

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Meeting this moment of climate crisis requires a reevaluation of global citizenship, necessitating a shift in priorities toward honoring and protecting the Land. Being global citizens requires a deep-rooted connection to the Land, a principle long upheld by many Indigenous communities worldwide. Indigenous knowledge has cared for the Land for thousands of years and Lil'wat Nation has stewarded their territories since time immemorial. Fostering a reciprocal relationship of respect, care, and mutual existence with the Land asks us to treat the Land as more than a commodity and embrace it as a living entity deserving respect and protection.

Talking about the climate crisis can be difficult and bring up strong feelings. Here are some helpful guidelines developed by VIDEA's Climate Justice team to take climate action in your own workplaces or communities.

We **LOVE** the Land - we like to ask people what you love about the Land you call home? How can you care for the Land? What is the Land trying to tell you? Talking about climate change can feel big and scary but talking about the Land is **WAY MORE FUN** and makes talking about everyday climate solutions more accessible. We all have something we can do to connect with the Land and show it some love.

Let's create the future we want to live in together! Climate focused resources often focus on the issues and all the scary things that we're facing. There is a time and place for this for sure. **HOWEVER**, there is already enough fear to go around and that isn't very motivating. In our work, we prefer to focus on what we can do in the places we live and in the lives that we already have.

EVERYONE has something to contribute - we all live on this beautiful, spinning globe and so we all have experiences with the Land! Whether it's childhood memories of digging for worms or a growing appreciation for getting outside, we all have ways that we connect with the Land.

Meet people where they are at! It's super normal to have big climate feelings and these can change from day to day. Maybe you feel anxiety, anger, sadness, or numbness for what's happening or maybe you feel so in love with the Land, you could burst! However, people feel, and wherever they are at - there is space for them and all of their feelings.

On the next page!

YCP Leader Kwiwks Elizabeth Peters shares amazing insights into how this Indigenous lens of responsibility towards the Land can be a guiding light to understanding our roles as global citizens!

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AN INTERVIEW WITH KWIWKS ELIZABETH PETERS



There is a lot of power within a name. I am named after my mom, and my great-grandma: Elizabeth Carol Alexandra Peters and traditional name; Kwiwks (sound it out: Kwee-ooo-Kshh), which means small in my language of Ucwalmicwts because my grandma Elizabeth was a very small lady (I was taller than her by the age of 8, which can also be true today but we're talking 4'7 yenno?). And with these names I am small yet powerful and deeply loving, I don't need to take up a lot of space in life to make a difference aye ☺. And I do this Climate Community Justice work in honor of my ancestors who have come before me, the earth that loves me, and the generations to come after me in hopes I keep the life I love intact for them so they have something to work with and a place to call home. Thank you for your time in reading this.

What is the connection between global citizenship and the need to take care of the Land?

With our everyday decisions, there is some impact made on the Land. Right from our choices in tech companies, to who we get our insurance from, to the shampoo we use, to what we think about. I'm not saying it's on all of us, I'm talking about influence. If we look for opportunities for Just Transition, and get outside, literally, we can shift into something different, a different way of being and knowing. By Just Transition, I mean the intentional and organizational switch from non-renewables to green initiative and making sure that no one is left behind. There's something for everyone! Even for loggers and oil employees, so no one loses their employment status, and the planet can have a chance. This starts by getting outside of our boxes and going to info sessions, taking free classes, or attending nature walks! These are opportunities to receive guidance on how we can positively participate and engage with the Land.



How can people be good stewards to the land?

Being more present can do wonders. It can look like a lot of things, like praying for the water while we serve ourselves a cup, or giving words of encouragement to the leadership in your area that matches your own values, sharing your climate-focused friends business promotions, or going out and asking a tree if you can give it a hug and listening for its answer. These are acts of being good stewards, along with being mindful to not waste and sharing good energy. It may not seem relevant, but it really is. The Land listens and talks back! And right now, it is telling us that we are in crisis with every climate disaster. Therefore, a good steward finds creative ways to give thanks to the land we reside on. It's a lifestyle!



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**What does global solidarity mean to you given the current climate crisis?
What should young Canadians be prioritizing?**

Young Canadians can prioritize learning the stories of the Land on which they reside, as well as their own history. By learning about these histories, they can decide on their own which ways speak to them in becoming climate champions. It is important to prioritize that the accumulation of small acts of love can grow into something magnificent! It only took one person with one thought to start up the system of recycling glass windows. Now, thousands of pounds of waste are recycled into other materials instead of going into the landfills. That's powerful! Our ideas are powerful! This relates to global solidarity because when you find your own small niche, it can positively affect the rest of the planet! Especially when it's empowered by a good-hearted intentions, engagement and follow-up with the territory the project is meant for. A Just Transition world needs all hands-on deck! Find your climate engagement sweet spot and create your list of stuff that fills your cup up while you tend to it!



Talk about the significance of preserving Indigenous knowledge in the face of climate change.

Our ways of law and order, of knowing and being, are held and explained in our traditional languages that don't get grasped as wholesomely when translated into English. Our stories, songs, and ways of life are teachers on how we can take care of the sky, the air, the water, the soil, the animals, the trees, and ourselves! There's methods on how to do that. There's so much to storytelling, I welcome you to find a place to listen to some whether that be your friends, your local museum, or a cultural tour, there's an experience there for everyone. Preservation of Indigenous knowledge is sooo important because in these stories are the answers to the questions that everyone is searching for in the climate crisis. Indigenous peoples have the path to nurturing and protecting the Land!



How would the fusion of Indigenous knowledge and global efforts reshape our strategies against climate change?

Climate change is the symptom; colonialism is the disease! Indigenous-led climate action is the solution. In this one sentence there's so much to take from it. In an Indigenous-led climate strategy, we would be concerned about safety for our people, their health and wellbeing! Then we would take care of the structures around us and be interconnected across the globe. There's proof of ancient trading trails and immense wealth in nutrition pre-colonial contact in Indigenous communities and by refocussing our goals and intentions I know we can return to a more sustainable world! And that would result in positive climate action. The mountains can take a relieving breath, the waters can flow as they need to, and the animals can restore their own balance.

That sounds really lovely!

