

# RECAP: Generation Power Cultural Land Camp

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Earlier this month, Generation Power held their first ever Cultural Land Camp on the traditional territory of the Syilx Peoples in the Okanagan Valley. The group spent four days in Osoyoos, British Columbia, where they participated in various professional development workshops and cultural activities, as part of their one-year Generation Power capacity-building journey.

Generation Power instils employment and leadership skills and knowledge of career pathways in the clean energy sector among youth, and supports the implementation of equitable workspaces through training for employers. As an integral program component, Cultural Land Camp creates a space for youth and employers to come together in-person, to network and share perspectives on young Indigenous leadership in the clean energy sector, and promote ingenuity, cultural connection, and self-reflection.

The event was hosted at Spirit Ridge Desert Resort, a hotel and conference centre partially owned by the Osoyoos Indian Band. The land itself is unique, in that it is Canada's only desert-like ecosystem. While in Osoyoos, the Generation Power group toured the desert, guided by interpreters from the Nk'mip Desert Cultural Centre. They also explored the land during their down-time by climbing nearby hills, swimming in Osoyoos Lake and viewing Khiluk (Spotted Lake), a sacred place of healing for the Syilx peoples.

Each day of the camp had its own intention, with the first day being Grounding & Culture. The Generation Power crew was greeted by Elder Roger Hall and viewed a traditional Okanagan Dance by two young band members, Jenna and Jordan Bower. After introductions and icebreakers, the group spent the rest of the day settling in.

The intention of the second day was Self. Youth and employers participated in separate workshops. The youth reviewed results of a personality quiz which demonstrated where they thrive and where they need to further develop their skills in the workplace, learned about career pathways in clean energy, and had an introductory course on the connection between energy use and environmental impact. They then had one-on-one mentorship sessions with the ICE Mentors who were in attendance throughout the week. Employers spent the full day with Future Ancestors, our partners who have delivered online employer equity training throughout the year, to participate in a brave space practice and facilitated dialogue on accountability and responsibility to anti-racism as it relates to their roles within their organizations.

Community was the intention of the third day. After touring the Nk'mip Desert Cultural Centre to learn about the history of the area and exploring the unique flora of the desert, the group attended various optional activities such as horseback riding and foraging with the Chef of Spirit Ridge. The group reconvened to hear a keynote speech by Chief Clarence Louie. The speech conjured up some heavy emotions for participants and an impromptu sharing circle was held to talk about it openly.

On the fourth day, the focus was on Collaboration. Youth and employers came together to discuss a shared understanding of ancestral accountability throughout the morning, and in the afternoon an Impact Thinking session was held, to collect feedback about Generation Power as a whole, and the experience of land camp, to ensure we are gathering and implementing feedback for the next cohort. The day concluded with a closing circle and group dinner.

The time shared was a transformative period of learning, growth, and connection. Throughout this experience participants formed incredible professional networks, but also friendships. The ability to gather in-person after conducting ourselves virtually over the past two years was so powerful. The Generation Power team would like to take a moment to thank all of the wonderful facilitators, staff, mentors and others who contributed to the success of this week. We are grateful for the partners and supporters who are on this journey with us, and look forward to continuing these relationships in the future.

We are looking forward to reconvening this group in Saskatoon this September, where they will complete their Generation Power journeys by “graduating” from the program.

Next year, the 2022-2023 cohort will hold their Cultural Land Camp on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün and Tetlit Gwich'in First Nations in Whitehorse, Yukon. If you want to be part of the next Generation Power cohort, apply today at [www.generationpower.ca](http://www.generationpower.ca). Applications are open until July 15th, 2022.

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