



FINAL REPORT: DESIGNING CLIMATE-READY EDUCATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF PROFESSIONALS

NATIONAL FORUM #2

FEB 2-5, 2026, VIRTUAL

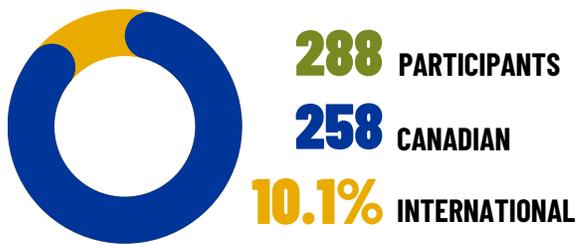
Purpose

A national forum to accelerate the integration of climate change adaptation knowledge and skills into professional degree programs, with a focus on competencies and climate pedagogy, and building a community of practice.

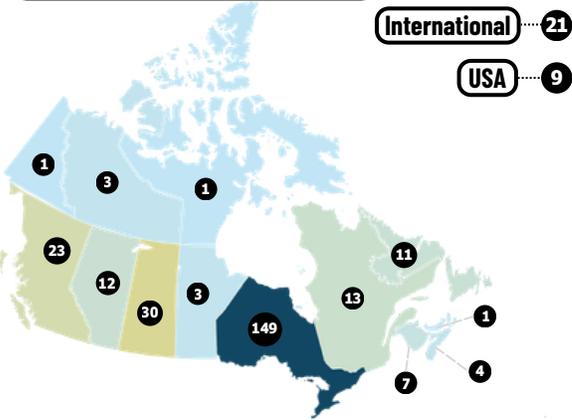
Structure

4 days | 8 sessions

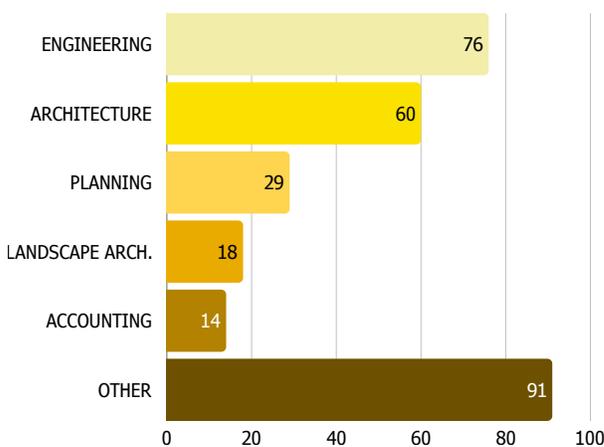
Overall Attendance



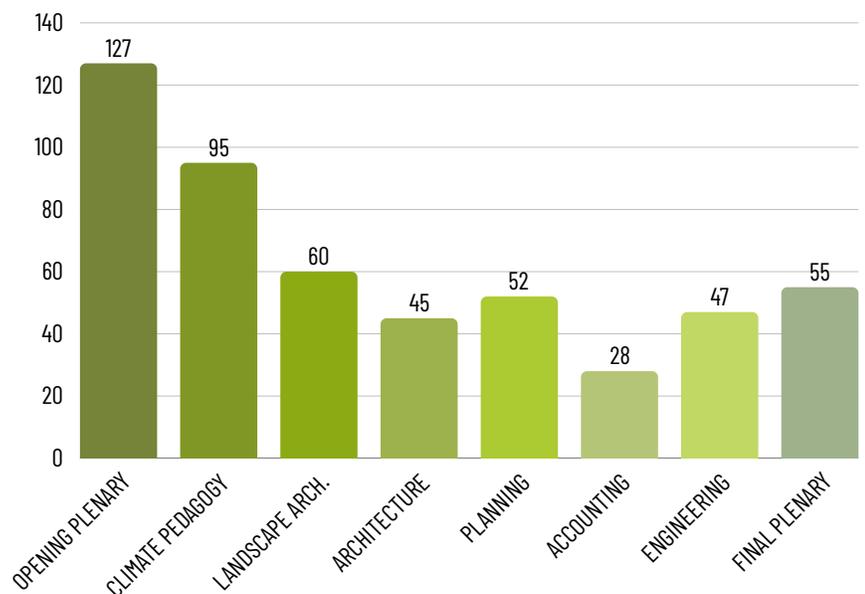
Attendance by Location



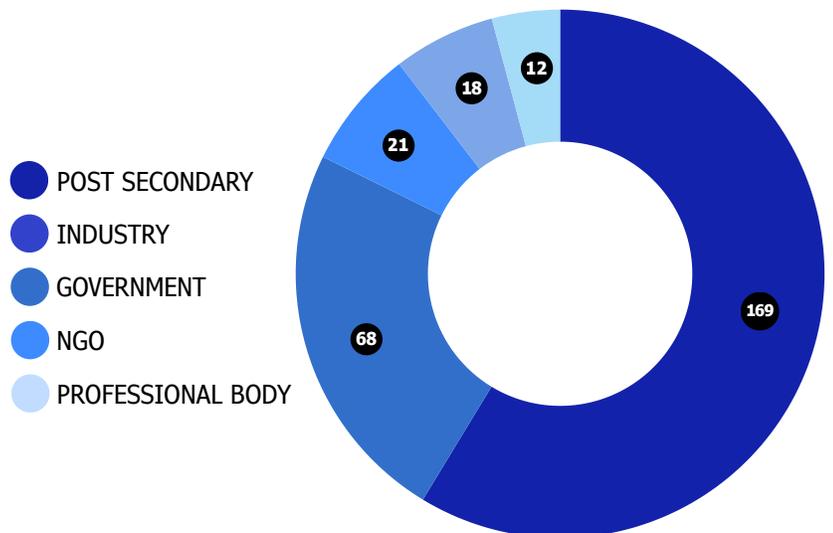
Attendance by Discipline



Engagement by Session



Attendance by Institution Type



Schedule + Speakers

Day 1

Opening Plenary: Designing climate-ready education: what competencies do our students need?

Sarah Burch (Waterloo Climate Institute) | **Robin Cox** (Resilience by Design Lab) | **Stephanie Gagnon** (Climate Risk Institute) | **Michèle Martin** (Waterloo Climate Institute) | **Myeengun Henry** (Indigenous Knowledge Keeper)

Climate Pedagogy 101: Teaching for impact across disciplines

Michèle Martin (Waterloo Climate Institute) | **Teri Balsler** (University of Calgary) | **Kshamta Hunter** (University of British Columbia) | **Ellen Field** (Lakehead University) | **Rachel Reiger** (University of Saskatchewan)

Day 2

Integrating climate adaptation in **landscape architecture** education

Jane Mah Hutton (University of Waterloo) | **Hope Parnham** (Canadian Society of Landscape Architects)

Integrating climate adaptation in **architecture** education

Élène Levasseur (Architecture without Borders, Quebec) | **Jaliya Fonseka** (University of Waterloo) | **Lisa Landrum** (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Day 3

Integrating climate adaptation in **planning** education

Mark Seasons (University of Waterloo) | **Mehdi Diouri** (University of Waterloo) | **Tara Clapp** (University of Northern British Columbia) | **Deborah Morrison** (Canadian Institute of Planners) | **Mark Groulx** (University of Northern British Columbia)

Integrating climate adaptation in **accounting** education

Irene Wiecek (University of Toronto) | **Adam Vitalis** (University of Waterloo) | **Roopa Davé** (KPMG Sustainability Services)

Day 4

Integrating climate adaptation in **engineering** education

Nadine Ibrahim (University of Waterloo) | **Jean-François Boland** (École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS)) | **Nathan Durham** (Engineers Canada) | **Jeanette Southwood** (Engineers Canada)

Final Plenary: Collaborating across institutions and disciplines

Serge Dupuis (University of Moncton) | **Teri Balsler** (University of Calgary) | **Sonia Pacin** (Universities Canada) | **Cebert Adamson** (Mohawk College)

Key Takeaways

- **Mainstream climate learning in core curriculum:** Embed climate competencies across required courses, from foundations to capstones, so every graduate builds climate literacy.
- **Support climate emotions with compassion and action:** Acknowledge climate anxiety and pair it with practical tools and real-world projects that build confidence, agency, and momentum.
- **Make interdisciplinary collaboration a core competency:** Prepare students to work across professions by learning how to ask the right questions, and contribute their expertise in teams.
- **Ground learning in relationships and place:** Strengthen relevance and responsibility through land-based learning and partnerships with communities, municipalities, and Indigenous organizations.
- **Center student leadership:** Treat students as collaborators by building in student input, recognizing student-led initiatives, and supporting advocacy and leadership pathways.

Feedback from Participants

“Outstanding event!... can not say enough about being provided the opportunity to engage and co-learn with so many people from across Canada.”

“To have such a stellar forum brought directly to me, to inform and enable thoughtful, evidence-informed application in serving communities, is invaluable.”

