

SUMMARY

ENERGY AND CLIMATE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SESSIONS

2024



KEY ENERGY PRIORITIES

Cost of Energy: Participants expressed significant concerns about affordability, particularly regarding housing and utility bills. Many feared rising costs associated with transitioning to renewable energy, with some stating that only the wealthy can afford to "go green" currently.

Reducing Environmental Impact: There was a strong emphasis on protecting natural resources and implementing energy systems with minimal environmental harm. Participants raised concerns about various renewable energy technologies, including the lifecycle of solar panels and wind turbines, impacts on wildlife, and potential risks of nuclear energy.

Reliable Energy Access: Reliability was a key concern, especially in light of recent grid alerts. Participants stressed the importance of maintaining consistent energy supply in Alberta's cold climate, highlighting the need for emergency preparedness and equitable energy conservation efforts across residential and commercial sectors.

VISIONS OF ENERGY TRANSITION

Diverse Perspectives: Participants expressed a range of emotions about transitioning from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources, including excitement, curiosity, uncertainty, and fear. While some couldn't envision a shift away from fossil fuels, most were open to or passionate about incorporating renewable energy into their lives.

Balanced Approach: Many participants advocated for a future that includes both fossil fuels and renewable energy, emphasizing the need for energy system diversification. They recognized the necessity of adapting to changing times while acknowledging the current importance of the oil and gas industry.

Localized Solutions and Transparency: Participants strongly preferred tailored, community-specific approaches to energy transition rather than one-size-fits-all policies. They also stressed the importance of clear, consistent communication from leaders about transition plans, expressing frustration with unclear or conflicting policies across different levels of government.



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Project Timeline: March 02- May 01

The engagement approach used was based on Iron & Earth's model. It emphasizes consent and agency, and is supported by socially just practices designed to meet people where they are and build trust.



TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

283

CITIZEN REQUESTS

Access to Information

- Enthusiasm for expanding their knowledge about energy
- Guidance in understanding renewable energy
- More information about the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's energy-related plans

Financial Support for Retrofits and Utilities

- Support in accessing grants, incentives, and rebates for renewables and energy efficiency retrofits
- Concerns about high utility costs, especially for elders on fixed incomes

Continuous Engagement and Consultation

- Emphasis on ongoing engagement with governmental bodies and energy companies
- Include three key demographics: oil and gas workers, youth, and elders
- Call for rigorous consultation processes for all energy development projects

Training Support for Workers

- Concerns about potential job losses in the transition to renewable energy
- Investment in subsidized training opportunities

Advocacy with Government and Industry

- Métis government to be a strong voice with energy companies and other governments
- Unrelenting advocacy to elevate Métis voices and win benefits for the community
- Mixed views on the pace of energy transition, but consistent call for strong representation

SESSIONS LOCATIONS AND DATES

Medicine Hat, March 2

Calgary, March 3

Smoky Lake, March 12

Fort McMurray, March 13

High Prairie, March 19

Fort Vermillion, March 20

Edmonton, March 23

Online, March 24-26

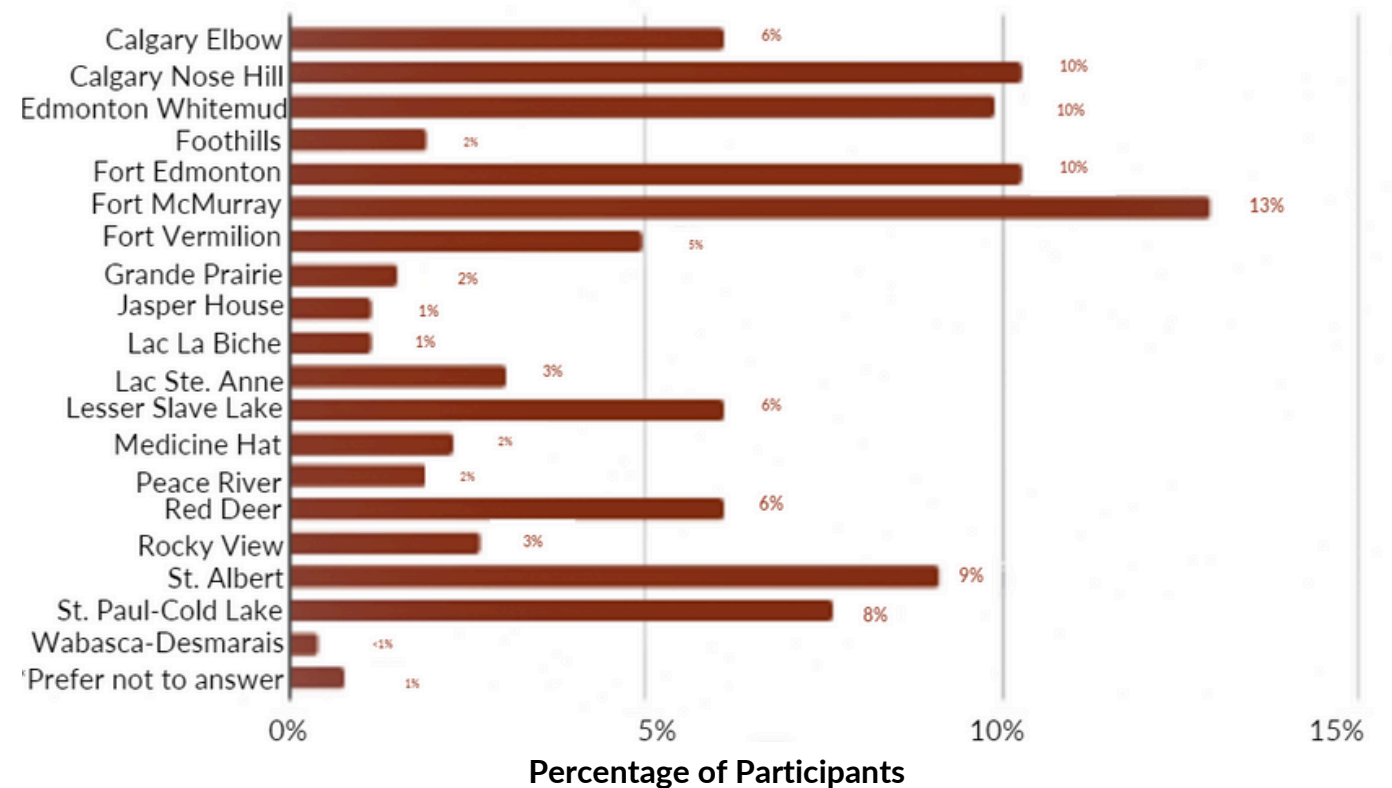


SURVEY RESPONSES RECEIVED:

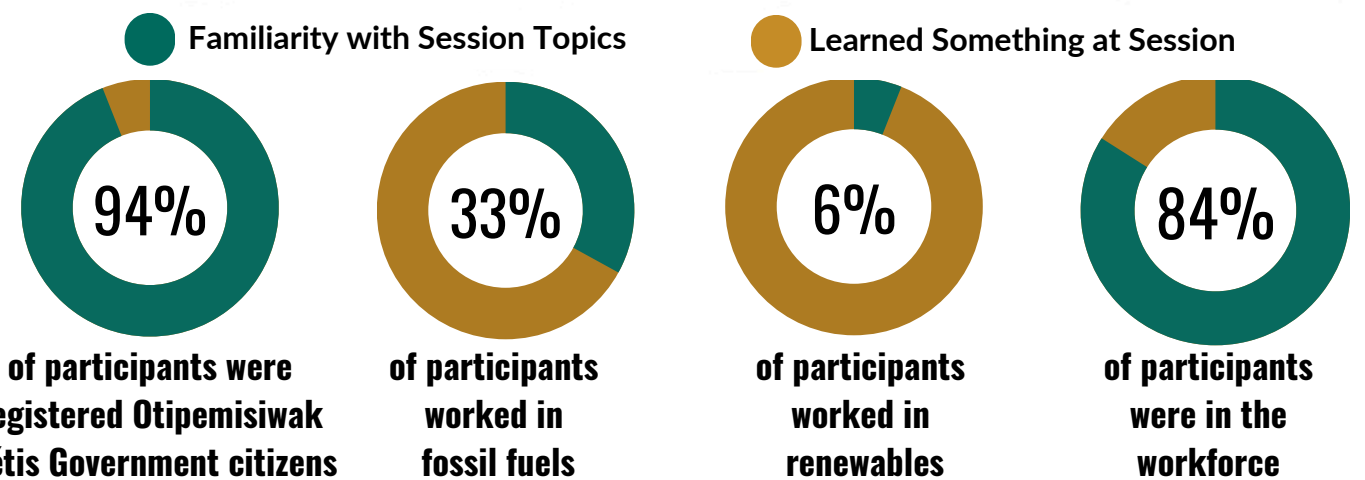
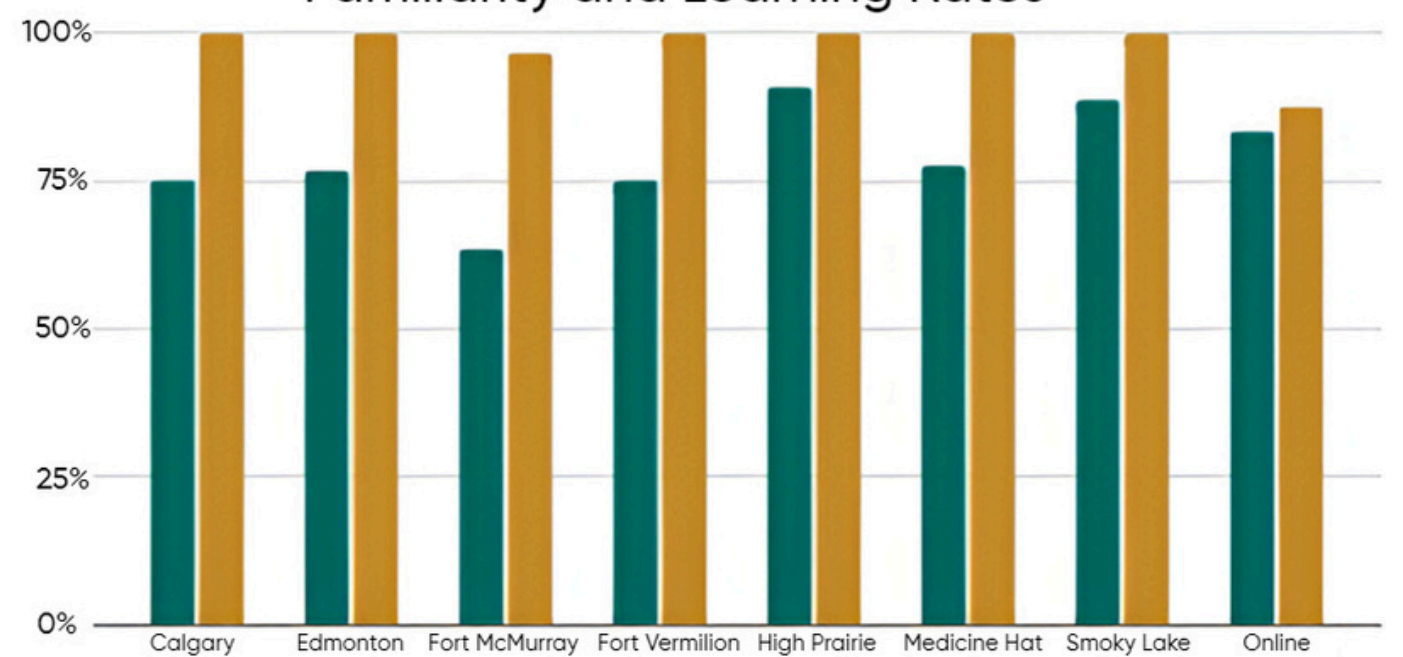
April 6 - April 30

PARTICIPANT INSIGHTS

Métis Districts Of Residence



Familiarity and Learning Rates



Otipemisiwak
Métis Government

Environment & Climate Change Department
climate@metis.org

In partnership with

