



CALD IMPACT *Report*



CLIMATE ACTION
LEADERSHIP
DIPLOMA (CALD)

MAY 2024

A YEAR OF OUTREACH, GROWTH AND EXTERNAL ENDORSEMENT



CLIMATE ACTION
LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA
(CALD)

The scale of the climate crisis demands that we pursue novel, cross-sector solutions. As with technology, climate change is impacting our lives in ways we've yet to discover at speeds difficult to comprehend. To tackle these complex challenges we need to unlearn, relearn and rethink everything—especially education. By transcending traditional barriers between the professional world, and tertiary and secondary education, we can build new approaches to learning, while revisiting and re-evaluating previous ways of knowing.

Our generous funders and supporters of CALD have enabled Pearson College UWC to demonstrate that experiential-based education reform is viable, scalable, and necessary.

Funded by generous donations, CALD—the International Baccalaureate's first climate-focussed academic pathway—has shown that building the skills students need to unpack, influence and improve the global polycrisis can be done efficiently and effectively.

The CALD curriculum leverages unique programmatic strengths:

- our location on the shores of the Salish Sea and amongst the old-growth forests of Vancouver Island,
- a commitment to collaboration and community building with Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers,
- support for local partnerships with outstanding educational institutions and community leaders, and
- a deliberately diverse cohort of inspired international students.

Our curriculum is designed in alignment with the United World College movement and includes economics, science, technology, language, aesthetics, philosophy, ethics, advocacy, complex systems and communication.

Now at the end of its second year, the program has doubled, growing to two cohorts with 27 students from 22 nations including six students from Canada, four of whom are Indigenous.

SYARIF SYAFI'I, INDONESIA CLASS OF 2024

"For me, being a CALD student is not only about understanding the knowledge behind the climate crisis and how to construct multi-solving solutions within a complex system, but also reconciling my connection to the mother earth — analyzing the problem from a wider lens."



GLOBAL RECOGNITION & IMPACT

One of the most exciting parts of building a new educational program is the ability to be agile and responsive to student needs while remaining adaptable enough to keep pace with the rate at which climate information changes.

Feedback from our first cohort of students identified a need for more artistic communication in the program. In response, Pearson faculty member Lucas Olscamp designed and launched The N.E.S.T. (Narrative, Ecology, Self-hood, and Thinking) curriculum, which focuses on weaving creative processes and Indigenous knowledge together.

N.E.S.T. not only represents educational innovation, but also an example of how climate can—and should—be integrated into all subjects and sectors from the arts to humanities to the sciences.

In early 2024, Lucas was invited to Dubai to present N.E.S.T. as part of the COP 28 Burjeel Holdings-Oxford Saïd Climate Change Challenge. Lucas won the Challenge's top award and as a result, will travel to Oxford in May 2024 to collaborate with a group of fellow changemakers on climate action curriculum.

CALD Program Director Emily Coolidge presented at the Global Education Group Summit on Climate Education at Columbia University before heading to Thailand with second-year student Rézi Imre-Millei to present CALD's model and assessment framework at UWC Congress.

This event celebrated UWC's 60th anniversary and brought together UWC's educational and governance leaders, partners and stakeholders to re-align our educational model to the greatest needs of our time. CALD was held up by all who attended as an exceptional example of timely educational reform.

Moving from Thailand to Mexico—albeit virtually—CALD's second-year students also presented climate action proposals to enhance Certified B Corporation La Libélula's community impact at its environmental education centre in León, Mexico.



COP28
UAE



CLOSER TO HOME

Second-year students completed a facilitation course to prepare them to lead a school-wide climate workshop using EnROADs climate modelling software. In the workshop, students engaged the community in policy simulation decisions to minimize temperature rise projections. A group of these second-year students then applied their new facilitation skills to campus conversations about the conflict in Gaza, showcasing thoughtful planning and leadership abilities.

Other key highlights from the year include:

- Collaborative decision-making and leadership with the Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth program,
- Delivering presentations and EnROADs climate workshops at the Independent Schools Association of BC Youth Environment Conference held at UBC,
- Becoming credentialed EnROADs Climate Ambassadors,
- Hosting virtual discussion groups as part of the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada's Climate Education event,
- Attending the inaugural Starfish Youth Environmental Changemakers Summit in Squamish, BC, as the youngest and most international diverse group of attendees.

Guest Lectures & Specialized Learning

The access to, and integration of, fieldwork and guest lecturers from industry experts that range from grassroots, corporate and academic to entrepreneurial is vital to CALD. Exposure to the

vast array of industries contributing to climate solutions socially, economically, and environmentally helps students understand the real-world opportunities available to apply their knowledge and skills once they leave Pearson College UWC. This year, the program welcomed a wide array of guest speakers and subject matter experts that introduce students to different perspectives, different ways of learning and different possible career paths.

Indigenous knowledge was shared with our students through their ongoing work with Joe Norris of the Halalt First Nation, Chief Ninawa of the University of the Forest of the Amazon (via the University of Victoria Faculty of Education) and J.B. Williams, a Knowledge Keeper of the WSÁNEĆ First Nation. Williams guided students through unforgettable learning on the land experiences enriched by his extensive knowledge of botany and his telling of WSANEC shared origin stories like how the mountains were created and how the cedar came to be.

Other notable speakers included:

- Pearson alumnus Mark Dutz, consultant to the IFC and former lead economist in the Africa Chief Economist Office of the World Bank,
- Pearson alumna Jacqueline Lee-Tam, who leads Le Hub from Montreal—an organization supporting climate justice movements,
- Dr. Laura Tate from Simon Fraser University on sustainable city planning,
- Dr. Rochelle Johnson from the College of Idaho on climate anxiety and literature,
- Michel Brutti from Clear Skies Investment Management on impact investing.



CALD: GRADUATION & LIFE BEYOND PEARSON

We use several factors to evaluate the program's success ranging from internal metrics like readiness feedback and assessments to external data like the availability of post-Pearson pathways and our progress on spreading the program's impact. Working with a third party analyst to synthesize and validate the results we are planning for a more in-depth impact study of the program later this Fall.

With the support of our university counsellors, we have been promoting CALD to admissions officers around the world. The impressive list of university offers made to our first graduating CALD cohort not only celebrates the promise and potential of our students but also externally affirms the calibre of the CALD program and the willingness of universities to see its value.

Our first graduates will explore a variety of avenues when they graduate this May, from internship offers in London to gap year jobs in Yukon, and even an invitation to spend a year at

CLI Dance Conservatory—to artistically explore the connection to nature, climate and movement—before continuing onto academic studies in Commerce at McGill.

Acknowledging that Pearson students come from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds, we are delighted that program graduates have also received generous scholarships and financial aid that help make the next leg of their academic journey possible.

Sharing CALD Beyond Pearson

We are working towards extending CALD's reach through a shareable, open-source model for educators to build the skills necessary for tackling climate and complex systems. The first step is a pilot version of CALD's climate action competency model that is already being trialled with one like-minded organization. We anticipate that we will be able to introduce the content to more youth across Canada and around the world by December 2024.



EMMA HUMPHRIES, NEWFOUNDLAND CLASS OF 2025

"Being in the CALD program I—as an indigenous woman—have finally had my voice heard and reflected in the curriculum. I see a future where I am able to use the skills I've learned, am learning and will learn to effectively lead."

Gratitude

This unique program would not have been possible without the visionary support of the Pearson donor community. Thanks to you, the College is once again at the forefront of educational innovation to address the world's most pressing issues. CALD is not only recognized and valued by universities, it also demonstrates that climate action education can be a viable pathway towards post-secondary and beyond. Thank you for believing in the importance of this program. Together, we congratulate our first graduates and look forward to hearing about the impact they will go on to make.