# EELL 2025 CANADA CONFERENCE REPORT

*Report and Communiqué from the 3rd Global Conference on Environmental Education and Lifelong Learning*

**Conference Dates:** October 16-17, 2025
**Location:** Viceroy Banquet Hall, 4220 Steeles Ave W, Unit A1-A6, Vaughan, Ontario, Canada
**Host Organizations:** PACC Policy (Pan-African Centre for Climate Policy) & EELL'25 Toronto

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 3rd Global Conference on Environmental Education and Lifelong Learning (EELL 2025) convened in Toronto, Canada, on October 16-17, 2025, bringing together an exceptional assembly of environmental leaders, educators, policymakers, Indigenous rights advocates, health professionals, and community organizers from across the globe. This landmark gathering featured comprehensive presentations spanning behavioral sustainability, wildlife conservation, youth empowerment, food sovereignty, urban climate adaptation, extractive industry regulation, environmental health governance, Indigenous health impacts, and agricultural equity.

With a particular emphasis on African contexts—including Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe—alongside United Kingdom and Canadian Indigenous experiences, as well as global food sovereignty movements, the conference provided an unprecedented examination of environmental leadership across multiple scales, sectors, and geographies. The intellectual coherence achieved despite this remarkable diversity stands as a testament to the underlying unity of environmental justice struggles worldwide.

The conference demonstrated that environmental challenges—whether manifesting as air pollution in Accra, mercury contamination in Canadian Indigenous territories, deforestation from Ghanaian mining, urban heat islands in West African cities, plastic waste in sacred pilgrimage sites, or land dispossession in Zimbabwe's sugar belt—share common roots in colonial legacies, extractive capitalism, and the systematic marginalization of Indigenous and local knowledge systems. Equally important, the conference revealed that solutions share common elements: centering Indigenous sovereignty and knowledge, implementing true cost accounting that includes environmental and social externalities, valuing care work and relational approaches to land, strengthening community-led monitoring and governance, and fundamentally transforming rather than merely reforming systems that generate environmental destruction and health inequities.

# CONFERENCE OPENING AND FRAMEWORK

The conference opened on October 16th with a land acknowledgement, recognizing that the gathering took place on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Seneca, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations peoples, establishing from the outset the conference's commitment to Indigenous protocols and recognition. Conference Coordinator Kwame Anane Frempong, Executive Director of the Pan African


Centre for Climate Policy, welcomed participants and outlined the conference's ambitious scope, emphasizing the interconnectedness of environmental education, Indigenous knowledge systems, and lifelong learning as key imperatives for climate action and sustainable development.

Conference Chair Nana Appa Korankye VII, Chief of Ekumfi Abaka, Ghana, and Member of the Board of Advisors for PACC Policy, delivered opening remarks emphasizing the critical importance of bridging traditional African wisdom with contemporary environmental challenges. His presence symbolized the conference's commitment to centering African leadership and perspectives in global environmental discourse.

Distinguished greetings were extended by Mr. Peter Taylor, Consul-General of the Ghana Consulate in Toronto, and Mr. Emmanuel Duodu, President of the Ghana Canadian Association of Ontario, demonstrating strong governmental and diaspora support for the conference's objectives.

The conference was moderated by Prof. Dr. Samuel N Jacobs-Abbey, Chief Learning Officer (CLO) and Executive Director of Jacobs-Abbey Global Institute for Leadership Studies (Jagils Education Center, USA)

# DAY ONE HIGHLIGHTS: GOVERNANCE, INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, AND SUSTAINABILITY


**Strengthening Ghana's Climate Resilience: The Role of the Environmental Protection Authority**

Professor Nana Ama Browne Klutse, Chief Executive Officer of Ghana's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), delivered a comprehensive presentation establishing air pollution as Ghana's number one environmental health risk and the sixth-ranked cause of death nationwide. She documented that 100 percent of Ghana's population is exposed to PM2.5 levels exceeding WHO recommendations, causing approximately 16,000 premature deaths annually—8,800 from household air pollution and 7,200 from ambient pollution—representing 4-5 percent of Ghana's GDP in economic costs.

Professor Klutse outlined the EPA's multi-sectoral interventions, including the establishment of an Air Quality Monitoring Network in major cities, the implementation of the Clean Air Accra Project in collaboration with the World Bank, the introduction of mandatory vehicle emission testing, and the promotion of clean cooking transitions that have reached over 100,000 households.

She documented that water pollution costs Ghana nearly 3 percent of its GDP annually and leads to approximately 10,600 premature deaths, with once-pristine rivers, including the Pra, Offin, and Ankobra, now severely polluted.
The presentation highlighted Ghana's plastic waste crisis, with 3,000 metric tons generated daily and 86 percent of it mismanaged, resulting in urban flooding and environmental contamination. Professor Klutse detailed the EPA's comprehensive regulatory framework, including the National Plastics Management Policy with Extended Producer Responsibility provisions, effluent discharge permitting systems, and the innovative Akoben Environmental Performance Rating Programme that publicly rates mining operations using a five-color scheme from Gold (excellent) to Red (very poor performance).

Regarding climate change, she documented that Ghana's average temperatures have risen by over 1°C since 1960, with impacts including urban flash floods, coastal erosion at hotspots such as Keta, heat stress in cities, drought affecting northern agriculture, and threats to critical infrastructure. The EPA coordinates implementation of Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, targeting 64 million tons of CO2 equivalent emissions reductions by 2030 through renewable energy expansion, reforestation programs, including the Greening Ghana Initiative that has planted over 10 million trees, and climate-resilient agriculture promotion.

**Indigenous Lands, Sustainable Futures, and Corporate Impacts**
Joseph Amankrah, President of F.O.A.C Technical Manufacturing and Training Corp., examined the effects of large corporations on Indigenous lands and sustainable futures, highlighting tensions between economic development and Indigenous rights. His presentation emphasized the need for genuine partnerships that respect Indigenous sovereignty while enabling sustainable economic opportunities.

**Balancing Prosperity and Heritage**
Honorary Consul Mani Singh of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Toronto delivered the keynote address on balancing prosperity and heritage, examining how Indigenous lands, big corporations, and sustainable futures can coexist through frameworks that prioritize Indigenous rights, environmental protection, and equitable benefit-sharing. He emphasized that true sustainability requires moving beyond extractive relationships toward regenerative approaches that honor Indigenous stewardship and knowledge.

# DAY TWO: COMPREHENSIVE PRESENTATIONS ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

**Behavioral Climate Action: The Missing Link in Sustainability**
Neha Devapuja from India presented groundbreaking work on the importance of behavioral insights for effective climate action and sustainability. She contrasted system-first approaches, which are infrastructure-heavy, with behavior-first approaches that rely on human insights, arguing that enforcement is less effective than empowerment in promoting sustainable practices and that short-term compliance does not foster long-term cultural change.

Devapuja documented the behavior deficit in global climate policy, noting disconnects between policy and participation, awareness and action, and infrastructure and adoption. She introduced Deposit Refund Systems (DRS) as behavioral circularity mechanisms, citing examples from Kedarnath, a pilgrimage site facing plastic crisis from 5.6 million annual visitors. The DRS initiative collected 2 million bottles, saved 66 metric tons of CO2, created 110 jobs with 37.5 percent income increases in the informal sector, reduced government waste-handling costs by ₹3.73 crore, and increased proper waste-disposal behavior by 21 percent.

She also presented the Coastal Fishermen initiative where communities turned waste into wealth, recovering over 70 tonnes of waste in six months while boosting income by ₹2,500-₹3,000 per month and gaining dignity, visibility, and voice. Devapuja outlined the science of change through three principles: Identity (sustainability embedded in personal identity), Incentive (immediate rewards more effective than distant moral appeals), and Norms (visible sustainable behaviors spread rapidly through social sharing). Her takeaway emphasized designing solutions with people in mind to transform awareness into action and make behavior central to sustainability efforts.

**Kahuzi-Biega – Itombwe Corridor for Landscape and Wildlife Restoration**
Dr. Kerry Bowman, Matt Brunette, and Dominique Bikaba presented the Forest Health Alliance's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo, focusing on wildlife restoration, community engagement, and biodiversity conservation in eastern DRC. Dr. Bowman, who has been active in the region for 25 years, explained that DRC is Africa's second-largest country with forests covering half its territory, representing over 76 percent of Congo Basin forests.

The presentation documented deforestation drivers including mining, agriculture, energy sources (with 98.6 percent sourced from wood), demography, and poverty, with mining contributing 72 percent to the local economy in the western corridor and 12 percent forest loss from 2013 to 2024. The project promotes ecological management through dialogues with ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) and participatory mapping, documenting traditional knowledge of local communities to enhance forest conservation.

Remarkably, 25 Forest Concessions of Local Communities (CFCLs) have been secured covering over 600,000 hectares, with 23 titles granted. The gorilla population has increased from 3,800 to 6,800, with 3,000 recorded in community forests. The Bagadais d'Albert (Prionops alberti), previously thought extinct, has been rediscovered, highlighting conservation success. The presentation emphasized that not all conservation initiatives effectively reduce poverty, that traditional knowledge is crucial for sustainable forestry, and that collaboration among stakeholders including donors, government, media, communities, and researchers is essential. The Forest Health Alliance's Strategic Plan (2026-2030) aims to enhance food security, sustainable agriculture, local infrastructure, reduce deforestation from 0.3 percent to 0.12 percent by 2030, and diversify local economic sources.

**Greening Skills and Youth Empowerment Through TWESEP**
Gideon Mumba from Zambia presented the Tourism, Wildlife, and Environmental Sustainability Education Project (TWESEP), a youth-driven initiative launched in January 2023 addressing gaps in environmental education and youth employment. The initiative recognizes limited integration of environmental education in early education systems, high youth unemployment, and insufficient pathways for acquiring green skills, while aligning with national and continental frameworks including the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) and Agenda 2063.

Ofori-Attah provided concrete examples of sustainable African traditions including sacred groves and forest conservation in Ghana and Nigeria, community farming systems, water conservation customs, agroforestry practices, cultivation of indigenous crop varieties for climate resilience, natural temperature control in traditional architecture, fire management systems, and maintenance of seed banks. He highlighted how women in vulnerable communities bear disproportionate, unpaid caregiving burdens during climate-related crises, arguing that empowering women and supporting their care work enhances community climate resilience.
The presentation outlined economic pathways through renewable energy enterprises, eco-tourism and cultural heritage sites, and sustainable agriculture and crafts, demonstrating how environmental stewardship can create green jobs and inclusive growth. Ofori-Attah concluded by showcasing the Mentors Foundation Ghana Prison Inmates Agricultural Project as tangible example of applying environmental stewardship principles in rehabilitation and community development contexts.

**Reclaiming Narrative Sovereignty in the Age of Green Revolutions**
Athanasios Mandis, Founder and Director of De La Tierra Ltd. and Cubos Solutions Ltd., delivered a powerful decolonial critique challenging dominant narratives surrounding food security and the Green Revolution. His central argument positioned hunger not as a technical problem of production but as a political and historical construct rooted in colonialism and capitalist accumulation.
Mandis traced a direct lineage from colonial plantations through the Industrial Revolution to contemporary agricultural systems, demonstrating how each iteration has reproduced extractive relationships with land and labor. He systematically dismantled the success narrative of the Green Revolution through case studies from Mexico and India, showing how hybrid seeds, mechanization, and chemical inputs displaced traditional seeds and knowledge systems while creating dependencies. In Mexico, NAFTA intensified these dynamics, leading to food dumping that displaced millions of subsistence farmers.

Drawing on WWF data, Mandis revealed that the true cost of food is approximately three times its market value when environmental and social externalities are accounted for, including water pollution, soil degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and diet-related illnesses. He documented that over 40 percent of Earth's land is degraded, affecting 3.2 billion people, with annual losses in ecosystem services ranging from $6 to $10 trillion.
Mandis introduced food sovereignty as articulated by Via Campesina in 1996, defining the right to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate food and food-producing resources. Drawing on scholars like Robin Wall Kimmerer, he positioned Indigenous cosmologies not as static beliefs but as living epistemologies that refuse the separation of humans from nature, highlighting examples including the Zapatista Movement, the Māori concept of Whenua, the Standing Rock Movement, and agroecology movements in Latin America. He concluded by arguing that reclaiming narrative sovereignty requires embracing plural epistemologies, local knowledge systems, and relational ontologies, emphasizing that to change the food system, we must first change its story.

**Corporate Land Use and Indigenous Health**
Dr. Cindy Sinclair and Dr. Kawalpreet Kaur from the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto examined how corporate land use, including mining, oil and gas development, logging, and deforestation, impacts public health in Indigenous communities across Canada and globally. They documented that 476 million Indigenous people worldwide (6.2 percent of global population) face life expectancy gaps up to 20 years lower than non-Indigenous populations, with 15 percent living in extreme poverty despite stewarding 80 percent of global biodiversity.
The presentation documented health impacts through multiple environmental exposure pathways: airborne (particulate matter causing asthma and COPD), waterborne (mercury causing neurological disorders), soil contamination (mining waste causing toxic ingestion), food chain bioaccumulation (contaminated fish causing mercury poisoning), and cultural disruption (restricted land access causing mental health deterioration). Canadian case studies included Grassy Narrows (mercury contamination), Fort Chipewyan (elevated cancer rates from tar sands), and Giant Mine (arsenic contamination).

The presenters positioned land not merely as resource but as source of medicine for mind, body, and spirit, with traditional land-based practices restoring balance and resilience. They highlighted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 18-24 addressing health, urging recognition that poor health outcomes are direct results of colonial land policies. Policy recommendations included mandating community-led Indigenous Health Impact Assessments, requiring binding Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, funding Indigenous governance, using culturally aligned health metrics, and investing in remediation, food security, and health infrastructure.

**Mining, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development in Ghana**
Dr. Patrick Essien, Deputy Director of the Mining Department at Ghana's EPA, tackled complex tensions between resource extraction and environmental sustainability in Ghana, Africa's leading gold producer. He framed mining as a "double-edged sword," acknowledging both significant contributions to GDP, employment, and exports, while confronting escalating environmental and social costs, including deforestation, river contamination, land degradation, and community health issues.

Dr. Essien emphasized how climate change amplifies existing mining-related risks through rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme floods, which threaten both mining infrastructure and community livelihoods. He presented powerful visual documentation of deforestation in the Upper Wassaw Forest Reserve through time-series satellite imagery from 2017-2024, showing dramatic vegetation loss. Water emerged as a critical nexus where mining operations, climate variability, and community needs intersect, with floods mobilizing arsenic, mercury, and sulfide-laden silt downstream, contaminating major rivers.
The presentation detailed Ghana's reclamation bond mechanism, instituted in 2000, requiring all mining companies to post bonds comprising cash deposits, bank guarantees, and insurance premiums for eventual site closure and restoration. Proposed reforms include mandating bonds calibrated to full closure costs, embedding climate projections in Environmental Impact Assessments, and requiring updated flood-frequency models for tailings designs.

Dr. Essien highlighted the Akoben Environmental Performance Rating Programme, which publicly rates mining operations using a five-color scheme, providing benefits including improved administrative efficiency, increased transparency, strengthened institutional discipline, and enhanced overall environmental performance. He advocated for industry best practices, including progressive rehabilitation concurrent with extraction, the adoption of renewable energy (solar-plus-storage micro-grids can reduce fuel costs by 40 percent), transparent water monitoring with real-time data, and community solutions, such as mercury-free technologies for artisanal miners paired with micro-credit and training.

**Urban Heat Islands in West Africa**
Professor Emmanuel Bamfo-Agyei, Surveyor and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Cape Coast Technical University, addressed the escalating urban heat island phenomenon in West Africa, where over half the population is expected to live in cities by 2030. He documented comprehensive health impacts, including heat-related illnesses, cardiovascular stress, respiratory problems from accelerated ozone formation, and economic impacts through higher energy consumption and reduced labor productivity.
Professor Bamfo-Agyei presented an innovative thermal imaging analysis that demonstrated differential heat absorption across various urban materials and surfaces. Vehicle analysis revealed that engine areas were experiencing extreme heat, with black vehicles demonstrating greater heat absorption.

Surface material analysis revealed tarred ground surfaces showing the highest temperatures (50-60°C), while roofing materials showed dramatic variations, with green roofs substantially cooler than conventional roofs. Natural cooling analysis revealed significant temperature reduction provided by tree canopies, with people under mango trees experiencing substantially cooler conditions.

The presentation emphasized the often-overlooked dimension of nighttime temperature retention, noting that heat risk is cumulative and that high minimum temperatures demonstrate stronger associations with mortality than daytime peaks. Social equity dimensions emerged clearly, as people without air conditioning face disproportionate exposure to high indoor temperatures at night, with urban heat island impacts reaching greatest intensity overnight.

Solutions outlined included increasing green spaces through tree planting and green roofs, implementing cool and reflective roofs using high-albedo materials, installing permeable pavements, promoting green building certification, and smart urban planning with wider streets and improved airflow. International examples included Santorini's white buildings and Los Angeles's reflective street coatings, demonstrating albedo modification strategies.

**Cultivating Equity: The Shangani People and Zimbabwe's Sugar Industry**
Maud Masiyiwa examined the intersection of Indigenous rights, agricultural production, and corporate power in Zimbabwe's Lowveld region, home to the country's sugar industry. She centered the Shangani people, the Indigenous inhabitants with deep historical and cultural connections to lands now dominated by sugar cultivation.

Masiyiwa emphasized Free, Prior, and Informed Consent as an essential principle for Indigenous peoples' rights, requiring that Indigenous communities be consulted before projects affecting their territories proceed, that consultation occurs early enough to influence decisions, that communities have access to full information, and that consent is given freely without coercion. She articulated a vision for Zimbabwe's sugar industry, balancing equity (partnerships fostering growth and shared success) with sustainability (innovative agricultural practices ensuring thriving future for ecosystems and livelihoods), calling for reimagining relationships between corporations and Indigenous peoples toward genuine partnership, respecting rights and sharing benefits fairly.

# THEMATIC CONVERGENCES AND KEY INSIGHTS

**Decolonization of Knowledge and Practice**
All presentations converged on the critical imperative to decolonize dominant knowledge systems that have marginalized Indigenous and local ways of knowing. From Mandis's examination of coloniality in agricultural development to Ofori-Attah's emphasis on African cultural wisdom, from Bamfo-Agyei's integration of traditional architecture's thermal properties to Essien's discussion of Afrocentric principles in mining governance, the conference demonstrated that Western, technology-centric approaches have systematically erased diverse epistemologies while failing to deliver promised benefits. The Sankofa principle—retrieving ancestral wisdom to move forward—emerged as a unifying concept across presentations.

**Sovereignty and Self-Determination**
Multiple forms of sovereignty emerged as central concerns: food sovereignty challenged market-driven agricultural systems, narrative sovereignty resisted colonial epistemologies, environmental sovereignty asserted community control over local resources, and Indigenous sovereignty demanded inherent rights to self-determination, lands, and governance. These sovereignty claims share an emphasis on self-determination, democratic participation, and resistance to external domination, requiring careful navigation of tensions between different sovereignty scales through democratic processes that respect rights and power imbalances.

**Health as Environmental and Political Concern**
The conference powerfully demonstrated that health is environmental and political, not merely individual or biomedical. Sinclair's presentation on the impacts of Indigenous health, Klutse's documentation of 16,000 annual premature deaths from air pollution in Ghana, Bamfo-Agyei's analysis of the health consequences of heat stress, and Essien's discussion of mining-related health issues collectively established environmental quality as a fundamental determinant of health. Health inequities follow patterns of political and economic power, with marginalized communities bearing disproportionate environmental health burdens.

**Climate Change as Threat Multiplier and Justice Issue**
Climate change emerged across presentations as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, and was fundamentally viewed as a justice issue rather than merely a technical challenge. Climate impacts disproportionately affect those who contributed least to emissions: Indigenous peoples, Global South nations, low-income communities, and future generations. Climate justice requires not only emissions reductions but also addressing historical responsibility, ensuring adequate adaptation support for the most vulnerable populations, protecting the rights of those displaced, democratizing decision-making processes, and transforming economic systems that drive both emissions and inequality.

**Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge as Sophisticated Systems**
Multiple presentations challenged persistent assumptions, positioning traditional and Indigenous knowledge as primitive or static. Examples included African architectural thermal management, traditional cooling strategies validated by thermal imaging, land-based practices as a form of medicine, millennia-old seed conservation, and Shangani heritage. This knowledge is dynamic, not frozen in the past, with contemporary Indigenous peoples integrating traditional and scientific knowledge, demonstrating complementarity rather than conflict.

**Care Work and Gender Justice**
Ofori-Attah and Sinclair highlighted how environmental and climate challenges disproportionately increase women's care work burdens. Women in vulnerable communities manage households, children, and sick family members during climate-related crises while facing restricted resources. This labor remains uncompensated and often invisible in policy discussions. Gender justice in environmental governance requires recognizing and valuing care work, ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making, addressing how environmental degradation specifically affects women, and transforming economic frameworks that render care invisible.

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# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CALLS TO ACTION


The conference generated policy recommendations spanning multiple scales and sectors:

**For International Institutions:** Decolonize development paradigms by moving beyond Washington Consensus assumptions. I. Implement rights-based approaches with mandatory Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, integrate true cost accounting into project evaluation. Provide long-term, flexible funding for Indigenous governance and community-led initiatives. Establish accountability mechanisms for harms caused by financed projects.

**For National Governments:** Mainstream climate considerations across all ministries, establish inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms ensuring policy coherence, decentralize environmental governance with adequate support, recognize Indigenous rights and establish co-management arrangements, and ensure regulatory agencies have adequate capacity and independence.

**For Municipal Governments:** Develop urban heat action plans that prioritize vulnerable neighborhoods, implement nature-based solutions, including urban forests and green corridors, invest in transit-oriented development to reduce automobile dependence, ensure affordable housing meets thermal comfort standards, and engage residents in participatory planning processes.

**For Health Systems:** Shift toward upstream interventions that prevent environmental exposures, establish environmental health surveillance by integrating environmental and health data, provide culturally safe care for Indigenous peoples, require community-led health impact assessments, and prepare for climate-related health impacts.

**For Extractive Industries:** Respect community rights to refuse projects, establish genuine partnerships with equitable benefit sharing, adopt regenerative approaches leaving environments better than found, address worker health and safety, including climate adaptation, and accept responsibility for legacy contamination.

**For agricultural systems,** implement land reform that addresses concentrated ownership, protect seed sovereignty and farmers' rights, support agroecological transitions, strengthen local and regional food systems, and reorient public research toward agroecology and the needs of smallholders.

**For Civil Society:** Build coalitions across issues, recognizing shared interests, invest in community organizing and leadership development, combine multiple strategies from policy advocacy to direct action, use storytelling and cultural expression, build international solidarity, and employ legal strategies strategically.

# CONCLUSION AND PATH FORWARD

The EELL 2025 Canada Conference demonstrated remarkable breadth and depth in addressing environmental leadership and sustainable development challenges. By integrating decolonial food systems critique, cultural approaches to African environmental stewardship, technical analysis of West African urban heat, detailed examination of Ghanaian mining governance, behavioral insights from India, wildlife conservation from DRC, youth empowerment from Zambia, Indigenous health impacts from Canada, and agricultural equity from Zimbabwe, the conference revealed interconnections across domains often treated separately.

Several overarching insights emerged: environmental challenges are fundamentally political not technical, rooted in colonial legacies and extractive capitalism; Indigenous and local knowledge systems offer sophisticated understanding developed through generations; sovereignty and self-determination are essential for environmental sustainability and social justice; care work sustaining communities must be valued and equitably distributed; true cost accounting reveals hidden subsidies supporting destructive industries; climate change functions as threat multiplier requiring integrated transformation; and changing practices requires changing narratives.

The conference affirmed that alternatives to destructive industrial models exist not as utopian fantasies but as living practices embedded in communities worldwide. Realizing these alternatives at scale requires confronting powerful interests, building broad coalitions, creating institutional mechanisms operationalizing different values, and sustaining commitment through inevitable challenges. The EELL 2025 Canada Conference contributed to these efforts by strengthening analysis, sharing strategies, building networks, and reinforcing commitment to transformative change.

As participants move forward, critical tasks include translating insights into policy reforms and practical actions, building solidarity across movements and borders, supporting community-led initiatives with resources and legitimacy, documenting and learning from implementation experiences, maintaining spaces for critical dialogue and collective visioning, and persisting despite obstacles. The path forward is neither simple nor guaranteed, but the conference affirmed that alternatives are possible, necessary, and already emerging. By reclaiming narrative sovereignty, centering Indigenous and local knowledge, demanding true cost accounting, valuing care work, asserting sovereignty, and embracing relational ontologies, communities worldwide are charting new directions toward environmental sustainability and social justice.

## Useful Links:

**Day one:**

- Welcome and opening
- Guest speaker
- Keynote address
- Special Guest of Honour
- Recap of morning session
- Exclusive Interviews
  https://www.youtube.com/@paccpolicy/videos

**Day two:**

- Presentations
- https://env-edu-learning.ca/resources/

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