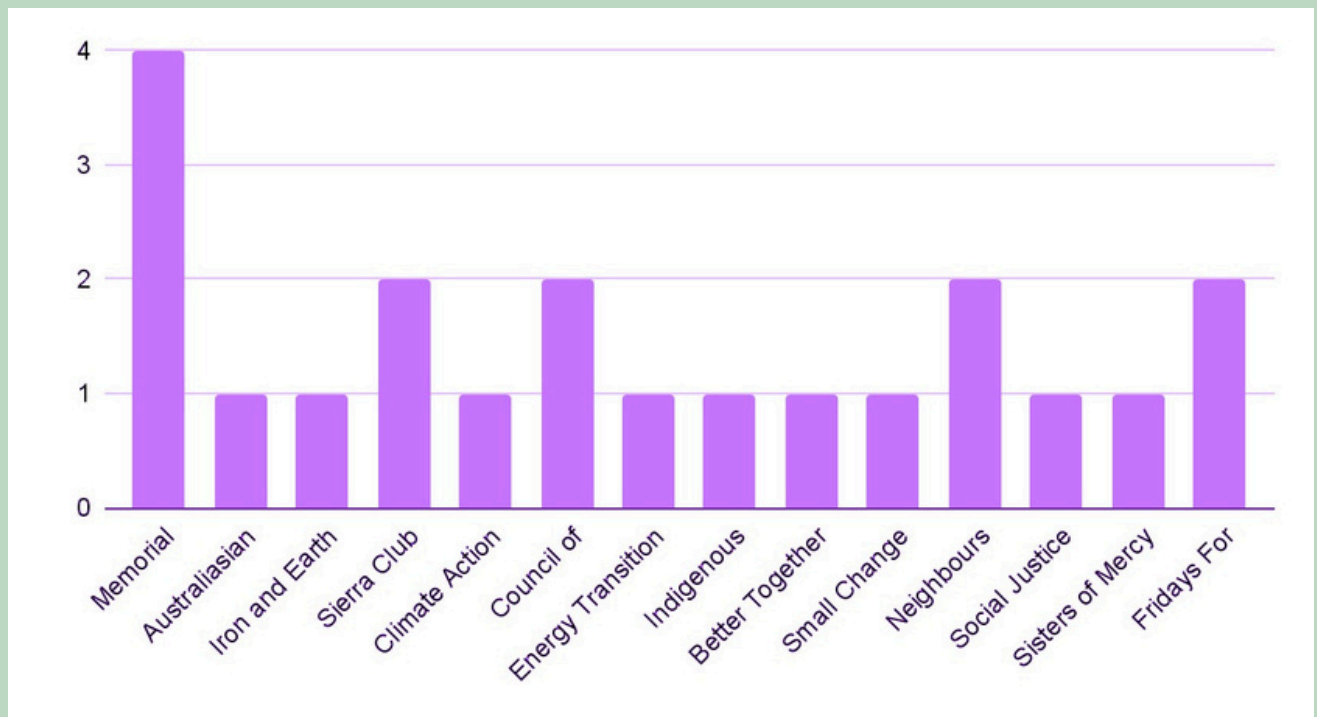
Finally, multiple public awareness campaigns that will encourage:

- High public fiscal literacy
- Knowledge around socio-ecological relationships to industry and renewable technologies, and
- The benefits of renewable energy investments over traditional energy expenditures.

These steps are imperative to steering away from fossil fuel dependency and into self propelled thought surrounding renewable energy for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Event Demographics

Collectively, individuals represented communities and organizations that uphold the stewardship of the environment and the future; and have actively engaged in solidarity movements pertaining to Indigenous solidarity, social justice, environmentalism, ethical research, and sustainable solutions. Below is a bar graph highlighting the number of individuals represented per organization in attendance.



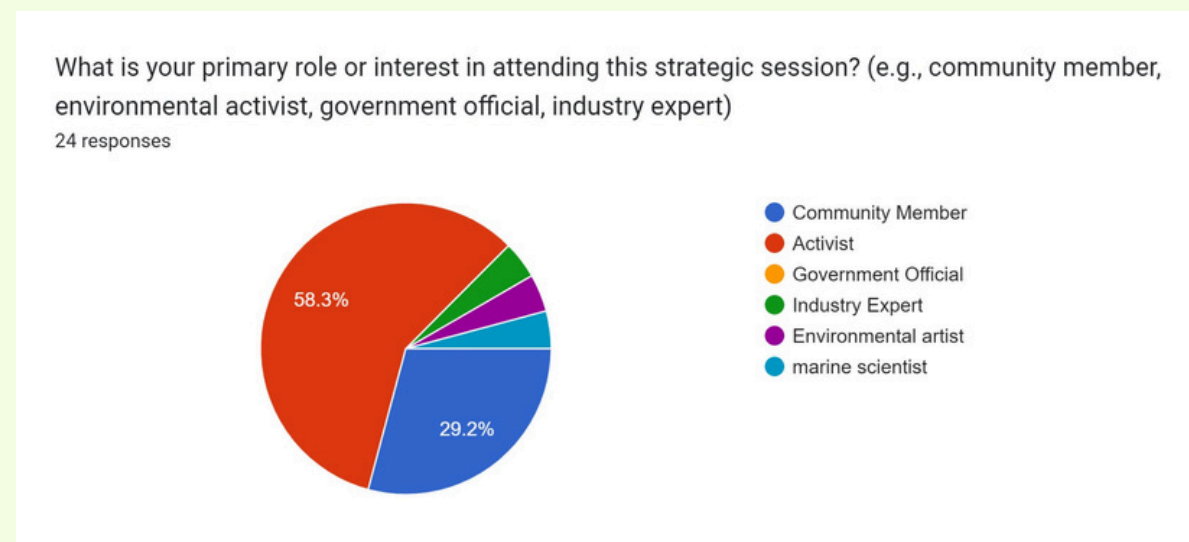
Formal roles among the participants were: Sustainability coordinator, Professor(s), marine biologist, sustainability systems engineer, community researcher(s), environmental artists, and PhD student(s) with research focusing on energy justice, just transition, and public participation in energy projects.



Roughly 60% of members identified as activists, while 30% identified as a community member. These are reassuring numbers as the majority of folks actively engage in advocacy or activism related to pressing issues, concerns, or initiatives.

These folks are more likely to participate in protests, campaigns, and lobbying efforts aimed at social, environmental, and economic wellbeing and equity. The remaining individuals are just as vital to the movement, as they are key in building bridges to local communities, local organizations, and municipalities.

The diverse group allows for combining efforts for passionate activism and community support and participation.



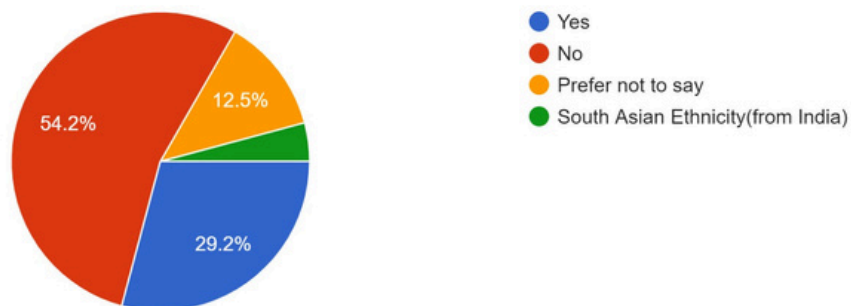
More than half of attendees were not of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour) community while roughly 30% identified as part of the BIPOC community. Roughly 13% of participants preferred not to identify with a racial background.

Having a diverse social, economic, racial, and cultural backgrounds is a vital asset to the strategic community building that is being done here as it signals efforts forwards inclusivity and representation, as well as highlights the different experiences that white, and BIPOC members have with fossil fuel extraction in their home(s) and in and around the places they have visited.

We also decidedly gave BIPOC individuals an honorarium for their participation to acknowledge the historic exclusion of these groups in similar conversations.

Do you identify as part of the Black, Indigenous, or Person of Colour community? *Why is this question here?* We want to ensure we are taking all equitable considerations in mind.

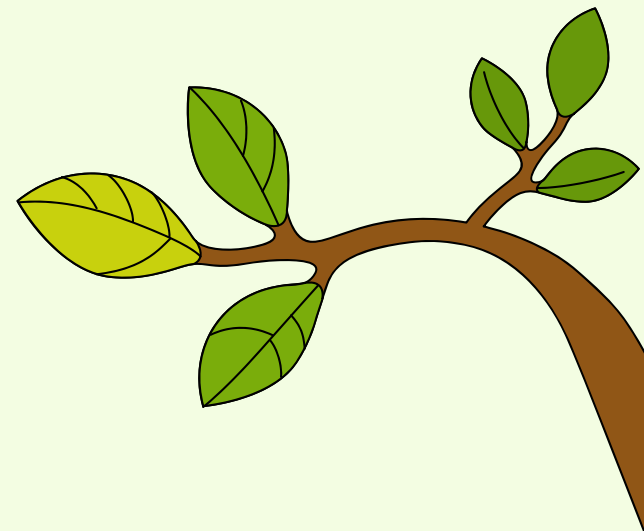
24 responses





Appendix A - List of Participants

1. Kassandra Drodge, BA, MA, Mixed Coast Collective
2. Jude Cutler, Mixed Coast Collective
3. Robert Leamon, Mixed Coast Collective
4. Dr. Angela Carter, Memorial University
5. Dr. Ian Jones, Memorial University
6. Dr. Lori Lee Oates, Memorial University
7. Dr. John Jacobs, Professor Emeritus, Memorial University (virtual)
8. Martin Norman, Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility
9. Ana Guerra Marin, Iron and Earth
10. Gretchen Fitzgerald, Sierra Club Canada
11. Conor Curtis, Sierra Club Canada
12. Lauren Latour, Climate Action Network Canada
13. Angela Giles, Council of Canadians
14. Kara Shephard Jones, Energy Transition Fund
15. Byanna Brown, Indigenous Activist Collective
16. Robert Smith, Better Together Solutions
17. Abbie Branchflower, Director, Small Change Fund
18. Deji Oparinde, BA MS
19. Yvonne Earle, Council of Canadians, Avalon Chapter Chair
20. Sister Mary Tee, Sister of Mercy
21. Daniel Griffin, Neighbours United
22. Jared n.d, Neighbours United
23. Lea Movelie, Social Justice Cooperative
24. Neria Aylward
25. Sophie Shoemaker, Fridays For Future
26. Megan Marie, Fridays For Future



Appendix B - Agenda

Friday, May 3rd, 2024 - Day 1

9-5 PM Out-of-town arrivals/ Check-in

Explore our beautiful city!

[see pages below for suggestions and travel information]*

WELCOME CEREMONY

9:30 PM

Casual Drinks & Meet and Greet

Location: The Ship Pub (Closed to event to participants – we will go there as a group).

Dress Code: Semi Formal/Casual.

Saturday, May 4th, 2024 - Day 2

9:30 AM

Grounding exercise and Welcome: Deep Engagement, BIPOC Energy Democracy and Development. Uplifting Networks, and Two-Eyed Seeing in Indigenous Research
Kassandra Drodge, & Jude Benoit, MCC Mixed Coast Collective

Tea/Coffee Baked Goods/Fruit

Light Activity (1 hr)

Climate Chronicles: Exploring Personal Impact and Collective Solutions at the Roundtable

11:00 AM

Who Decides? Financing & Corporate Strategies for Equinor
Martin Norman Investor Engagement Lead- ACCR

11:30 AM

The Resource Curse in NL
Dr. Lori Lee Oates Memorial University

12:00- 1:15 PM GROUP LUNCH

1:15- 2:00 PM Smudging/ Decompress

2:00 PM Oil and gas Supply side Politics and Policies
Dr. Angela Carter Memorial University

2:30 PM Labour in a Transitioning World: Where are we now and what do we need to do?
Ruby Earle Platform London



3:00 PM

Education, Illustration, and Communicating Data: Bay du Nord
Lauren Latour CAN RAC

3:30 PM Indigenous Relationships, Sovereignty, and Future Plans for Climate Justice
Organizing
Robert Leamon MCC Mixed Coast Collective

Tea/Coffee Baked Goods/Fruit

4:00 PM Closing remarks / Wrap-up Strategy Session
Kassandra Drodge/ Gretchen Fitzgerald

6:00 PM Dinner (Location TBA)

Sunday, May 5th, 2024 - Day 3

9:00 AM- 12:00 AM
GROUP Brunch/Working Session

10:00 AM
Sharing of information related to the ongoing processes and opportunities (are there any public consultations, political opportunities here or in Norway, etc.)

12:30 PM
Explore the Rooms Museum and Art Gallery

7:00 PM
Reconvene at the ALT

8:00 PM
Public Event: Green Spirits: Toasting to Environmental Change Location: Peter Easton's Pub



Appendix C: Background Summary of Equinor and the Bay du Nord Project

The Bay du Nord project is made up of several oil discoveries in the Flemish Pass basin, located about 500 km northeast of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The initial discovery was made by Equinor in 2013, followed by others in 2014, 2016, and 2020.



The main Bay du Nord field is in waters around 1170 meters deep. It would be the first deep water production project off Newfoundland, and would represent the beginning of a new phase of offshore oil production for Canada that could result in oil being produced for the next three decades.

Equinor plans to develop the field using a floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) unit, which is also suitable for connecting adjacent discoveries and future prospects. However, in May 2023, due to changing market conditions and high cost inflation - as well as pressure from the climate community to halt the project - Equinor and its partner BP decided to postpone the project by up to three years. This delay will be used to optimize the project and improve its competitiveness by working with partners, contractors, and stakeholders.



The Bay du Nord project presents itself generally as a significant enhancement to the local oil and gas supply chain. While it aligns with Equinor’s standard for low-carbon strategy and promises energy-efficient technologies, the reliance on fossil fuel extraction raises questions about its long-term environmental impacts on surrounding communities. Despite claims of prioritizing local suppliers and adhering to the Accord Acts, there is underlying skepticism about whether the procurement process will genuinely benefit local businesses or merely meet minimal regulatory requirements.

Resistance to the project relies on revealing the accurate number of jobs and local benefits the project will create should the project proceed. Employment opportunities are said to focus on local residents and promote diversity and inclusion. However, time will tell if these initiatives will lead to substantial and lasting job creation or if they will be limited to temporary, low-skill positions. The project's emphasis on safety and sustainability, may seem laudable, but it might be overshadowed by the risks associated with offshore oil extraction in harsh environments.

Equinor's commitment to zero harm and robust environmental management must be scrutinized, especially considering the historical challenges of maintaining such standards in the oil industry of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Additionally, while the project promises to contribute to provincial revenues and support community initiatives, these benefits must be weighed against potential environmental and social costs. The long-term impact on the region's ecosystem and the effectiveness of the promised community support, particularly in youth development, remain areas of concern.



Weaving Data and Stories for Change

Office Mailing Address:

The Mixed Coast Collective
4 Cookstown Road
St. John's, NL
A1C 4G4

Contact Information:

Kassandra Drodge: kassiedrodge@gmail.com
Jude Benoit: judecutler02@gmail.com
Robert Leamon: rcvleamon@gmail.com



Thank you to our supporters, friends, and allied organizations:



.. And many more!

