

# Summary Report

## Retrofit Pathways Workshop: Energy Efficient & Climate Resilient Retrofits in B.C. First Nations Communities

November 19, 2024  
Fort St. John, B.C.

Hosted by the Fraser Basin Council's **First Nations Home EnergySave Program** & **West Moberly First Nations**

[Workshop Agenda](#)

### Desired Outcomes of the Workshop:

- **Peer Learning & Networking:** Communities share stories and lessons learned from their own retrofit projects.
- **Access to Funding & Resources:** Connections are built between communities and support organizations, helping communities access funding & resources.
- **Project Management Skills:** Participants learn about pathways and key decision-making points for retrofit projects.
- **Applied Knowledge:** Participants learn to weave energy efficiency and climate resilience into retrofit projects.



### Survey: What We Heard From Workshop Participants

#### What did you like about the event?

"Learning about Northern community energy efficiency perspectives."

"Relationship building, technical knowledge, knowledge sharing."

"Learning about differences and similarities in communities across B.C."

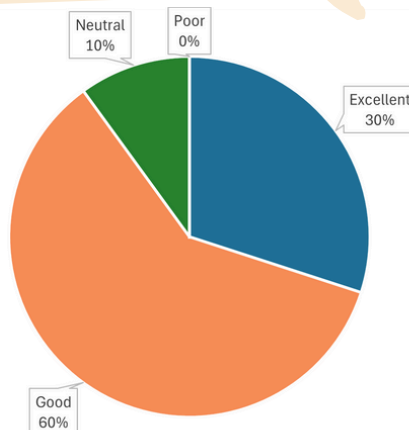
#### What could make it better next time?

"Brainstorming sessions to collaborate on solutions development."

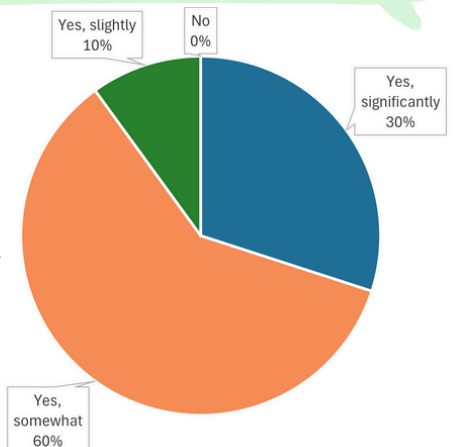
"Have more representation from First Nations communities."

"Two-day event with 90-minute workshops for more Q&A time."

How would you rate this workshop overall?



Did this workshop help build your capacity in energy efficiency?



# Retrofit Pathways Workshop: Session Summaries

## Session 1: Fireside Chat - “Experiences with Retrofit Planning in Northeastern B.C. First Nations”

Gil Davis, Housing & Capital Projects Manager, West Moberly First Nations; and Shane Reynolds, Assets & Capital Projects Manager, Saulteau First Nation  
Presentation Slides

- For successful retrofit projects, ensure the project aligns with the community and leadership’s priorities, strategic plan, and Community Energy Plan if applicable.
- Prioritization of the work can be based on the existing condition of buildings, the vulnerability of residents, and/or expected return on investment from the work.
- Funding amounts may not fully cover a project due to higher costs of work in Northern/remote areas. Other funding issues include timelines mis-aligned with seasonal construction windows, eligibility barriers, and frequent program changes. Funders are encouraged to collaborate to resolve these barriers for communities.



## Session 2: Retrofit Project Planning

Alexandre Hebert, Manager; and Cody Brentzen, Instructor; BCIT Zero Energy Buildings Learning Centre - Presentation Slides

- Establish project objectives and budget, based on the priorities of the community and leadership.
- Complete building assessments to understand the existing state of the home. List potential measures and evaluate based on potential impacts and costs.
- Select which measures to take, finalize the plan, and obtain approval to move forward with the project.



## Session 3: Climate-Resilient Retrofits

Shawn Wiebe, Energy Advisor & High Performance Building Consultant; Holistic Building Performance Inc. - Presentation Slides

- Take time to understand the hazards local to your region and how to respond to them effectively.
- Airtightness and controlled ventilation with an ERV are an ideal pairing for renovated homes.
- A climate-resilient retrofit can be completed with continuous wall and roof insulation, high-performance windows and doors, and fire-resistant siding and roofing on the exterior of the home.

## Session 4: Funding and Support Organizations

Tara Kinsey, Specialist, Indigenous & Northern Housing Solutions  
Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

Alex Hayes, Research Officer, Construction  
National Research Council of Canada

Gaetane Carignan, Facilitator, Relationships & Reconciliation  
Community Energy Association

Braidey Sturgeon, Industry Coordinator  
Home Performance Stakeholder Council

Elijah Morin, Senior Associate, Programs Analyst  
New Relationship Trust

