



Challenge Dialogue Process

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**Adaptation
Learning Network**

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Inspiring Climate Action: Challenge Dialogue Process

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Report on the Challenge Dialogue System Process

The ***Inspiring Climate Action: BC Professionals Adaptation Network Project*** aims to:

- 1) develop and deliver high quality continuing professional development training with topics focused on climate adaptation;
- 2) develop a Climate Adaptation Competency Framework; and
- 3) implement a climate adaptation Professional Learning Community to share and leverage the expertise and motivations of professionals to build adaptation resilience and capacity in BC.

For the initial phase of the Inspiring Climate Action project two distinct stakeholder engagement and information gathering initiatives were undertaken in the period February – June 2019. These initiatives established the needs and priorities of our stakeholders:

1. a gap analysis, and
2. the Challenge Dialogue process

Two key stakeholder groups involved in the project are Professional Associations in BC (including the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC, Association of BC Forest Professionals, BC Institute of Agrologists, BC Society of Landscape Architects, College of Applied Biology, Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, and Planning Institute of BC) and BC post-secondary institutions (including Royal Roads University, Simon Fraser University, University of Northern BC, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University, and Capilano University).

The gap analysis was conducted to identify what relevant courseware was available either through the participating Professional Associations (PAs) or through the participating Post-Secondary Institutions (PSIs). The gap analysis was limited to offerings in BC from January 2018 onward that were advertised between January 4 and May 12, 2019. These included online courseware published prior to 2018. A report on the *Current State of Adaptation-Focused Offerings* was produced and used to inform a survey of professional association members (results of which are detailed in a *Climate Adaptation Professional Development Interests* report).

The *Challenge Dialogue* process was undertaken from March to June 2019. As a first step, a *Challenge Paper* was created outlining the project's challenges and assumptions. This was distributed to over 140 people, of whom 96 people from 88 different organizations responded (68% response rate). These responses were then reviewed, analyzed, and summarized in a *Challenge Paper Progress Report*. This report was sent out to over 230 people in the expanding professional network.

Following the *Challenge Paper*, we convened a day-long *Challenge Dialogue Workshop* with 50 participants from key stakeholder groups (professional associations, post-secondary institutions, and other BC sectors). The evaluation of the Challenge Dialogue Workshop follows.



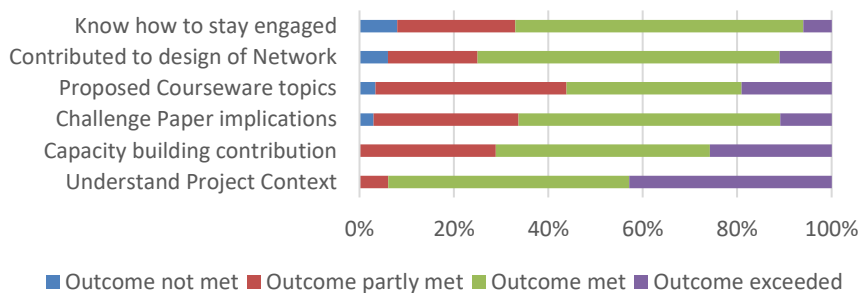
Evaluation of The Challenge Dialogue Workshop

The **Inspiring Climate Action** project team facilitated the *Challenge Dialogue Workshop* on June 11, 2019 at Simon Fraser University's Segal Building in Downtown Vancouver. This workshop was the final stage of the *Challenge Dialogue Process*, a method of gathering input from many stakeholders about existing and required climate adaptation knowledge for professionals. The Workshop hosted 46 participants drawn from professional associations' leadership, post-secondary continuing studies departments, academics whose research is related to climate adaptation, and certified professionals who work for consulting firms, municipalities, and government entities. At the end of the day, 36 people submitted simple evaluations of the workshop.

The evaluation asked participants to rank the 6 expected outcomes that were established and agreed upon at the beginning of the workshop, so that by the end of the workshop participants would have...

1. Gained a better understanding of the context for the project;
2. Gained an understanding of how the project anticipates contributing to building capacity for climate adaptation in BC;
3. Gained a deeper understanding of the feedback from the Challenge Paper and its implications for the project;
4. Proposed climate change adaptation courseware topics for potential development by project partners;
5. Contributed their views on design considerations and features of a proposed "Professionals Network" aimed at providing support and maintaining the momentum (e.g., community of practice), and
6. Developed an understanding of the next steps in the project and ways to stay engaged and continue to contribute.

Ranking of Expected Outcomes of Challenge Dialogue Workshop



Based on the evaluations, participants generally indicated that workshop planners and facilitators met or exceeded the expected outcomes of the workshop.

Participants provided positive feedback on the facilitation approach and expressed appreciation for the chance to have discussions with those in other disciplines. Some participants indicated the day felt too full and recommended a focus on fewer topics, or a focus only on areas where input was essential. As one participant suggested, "focus areas of participant feedback on where we could have the most input vs. what might be already set by the funding agreement."

In one key session, participants were asked to discuss, collaborate, and propose courseware topics for climate adaptation, leading to 45 proposals for courseware topics, a major positive output for the workshop. However, there was feedback that data drawn from the Professional Association Membership Survey would have helped in making informed recommendations on courseware topics. The survey data analysis was unfortunately not yet available for Workshop participants in early June.

The *Challenge Dialogue Workshop* evaluation feedback was helpful to guide subsequent events. It indicated that Inspiring Climate Action stakeholders have a high degree of engagement, expertise and future expectations.