

**Beyond Kyoto It's Us!**  
**Youth Summit on Climate Change**  
**Montreal, Quebec - November 2005**

By Francis Bruce, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Old Crow, YT.

I traveled to Montreal, Quebec to participate in the Youth Summit on Climate Change Conference; Beyond Kyoto It's Us! The purpose of the trip was to learn more on the issue of Climate Change and to help others learn more about what's happening in the North on Climate Change. Many of the youth I met, were really concerned about that issue, they also were very interested to learn how I have grown up in the most Northern part of the Yukon. Most of the youth did not know where Old Crow was and I had to explain to them where it was. I remember one girl who had not been in the cold before, let alone been in the snow, so it was quite the experience for her. I became friends with her; she is from Australia. The trip to Montreal was an interesting experience for me because I got to meet a lot of interesting youth from different parts of the world, especially to hear about other cultures as well I want to learn more on different cultures, yet more on my own traditional culture as well.

**Day 1 – Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>**

On the first day of the conference, we all met in the conference room in the Biosphere. The organizers brought in special guest speakers to give a presentation on Climate Change. At first I did not understand what they were talking about because we did not know about this conference until the last minute and I did not gather enough information on it. Later on in the presentations, I understood more of what they were talking about. Most of the presenters spoke in French but they also had translators and that helped a lot.

After the guest speakers we all met for group discussions. I have to say I liked meeting in-group discussions because it is interesting for me to hear what all the youth had to say and for other's response to them. We later went into sessions; I went to the "Arctic on Climate Change" the presenter who held this session was from the Yukon as well. The session he did was good.

**Day 2 – Friday November 25<sup>th</sup>**

On the second day of the conference, we all met for breakfast and headed for the bus. We went to the Biosphere and got ready to move into the conference room for group discussions. This got us into lunch.

After lunch, we went for our sessions once again and we had a choice on which one we wanted to sit in on. I went in the "Science on Climate Change". This session was good. When we went in the session, we did not know it was in French but the speaker said it was okay for us to sit in and he will translate it for us. He spoke on how science was a big part of Climate Change. After a full day at the conference, we went out for supper and went for an evening activity. The crew took us to the Bio Dome in Montreal and that was a lot of fun.

### **Day 3 – Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>**

The third day of the conference we all met at the conference for lunch. After lunch we went to the conference room to start preparing to write up our youth declaration. A woman came in and helped us start it off. We all had to think of an idea and write it on a piece of paper and tape it to the wall so everyone can see what we wanted to discuss. It took about a half an hour for all of us to put together what we wanted to discuss. Later on we got into more sessions. I went into Indigenous Peoples, we had a half an hour or so to do introductions and then to talk about what we wanted to be said and heard. We did sessions all day. Later on, there was the Gala that was happening but I had such a long day so I decided to call it a day and went back to the Youth Hostel but I heard that everything turned out well and there was a lot of nice outfits there. I am now sorry that I missed the event of the evening.

### **Day 4 – Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>**

The fourth day of the conference, we continued on with the sessions to start preparing for the declaration. The writing committee was ready to do some hard work to prepare this for the political people to look it over and discuss it. Anyways, we all went back into our groups and started talking. This took us a whole day to do. We had to be on the ball for the declaration because we had to meet the deadline and that was fragile.

### **Day 5 – Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup>**

The last day of the conference was kind of stressing for some of us. It was the final day for the declaration to be completed. This day was tough because the Indigenous group didn't feel like their voices have been heard, so the group wrote up what they wanted to be put in the declaration. It took awhile for the writing committee to consider this. It was pretty emotional for some of the youth because there was an argument on this issue and I guess they found it pretty intense. Later on we all figured out a way to resolve that issue and everyone was pleased with the final draft of the declaration. After lunch, there was a special guest speaker from Nunavut. She did a great presentation on where she was from and how Climate Change was affecting the area where she was raised. She is a well-respected woman for her line of work. She travels to different places and talks on Climate Change and how it affects us. After the full day we had, we went out for the last night in town. This experience was great and I thank Claire Stockwell, Michael Westlake and Terry Peterson at Gwich'in Council International who helped Crystal and I attending this conference. Mussi-Cho (Thank-You)

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