

Acting on Climate Change: Extending the Dialogue Among Canadians

A collection of texts in response to

*Acting on Climate Change:
Solutions from Canadian Scholars*,

a consensus document released in March 2015



Faculty of
Science



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

NORDMAB'S STUDENTS ON ICE

CORINE CADORET AND NOAH PICARD-SIMON

Resulting from a call for applications issued by the Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve (RMBMU), two students from that region were selected to participate in an Arctic expedition July 28th - August 9th, 2015: Corine Cadoret and Noah Simon Picard.

This initiative was the result of a partnership between the renowned international organization Students On Ice and UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Northern network (NordMAB), mainly supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. As co-leader of this network, the RMBMU received funding for participation of the two Manicouagan youth from the Department of International Relations and La Francophonie and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

In addition to the pre-departure activities coordinated by Students On Ice, Corine and Noah held preparatory meetings with the Société du Plan Nord and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. In addition, a meeting with Dr. Catherine Potvin of Sustainable Canada Dialogues was held to prepare the drafting and dissemination of a call to action that would be an outcome of the youth's observations and reflections during and after their expedition. The experience has inspired them to share with the world what is happening in real time in the Arctic and how youth can play a role in the fight against climate change. After writing their call to action, the youth received endorsement from 66 other student participants of the 2015 expedition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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OFFICIAL WEBSITE
studentsonice.com



NOAH PICARD-SIMON & CORINE CADORET

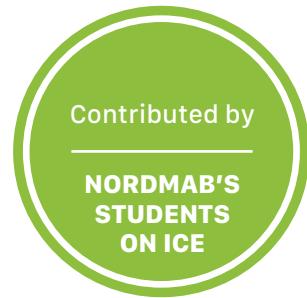
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"I was impressed to feel at home in the Inuit communities despite the distance, isolation and difference of language. At the same time, there was something similar to what I know; we have common challenges, and community and family life that resemble one another. After the expedition, I enrolled in a technical program in wildlife and land management, whereas before the expedition, I had no idea what I really wanted to study."

Noah Picard-Simon, 17 years old, student from Pessamit

"I walked on a huge glacier and the experience was very inspiring. However, one of the specialists present told us that if we were to return to the same place next year we would be walking on stones, because this part of the glacier will have melted. It made me realize the impact on northern territories of industrialized countries' decisions. This motivated me to want to share with my region my experience in the Arctic."

Corine Cadoret, 17 years old, student from Baie-Comeau



Call to Action

Original text in French available at www.sustainablecanadadialogues.ca/fr/vert/versundialogue

On July 29th, 2015 we began our Arctic expedition along with more than 100 other students from all around the world, plus 80 experts from the scientific, artistic and cultural worlds. The main objective was to better understand and observe changes in Greenland and Nunavut due to climate change. After two weeks of expedition, we had gained new cultural and scientific knowledge, inspiring us to raise the world's awareness about what is happening in real time in the North and why we, the youth, must act today.

First of all, most people seem to be ignorant of the diversity of life that occupies polar territories. Indeed, we need to realize that inhabitants of the Earth's summit are the first victims of our actions and that we are progressively destroying what they have built over thousands of years. As an example, pollution residues from China were discovered beyond the Arctic Circle. For us, this is non-negligible evidence that regions visited during the expedition are affected by the choices of rich countries. The heads of state around the world must understand that their decisions affect the Arctic and, like the canary in the coal mine, what is happening in the North is only a foretaste of what awaits us all. As young citizens of the world, we realized

that the present of northern communities is a reflection of our future.

As we speak, Arctic communities are facing melting ice. This fact challenges the knowledge of nature that Arctic elders have developed and used for thousands of years, and drastically affects their lifestyle. Besides being essential to their way of life and the practice of their traditional activities, the ice is the habitat of numerous species that play an important role in ecosystems. So, if it disappears, CO₂ emitters will be the cause of the extinction of a flame that has illuminated a region of the world since time immemorial.

Listening to the testimonies of communities who live every day what we experienced during those two weeks, we realized that too little is done by industrialized countries to prevent climate change. Being young people who have had the opportunity to explore the Arctic, we are particularly moved by current decisions taken by industrialized countries that will affect us all sooner rather than later.

In 2015, it is our duty to mobilize not only for the Arctic, but especially to limit the consequences of climate change around the globe. The voice of youth supports the scientists

in their efforts to shake our leaders. We appeal to all young people to get informed and to remain alert to any opportunities that arise around them to make their voices heard, whether participating in a local, national or international event, targeting climate change

as a subject in school work or being involved in a local committee. We recognize the importance of seizing these opportunities, but also of having the courage to create them ourselves. The impacts are visible, the damage is extensive and it is time for action!

Endorsed by

1. **Ahmad Amirul Farhan bin Zulkifli**, 16 years old, Terengganu, Malaysia
2. **Alice Xu**, 16 years old, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada
3. **Alicia Wang**, 15 years old, Shanghai, China
4. **Amber Rose Dwyer**, 18 years old, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
5. **Andrew Fitzsimmons**, 23 years old, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
6. **Andrew Xu**, 16 years old, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
7. **Ashley Cummings**, 17 years old, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada
8. **Béatrice Chemtov**, 16 years old, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
9. **Brian Robert Ituluk**, 17 years old, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada
10. **Caitlyn Baikie**, 23 years old, Nain, Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
11. **Cameron Flooren**, 17 years old, Fort Vermilion, Alberta, Canada
12. **Camille Morin**, 30 years old, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
13. **Charmaine Putulik**, 17 years old, Naujaat, Nunavut, Canada
14. **Christella Igihozo**, 18 years old, Rwanda
15. **Christina Cheung**, 17 years old, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
16. **Cody Pisteolak**, 18 years old, Pond Inlet, Nunavut, Canada
17. **Dakshita Jagota**, 17 years old, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
18. **Darshana Powell**, 14 years old, Barrie, Ontario, Canada
19. **Didiane Shengedidi**, 17 years old, Rwanda
20. **Emi Kingan**, 15 years old, Hong Kong, China
21. **Erinn Drage**, 20 years old, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
22. **Evie Rowe**, 13 years old, Washington, USA
23. **Frédérika Giorcelli**, 17 years old, Monaco
24. **Gabrielle Foss**, 18 years old, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

25. **Gage Nochasak**, 17 years old, Nunatsiavut, Labrador, Canada
26. **Goliah Makletzoff-Cazon**, 18 years old, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada
27. **Grace King**, 17 years old, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
28. **Henry Daniel**, 17 years old, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
29. **Indigo Goehring**, 14 years old, Nevada City, California, USA
30. **Isobel Obrecht**, 15 years old, San Francisco, California, USA
31. **James Takkiruq**, 15 years old, Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, Canada
32. **Jesse Zarger**, 17 years old, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
33. **Justin Roméo Jean-Jacques Sargent**, 16 years old, Menton, Monaco
34. **Kathleen Morrissey**, 23 years old, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
35. **Kevin Huo**, 16 years old, Foster City, California, USA
36. **Kristine Onsum Moseid**, 23 years old, Oslo, Norway
37. **Krystyna Urbancic**, 17 years old, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
38. **Lindsay Joy Evaloajuk**, 19 years old, Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut, Canada
39. **Lindsey Zeikel**, 19 years old, New Jersey, USA
40. **Lyric Oblin-Moses**, 17 years old, Waswanipi, Quebec, Canada
41. **Mackenzie Jefferies**, 17 years old, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
42. **Madeline Yaaka**, 14 years old, Kangiqsujuaq, Quebec, Canada
43. **Madi Sherritt**, 17 years old, Carman, Manitoba, Canada
44. **Malu Ostermann**, 18 years old, Sisimiut, Greenland
45. **Matt Thompson**, 16 years old, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
46. **Matthew Newell**, 15 years old, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
47. **Mehra Balsara**, 16 years old, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada
48. **Michael Mehreteab**, 17 years old, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
49. **Michal Leckie**, 17 years old, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
50. **Milo Goehring**, 11 years old, Nevada City, California, USA
51. **Myca Nakashuk**, 16 years old, Pangnirtung, Nunavut, Canada
52. **Nathan Luke Pinto**, 17 years old, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
53. **Nicholas Leroux**, 16 years old, Chelsea, Quebec, Canada
54. **Parr Josephee**, 16 years old, Cape Dorset, Nunavut, Canada
55. **Pauli Illuitok**, 22 years old, Kugaaruk, Nunavut, Canada

56. **Petra Brown**, 17 years old, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
57. **Phoenix Masson-Wavey**, 18 years old, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
58. **Rachel Boere**, 20 years old, London, Ontario, Canada
59. **Raphaël Dury**, 20 years old, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
60. **Robert Comeau**, 20 years old, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada
61. **Robert Hrabchak**, 20 years old, New Jersey, USA
62. **Ruth Suwaksoek Kaviok**, 17 years old, Arviat, Nunavut, Canada
63. **Shadunjen van Kampen**, 17 years old, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada
64. **Shawn Tourangeau**, 17 years old, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Canada
65. **Sophia Winkler**, 18 years old, Carrboro, North Carolina, USA
66. **Vivian Lee**, 18 years old, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

SUSTAINABLE CANADA DIALOGUES

This contribution is part of a collection of texts, *Acting on Climate Change: Extending the Dialogue Among Canadians*, stemming from interactions between Sustainable Canada Dialogues, an initiative of the UNESCO-McGill Chair for Dialogues on Sustainability, and business associations, First Nations, non-governmental organizations, labour groups, institutions, organizations and private citizens.

Sustainable Canada Dialogues is a voluntary initiative that mobilizes over 60 researchers from every province in Canada, representing disciplines across engineering, sciences and social sciences. We are motivated by a shared view that putting options on the table will stimulate action and is long overdue in Canada.

Together, the contributions enrich the scope of possible solutions and show that Canada is brimming with ideas, possibilities and the will to act. The views expressed in *Acting on Climate Change: Extending the Dialogue Among Canadians* are those of the contributors, and are not necessarily endorsed by Sustainable Canada Dialogues.

We thank all contributors for engaging in this dialogue with us to help reach a collective vision of desired pathways to our futures.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

sustainablecanadadialogues.ca/en/scd/acting-on-climate-change