

# Education and Climate Change

As leaders and change-markers met in Dubai for COP28, People for Education’s Pan-Canadian Youth Network convened to discuss the role of education in climate action with Elizabeth May, environmentalist and leader of the Green Party of Canada. This is what they had to say.

## What are the “green skills” young people should be learning to create a positive shift in climate change now and in the future?

Communication & collaboration

Science and climate literacy

Adaptability

Sustainable living skills

Systems thinking and human-centred design

Advocacy and public speaking

## What do youth think about gaps in Canada’s climate change education?

- “I wish I was given the opportunity to learn about Indigenous knowledge systems, perspectives, and traditions from Indigenous experts.”
- “I wish I learned how to make concrete change and more specific statistics.”
- “I wish I learned how Canada contributed to the overall climate crisis.”
- “I wish I learned more about historical movements regarding climate change and in what ways people collaborated to protest/enact change against global warming.”
- “I wish I was taught the realities of climate change’s impact, the generational effects, and how we continuously contribute to it as human beings.”

## What do youth say needs to happen next to improve climate change education in schools?

“We need to have more time and space for dialogue to process climate realities.”

“We’re learning things on paper and learning the negative impacts in theory, but not learning what we could do to change it.”

“The next generations will provide leadership. We need fact-checking, critical thinking, and advocacy skills.”

“Instill responsibility for the planet by incorporating more time in nature.”

