

Western Manitoba Youth Declaration on Climate Change

We, the youth of Western Manitoba,

feel that climate change is a real, visible, and an important issues. We feel that changes in weather patterns and global temperatures are a direct result of human-related production of greenhouse gases. Overall, we are concerned about how human actions contribute to this issue and question the sustainability of the future. Specifically we are concerned about:

1. Energy use and the amount of greenhouse gases created through transportation and industrial processes.
2. Health implications such as emerging disease, asthma and environmental cancers.
3. Increased incidences of extreme weather such as floods and droughts.
4. Decreased biodiversity, including loss of species such as polar bears.
5. Impacts to agriculture, including reduced yields, flooding of croplands and higher production costs.
6. A lack of education about climate change.

The above concerns are both immediate and long term in nature. As a result, it is the youth of the world that face the greatest challenges. Despite this, there is a lack of youth involvement in climate change issues. We feel that we are not taken seriously, that our opinions are not respected and that there is a lack of resources available for us to become involved. Given the above concerns, we demand that more action be taken to address climate change and involve youth in the process.

Awareness and Concern

People need to be educated about the seriousness of climate change. Governments need to undertake educational campaigns to create awareness and concerns bout climate change and support the reduction of green house gases. Governments also need to practice what they preach, how can they expect us take leadership on an issue if they don't?

Technology

Resources need to be invested in technological solutions to climate change such as solar power, bio-diesel fuel and energy efficient cars. Gas-guzzlers should be taxed. And industry should be held responsible, economically for pollution including greenhouse gas emissions.

Youth

Youth need to be given a greater voice on climate change issues. We need a platform from which we can express our demands. We want to work with governments and the community to influence the policies that affect our lives.