

NOVEMBER 25, 2021

>> GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.

I'M JOANNE CURRY, VICE PRESIDENT OF
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AT SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY AND IT'S MY PRIVILEGE TO
SPEAK TO YOU FROM THE UNCEDED
TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE
TSLEIL-WAUTUTH, MUSQUEAM AND
SQUAMISH.

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE
AMANDA NAHANEE WHOSE ANCESTRAL NAME
IS SHAMANTSUT, FROM THE SQUAMISH AND
NISGA'A NATIONS. AMANDA IS HERE ON
BEHALF OF HER COMMUNITY TO WELCOME US
TO THESE TERRITORIES, SHARE SOME
HISTORY OF THE LAND, AND LEAD US IN
SONG AND DANCE.

[Speaking Squamish]

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A SONG.

WELCOME TO THE TRADITIONAL
HOMELANDS OF THE SQUAMISH AND
MUSQUEAM AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH.

IT FEELS REALLY GOOD IN MY HEART TO
BE HERE TODAY.

MY ANCESTRAL NAME IS SHAMANTSUT.

I COME FROM THE SQUAMISH AND
NISGA'A NATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A SONG TO
START OFF IN A GOOD WAY.

NORMALLY I WOULD GET EVERYONE TO
DANCE.

BUT WITH COVID WE'RE JUST GOING TO
STAY IN OUR PLACES.

SO THIS SONG I'M GOING TO SHARE
WITH YOU, THIS IS THE SNOW BIRD SONG.

AS WE'RE GETTING READY TO GET INTO

THE WINTER SEASON, I THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE TO SHARE THIS SONG.

THIS SONG COMES FROM MY
GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER SOLIA,
THIS IS THE SNOW BIRD SONG.

IT'S A PRAYER SONG.

WHILE I'M SINGING THIS SONG, LET'S

[Singing]

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[Applause]

IN OUR TRADITIONAL WAYS AND OUR
LONGHOUSES WE HAVE FEASTS FOR USUALLY
WEEKS, SOMETIMES MONTHS AND WE INVITE
ALL OF OUR FRIENDS AND OUR FAMILIES,
OUR CONNECTIONS FROM THE DIFFERENT
NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST
COAST AND SO THEY WOULD PADDLE DOWN
BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE HIGHWAYS, WE
DIDN'T HAVE CARS.

PEOPLE WOULD PADDLE BY CANOE UP AND
DOWN THE WEST COAST.

AND WE WOULD HOST THEM, WE WOULD
MAKE SURE WE WOULD FEED THEM THE
WHOLE TIME THEY WERE HERE.

THEY WOULD STAY WITH US IN OUR

LONGHOUSES.

AND WE WOULD FEAST.

AND WE WOULD DO CEREMONY.

AND WE WOULD RECONNECT WITH ONE
ANOTHER.

WE WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIC
TIES WITH ONE ANOTHER.

AND SOMETIMES WE DON'T REALLY HAVE
THE TIME TO STOP AND CLAP FOR EVERY
GOOD THING THAT WE SEE.

SO WHAT WE DO IS HOLD OUR HANDS UP
LIKE THAT.

I INVITE YOU ALL STAYING IN OUR
TERRITORY OR ATTENDING EVENTS IN OUR
TERRITORY, FEEL FREE TO GO LIKE THAT
TO SAY THANK YOU.

[Speaking Squamish]

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SEE TRADITIONAL

WELCOMES AND COAST SALISH PEOPLE, IT
MAKES US FEEL REALLY GOOD TO SEE
THAT.

SO I'D LIKE TO SEE EVERYONE JUST
RAISE YOUR HANDS LIKE THAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

HAVE A GREAT DAY.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH AMANDA FOR
THIS IMPORTANT HISTORY AND WISDOM AND
FOR YOUR MOVING SONG AND WORDS THAT
SET US UP IN A VERY GOOD WAY TO START
THIS EVENING.

AND THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US
TODAY.

THERE'S PEOPLE IN PERSON AND
ONLINE.

AT HOPE IN RESISTANCE: STORIES OF
CLIENT JUSTICE.

THIS IS THE KEYNOTE EVENT OF SFU
PUBLIC SQUARE'S 2021 COMMUNITY SUMMIT
SERIES: TOWARDS EQUITY.

THIS EVENT IS BEING PRODUCED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH VANCITY.

GROWING OUT OF SFU'S VISION TO BE
CANADA'S ENGAGED UNIVERSITY A DECADE
AGO, SFU PUBLIC SQUARE IS A SIGNATURE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE.

IT HOLDS SPACE FOR SFU AND ITS
COMMUNITIES TO WORK COLLECTIVELY TO
ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES TO
SOCIETY'S COMPLEX AND URGENT
PROBLEMS.

THEIR ANNUAL COMMUNITY SUMMIT IS
MULTI DAY EXPLORATION OF ISSUES,
ISSUES SUCH AS DISINFORMATION AND
ISOLATION AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

INEQUITIES.

THROUGH INTENSIVE PROGRAMMING THAT
LEVERAGES THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE OF
SFU AND THE ON-THE-GROUND EXPERTISE
OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS, THE
COMMUNITY SUMMIT RAISES THE PROFILE
OF A MAJOR CHALLENGE AND ITS
POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS.

THIS YEAR'S SUMMIT, TOWARDS EQUITY,
HAS TAKEN PLACE PRIMARILY ONLINE
THROUGH 2021 DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

AND ITS DRIVING QUESTION IS WHAT
MUST WE UNDERSTAND AND DO TO RECOVER
EQUITABLY FROM THE PANDEMIC AND
REIMAGINE OUR SYSTEMS TO CONFRONT THE
INTERSECTING CRISES OF INEQUALITY,
SYSTEMIC RACISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

IT IS A BIG QUESTION.

TO WEAVE TOGET

HERE WITH US THIS EVENING TO
DISSECT THE RESULTS OF COP

SFU IS SO PROUD TO SUPPORT THIS
CONVERSATION AS PART OF OUR
COMMITMENTS TO SUSTAINABILITY,
RECONCILIATION, AND EQUITY,
DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION.

WE'RE COMMITTED TO BOLD ACTIONS FOR
A BETTER FUTURE AND ADVANCING THE
UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH ALL OUR
WORK, OUR RESEARCH, TEACHING,
LEARNING, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT.

OUR MOST RECENT ACTION HAS BEEN A
COMMITMENT TO FULL DIVESTMENT FROM
FOSSIL FUELS BY 2025 AND SIGNING ON
TO THE UN RACE TO ZERO SO THAT BY
2035 WE WILL HAVE REDUCED TO ZERO ALL
DIRECT EMISSIONS.

MANY AREAS PARTICULARLY CLIMATE
CHANGE.

VANCITY HAS SET COMMITMENTS TO
TACKLE ITS FINANCED EMISSIONS AND
HELP ADDRESS THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
INEQUITIES TIED TO THE CLIMATE
CRISIS.

I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE JONATHAN
FOWLIE, VANCITY'S CHIEF EXTERNAL
RELATIONS OFFICER, TO THE STAGE.

>> THANKS JOANNE.

THANKS AMANDA.

THAT WAS A LOVELY INTRODUCTION.

MY NAME IS JONATHAN FOWLIE.

I'M VANCITY'S CHIEF EXTERNAL
RELATIONS OFFICER AND HEAD OF OUR
IMPACT STRATEGY GROUP WHICH OVERSEES
OUR APPROACH TO FINANCED EMISSIONS,

TO CLIMATE JUSTICE, ANTI-RACISM AND
RECONCILIATION.

I'M HERE TONIGHT JUST TO GIVE A BIT
OF A SENSE OF THIS EVENT, WHY WE
COLLABORATE WITH IT AND WHAT IT MEANS
TO US.

I WANT TO START WITH THE WORDS HOPE
AND JOY.

PROMISED IN TONIGHT'S PROGRAM THOSE
ARE TWO WORDS THAT DON'T OFTEN GET
ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE JUSTICE.

INSTEAD WE FIND OURSELVES GRAPPLING
WITH THE FEELINGS OF FEAR AND GRIEF.

EVIDENCED BY THE PEOPLE OF LYTTON
WHO OVERNIGHT THIS PAST SUMMER LOST
THEIR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

OR THE ESTIMATED 595 PEOPLE WHO
DIED DURING THE SUMMER'S HEAT DOME.

MANY ALONE AND IN ISOLATION.

OR THOSE TONIGHT IN PLACES LIKE
MERRITT AND ABBOTSFORD, COOK'S FERRY
INDIAN BAND, AND NOOAITCH FIRST
NATION WHO ARE WEARY FROM RECENT
EVACUATIONS OR THEIR COMMUNITY BEING
STRANDED.

NOW AS WE GATHER HERE AND WATCH
ONLINE, THEY'RE HAVING TO BRACE FOR
YET ANOTHER STORM AND THEN YET
ANOTHER STORM AND THEN YET ANOTHER.

OR THINK OF WHAT EVERY PARENT FEELS
TONIGHT WHEN DREAMING OF THEIR KIDS.

MINE ARE 5 AND 8 AND I WORRY FOR
THE WORLD THEY ARE SET TO INHERIT.

SO YES, FEAR AND GRIEF ARE FAR MORE
FAMILIAR COMPANIONS ON THIS JOURNEY
THAN HOPE AND JOY.

CLIMATE ACTION CALC

ARE ALSO LIKELY TO BE THOSE MOST
AFFECTED BY ITS IMPACTS AND THE LEAST
LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO ADAPT.

ON BEHALF OF VANCITY, I WANT TO
THANK SFU FOR ITS LEADERSHIP IN
CREATING THIS SPACE FOR THIS
CONVERSATION.

THE VOICES WE WILL HEAR TONIGHT ARE
SO IMPORTANT AND ESPECIALLY NOW AT
THIS VERY MOMENT WHEN WE ALL
HOPEFULLY STILL HAVE TIME TO ACT.

VANCITY IS HELPING TO COLLABORATE
ON THIS EVENT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE SO
STRONGLY IN THE POWER OF INDIVIDUALS
COMING TOGETHER IN COMMON PURPOSE TO
MAKE BIG CHANGE.

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE ALL
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CLIMATE MUST ALSO

INCLUDE CONSIDERATIONS OF PEOPLE,

EQUITY, AND

THIS EVENING.

NOT QUITE.

TO MAKE THIS EVENT MORE ACCESSIBLE,
WE HAVE CLOSED CAPTIONING AVAILABLE
AND THERE'S A LINK TO THE CLOSED
CAPTIONING ON THE PAGE.

THIS EVENT IS ALSO BEING RECORDED
AND WILL BE SHARED ON SFU PUBLIC
SQUARE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND IN AN
EMAIL TO ALL OF YOU IN THE NEXT FEW
DAYS.

WE ASK THAT YOU RESPECT THE
COMMUNITY GUIDELINES THAT YOU AGREED
TO AS PART OF REGISTERING FOR THIS
EVENT SO WE CAN HAVE A SAFE HONEST
SOCIALY ACCOUNTABLE DIALOGUE
TOGETHER.

AND WE REMIND EVERYONE WITH US AT

THE CULTCH THIS EVENING TO PLEASE
KEEP YOUR MASKS ON.

A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE EVENING: WE
WILL BEGIN WITH A SHORT PRESENTATION
FROM EACH OF OUR SPEAKERS, FOLLOWED
BY A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEM AND
OUR WONDERFUL MODERATOR NAHLAH AYED
WHO WILL THEN FIELD QUESTIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE.

AND WE WILL BE TAKING THESE
QUESTIONS VIA SLIDO WHICH IS A SITE
YOU CAN EASILY ACCESS ON THE PHONE OR
COMPUTER AND YOU DON'T NEED TO SIGN
UP FOR AN ACCOUNT OR DOWNLOAD AN APP.

GO TO SLI.DO ON YOUR WEB BROWSER
AND ENTER THE CODE 151 025 WHICH YOU
SHOULD SEE ON THE SCREEN AS WELL AS
IN CHAT.

FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS
AT ANY TIME.

AFTER THE QUESTION AND ANSWER
PERIOD OUR PANEL WILL SPEND A FEW
MOMENTS HIGHLIGHTING GRASSROOTS
ORGANIZATIONS THEY FEEL WE SHOULD BE
AWARE OF AND SUPPORTING.

AND THEN AMANDA IS GOING TO COME
BACK AND CLOSE THE EVENT WITH A SONG.

NOW TO CARRY US THROUGH TO THIS
EVENT, I'M VERY PROUD TO PASS THE MIC
TO THE MODERATOR THIS EVENING NAHLAH
AYED.

NAHLAH IS THE HOST OF IDEAS ON CBC
RADIO ONE.

SHE IS AN AWARD WINNING VETERAN OF
FOREIGN REPORTING, FIRST IN THE
MIDDLE EAST WHERE SHE SPENT NEARLY A

THE INTRODUCTION.

AND THANK YOU AMANDA FOR STARTING

US OFF IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WAY.

UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO THE EXTREMEXTREME

AND WILDFIRES.

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE
BEING FELT AROUND THE WORLD.

AFFECTING ESPECIALLY THE VULNERABLE
BUT THREATENING TO MAKE US ALL
VULNERABLE.

TO DISCUSS HOW HOPE AND JOY ARE
ESSENTIAL PARTS OF FIRE

SO LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE
PANELISTS.

ANJALI APPADURAI SPENT HER EARLY
CAREER BUILDING A STRONG CIVIL
SOCIETY VOICE AT THE UN CLIMATE
CONVENTION WORKING WITH SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO
DEMAND CLIMATE JUSTICE AT A
MULTILATERAL LEVEL.

SHE'S NOW THE CLIMATE JUSTICE LEAD
AT SIERRA CLUB BC AND SECTORAL
ORGANIZER WITH THE NEWLY FORMED
CLIMATE EMERGENCY UNIT, A PROJECT OF
THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION.

SHE'S ALSO A SINGER, SONGWRITER AND
MUSIC PRODUCER.

WELCOME ANJALI.

[Applause]

>> NAISHA KHAN IS AN 18 YEAR OLD
SECOND GENERATION BANGLADESHI SETTLER
WHO HAS BEEN A CLIMATE AND RACIAL
JUSTICE ORGANIZER FOR THE PAST TWO
YEARS AS A CENTRAL ORGANIZER OF
SUSTAINABILITEENS, COFOUNDER OF
BANKING ON A BETTER FUTURE AND
ORGANIZER WITH CLIMATE STRIKE CANADA.

SHE'S CURRENTLY ATTENDING UBC AND
ADVOCATES FOR INTERSECTIONAL JUSTICE
AT CLIMATE JUSTICE UBC AND IN HER
LOCAL CITY OF SURREY.

PLEASE WELCOME NAISHA.

[Applause]

LAST BUT NOT LEAST MELINA
LABOUCAN-MASSIMO IS LUBICON CREE FROM
NORTHERN ALBERTA.

SHE'S THE FOUNDER OF SACRED EARTH

SOLAR AND CO

I JUST WANTED TO CHECK IN QUICKLY.

IT'S BEEN A VERY LONG YEAR.

IF IT'S NOT WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW
OUTSIDE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, YOU'VE
ALSO HAD COP26, ANJALI, YOU WERE
THERE, NAISHA, YOU RECENTLY FINISHED
MIDTERMS AND ORGANIZING A PROTEST, I
THINK.

JUST IN HER SPARE TIME.

(LAUGHTER) AND ALL OF YOU OF COURSE
ARE EXPERIENCING, YOU KNOW, LIFE IN
THESE EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.

I JUST WANT TO ASK HOW ARE YOU
DOING?

NAISHA.

>> YEAH.

IT'S DEFINITELY BEEN A LOT.

I'M GOING TO SCHOOL FULL TIME AND

THEN HAVING TO DEAL WITH THE CLIMATE
CRISIS IS A LOT TO DEAL WITH
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE 18 YEARS OLD.

BUT I AM MANAGING TO SURVIVE.

I HAVE A REALLY STRONG COMMUNITY.

I HAVE REALLY STRONG SUPPORTS WITH
MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT EASY SEEING
ALL OF THE CLIMATE NEWS THAT HAS BEEN
HAPPENING AND IT'S BEEN REALLY
MOTIVATING ME TO TAKE ACTION.

>> THANK YOU.

MELINA.

>> I'M DOING OKAY.

THE SAME THING.

IT'S HARD TO TAKE IN ALL THE NEWS
AFTER ORGANIZING ON CLIMATE FOR OVER
15 YEARS IT'S HARD TO NOT FEEL LIKE,

THIS WORK.

>> WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE ON THE
STAGE TOGETHER?

NAISHA, THIS IS A FIRST FOR YOU.

>> YEAH.

IT'S DEFINITELY A CHANGE OF PACE
FROM THE RALLIES THAT I'M USED TO.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE GONE TO
SOMETHING PROFESSIONALLY ORGANIZED,
NOT JUST A BUNCH OF TEENAGERS.

(LAUGHTER) WHICH IS NICE TO SEE.

ALSO I'M JUST SURROUNDED BY
POWERFUL WOMEN OF COLOUR.

AND THAT IS A REALLY NICE CHANGE OF
PACE.

[Applause]

>> WHOA HOO!

>> LASTLY I WAS CURIOUS, YOU TWO

KNOW EACH OTHER

BELIEVE.

SO PLEASE START.

>> YEAH.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING ME
HERE.

I FEEL SO BLESSED TO SHARE THE
STAGE WITH THESE TWO CLIMATE JUSTICE
SISTERS AND IT'S A VERY SAFE AND NICE
FEELING TO BE ON STAGE WITH ALL OF
YOU TODAY AND I AM SO GRATEFUL TO BE
ABLE TO DO THIS WORK ON UNCEDED COAST
SALISH LANDS.

I'M ANJALI.

I'M AN ORGANIZER.

I'M A COMMUNICATOR.

I AM A CONNECTOR IN THIS WILD WORLD
OF CLIMATE JUSTICE.

I HAVE OCCUPIED DIFFERENT CORNERS

OF THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT.

I STARTED AS A YOUTH ORGANIZER
ORGANIZING YOUTH FROM AROUND THE
WORLD AT THE UN CLIMATE CONVENTION OR
THE UNFCCC AS WE CALL IT.

AND BEFORE THAT I DID LOCAL WORK
HERE WITH MY HIGH SCHOOL IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CANADIAN RED
CROSS.

AND I ~~NEMEN~~STARTED OFWOMMMMMM AND I M GANI D E N T E D B E F A

COLONIALISM, O

TO SUSTAIN ITSELF AND THAT SACRIFICE
HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF INDIGENOUS,
BLACK AND BROWN BODIES AND
TRADITIONAL WAYS OF KNOWING.

AND IT WAS COLONIALISM THAT LAID
THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE EXTRACTIVE
INDUSTRIES THAT WOULD THEN CREATE AND
EXACERBATE THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

SO IT'S THOSE DOTS THAT IT IS
ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE FOR US TO
CONNECT ESPECIALLY AS WE ENTER THIS
AGE OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN.

AND TO BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THIS
BEAST.

SO THAT LINK BETWEEN LAND
DISPOSSESSION AND CORPORATE POWER AND
FOSSIL FUELS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IS
ONE THAT'S AT THE HEART OF THE CRISIS

AND THAT SAME SORT OF LOG JAM IS THE
SAME STORY THAT'S PLAYING OUT ALL
OVER THE WORLD.

LAND DISPOSSESSION LAYING THE WAY
FOR EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE
THEN PROTECTED BY GOVERNMENTS WHICH
THEN HAVE CREATED THE CRISIS THAT WE
FIND OURSELVES IN.

SO THAT'S THE STORY AT THE HEART OF
CLIMATE INJUSTICE.

SO IF THAT'S THE LOGIC, THE LOGIC
HOLDING, YOU KNOW, LAND DISPOSSESSION
AND CORPORATE POWER AND FOSSIL FUELS
TOGETHER IS WHAT CREATED THE CRISIS,
THEN WHAT TAKES US OUT OF IT HAS TO
BE THE FUNDAMENTAL OPPOSITE LOGIC.

AND SO THIS IS WHAT HAS BEEN
FRUSTRATING IN MY JOURNEY OF BEING A

PART OF THE UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE AND
ESPECIALLY THIS ONE, THIS LAST ONE,
COP26 IN GLASGOW, IS WATCHING THE
RHETORIC AND THE NARRATIVES AROUND
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS BE THROWN AROUND
AND SEEING SO MANY FALSE SOLUTIONS BE
PUT FORWARD.

IF WE LOOK AT THAT LOGIC THAT HOLDS
COLONIALISM AND CAPITALISM AND
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TOGETHER, A
FALSE SOLUTION IS SOMETHING THAT
SEEKS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH
THE SAME LOGIC AND THROUGH THE SAME
FRAMEWORK THAT CREATED IT.

AND THAT'S HOW WE CAN SPOT A FALSE
SOLUTION.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY WE SAW SO MUCH
WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE AND SO MUCH

ALLOTTING OF FALSE SOLUTIONS AT
COP26.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST SORT OF FALSE
SOLUTION NARRATIVES THAT IS A LARGE
PART OF THE CLIMATE DISCOURSE IN
CANADA IS THE IDEA OF NET ZERO AND
THAT CONCEPT HAS BEEN EMBRACED BY
GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD AND BY
THE CORPORATE SECTOR BUT TO ME NET
ZERO IS A CONCEPT THAT LEAVES LARGE
LOOPHOLES, THAT IS BORN OF THE SAME
LOGIC THAT CREATED THE CLIMATE CRISIS
AND IS JUST AN ACT OF SMOKE AND
MIRRORS THAT WILL NOT ACTUALLY GET US
TO THE SOLUTIONS THAT WE NEED.

NET ZERO ALLOWS US TO, BASICALLY
PRIORITIZES CORPORATE POWER AND PAVES
THE PATHWAY FOR EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

TO CONTINUE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE FAR
PAST ANY OF THE DEADLINES THAT WILL
ACTUALLY TAKE US TO A CLIMATE SAFE
FUTURE.

ANOTHER FALSE SOLUTION NARRATIVE
THAT HAS BEEN REALLY PREVALENT IN
THIS TIME HAS BEEN THAT OF NATURE
BASED SOLUTIONS AND YOU KNOW THESE
ARE TERMS THAT ARE THROWN AROUND AND
ARE SO DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE CLIMATE
NARRATIVE AT THIS POINT THAT THEY
SOUND PERFECTLY BENIGN AND THEY SOUND
ACTUALLY POSITIVE AND THEY SOUND
CONSTRUCTIVE.

BUT YOU JUST HAVE TO SORT OF LOOK
AT WHO EMBRACES A CONCEPT TO SEE WHAT
LOGIC THAT CONCEPT IS BORN OUT OF.

AND THE IDEA OF NATURE BASED

SOLUTIONS HAS BEEN EMBRACED
WHOLEHEARTEDLY BY THE CORPORATE
SECTOR AND GREEN WASHING COMPANIES
AND THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY AND
GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE PLACED PROFIT
OVER PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.

SO THIS IDEA OF THE SMOKE AND
MIRRORS AND THE FALSE SOLUTIONS IS
THE MIRE THAT WE WADE THROUGH AT
THESE CONFERENCES AND IN THE UN
PROCESS.

SO I THINK WE CAME OUT OF COP26
WITH A LOT OF BIG SHINY ANNOUNCEMENTS
ON THE TABLE.

CANADA PARTICIPATED IN THAT.

AND, YOU KNOW, I THINK THERE ARE
GOOD THINGS THAT WILL COME OUT OF
THOSE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEFENDERS WHEN THERE ARE CLIMATE
DISASTERS HAPPENING RIGHT HERE THAT
CRITICAL HELP IS NEEDED FOR.

IT'S A POLICY CHOICE TO NOT MANDATE
AN IMMEDIATE WIND DOWN OF THE FOSSIL
FUEL INDUSTRY IN THE LONG-TERM
INTERESTS OF PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.

THESE ARE CLEAR CHOICES THAT ARE
LEGITIMIZED BY THE STATE, BUT AREN'T
ACTUALLY LEGITIMATE IF YOU LOOK AT
THE ARC OF HISTORY AND LOOK AT THE
CLIMATE SCIENCE AND LOOK AT THE MORAL
OBLIGATION OF THE MOMENT.

SO AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, I
BELIEVE WE ARE IN A TIME OF
DISRUPTION.

WIDESPREAD CLIMATE DISRUPTION IS
HAPPENING ALL AROUND US.

AND WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FOR EACH
AND EVERY PERSON NOW THAT THERE'S
THIS HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE, CLIMATE CHANGE IS FRONT OF
MIND AND IT'S HAPPENING ALL AROUND
US, WE NEED TO BE THE DISRUPTORS NOW.

AND WE NEED TO FIND NEW WAYS OF
COMING TOGETHER AND PRIORITIZING
COLLECTIVE ACTION AND FINDING WAYS TO
BUILD OUR POWER IN THE NETWORKS AND
IN THE INSTITUTIONS THAT WE ARE
CONNECTED TO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN ACTIVIST TO
DO THIS.

I BELIEVE IT'S THE AGE FOR ALL OF
US TO DO THIS.

SO THAT'S GOING TO BE MY WORK IN
THIS NEXT CHAPTER OF CLIMATE JUSTICE.

AND I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO LOOK AT
THE NETWORKS AND TO LOOK AT THEIR
LIVES AND LOOK AT THE PEOPLE THAT
THEY'RE SURROUNDED WITH AND TO FIND
WAYS TO COME TOGETHER AND TAKE REAL
CLIMATE ACTION.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH ANJALI.

REALLY VERY INSIGHTFUL AND RAISES
SO MANY QUESTIONS.

ONE OF WHICH IS A PRACTICAL ONE.

NOT MANY PEOPLE HERE OR ELSEWHERE
HAVE BEEN TO A COP SUMMIT OR MEETING.

I'M CURIOUS YOU CAN GIVE US A SENSE
WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION WITH, YOU KNOW, THE MAIN
PLAYERS ON THE GROUND WHO ARE
OBVIOUSLY VERY CONCERNED MOSTLY ABOUT

THE NEXT ELECTION CYCLE.

AND WHO PERHAPS DON'T THINK LONG
TERM.

I WONDER JUST WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE
NAVIGATING THOSE DISCUSSIONS WHEN YOU
ARE THINKING ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT IS
LONG TERM BOTH PAST AND PRESENT AND
FUTURE AND YET YOU'RE DEALING WITH
ORGANIZATIONS THAT THINK SO SHORT
TERM.

>> YEAH.

IT'S BEEN REALLY FRUSTRATING
BECAUSE I STARTED AS A YOUTH ACTIVIST
IN THAT SPACE.

AND OUR SLOGAN WAS HOW OLD WILL YOU
BE IN 2050?

BECAUSE ALL THE CLIMATE TARGETS
WERE TALKING ABOUT 2050 AT THAT TIME.

AND THEY STILL ARE.

I MEAN, CANADA IS TALKING ABOUT NET
ZERO BY 2050.

I THINK THAT QUESTION THAT YOUTH
MOVEMENTS ARE STILL ASKING TO THIS
DAY IS STILL A POIGNANT ONE.

HOW OLD WILL YOU BE IN 2050?

HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE AT STAKE IN
THIS TIME OF CRISIS?

I THINK THE UN SPACE IS REALLY
IMPORTANT IN THAT AS I SAID CLIMATE
CHANGE KNOWS NO BORDERS AND IT IS A
COLLECTIVE CRISIS.

THERE NEEDS TO BE A COLLECTIVE
PROCESS TO TACKLE IT.

BUT THAT PROCESS IS RIFE WITH ALL
OF THE INJUSTICES OF THE WORLD, OF
COLONIALISM AND NOT JUST, YOU KNOW,

WITHIN A COUNTRY LIKE CANADA BUT ON A
GLOBAL SCALE AS WELL AND DEBT AND
INEQUALITY AND ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT
DISPARITIES.

BUT THERE'S AN INTEGRITY TO THE UN
CLIMATE CONVENTION THAT HAS BEEN
ERODED OVER TIME.

AND I'VE SEEN THAT EROSION HAPPEN
IN MY TEN YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT AND
PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DOING IT LONGER
THAN ME HAVE SEEN THAT EROSION SINCE
THE CONVENTION WAS FOUNDED IN 1992.

THERE'S AN INTEGRITY TO, YOU KNOW,
A PROMISE AT THE HEART OF THIS UN
CONVENTION THAT SAYS WE WILL ALL COME
AROUND THE SAME TABLE AND WE ARE ALL
GOING TO DO OUR PART.

ALL OUR PARTS ARE GOING TO LOOK

TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

>> I WANT TO ASK YOU A MORE
PERSONAL QUESTION WHICH IS THE POINT
THAT YOU STARTED WITH IN YOUR
PRESENTATION THAT YOU DON'T CALL
YOURSELF AN ENVIRONMENTALIST.

THAT YOU'RE A HUMANITARIAN.

I WONDER IF YOU COULD TAKE US TO
THE MOMENT THAT YOU DECIDED YOU KNEW
WHAT THE DISTINCTION WAS IN THE WORK
THAT YOU DO.

>> RIGHT.

I'VE SORT OF MOVED AWAY FROM BOTH
LABELS AT THIS POINT AS MY
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE EVOLVED
AND I'VE LEARNED FROM ESPECIALLY THE
INCREDIBLE INDIGENOUS LEADERS THAT
ARE LEADING A LOT OF MOVEMENTS THAT

WE SEE.

I GREW UP IN A TIME WHERE
ENVIRONMENTALISM WAS REALLY ABOUT
CONSERVATION.

THERE WAS THIS SORT OF LEGACY WHICH
IS NOW I KNOW A COLONIAL LEGACY OF
CONVERSATION DEFINING THE
ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT HERE ON TURTLE
ISLAND WHERE IT WAS ABOUT CORDONING
OFF NATURE AND SAYING LET'S PROTECT
IT.

THAT FLEW IN THE FACE OF INDIGENOUS
WAYS OF KNOWING, IT WAS A VERY
COLONIAL PRACTICE AND THAT WAS MY
UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENT, IT'S
ABOUT RECYCLING AND CONSERVATION.

I DISTANCED MYSELF FROM THAT
BECAUSE I, YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T

RESONATE WITH THAT.

I COME FROM A COUNTRY, I'M AN
INDIAN IMMIGRANT, I COME FROM A PLACE
WHERE THERE'S SO MANY HUMANITARIAN
ISSUES THAT I THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS
MY JOB TO SORT OF TALK ABOUT WAR AND
FAMINE AND SORT OF THESE HUMAN
ISSUES.

I THINK WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE
PRESIDENT OF A SMALL ISLAND STATE, I
BELIEVE IT WAS THE MARSHALL ISLANDS,
SPEAK AT THE UN AND THEY SPOKE FROM
THE HEART AND THEY REALLY SPOKE ABOUT
CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN ISSUE OF
SURVIVAL FOR THEIR PEOPLE.

PHYSICAL SURVIVAL BUT ALSO CULTURAL
SURVIVAL AND SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL AND
HOW THERE WERE SO MANY IMMEASURABLY

PRECIOUS THINGS THAT WOULD BE LOST IF
WE DIDN'T COME TOGETHER AROUND THIS
ISSUE AND PRIORITIZE JUSTICE AT THE
HEART OF THE ISSUE.

AND THAT TO ME STARTED TO TURN.

AND THE INDIGENOUS-LED MOVEMENTS
THAT I LEARNED FROM HERE TAUGHT ME
THAT DICHOTOMIZATION OF HUMANS AND
NATURE IS A FALSE ONE.

AND IT'S NOT A HELPFUL ONE.

IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF A VIOLENT
ONE.

IF WE DON'T SEE OURSELVES AS PART
OF THE EARTH AND AS PART OF THE
SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP AND AS PART OF
AN ECOSYSTEM, THEN WE'RE THINKING
ALONG THE SAME COLONIAL LINES THAT
ALLOWED US TO GET INTO THIS PLACE OF

CLIMATE CRISIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND SO I'VE LEARNED TO SORT OF HAVE
A PRACTICE OF TRYING TO ACKNOWLEDGE
AND RESPECT ALL THE BEINGS AROUND ME
WHETHER THEY'RE HUMAN OR NOT AND NOT
SEEING THEM IN A HIERARCHY OF, YOU
KNOW, US AS LIKE A SUPREME SPECIES
AND NOT SEEING NATURE AS A SEPARATE
THING EITHER.

>> THANK YOU.

THAT'S WONDERFUL.

THANKS VERY MUCH.

NAISHA, YOU'RE NEXT.

>> YEAH.

HI, EVERYBODY.

MY NAME IS NAISHA.

I'M A SECOND GENERATION BANGLADESHI
SETTLER AND TYPICALLY EITHER RESIDING

TEI

228\228\228\228\228

ON THE TRADITIONAL, STOLEN AND
 OCCUPIED KWANTLEN, KATZIE AND
 SEMIAHMOO LANDS, ALSO KNOWN AS
 SURREY, BC, OR THE SQUAMISH AND
 MUSQUEAM AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH LANDS AT
 THE POINT GREY UBC CAMPUS.

I°QPO ~~AND~~ ZPUIOK

GRATEFUL .

I

LAND WHERE EVERYONE LOOKED LIKE ME
AND I ENTERED A HOME WHERE EVERYONE
WELCOMED ME.

THIS WAS IN MY GRANDMOTHER'S HOME
AND WHERE EVERY FAMILY MEMBER HAD AN
ASSIGNED CUP.

MY CUP WAS A BRIGHT YELLOW GIRAFFE
MUG.

I USED THAT CUP TO DRINK WATER BUT
FOR THE FIRST TIME I DID NOT DRINK
WATER STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP.

I HAD TO USE A WATER FILTER.

I HAD NEVER USED A WATER FILTER
BEFORE AND I BEGAN TO REALIZE THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND
CANADA.

I REMEMBER FLYING BACK AROUND 3
YEARS AGO AND DRIVING AROUND DHAKA

GRANDMOTHER'S HOME AND SAT IN THE

EMBRACE OF MY FAMILY EATING FREO

CHANGE.

THEY ARE ILL EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH
THE CONSEQUENCES, WITH CORRUPT
GOVERNMENT, POOR CITY PLANNING AND
INSUFFICIENT HEALTH SERVICES.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS GOING TO CAUSE
MASS DESTRUCTION. 27-082553(1*7

BUT I WANT TO SAY THAT BANGLADESH
IS NOT POOR, THIRD WORLD OR
UNDERDEVELOPED.

IT IS OVER-EXTRACTED AND
OVEREXPLOITED.

IT WAS MOV

AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CONTINUE
TO FACE THE FIRSTHAND IMPACTS OF THIS
CRISIS.

I'M GOING TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST.

I HAVE BEEN SO OVERWHELMED BY
RECENT EVENTS.

WE HAVE JUST COME OUT OF A RECORD
BREAKING SUMMER HEAT WAVE WITH SEVERE
FLOODING JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, A
COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, THAT CAUSED
MUDSLIDES AND EXTREME DAMAGE TO THE
COQUIHALLA AND TO THE INTERIOR.

MILITARIZED RCMP VIOLENCE AGAINST
WET'SUWET'EN LAND DEFENDERS AND
GENERAL DISAPPOINTMENT FROM COP26.

THESE EVENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A
STRONG LACK OF STRONG POLITICAL WILL
NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE SCALE OF THE

CLIMATE CRISIS.

IT IS A LOT TO DEAL WITH.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS SCARY AND ALL
CONSUMING.

I GET SCARED AND ANXIOUS AND ANGRY.

BUT AMIDST THAT I STILL HAVE HOPE.

DESPITE ALL THE CLIMATE DOOM-ISM
FEATURED IN THE NEWS, I BELIEVE THAT
WE CAN SOLVE THIS CRISIS AND BUILD A
BETTER WORLD FOR ALL.

A WORLD WHERE THE EARTH IS NOT JUST
ANOTHER AVENUE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

A WORLD WHERE WE'RE NOT EXTRACTING
FROM THE LAND, A WORLD WHERE
MARGINALIZED IS NO LONGER PART OF OUR
VOCABULARIES.

A WORLD WHERE COMMUNITY THRIVES AND
WE CAN ENJOY NATURE INSTEAD OF

CHOKING ON THE FUMES OF FOSSIL FUELS.

WHERE WE HAVE A REGENERATIVE AND
CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

WHERE I'M NOT JUST ANOTHER TOKEN
AND MY VOICE IS ACTUALLY VALUED AND A
WORLD WHERE I CAN SPEAK MY LANGUAGE
BETTER THAN THE LANGUAGE OF THOSE WHO
COLONIZED SOUTH ASIA.

YOU MAY ASK HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS
WORLD?

WELL, IT BEGINS WITH DISMANTLING
THE SYSTEMS THAT CAUSED THIS CRISIS
IN THE FIRST PLACE.

CANADA IS FOUNDED ON SETTLER
COLONIALISM AND FOUNDED ON THE
EXPLOITATION OF LANDS AND PEOPLE. IN
SEARCH OF ACQUISITION OF MORE LANDS,
THE CROWN COMMITTED AND CONTINUES TO

COMMIT VIOLENCE TO ATTAIN IT.

THROUGH THIS, WESTERNIZATION,
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND CAPITALISM HAVE
OCCURRED TO ALLOW PROFIT AND WEALTH
TO DRIVE EVERYTHING.

DISRUPTED OUR BALANCE WITH NATURE.

BUT SETTLER COLONIALISM IS A STATE.

IT IS A SENSE OF BEING FOR A NATION
AND IT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL.

IT HAS ATTEMPTED AND CONTINUES TO
ATTEMPT TO ERASE THE HISTORY OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BUT NO

THE SAME POWER IS PREVENTING US
FROM ACHIEVING A BETTER WORLD.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE UPLIFT
THESE VOICES NOT ONLY BECAUSE
MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE
CENTRE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS BUT
BECAUSE THESE COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN
PRACTICING SUSTAINABILITY FOR YEARS.

WE HAVE THE SOLUTION.

WE JUST NEED TO CENTRE THE RIGHT
VOICES TO MAKE IT A REALITY.

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THESE
SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION HAVE NOT ALWAYS
EXISTED.

WHITE SUPREMACY HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN
THE PREDOMINANT STATE.

THESE OPPRESSIVE STRUCTURES HAVE
NOT ALWAYS PREVAILED AND NOR WILL

THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO.

WE NEED RADICAL ACTION TO MAKE IT A
REALITY.

WE NEED TO SEE RADICAL ACTION FROM
THE POWERS THAT BE TO BUILD THE WORLD
WE DESERVE.

RADICALIZATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT
DANGER.

IT IS ABOUT LOVE AND JOY.

THESE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION ARE
ROOTED IN HATE.

HATE FOR OURSELVES AND HATE FOR THE
OTHER.

I HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS YEARS HATING
MY BENGALI FEATURES, MY DARK SKIN, MY
HAIRY ARMS AND MY THICK EYEBROWS.

BUT BY LOVING MYSELF I'M COMMITTING
AN ACT OF ANTI-OPPRESSION.

AN ACT OF RESISTANCE.

I'M HOPE IN RESISTANCE.

WE ARE ALL HOPE IN RESISTANCE.

THROUGH CARING FOR OURSELVES, WE
ARE UNDOING CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION
MADE TO DEVALUE OURSELVES AND VALUE
MONEY.

WE CAN RECOGNIZE THE WORLD WE WANT
TO HEAD TOWARDS WHERE WE CARE FOR
EACH OTHER.

A WORLD WHERE WE VALUE EACH OTHER.

BY CARING FOR OURSELVES WE ARE
STARTING A LARGER REVOLUTION OF CARE
THAT IS ANTITHETICAL TO CAPITALISM
AND COLONIALISM.

IDEAS LIKE COMMUNITY AND STRUCTURAL
CARE, I ALSO WANT TO NOTE, HAVE BEEN
PREDOMINANTLY IMPLEMENTED BY

I WANT YOU

THE COMPETITIVENESS AND DIVISION THAT
CREATED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT FOR
OUR SHARED LIBERATION WHILE CENTRING
LOVE AND JOY.

HOPE IN RESISTANCE IS ESSENTIAL.

HOPE IN RESISTANCE IS THE SOLUTION.

THANK YOU.

[Applause]

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH NAISHA FOR A
WONDERFUL SPEECH.

SO MANY QUESTIONS AGAIN RAISED BY
THAT.

I HONED IN QUICKLY TO THE STATEMENT
YOU MADE THAT THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT
HAS FAILED AND CONTINUES TO FAIL.

MANY REASONS FOR IT.

YOU LISTED SOME OF THEM.

BUT I'M CURIOUS HOW MUCH YOU THINK
THE LACK OF DISCUSSION OF HOPE
CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAIL HI

THE SOLUTIONS.

WHEN WE DO THAT WE BUILD SOLUTIONS
LIKE ANJALI SAID THAT ARE FALSE
SOLUTIONS.

SO I THINK HOPE IS REALLY ESSENTIAL
TO THAT.

ANOTHER THING THAT HAS REALLY,
REALLY BEEN PERPETUATED IN THE
CLIMATE MOVEMENT IS CAPITALISTIC
TENDENCIES WHERE WE'RE NOT
CELEBRATING LOVE AND JOY.

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE DOING THIS WORK
BECAUSE THEY FEEL SCARED AND
MOTIVATED BY GUILT AND SHAME.

BUT THEY'RE NOT ALLOWING THEMSELVES
TO FEEL THAT JOY AND THAT OFTEN LEADS
TO BURNOUT AND I'VE JUST SEEN SO MANY
YOUTH WHO HAVE DEVELOPED MENTAL

HEALTH ISSUES AND HAVE JUST HAD TO
COMPLETELY LEAVE THE MOVEMENT BECAUSE
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP
THAT BALANCE AND IT'S NOT TO ANY
FAULT OF THEIR OWN.

WE REPLICATE THE SYSTEMS IN WHICH
WE GROW UP IN.

DEFINITELY A REPLICATION OF
CAPITALISTIC SYSTEMS.

THAT'S A BIG WAY IT'S IMPACTED US.

>> YOU MENTIONED HOW A LOT OF YOUTH
FEEL FEAR OR SCARED NOT ONLY OF WHAT
IS HAPPENING BUT ALSO OF GETTING
INVOLVED.

WHAT IS IT THAT COMPELLED YOU?

WHAT IS THE MOMENT THAT COMPELLED
YOU TO GET INVOLVED?

>> YEAH.

I STARTED MY CLIMATE JOURNEY KIND OF SIMILAR TO ANJALI WHERE I HEARD A LOT ABOUT CONSERVATION BEING REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.

I KIND OF ALWAYS WAS AWARE OF THAT.

BUT THEN IN HIGH SCHOOL, I STARTED TO SEE A LOT MORE YOUTH TAKE THE LEAD AND TAKE ACTION.

SO IN 2019, I ATTENDED THE VANCOUVER CLIMATE STRIKE ON SEPTEMBER 29TH IN 2019 THAT WAS THE LARGEST STRIKE IN VANCOUVER'S HISTORY, ACTUALLY HELD BY SUSTAINABILITEENS, THE ORGANIZATION THAT I LATER ON JOINED.

SEEING THAT AND SEEING SUCH REALLY POWERFUL YOUTH VOICES TAKE LEAD AND BUILD A NARRATIVE THAT WAS SO NEEDED

UP IN SUCH A GOOD WAY, IN SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL WAY WITH SUCH BEAUTIFUL
WORDS AND SUCH AN AMAZING PRAYER SONG
THAT CONNECTS US ALL BACK TO SPIRIT
AND ANCESTORS AND I HONOUR THE COAST
SALISH ANCESTORS THAT WALK HERE ON
THESE LANDS THAT MANY OF US CALL
HOME.

I ACTUALLY NOW CALL HOME LEKWUNGEN
TERRITORY, SO-CALLED VICTORIA.

I INTRODUCED MYSELF IN MY LANGUAGE.

I'M LUBICON CREE.

I WAS BORN IN A RESERVE CALLED
LITTLE BUFFALO.

IT IS IN TREATY 8 TERRITORY IN
NORTHERN ALBERTA.

AND I WILL SHOW PHOTOS JUST BECAUSE
I FIND IT'S EASY TO STORYTELL THAT

MY DAD UNTIL THE AGE OF 9 TURNING 10
WHEN THEY OPENED A DAY SCHOOL.

I'M THE FIRST GENERATION TO NOT
ATTEND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN MY
COMMUNITY, IN MY FAMILY.

I WANTED TO MENTION THAT AS A PART
OF THE COLLECTIVE CONVERSATION THAT
ANJALI AND NAISHA HAVE SO AMAZINGLY
SET THE STAGE OF IN TERMS OF
COLONIALISM AND HOW THAT'S CONNECTED
TO CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM.

SO I'M GOING TO TALK A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT THE REALLY HARD THINGS TO TALK
ABOUT TODAY.

BUT THEN I WILL END WITH POSITIVE
STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND OF HOPE
THAT I HAVE EMBARKED ON SINCE
EXPERIENCING REALLY INTENSE STORIES

LIKE THE ONE YOU SEE UP ABOVE WHERE
MY COMMUNITY IN 2011, AT THE TIME I
WAS ALREADY A FULL TIME CLIMATE AND
ENERGY CAMPAIGNER.

I WORKED AT GREENPEACE CANADA FOR
ALMOST A DECADE AND I RECEIVED A
PHONE CALL FROM MY AUNTIE WHO WORKS
IN THE SCHOOL.

SHE TEACHES CREE FOR MORE THAN 30
YEARS IN OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN
LITTLE BUFFALO WHERE I WAS BORN.

AND SHE CALLED ME AND SHE SAID WE
CAN'T BREATHE.

OUR EYES ARE BURNING AND OUR LUNGS
ARE BURNING AND EVERYTHING IS BURNING
AND WE CAN'T BREATHE.

CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IS HAPPENING?

NOBODY IS TELLING US WHAT IS GOING

ON.

WE HAD A MASSIVE OIL SPILL.

ONE OF THE LARGEST OIL SPILLS IN
ALBERTA'S AND CANADA'S HISTORY.

IT WAS AN INCREDIBLY TRAUMATIZING
EXPERIENCE.

THE ELDERS AND CHILDREN, PEOPLE
THAT HAD IMMUNOCOMPROMISED STATES,
SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE COMMUNITY
BUT NO ONE WAS EVACUATED.

EVERYONE WAS FORCED TO BREATHE THIS
AIR FOR OVER TWO WEEKS.

IT IS OBVIOUSLY STILL UPSETTING.

BUT IT WAS THE HOME, OUR HOMELANDS
WERE DESTROYED.

AND THIS OTHER PICTURE THAT I'M
SHOWING BELOW WAS WHERE WE WENT BACK
15 MONTHS LATER AND STILL THE LAND

WAS STILL IN DESPAIR.

IT WAS A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

THAT'S A PART OF AFTER A WHILE I

STARTED THINKING I CAN'T BE SAVED

WE LIVE AND BREATHE AND PRACTICE OUR
CULTURE AND TRADITIONS AND LANGUAGES
AND CUSTOMS IS BEING DEVASTATED BY
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND
INDUSTRIALIZED LANDSCAPES AND DRAINED
AND POLLUTED WATERSHEDS AND
CONTAMINATED AIR.

THIS IS THE STAGE WHERE WE NEED TO
FIND OUR RESILIENCE.

I THINK IT IS A LOT DIFFERENT FOR
FOLKS IN THE CITIES VERY FAR AWAY OF
SITES OF DESTRUCTION BECAUSE WE HAVE
TO BUILD CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN A
DIFFERENT WAY WHERE I'M FROM, WHERE I
WAS BORN.

AND YOU KNOW THIS IS A MICROCOSM OF
A MACROCOSM OF MANY COMMUNITIES
ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND THAT ARE IN

CANCER CLUSTERS LIKE WHERE MY FAMILY

A

SURVIVORS LIKE MY AUNTS AND UNCLES

AND DAD AND WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH

AND THAT HISTORY NEEK

BECAUSE THEY BOTH DID SUCH A GREAT
JOB BUT WE ARE IN A CARELESS ECONOMY
WHERE WE ARE LIVING IN SO-CALLED
CANADA OVER THE BOUNDS OF THE WAYS IN
WHICH WE SHOULD BE LIVING.

WE ARE TAKING GLOBALLY THE
RESOURCES SO PEOPLE HAVE BARELY ANY
MEANS TO GET BY IN OTHER PLACES.

IN CANADA THERE'S A STUDY I WANTED
TO MENTION CALLED 1.5 DEGREE
LIFESTYLES REPORT AND CANADA WAS
NAMED AS ONE OF THE WORST PER CAPITA
RECORDS BY FAR OF UNSUSTAINABLE
LIFESTYLES AND THIS CREATES INEQUITY
GLOBALLY AND NATIONALLY.

WE KNOW THERE'S >°∅

WHERE THERE'S NO PAVED ROADS AND NO
RUNNING WATER BUT \$14 BILLION HAS
COME OUT OF THE TERRITORY AND MORE
FROM OIL AND GAS AND REVENUE.

BUT YET, YOU KNOW, MY FAMILY STILL
LIVES IN SUB-PAR MOLDING HOUSES.

WE HAVE HOUSING CRISES AND WATER
CRISES AND ALL THE CRISES.

ALL THE ISMS, HIGH SUICIDE RATES,
ALL THE HIGHEST EVERYTHING.

AND YET WE ARE STILL, YOU KNOW,
LIVING IN A STATE OF NEOCOLONIALISM
AND A STATE OF CRISIS WHERE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE ECONOMIC
HOSTAGES IN THEIR OWN HOMELANDS.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SAY
COLONIALISM HAS NOT ENDED AND THE
MOST, YOU KNOW, FAMILIAR ONE I'M

FAMILIAR WITH IS RESOURCE EXTRACTION.

YOU KNOW, SO I ALSO QUESTION OUR RIGHTS PROTECTED IN SECTION 35 OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION WHICH IS WHERE, YOU KNOW, OUR ELDERS, THE PEOPLE THAT I LOOK UP TO AND RESPECT, WORKED SO HARD, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST WORKED SO HARD TO GET SECTION 35 OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION INTO THE CONSTITUTION ACT IN 1982.

THIS WAS A HARD, HARD HEAVY LIFTING.

YET WE STILL GO WITH UNPROTECTED RIGHTS.

ANOTHER POINT I WANT TO MAKE BEFORE GOING ON TO THE MORE JOYFUL PART OF THIS TALK IS, AND I NEED TO MAKE

MENTION

ALL LIVES ARE IMPORTANT, ALL LIVING
BEINGS' LIVES ARE IMPORTANT FROM THE
SMALLEST BEING TO THE BIGGEST BEING.

AND SO THIS IS WHERE WE DIFFER A
LOT OF THE TIMES OF THE VIOLENCE
AGAINST THE LAND.

AND YOU KNOW THAT'S WHY I USUALLY
SAY THAT IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT
WOMEN IS DYING LIKE THE LAND IS DYING
BECAUSE THERE IS SUCH A DEVALUATION
OF LAND AND ALSO OF WOMEN.

SO THE QUESTION THAT I WILL FINISH
ON FOR THE LAST PART OF THE
CONVERSATION I'M HAVING WITH YOU HERE
TODAY IS WHAT DOES A JUST TRANSITION
LOOK LIKE?

FOR ME, A JUST TRANSITION, BECAUSE
I'VE CONSISTENTLY SEEN THROUGHOUT MY

LIFETIME FROM A YOUNG CHILD TO, YOU
KNOW, AN ADULT NOW, SEEING OVER AND
OVER AND OVER INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
ALWAYS FACING THE BRUNT OF ALL THE
THINGS IN SO-CALLED CANADA, THE BRUNT
OF COLONIALISM, THE BRUNT OF RESOURCE
EXTRACTION, THE BRUNT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL GENOCIDE, THE BRUNT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM, THE BRUNT OF
THE CLIMATE CRISIS, SO I THINK IT'S
VERY IMPORTANT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
TO NOT ALWAYS BE AT THE END OF THE
RECEIVING LINE.

FOR ME THAT'S WHY I KNEW IF I
DIDN'T START BUILDING PROJECTS THAT
INSPIRED ME AND I WANTED TO SEE IN MY
COMMUNITY THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN
BUILT.

YOU KNOW, I ALSO WANT TO TALK ABOUT
THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE
RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

AGAIN, ELDERS THAT WORKED FOR MANY
YEARS, CLOSE TO TWO DECADES, TO GET
THAT PASSED AS INTERNATIONAL
LEGISLATION OF WHICH NOW CANADA IS A
SIGNATORY SINCE 2016 EVEN THOUGH IT
WAS PASSED BY THE UN IN 2007.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE UPHOLD THE
RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

I WANTED TO POINT THAT OUT.

WHERE WE ARE AT AND WHAT GIVES ME
HOPE IS A CRITICAL PARADIGM SHIFT IS
NEEDED FOR ALL PEOPLE THAT MAKE THEIR
HOME ON PLANET EARTH.

WE TALK ABOUT INDIGENOUS WAYS OF
KNOWING AND BEING BUT WE NEED ALL

PEOPLE TO HAVE THESE WAYS OF KNOWING
AND BEING.

WE NEED TO HAVE RECIPROCITY WITH
MOTHER EARTH.

IF WE GO HIKING AND ENJOY A PLACE
SOMEWHERE HIKING, WE HAVE
RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT PLACE.

WE CAN'T JUST COME AND GO WHEN WE
CHOOSE.

WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY.

IF WE DRINK FROM THAT WATER, WE
HAVE A RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP WITH
THAT WATER.

THAT IS WHY YOU SEE SO MANY
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON THE FRONT LINES
FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES WITH THEIR
VERY BODIES, THE LAST RESOURCE THAT
WE HAVE LEFT IS OUR BODIES.

SO MUCH HAS BEEN TAKEN ALREADY THAT
WE PUT OUR BODIES ON THE FRONT LINE.
AND SO THAT IS WHAT I ASK MMMSKE.

WHICH IN CREE MEANS THE COMING OF THE
DAWN, THE RISING OF THE NEW ERA,
WHICH MEANT THAT WHAT WE SAW MY WHOLE
LIFE GROWING UP WAS EXTRACTIVISM ALL
AROUND.

THERE'S A CUT LINE, AND A CUT LINE
WAS INDUSTRY AT THE END OF THAT ROAD.

ANOTHER CUT LINE, INDUSTRY AT THE
END OF THAT ROAD.

YOU SEE THEM ANY TIME YOU DRIVE
HOME, CUT LINE, CUT LINE, CUT LINE,
CUT LINE.

YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO BE
AT THE END OF THAT ROAD.

WE NEVER HAD SOLAR PANELS EVER IN
OUR COMMUNITY.

IT WAS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE FEW
TIMES I'VE EVER SEEN SOLAR PANELS.

THIS PROJECT I WORKED TO FUNDRAISE
FOR AND BUILD AND THIS PROJECT WENT
UP IN 2015.

SO THAT WAS CARLETON.

HE'S 21.

WE JUST OPENED THE FIRST BOX OF
PANELS AND WERE LIKE WOW.

LOOK AT THIS.

MY AUNTIE WHO'S IN HER 70s, NOW
PROBABLY IN HER 80s, CAME UP TO ME IN
THE SOLAR FEAST SAID I NEVER THOUGHT
I WOULD SEE SOLAR PANELS IN MY LIFE.

I ALWAYS SEE THEM ON TV.

THAT'S HOW WE TALK BACK HOME.

(LAUGHTER).

AND I ALWAYS GO BACK INTO MY
BILINGUALISM REZ ACCENT WHEN I GO
HOME.

TRY TO PULL THAT ONE OUT FOR YOU.

THIS IS MANY YOUTH FROM BACK HOME
THAT HELPED US BUILD THESE PANELS.

IT'S RIGHT BESIDE THE COMMUNITY
SCHOOL FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.

AND THE FINAL INSTALLATION IS A
20.8 KILOWATT SYSTEM THAT POWERS OUR
HEALTH CENTRE AND IT'S BEEN RUNNING
NOW FOR SIX YEARS.

AND THE REASON WHY I WANTED TO
BUILD IT WAS FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

FOR THESE, YOU KNOW, KINDERGARTEN,
GRADE 1, GRADE 2, THAT WOULD KNOW
THAT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE
ENTRENCHED IN A ONE-WAY SYSTEM OF
CONSTANTLY HAVING TO BE FORCE FED THE
FOSSIL FUELS REGIME, THAT THIS IS THE
ONLY WAY THAT YOU CAN LIVE, BREATHE,

AND WORK.

AND FOR US, WE WANTED TO BUILD THIS
TO TRY TO START NEW WAYS OF BEING
EITHER IF YOU WANT TO BE AN
ELECTRICIAN, IF YOU WANT TO BE
BUILDING THINGS LIKE WHAT WE BUILT,
YOU KNOW, AND WE HAD A SOLAR FEAST, A
SOLAR LAUNCH.

AND IT WAS JUST ONE WAY, YOU KNOW,
I KNOW THAT SOLAR IS ONLY A
TRANSITION TECHNOLOGY.

IT'S NOT A ONE SIZE FITS ALL.

RENEWABLE ENERGY STILL CREATES
EXTRACTIVISM SO WE NEED TO BE REAL
ABOUT THAT WITH LITHIUM MINING.

WE NEED TO BE REAL ABOUT THAT.

I THINK FOR ME EVEN AS I PROGRESS
IN MY CLIMATE JOURNEY, YOU KNOW, HOW

WE NEED TO CALL OUT NET ZERO, HOW DO
WE FIND THESE SOLUTIONS?

AND WE ALL NEED TO BE A PART OF THE
SOLUTIONS AND TRY TO FIND DIFFERENT
WAYS OF BUILDING THE FUTURE.

AND WE'VE ALSO SOLARIZED
COMMUNITIES ON THE FRONT LINE THROUGH
MY ORGANIZATION CALLED SACRED EARTH
SOLAR WITH SECWEPENC WOMEN ON THE
FRONT LINES OF THE TRANS MOUNTAIN
PIPELINE.

WE'VE ALSO SOLARIZED WET'SUWET'EN
AND THREE CABINS UP IN GIDIMT'EN
CHECKPOINT AND I DON'T KNOW IF
THEY'VE BEEN SLASHED TO PIECES BY THE
RCMP AS 11 PEOPLE JUST GOT ARRESTED
THIS PAST WEEKEND.

BUT WE CONTINUE TO BUILD THESE

COUNTRY AND INTERVIEWED INDIGENOUS
LEADERS ABOUT ALL OF THE DIFFERENT
FOOD SECURITY, ECO HOUSING, RENEWABLE
ENERGY SYSTEMS THAT THEY WERE PUTTING
UP TO PREPARE FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

CLIMATE ADAPTATIONS.

IF I HAD MORE TIME I WOULD SHOW A
VIDEO OF POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO WATCH WHAT
PEOPLE ARE DOING IN CLIMATE ACTION
YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT ON
POWERTOPEOPLE.TV OR STREAM IT
ONLINE AS WELL.

TO FINISH I WANT TO TALK ABOUT HOW
SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE IS
HOPE FOR ME AND STANDING IN
SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
AND FRONT LINE LAND DEFENDERS IS HOPE

TO ME .

WE ALSO NEED TO STOP CRIMINALIZING
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PROTECTING THEIR
HOMELANDS AND STOP DRAGGING THEM OFF
THEIR OWN HOMELANDS THAT THEY'VE BEEN
PROTECTING FOR THOUSANDS AND
THOUSANDS OF YEARS .

WE REALLY NEED TO HOLD THE
GOVERNMENT OF BC ACCOUNTABLE AND THE
RCMP ACCOUNTABLE FOR ABYSMAL
TREATMENT OF LAND DEFENDERS DOING
THIS WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF US ALL .

I WILL FINISH WITH WHAT WE TALKED
ABOUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS
CONVERSATION OF ME NOT UNDERSTANDING
I THINK FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS DOING THIS
WORK THAT HEALING AND JOY IS
REVOLUTIONARY AND I TOTALLY DIDN'T ,

I NEVER INCLUDED MYSELF IN THAT
SACRED HOOP THAT I TALKED ABOUT.

I JUST KEPT GOING AND GOING.

BECAUSE I SAID WE WERE RUNNING OUT
OF TIME.

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

I WILL SAY YES TO EVERYTHING AND DO
EVERYTHING AND BE EVERYTHING TO
EVERYBODY.

UNTIL I BASICALLY BECAME A SKELETON
AND BEDRIDDEN.

AND LIKE NAISHA SAID IT IS
PERPETUATING WHITE SUPREMACY AND
CAPITALISM BECAUSE WE ARE LITERALLY
THINKING THAT HYPER PRODUCTIVITY IS
THE ONLY WAY OF BEING.

I'M HERE TO SAY NO, IT'S NOT.

AND HEALING JUSTICE F°C EEF° ONLY

WHAT I REALLY AM VERY PASSIONATE
ABOUT AFTER BECOMING BEDRIDDEN
MULTIPLE TIMES FROM THIS WORK.

AND ALSO HEALING JUSTICE I WANT TO
SAY IS A FRAMEWORK THAT RECOGNIZES
THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA ON
INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AND NAMES
COLLECTIVE PROCESSES THAT CAN HELP
HEAL AND TRANSFORM THESE FORCES.

WE ARE IN A SOCIETY AND SYSTEM THAT
ACTIVELY TARGETS BLACK AND BROWN AND
INDIGENOUS AND ASIAN BODIES WITH
VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION AND TERROR.

IT IS CRITICAL TO BUILD MOVEMENTS
THAT FIGHT AND ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR
ALL PEOPLES.

HOW DO WE DECOLONIZE?

THAT IS WHAT I ASK EVERYBODY TODAY.

AND I CLOSE WITH THIS SLIDE OF WHAT
THE FUTURE OF HOPE LOOKS LIKE FOR ME.

THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE SELF
DETERMINATION THROUGH ENERGY
SOVEREIGNTY, FOOD SECURITY, OF
HEALING THE LAND AND HEALING
OURSELVES.

IT'S ABOUT RELEARNING OUR SACRED
CONNECTION AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
PROTECT MOTHER EARTH.

IT'S ABOUT HEALING THE TRAUMA OF
WHITE SUPREMACY ON ALL BODIES SO WE
DON'T PERPETUATE OUR TRAUMA ON
OTHERS.

IT'S ABOUT PLACING THAT VALUE BACK
ON THE LIVES AND BODIES OF INDIGENOUS
WOMEN SO WE DON'T HAVE MURDERED AND
MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND TWO

SEVERAL DISEASES THAT IS AN EPIDEMIC

ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, ACROSS TURTLE

ISLAND.

THIS IS NOT JUST AN INDIGENOUS

PROBLEM.

SELF LIBERATION IS ALSO INTIMATELY

TIED TO

WE CAN

WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THAT HISTORY.

DOES IT SURPRISE YOU IN THE YEAR
2021 THAT THERE ARE STILL PARTS OF
THIS SOCIETY THAT AREN'T FAMILIAR
WITH THE HISTORY?

>> DEFINITELY.

I THINK IT'S NOT ONLY SURPRISING
BUT IT'S ALSO DEMORALIZING BECAUSE IT
MAKES THE REST OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE
RECIPIENTS OF THIS HISTORY MORE
VULNERABLE.

BECAUSE WHEN THE HISTORY IS NOT
ACKNOWLEDGED, IT HAS SUCH A
DETRIMENTAL IMPACT CONTINUALLY ON
SOCIETY.

SO IT'S JUST, YEAH, IT'S SO SAD AND
FRUSTRATING.

IT'S LIKE I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS HOW

UNFORTUNATE THAT IS.

>> YOU TALKED ABOUT THE NECESSITY
OF A MAJOR SHIFT IN THE WAY WE LOOK.

A CRITICAL SHIFT I THINK IS WHAT
YOU CALLED IT.

AS SOMEONE WHO COMMUNICATES ABOUT
NOT JUST BUILDING BUT THE NECESSITY
OF HOPE, WHAT DO YOU THINK, AND IT'S
A BIG QUESTION, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE
THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO ALLOW FOR
THAT CRITICAL SHIFT?

>> THE TRUTH TELLING.

I THINK IT'S REALLY ABOUT PEOPLE
BEING OKAY WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE.

BECAUSE I THINK FOR A LONG TIME,
PEOPLE DIDN'T WANT TO BE
UNCOMFORTABLE.

SO THEY WOULD PUSH IT AWAY, NOT

W

HUGE, A LONG LIST OF ISSUES TO
CONSIDER.

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A CHANCE TO
THE AUDIENCE TO ASK QUESTIONS.

WE ARE TAKING QUESTIONS FROM THE
AUDIENCE.

SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOURS
VIA SLI.DO AND ENTER THE SIX DIGIT
CODE 151 025.

IN THE INTERIM I THOUGHT I WOULD
ASK THE FIRST QUESTION TO KICK OFF
THE DISCUSSION.

IT'S SOMETHING, ANJALI, THAT YOU
SAID IN THE PAST.

THE WHOLE IDEA OF BEING INVOLVED IN
THE FIGHT OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS TO
UNDERSTAND POWER.

CAN YOU TALK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO

UNDERSTAND POWER?

>> THIS WAS FROM A WHILE AGO.

>> YEAH.

>> YEAH, THE CLIMATE CRISIS, YOU
KNOW, I THINK IT'S SO MULTI LAYERED
AND IT IS SO MULTI DIMENSIONAL.

IT'S NOT JUST AN ISSUE OF, LIKE,
ENERGY.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.

IT HAPPENED THROUGH A SERIES OF
INTERRELATED PROCESSES.

DOMINATION AND COLONIALISM AND THE
SEPARATION OF MAN AND NATURE AND
GLOBAL AND GEOPOLITICAL FORCES AND
THE INEQUALITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES AND DIFFERENT POPULATIONS
AROUND THE WORLD ALL CONTRIBUTED TO
THIS CRISIS THAT WE'RE IN.

AND SO I THINK IT IS IMPERATIVE TO
UNDERSTAND PO

AND TITLE TO THEIR LAND.

TO ME THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS AN
ISSUE OF POWER AND HOW POWER IS
WIELDED AND UNDERSTANDING THAT HELPS
US TO SUBVERT IT AND BUILD OUR OWN
POWER FROM THE GROUND UP.

>> AS A RETORT TO THAT YOU SAID IT
IS TIME FOR THE PEOPLE TO DISRUPT.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

>> WE HAVE THESE TOXIC DYNAMICS OF
POWER THAT CREATED THE CLIMATE
CRISIS.

AND I TALK ABOUT THE INERTIA OF THE
CLIMATE CRISIS.

WE HAVE THIS LOGIC THAT I SPOKE
ABOUT THAT IS EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM
AND UPHELD BY THE STATE.

AND THAT IS A LOGIC THAT HAS SO
MUCH INERTIA TO IT THAT EVEN THOUGH
WE UNDERSTAND, EVEN THOUGH CLIMATE
SCIENCE IS SO ADVANCED NOW AND IT'S
HAPPENING ALL AROUND US AND CLIMATE
DISRUPTION IS UPON US, SOMEHOW OUR
GOVERNMENTS CAN'T FIND IT IN
THEMSELVES TO SAY OKAY EMERGENCY
LEVEL LET'S PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS
AND TAKE EMERGENCY LEVEL ACTION AND
HAVE AN EMERGENCY JUST TRANSITION ACT
AND URGENTLY RETURN LAND TO
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

THEY JUST CAN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO
DO IT.

THEY'RE NOT IN EMERGENCY MODE.

THAT EXTRACTIVE LOGIC HAS SO MUCH
INERTIA.

THE DISRUPTION IS

>> AND NAISHA, YOU TALKED ABOUT
RADICAL ACTION AND YOU WERE PLANNING
A PROTEST BEFORE THIS STARTED.

WE'VE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE
IMPORTANCE OF HOPE.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTEST?

>> YEAH.

I RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN STUDYING
BUSINESS AT UBC.

AND THROUGH THAT I REALLY NOTICED
THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PEOPLE
TO TAKE ACTION AND POWER.

LIKE ANJALI SAID, IT IS TIME TO
DISRUPT.

THERE IS VERY MUCH LIKE A GOVERNED
STATE OF WHAT THE CROWN SAYS IS
ACCEPTABLE.

THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT FORMS OF DIRECT
ACTION THAT ARE NECESSARY IN ORDER T

COME FROM THE SAME PLACE AND SAME
FOUNDATION.

IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT DECOLONIAL VALUES
ARE.

>> NAISHA, ANJALI, WOULD BOTH OF
YOU ANSWER THE SAME QUESTION?

>> YEAH.

I THINK MELINA PUT IT REALLY WELL.

I THINK ANOTHER REALLY BIG THING
FOR PEOPLE THAT THEY CAN DO IS REALLY
UNDERSTAND THE VALUE THAT THEY HAVE
AND WHAT THEY CAN DO.

I THINK EVERYONE HAS A ROLE THEY
CAN PLAY IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT.

EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT YOU'RE A
PARENT AND YOU'RE SUPPORTING YOUR KID
BECAUSE THAT'S ALL THAT YOU CAN DO

WHEN YOU'RE A BUSY PARENT, OR IF IT
MEANS THAT YOU ARE WORKING A PART
TIME JOB AND YOU'RE A BUS DRIVER AND
YOU'RE RECYCLING OR REUSING YOUR
PLASTIC BAGS, I THINK THERE IS
LIMITED CAPACITY IN WHAT YOU CAN DO
BUT YOU CAN REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE
CAPABILITY AND THAT IS A BIG STEP
INTO REALIZING THE ACTION THAT YOU
CAN TAKE.

>> ANJALI, WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE
SOMEONE WHO HAS NO IDEA AND NO
CONNECTION TO ANY GROUPS OR
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, WHAT WOULD
YOU SAY?

>> I THINK IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO
START FROM WHERE YOU ARE AT THIS
MOMENT AND SO I GUESS ONE PRACTICAL

WAY IS TO LOOK AT WHERE YOU ARE AND
LOOK AT THE SECTOR WHERE YOU'RE IN
AND RECOGNIZE THAT WE'RE ALL
CONNECTED THROUGH THE VARIOUS THINGS
THAT WE DO IN OUR LIVES, OUR JOBS AND
HOBBIES AND RELIGION OR OUR FAITH,
WE'RE CONNECTED TO NETWORKS OF PEOPLE
AND NETWORKS OF PEOPLE ARE A
TREMENDOUS SOURCE OF POWER.

AND ORGANIZING CAN BEGIN LITERALLY
ANYWHERE.

IF YOU GO TO A RELIGIOUS
INSTITUTION YOU CAN JUST GO AND START
A CONVERSATION WITH THE PEOPLE THAT
YOU'RE NETWORKED WITH.

AND I THINK INCREDIBLE THINGS COME
OUT OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS AND THEN
TAPPING IN YOUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO

ONGOING MOVEMENTS.

>> PRESUMABLY THERE'S GOING TO BE A
COP27 COMING UP EVENTUALLY.

I WONDER IF YOU THINK THERE'S STILL
UTILITY TO THOSE KINDS OF MEETINGS

IT IS AN OPEN SITE OF STRUGGLE AND
IT IS THERE FOR US TO RECLAIM AND
RESTORE INTEGRITY.

>> MELINA, YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT?

>> I'VE GONE TO COP AND BEEN A PART
OF UN PROCESSES SINCE I WAS A
TEENAGER.

I FEEL PRETTY CRITICAL ABOUT IT AT
THIS POINT, IN THIS AGE, SEEING
THERE'S BEEN 26 COPS AND A LOT OF
RESOURCES AND FUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN
UTILIZED.

I DO AGREE WITH WHAT ANJALI SAID IN
HAVING THE COLLECTIVE COME TOGETHER
TO SHARE STORIES, STRATEGY AND
AMPLIFY AND UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES AND
THE COLONIAL POWERS AT HAND THAT
THEY'RE DEALING WITH.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME I THINK AFTER
I LEFT ONE OF THE COPS I SAID I DON'T
THINK I'M EVER GOING TO RETURN.

I FELT LIKE WHAT ARE WE DOING
LOCALLY TO ORGANIZE, TO BECOME
CLIMATE RESILIENT WHEN, I WON'T SWEAR
BUT WHEN STUFF HITS THE FAN.

WHEN WE HAVE BC FLOODING AND WE
HAVE ALL OF THINGS THAT WE'RE SEEING
NOW.

ARE WE READY?

AND WE'RE NOT.

WE'RE NOT READY, YOU KNOW.

I MYSELF ASK MYSELF THE SAME THING.

I'VE BEEN ORGANIZING ON CLIMATE
ISSUES FOR OVER 15 YEARS.

I'M LIKE CAN I GROW MY OWN GARDEN?

CAN I, YOU KNOW, SURVIVE?

AND I THINK FOR A GOOD MAJORITY OF
US, THAT ANSWER IS NO.

AND, YOU KNOW, THE COP PROCESSES
ARE NOT GOING TO GET US SO FAR.

A FAR AWAY KIND OF, YOU KNOW,
CLIMATE PACT AND AGREEMENT ISN'T
GOING TO MAKE THE SAME, IN MY
OPINION, THE SAME TYPE OF CHANGE THAT
WE NEED TO SEE ON THE GROUND HERE AND
NOW LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND
FEDERALLY.

SO I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT AND IT'S
VALUED.

BUT WE ALSO NEED TO REALLY, REALLY
WORK ON THE GROUND MORE SO THAN WE'VE
EVER BEEN DOING.

>> NAISHA, LAST WORD TO YOU ON COP.

>> YEAH.

I THINK THESE TWO PUT IT VERY
ELOQUENTLY.

I DO THINK THERE IS VALUE LIKE THEY
BOTH MENTIONED.

BUT I THINK AT THE END OF THE DAY,
IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

AND CHANGE, I BELIEVE, HAPPENS AT
THE GRASSROOTS.

AND IT HAPPENS FROM THE GROUND UP.

AND SO THERE'S SO Z~~EE~~R

THE GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE ALLOWING THE
COMPANIES.

SO IT'S LIKE WE NEED TO LOOK AT IT
AS A TYPE OF STRATEGY.

THAT'S HOW I WOULD SEE IT AS A
CAMPAIGNER.

AND ALSO EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

THERE'S SO MANY IMPORTANT PLACES
AND SPACES FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON
THAT HAS A SKILL TO LEND ITSELF TO
STOPPING A PROJECT LIKE THAT.

>> WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD SOMETHING,
ANJALI, TO THAT?

>> NO.

IT WAS PERFECT.

IT IS A COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND TAKES
PLACE IN MULTIPLE SITES.

>> THE NEXT QUESTION FROM THE

AUDIENCE, HOW DO WE COMBAT EXTREME
IDEOLOGIES TO COME TOGETHER TO MAKE
SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS FOR THE FUTURE?

ANJALI?

ANY THOUGHTS ON THAT?

IT'S A TOUGH QUESTION.

>> YEAH.

I THINK ONE THING THAT'S BEEN A
REAL CHALLENGE FOR THE CLIMATE
JUSTICE MOVEMENT IS, YOU KNOW, WE
HAVE SEEN A RISE IN EXTREME RIGHT
IDEOLOGY COMING INTO POSITIONS OF
POWER AROUND THE WORLD.

I MEAN, WE HAVE SEEN VARIOUS FAR
RIGHT LEADERS RISE IN THE LAST FIVE
YEARS EVEN.

AND I THINK THAT IS CONNECTED TO
CLIMATE IN THAT THESE ARE THE

IDEOLOGIES THAT SUPPORT THE THINGS
THAT DRIVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS, THAT
SUPPORT, YOU KNOW, EXTREME
PRIORITIZATION OF CORPORATE POWER AND
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND DO NOT SEEK
TO PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG
US.

BOTH HUMAN AND NONHUMAN.

AND SO I THINK I DON'T HAVE THE
ANSWER TO HOW TO COMBAT THAT.

FOR ME IT LOOKED LIKE RE-EVALUATING
MY RELATIONSHIP TO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS
OF POWER.

I HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN ACTIVIST WHO
NEVER, WHO SORT OF DISMISSED
ELECTORAL POLITICS AS A SITE THAT I
WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ENGAGING WITH.

AND I HAD TO EVOLVE MY

UNDERSTANDING OF THAT AND UNDERSTAND
THAT IT IS ANOTHER SITE OF STRUGGLE
THAT WE ENGAGE IN.

AND THAT MORE PEOPLE FROM SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS THAT ARE PROGRESSIVE AND
RADICAL AND BELIEVE IN PROTECTING THE
MOST VULNERABLE, BELIEVE IN JUSTICE,
TO STEP INTO THOSE SPACES AND STEP
INTO THOSE POSITIONS OF POWER.

>> HERE IS A QUESTION THAT I THINK
ALL OF YOU WILL PROBABLY HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT.

WHAT DO THE HOPEFUL FUTURES THAT
YOU IMAGINE LOOK LIKE?

AND IS ONGOING COLLAPSE A
PREREQUISITE FOR THIS TRANSFORMATION?

THIS IS A QUESTION FROM KATIE
MCPHERSON.

NAISHA, DO YOU WANT TO AT LEAST
TAKE ON THE SECOND PART OF THAT?

IS IT NECESSARY THAT COLLAPSE HAS
TO HAPPEN BEFORE THE TRANSFORMATION
BEGINS?

>> I THINK THE TRANSFORMATION HAS
HONESTLY ALREADY STARTED TO BEGIN
WITH DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES OF COLOUR.

BUT THE COLLAPSE OF OPPRESSIVE
SYSTEMS SPECIFICALLY OF WHITE
SUPREMACY AND COLONIALISM AND
CAPITALISM HAVE TO COLLAPSE.

AND IT IS ALL OF OUR DUTIES TO WORK
AND ACTIVELY WORK TO DISMANTLE IT.

I DON'T THINK WE CAN HAVE SUCCESS,
I DON'T THINK WE CAN HAVE TRUE
BALANCE WITH NATURE WHEN WE ARE
PRACTICING EXTRACTIVISM.

>> M>

SCARY THING THAT MORE AND MORE I

DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN AN URK

>> UNFORTUNATELY, YOU KNOW, THE
CLIMATE CRISIS HAS BEEN REAL FOR
PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD FOR A LONG
TIME NOW.

AND SO COLLAPSE HAS ALREADY EITHER
HAPPENED OR IS UNDERWAY FOR SO MANY
POPULATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

SO THAT'S ONE KIND OF COLLAPSE
THAT, YEAH, AGAIN IS ALREADY
HAPPENING.

I THINK THAT IN ORDER TO TAKE THE
EMERGENCY LEVEL ACTION THAT WE NEED,
BUSINESS AS USUAL WILL HAVE TO
COLLAPSE.

AND THAT MY WORK IS TO ESSENTIALLY
ADVOCATE FOR A COLLAPSE THAT IS A
JUST TRANSITION.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT BUSINESS AS

USUAL HAS TO END.

AND SOMETHING NEW HAS TO BE BORN.

BUT TO MAKE THAT TRANSITION AS
LEAST VIOLENT AS POSSIBLE.

AND TO MAKE SURE THAT AS MANY
PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE ARE NOT FALLING
THROUGH THE CRACKS.

BUT, YES, ABSOLUTELY, THIS PARADIGM
HAS TO COLLAPSE.

BUT I REFUSE TO SORT OF SAY THAT
WITH ANY KIND OF INEVITABILITY ABOUT
BEING WILLING TO SACRIFICE ANYONE IN
THAT COLLAPSE.

THAT'S MY LIFE'S WORK IS TO AVOID
AS MUCH OF THAT SACRIFICE AS
POSSIBLE.

>> THANK YOU.

HERE IS A QUESTION THAT WE SORT OF

BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON IN THE DISCUSSION
EARLIER.

BUT THIS GETS RIGHT TO THE HEART OF
IT.

AS MOST ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICAL
PARTIES AROUND THE WORLD SEEM TO BE
LOSING INFLUENCE, WHY DO YOU THINK
THAT IS, MELINA?

>> I DON'T KNOW WHY.

WHY?

T OLRE

THAT'S WHAT I REALLY FEEL ABOUT IT.

I DON'T KNOW.

I FEEL LIKE THERE'S THIS DISCONNECT
SOMEHOW BETWEEN THE INABILITY FOR
WHAT WE SEE AS THE LEFT OR
PROGRESSIVE TO REALLY CAL

KNOW, MYSELF INCLUDED THAT HAD, SAY,
PREVIOUS FORMER COLLEAGUES AT
GREENPEACE THAT ARE NOW MINISTERS OF
THE ENVIRONMENT AND THINGS LIKE THAT
AND NO LONGER SAY THE THINGS THAT WE
NEED TO HEAR, TO BE SAID AT THAT
LEVEL.

SO I THINK THERE'S SOMEHOW THIS
IDEA THAT THEY HAVE TO CENSOR
THEMSELVES, WHEN WE NEED PEOPLE, LIKE
ANJALI SAID AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF
THIS DISCUSSION, THAT WE NEED LEADERS
TO REALLY BE LEADING AND WE DON'T
HAVE PEOPLE LEADING ON CLIMATE.

SO I THINK PEOPLE ARE GETTING
DISENGAGED NOT BECAUSE THEY DON'T
CARE BUT THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN THE
SYSTEMS BECAUSE THEY'RE STILL

UPHOLDING ALL OF THE COLONIAL
CAPITALISTIC SYSTEMS AND NOT REALLY
CALLING OUT AND CHANGING WHAT WE NEED
TO SEE CHANGED.

>> NAISHA, YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHY
ENVIRONMENTAL PARTIES FOR EXAMPLE
AREN'T APPEALING TO YOUTH?

>> YEAH.

I THINK UNFORTUNATELY A BIG REASON
IS THAT YOUTH ARE LOSING HOPE IN THE
SYSTEM.

WE HAVE PERPETUALLY SEEN A LACK OF
CLIMATE ACTION AND A LACK OF
POLITICAL WILL TO MEET OUR NEEDS.

SO I THINK THERE'S JUST AN OVERALL
APATHY TOWARDS IT.

I THINK IT IS UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE
FOR ONE A
THIS IS THE CURRENT ZN A L

WE EXIST AND SO IT IS THE TOOL THAT
WE NEED TO USE TO FACILITATE CHANGE.

BUT I DON'T BLAME THE YOUTH FOR
LOSING TRUST BECAUSE IT'S DEFINITELY
SOMETHING I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH TOO.

I DO THINK THAT WE CAN WORK TOWARDS
BUILDING BETTER TRUST WITH POLITICAL
SYSTEMS BY INTRODUCING NEWER, YOUNGER
AND MORE REPRESENTATIVE VOICES IN
POLITICS.

IT IS REALLY TIRING, I THINK, TO
SEE THE SAME WHITE OLD MEN IN
POSITIONS OF POWER.

SO I DO THINK THAT IS ONE THING
THAT IS REALLY MISSING AND CAUSING US
TO HAVE A DISCONNECT WITH POLITICS
AND ONE THING THAT WE CAN CHANGE.

>> THIS IS THE FINAL QUESTION FROM

THE AUDIENCE .

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IT TO ALL THREE
OF YOU STARTING WITH ANJALI .

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PEOPLE
DEALING WITH BURNOUT AND CLIMATE
DEPRESSION?

>> UNFORTUNATELY I THINK WE'RE IN
AN AGE WHERE THIS IS ALL GOING TO BE
COMING AT US HARD AND FAST AND
WITHOUT ANY SORT OF RESPITE .

I KNOW THAT'S BEEN THE CASE THIS
YEAR .

IT'S JUST BEEN ONE THING AFTER
ANOTHER .

AND THAT IS OVERWHELMING TO THE
SPIRIT AND WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO DEAL
WITH CHANGE THAT FAST .

I DON'T THINK HUMANS ARE EQUIPPED

TO DEAL WITH THAT MUCH CHANGE AND
THAT MUCH GRIEF ALL AT ONCE SO FAST.

UNF.RI

I THINK WE CAN ONLY REALLY ACT ON
THAT COLLECTIVELY.

SO THAT'S MY VERY SORT OF, YEAH.

>> THANK YOU.

THANKS.

MELINA AND THEN NAISHA.

>> WHAT WAS THE QUESTION AGAIN?

>> THE QUESTION IS, WHAT SORT OF
ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO
ARE LIVING THROUGH ON A DAILY BASIS,
YOU KNOW, THE IDEA OF BURNOUT AND
CLIMATE DEPRESSION?

>> YEAH.

I THINK I BLOCKED THE QUESTION OUT.

(LAUGHTER).

BECAUSE I EXPERIENCE THAT ON THE
DAILY.

BUT I DO REALLY THINK IT'S

IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE THAT WORK IN A
COLLECTIVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE
PASSING A BATON.

SO IT'S NOT ALWAYS THAT YOU HAVE TO
RUN A SPRINT ALL THE TIME AND
EVERYONE IS RUNNING A SPRINT BESIDE
YOU AND YOU'RE ALL GETTING HAGGARD
AND TIRED.

WE'RE RUNNING A MARATHON AND IN THE
WORK FOR THE LONG HAUL.

A LOT OF US FEEL GUILTY WHEN WE
TAKE A STEP BACK WHEN WE DON'T WANT
TO.

WE FEEL GUILTY.

I KNOW I DID.

AND THEN I JUST KIND OF KEPT
PUSHING AND PUSHING.

NOT HONOURING THE BODY AND VESSEL

THAT YOU BROUGHT INTO THIS LIFE.

FOR ME THIS WORK IS SPIRITUAL.

AND SO THEREFORE I HAVE TO TAKE
CARE OF MY SPIRIT, I HAVE TO TAKE
CARE OF THE BODY AND THE VESSEL AND
HONOUR THAT.

A LOT OF TIMES CAPITALISM DOESN'T
WANT YOU TO DO THAT.

IT'S ALL ABOUT, YOU KNOW, WORKERS
AND KIND OF WORKER BEES AND YOUR
HYPER PRODUCTIVITY AND YOU'RE ONLY OF
VALUE IF YOU'RE A HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL
AND HYPER PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN AND ROLE
MODEL AND IF YOU TAKE A STEP BACK YOU
HAVE NO IDENTITY ANYMORE AND IT'S A
THROW AWAY CULTURE.

WE HAVE TO FIGHT THAT AND SUPPORT
ONE ANOTHER WHEN WE NEED TO TAKE A

STEP BACK AND SUPPORT FAMILIES AND
FRIENDS AND FIGURE OUT COLLECTIVE
SYSTEMS OF CARE TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE
^{6 8 3}
UPHOLDING THOSE PEOPLE EVEN WHEN THEY
TAKE A STEP BACK.

WE DON'T HAVE THAT IN OUR MOVEMENT
SPACES RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S WHY WE SEE SO MANY PEOPLE
^{(7 7}
LEAVING THEM OSCOO

I THINK THAT'S REALLY KEY.

I THINK ALSO LIKE THESE TWO LADIES
SAID IT BEST WITH TAKING BREAKS AND
UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAPACITY.

A LOT OF TIMES BURNOUT HAPPENS AS A
RESULT OF PERPETUATING SYSTEMS OF
HYPER PRODUCTIVITY AND IF WKNTY

THANK YOU SO MUCH ANJALI, NAISHA,
AND MELINA.

AND BEFORE WE FINISH COMPLETELY
ACTUALLY WE ARE GOING TO WELCOME BACK
JOANNE CURRY, VP OF EXTERNAL
RELATIONS AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY,
WHO WILL GET ONE MORE COMMENT FROM
EACH OF OUR PANELISTS.

>> GREAT, THANK YOU.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE CONVERSATION.

I AM WALKING AWAY WITH SUCH HOPE
THAT THERE ARE STRONG WOMEN, ALL FOUR
OF YOU HERE, LEADING THE WAY IN
CLIMATE JUSTICE AND THANK YOU FOR
SHARING YOUR STORIES, YOUR WISDOM,
YOUR ADVICE, AND ALSO SOME VERY
TANGIBLE STEPS THAT WE CAN ?T T S R

AND I ACTUALLY I RAN OUT OF TIME TO
SPEAK ABOUT THEM.

SO IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

PART OF MY WORK AT COP26 WAS
SUPPORTING NUCHATLAHT NATION WHICH IS
A VERY SMALL NATION OFF THE
NORTHWESTERN TIP OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
TO BRING THEIR STORY TO THE WORLD
STAGE AT COP AND THEIR STORY IS THEY
ARE A VERY SMALL NATION OF 160 PEOPLE
AND THEY ARE TAKING A LEGAL CASE
AGAINST THE PROVINCE RIGHT NOW TO
GAIN BACK RIGHTS AND TITLE OF THEIR
LAND BECAUSE THEY HAVE WATCHED THEIR
TRADITIONAL HOMELANDS OVER THE COURSE
OF A THOUSAND YEARS GET COMPLETE PLE ANPKITITHEIR

AND THROUGH IRRESPONSIBLE LAND
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

AND SO THIS CASE COULD BE
PRECEDENT-SETTING AND A REALLY,
REALLY POWERFUL REVERSAL OF THAT
LOGIC OF COLONIAL EXTRACTIVISM THAT I
WAS TALKING ABOUT EARLIER AND IT'S
LEGAL CASES LIKE THIS THAT RESTORE
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND TITLE TO LAND
THAT I THINK ARE EXTREMELY POWERFUL
CLIMATE JUSTICE SOLUTIONS AND WE
SHOULD SUPPORT THEM.

AND SO THIS CASE HAS BEEN GOING ON
FOR FOUR YEARS.

AND IT WILL CULMINATE IN THE COURT
PART OF IT IN MARCH.

PART OF MY WORK WILL BE TO CREATE
HYPE AND EXCITEMENT AROUND THAT COURT

CASE.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

IT'S ON MARCH 14TH.

I SUPPORTED NUCHATLAHT TO GO TO COP
AND TELL THEIR STORY ON THE WORLD
STAGE THERE AND THEY COULD REALLY USE
SOME FUNDS TO SUPPORT THIS LEGAL CASE
'CAUSE THEY'RE USING A REALLY, REALLY
AMAZING LAWYER WHO IS ONE OF THE BEST
IN THE GAME IN INDIGENOUS LEGAL
ORDERS AND IT'S VERY EXPENSIVE.

>> GREAT, THANK YOU.

NOT SURE IF WE HAVE A VIDEO.

IF SO, IT WILL PLAY SHORTLY.

IF NOT, WHAT SFU PUBLIC SQUARE WILL
BE DOING IS PUTTING THE NAMES OF
THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND LINKS ON THE
WEBSITE.

>> WE'RE NOT JUST FIGHTING FOR
NUCHATLAHT.

WE WANT TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE
CAN MANAGE BETTER AND PROTECT BETTER
AND ENHANCE BETTER AND THERE WILL BE
ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY.

>> NUCHATLAHT WAS A PARADISE.

I THINK IT CAN BE THAT WAY AGAIN.

I WANT THE WORLD TO BE ABLE TO COME
AND VISIT NUCHATLAHT TO SEE THE
BEAUTY.

>> EVERYBODY WILL KNOW ABOUT
NUCHATLAHT, THIS TINY LITTLE
COMMUNITY THAT'S TAKING ON THE
PROVINCE, CANADA AND THE LOGGING
COMPANIES.

WE'RE 180 STRONG AND WE WILL WIN.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, ANJALI, FOR
BRINGING ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT
WORK.

I'M GOING TO TURN IT NOW TO NAISHA.

WHO SHOULD WE BE PAYING ATTENTION
TO IN YOUR OPINION?

>> I WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT THE
NONPROFIT RAVEN TRUST.

THIS IS A GROUP SUSTAINABILITEENS
HAS WORKED A LOT WITH IN THE PAST.

WE'VE HELPED ORGANIZE FUNDRAISERS
TO DONATE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR THEM.

THEY'RE A NONPROFIT THAT RAISES
LEGAL FUNDS FOR INDIGENOUS FRONT LINE
CASES AS WELL.

SO IT IS, I THINK, ANJALI SAID IT
REALLY WELL, THERE'S JUST THIS VERY,
VERY BIG NEED FOR, I THINK THAT IN

GENERAL THERE'S BEEN A THEME TODAY OF
A VERY BIG NEED FOR DECOLONIZATION.

AND THE CROWN IS PERPETUATING A LOT
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES SINCE THE INCEPTION OF
CANADA.

WE NEED TO FIGHT BACK.

AND RAVEN TRUST IS A GROUP THAT IS
ACTIVELY WORKING TOWARDS THAT.

>> GREAT, THANK YOU NAISHA.

I KNOW WE HAVE A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT
RAVEN TO SHARE.

>> I'M JEFF NICHOLLS, A MEMBER OF
THE LAX KW'ALAAMS FIRST NATION AND A
LAWYER.

AS THE BOARD PRESIDENT I'M EXCITED
TO INTRODUCE YOU TO RAVEN WHICH
STANDS FOR RESPECTING ABORIGINAL

VALUES AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS.

RAVEN IS THE ONLY NONPROFIT CHARITY
IN CANADA WITH A MANDATE TO RAISE
LEGAL DEFENCE FUNDS TO HELP
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DEFEND THEIR
ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND TITLE AND THE
INTEGRITY OF THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS.

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS ARE ENSHRINED IN
CANADA'S CONSTITUTION BUT THOSE
RIGHTS ARE REGULARLY TRAMPLED OR
IGNORED IN FAVOUR OF SOCIALLY AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE
INDUSTRIES LIKE TAR SANDS AND MINING.

IT'S ONE THING TO HAVE A RIGHT BUT
IT'S QUITE ANOTHER TO DEFEND IT IN
COURT AGAINST THE DEEP POCKETS OF
GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

WE BELIEVE INDIGENOUS NATIONS HOLD

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE COULD BUILD
WINOUAL COOGANOU
INEVED
UPON A NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT GALVANIZED

BY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND LED BY
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
AND ~~WELCOME~~ ~~YOMI~~ ~~HND~~ ~~THA~~ CIRCLE.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU, NAISHA.

MELINA, WHO HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO
SPOTLIGHT THIS EVENING?

>> SO I DECIDED TO SPOTLIGHT AN
ORGANIZATION THAT'S UP AND COMING
CALLED DECOLONIZE TOGETHER TO BE ABLE
TO EMPOWER PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF
LIFE AND BACKGROUNDS TO TO UND BMININL WITH DECOLONTAL AND^{WS U}

ORGANIZATIONS TO HAVE DECOLONIAL
TRAININGS AND I THINK THAT REALLY
WOULD HELP SET THE FRAMEWORK FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ALL KIND OF
JUSTICES THAT WE NEED TO WORK
TOGETHER TOWARDS SOLVING.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU.

AND I DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE A
VIDEO.

>> THERE SHOULD BE A VIDEO THAT WAS
SENT.

>> THERE WE GO.

[Speaking Indigenous Language]

I'M SO HAPPY TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU
TODAY.

WHAT A SPECIAL THING TO COME
TOGETHER TO LEARN.

ALTHOUGH IT'S BECOME

REALLY WORK WE NEED TO COME TO DO
WITH ONE ANOTHER AND EQUALLY
ACCEPTING OUR ROLES AND LOCATIONS AND
PRIVILEGES AND WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN
START TO MOVE TOWARDS A FUTURE THAT
LOOKS LIKE HEALING AND JUSTICE AND
DISMANTLING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION.

SO IF I COULD JUST LEAVE YOU WITH
ONE MESSAGE TODAY, IT WOULD BE THIS:
THIS HISTORY IS NOT YOUR FAULT.

BUT IT ABSOLUTELY IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY.

I'M NIKKI, THE FOUNDER OF
DECOLONIZE TOGETHER.

>> I'M CHARITY WILLIAMS AND I'M A
PART OF DECOLONIZE TOGETHER.

>> HI, I'M PAMPHINETTE BUISA AND
I'M WITH DECOLONIZE TOGETHER.

>> I'M FEATHER NAULT AND I'M A PART
OF DECOLONIZE TOGETHER.

>> HI, I'M CHANTEL CHAPMAN AND I'M
PART OF DECOLONIZE TOGETHER.

>> I'M JACQUELINE JENNINGS AND I'M
WITH DECOLONIZE TOGETHER.

>> THANK YOU ALL FOR SHARING THESE
INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATIONS WITH US.

SFU PUBLIC SQUARE WILL BE SENDING
OUT LINKS AND RESOURCES TO EACH OF
THESE THREE ORGANIZATIONS IN A
FOLLOW-UP EMAIL FOR EVERYONE WHO
REGISTERED FOR THE EVENT AND WILL
ALSO POST THESE VIDEOS ON THEIR
WEBSITE.

I'D LIKE TO THANK AGAIN NAHLAH,
ANJALI, NAISHA AND MELINA FOR THE
INCREDIBLE CONVERSATION TONIGHT.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU IN PERSON AND
ONLINE FOR JOINING US THIS
EVERYTHING.

I HOPE THESE IDEAS AND STORIES AND
EXAMPLES OF GREAT WORK GIVE YOU TOOLS
AND INSPIRATION TO TAKE CLIMATE
ACTION.

IT'S MY HONOUR NOW TO WELCOME BACK
AMANDA TO CLOSE US IN SONG.

[Speaking Squamish]

WHAT I SAID WAS IT'S EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT THE WORDS THAT YOU'RE
SAYING.

IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THE WORK THAT
YOU'RE DOING.

LET US ALL CONTINUE, ONE HEART, ONE
MIND, ONE SPIRIT.

LET US ALL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ONE

ANOTHER AND WORK TOGETHER.

IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE

CONTINUE TO RE

HAND AND WE'RE GOING TO PUSH EACH
OTHER FORWARD TO KEEP TELLING THE
TRUTH, TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, TO REMIND
THE PEOPLE YOU'RE LIVING IN OUR
HOMELANDS, YOU'RE LIVING IN OUR
HOMELANDS OF OUR ANCESTORS.

WE HAVE SURVIVED MILLENNIA OF
CLIMATE CHANGE, WE SURVIVED THE
FLOOD, WE SURVIVED THE ICE AGE, WE
SURVIVED COLONIZATION, WE'RE STILL
HERE.

[Speaking Squamish]

WE ARE STILL HERE.

AND WE STILL REMEMBER WHAT OUR
GRANDMOTHERS AND OUR GRANDFATHERS
TAUGHT US.

AND WE WILL ECHO THOSE WORDS.

MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDCHILDREN ARE

WHEN THE LAST TREE FALLS SO WILL
THE PEOPLE.

THAT IS A STÓ:L PROPHECY.

I BELIEVE THAT PROPHECY AS WE CAN
SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE STÓ:L
TERRITORY.

THIS IS A PRAYER SONG THAT WE
CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THAT STRENGTH,
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

AND REMEMBERING THE SACRED
TEACHINGS.

WHEREVER YOU ARE IN TURTLE ISLAND
YOU'RE IN INDIGENOUS TERRITORY.

THERE ARE TEACHINGS OF THOSE LANDS,
HOW TO RESPECT AND LIVE IN HARMONY
WITH THAT WORLD.

THIS SONG IS A PRAYER SONG.

IF WE COULD ALL PRAY TOGETHER, PRAY

FOR EVERYONE WHO IS IMPACTED BY
CLIMATE CHANGE.

IMPACTED BY FOOD SOVEREIGNTY,
IMPACTED BY POVERTY, THAT THERE'S
ENOUGH IN THE WORLD FOR ALL OF US TO
BE WEALTHY.

ENOUGH IN THE WORLD FOR ALL OF US
TO BE FED.

THIS SONG COMES FROM SYEXWALIYA.

IT IS THE GREETING OF THE DAY.

[Singing]

[Speaking Squamish]

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND TAKING
THE TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY TO BE HERE
AND COME TO LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF
OUR PEOPLE.

THESE ARE WOMEN I REALLY RESPECT.

AND I'M JUST SO H

DIRECTOR OF SFU PUBLIC SQUARE, AND
HER INCREDIBLE TEAM FOR PRODUCING
THIS EVENT.

TO OUR PARTNERS AT VANCITY FOR
THEIR INCREDIBLE PARTNERSHIP AND TO
THE CULTCH TEAM FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY
AND FOR THIS WONDERFUL SPACE AND JUST
ACKNOWLEDGE BETHANY AND PROMOSA FOR
THEIR STAGE DIRECTION AND TECHNICAL
WIZARDRY AND OUR VOLUNTEERS THAT ARE
HERE WITH US TONIGHT.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

AND ALSO TO ANNE PENMAN AND THE
TEAM AT CBC IDEAS.

THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.

[Applause]