

BEYOND KYOTO
MONTREAL 2005

DAY #1

November, 24th 2005

Thursday

We woke up and had breakfast at around six thirty am. The organizers had buses pick us up at the hostel and take us to where we had all of our discussions, it was called the Biosphere. There was a sort of welcoming party at the Biosphere and a tour as well to let us know where all the different discussions were happening. They labeled every room a different part of the world and in all those rooms were different discussions about every aspect of climate change.

Before lunch there was a speech from the Canadian Minister of the Environment Honourable Stéphane Dion. We then had to choose three lectures out of nine that were going on in the different meeting rooms. I chose cultural / traditional, transportation and adaptation and mitigation. It really was an eye opener for me I wasn't aware of all the effects and just how serious they are. I really enjoyed the lectures. I felt a huge lump in my throat when I saw pictures of all the animals that are starving and dying off all around the world. Indigenous peoples all around the world are feeling the effects in their traditional way of life and that is where adaptation and mitigation came into the lectures. After the lectures Frances and I got to meet so many cool and different people from all around the world, and for the most part everybody wanted to know about us and our way of life because we live in the arctic. I learned so much about the way of life of just about every kind of indigenous people from around the world, and I realized I knew a lot more about climate change and its effects than I thought I did.

Later that night we went to downtown Montreal for dinner and our activity, first off I was shocked when we went to a buffet restaurant and it was vegetarian!!! every meal we had was except twice. I felt a little better when we met other people that ate meat it was kind of funny it was just Frances, me and David from Nunavut, oh yeah and this other guy from Carry the Kettle Nation (Saskatchewan). We had a great first day and everybody made us feel super comfortable.

DAY #2

November, 25 2005

Friday

Seven o'clock breakfast, then we had transportation to the Biosphere. This was a neat day we had an open discussion with open space technology and of course the other one hundred and nine youth. I didn't get up and ask any questions though this was more of a learning experience for me, but to hear all the other youth really get up and get so involved was awesome. Some of the youth were great speakers which is definitely something that I have to work on. The afternoon was really relaxed. The youth split up into two groups and had discussions about environmental justice and climate change

initiative. Once again I really enjoyed learning, the discussions just really want to make you get involved and I did to a certain level of my knowledge. That's what I learned from my grandmother, its traditional knowledge and the science that she understands how the animals and earth work. She's lived off the land her whole existence and she said she has never seen these kinds of changes before and she's worried for the animals. In light of the problems and changes, for the sake of our mother earth, and the plants and animals that cannot speak for themselves we as indigenous people are the most vulnerable and we need to realize that we have no choice but to be relentless in our pursuit of a global economy free from fossil fuel use. We as indigenous people cause the least amount of gas emissions in the world and we are being effected the most, so we call on our governments to work for policies that simultaneously stop climate change, protect human rights, and promote social and environmental justice. This is what our groups were left with to ponder over dinner and our activities that night.

The group went to the Bio Dome that night to take a tour of the four different forests and waterlands for different endangered animals. It was one of the greatest things I've ever seen, most of the animals like the birds, frogs, toads, bats etc. run freely it was actually kind of freaky with all the bats because they are so quiet until they are right in front of you. There were also the great Canadian beaver, sloths, camans, these crazy huge snakes called anacondas, a whole lot of penguins and puffins, otters, a lynx. There were just so many cool animals it was great but what would have been better would be to have seen them in their natural habitat, I'm not bashing it at all because they are in a way trying to help some of those animals, but it kind of contradicts the whole emissions thing, it just takes a whole lot of energy and heat etc to run it. Don't get me wrong though it was stupendous. The days here in Montreal just keep on getting better and better.

DAY #3

November,26 2005

Saturday

Once again we had breakfast at around six thirty/ seven o'clock in the morning, then as we did everyday the group headed to the Bio sphere where a lady came in and got all the youth involved in an open discussion about what each of us thought was needed to be talked about and put into the declaration itself. First off we had to take a piece of paper and write the title of what we wanted to talk about, lets say..... adaptation walk up to the microphone say it stick it on the wall. After everybody had finished, we had a short lunch then we got broken up into groups under the title that we wanted to bring attention to for one hour, I chose the same as before traditional/cultural, transportation and food and water security. These I chose because I know and understand the need for them, although I wish that I knew more like the other youth they just blew me away, with their knowledge and public speaking. Go Team !!!!.

After lunch we had a youth to youth presentation which was incredibly short to sum it up we all took turns telling about our background, where we came from how climate change is effecting us the people we know and especially the land that we live off of. It was really gut wrenching and almost painful hearing the people we had met over the days

almost in tears talking about people where they come from dying because of pollution. For example, in Australia mining companies dump all their waste containing cyanide into the earth. The drinking water is causing babies to have birth effects, the one young girl that Anna knows was born with three uteruses and she is now dying. This is their land that is being destroyed as well as their way of life. You would think that all these corporations would look at this and not even want to be a part of it but they do, they want that stupid dollar value. That to me was just out of this world more people need to realize that climate change is considered to be one of the most serious threats to sustainable development which is going to have adverse impact expected on the environment, human health, food security, natural resources and economic activity. Later that night there was a gala put on for youth excellence in climate change which was semi formal of which I didn't attend and then there was an evening out on the town.... very tiring day.

DAY #4

November, 27th 2005

Sunday

Seven o'clock breaky then transit to the Bio sphere. This was one of the longest days ever we had only the morning to put together our declaration which meant that we had to break down into groups and absolutely make the last rough draft. There was a lot of argument as well as debate that went on including all the indigenous youth at the conference including me having a sort of protest about what the others were not putting in the declaration about indigenous peoples of the world. This was "We youth stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples, low income, and people of color who are disproportionately impacted by climate change in three critical ways : by compromising health, imposing economic burdens, and endangering cultures." So instead they wrote "we stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities who are disproportionately impacted by climate change." We just wanted a simple mention of the people being most effected and we felt like we weren't being heard, it was intense. But in the end we were heard and they changed it. After all that, the declaration was adopted and we went on for our evening down town.

DAY #5

November, 28th 2005

Monday

Six o'clock breakfast and then transit to the conference centre. Then we had to sit and wait to get into the United Nations meeting from seven o'clock until around nine o'clock. I got some really great pictures of statements made from celebrities from all over the world. The opening event was really touching and super creative so was the reading of the declaration, it's what we went for and what everybody worked so hard for. All that we can hope for is change. There was then transit back to the Bio sphere the closing event with the Canadian official, all of the good bye words and then dinner.

I would also like to thank everybody who helped us to go to Beyond Kyoto, it was a huge learning experience that has made me be a bigger part of climate change no matter where

I go. It was definitely a great life-time experience and an awesome opportunity to meet all of these people from all over the world. This trip could also open a lot of doors for these youth, everybody that I have met was so very special and unique. Thank you once again everybody.

Sincerely,

Crystal Linklater