

Research Project Overview

Education for Action: Examining the Experiences and Thinking of Participants in a Youth Forum on Sustainability

Researchers: M.J. Barrett, Ali Sammel, Kathy Nolan – University of Regina
Glenn Sutter – Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Pam Schwartzberg – Learning for a Sustainable Future

Goal and Rationale:

Our goal is to gain some understanding of the experiences and thinking of participants (students, teachers, planning team members and community partners) involved in a *Youth Forum on Sustainability* and follow-up Action Projects. We are particularly interested in their understandings of sustainability, types of involvement in local sustainability Action Projects, feelings about their ability to take action on local issues, attitudes towards school, museums, learning, teaching, business and youth, and their reasons for participating in the Forum.

This research is important to help us understand ways in which we can support local communities to address sustainability issues. It will also provide a rich opportunity for participants to reflect on their experiences of the Forum and their Action Projects.

Methods:

Participants will include those who have been involved in past Youth Forums, as well as those involved in the Regina Forum. Data will be gathered through surveys, conversational interviews, participant observation, and documentation of student projects. For students who have previously participated in a Youth Forum, data will be obtained through interviews and the documentation of their projects only.

Timeline:

Historical research – Fall 2003 to Winter 2004
Regina Forum Day 1 – February 25, 2004
Action Project planning and implementation – February to June 2004
Regina Forum Day 2 – April 1, 2004
Regina Forum Day 3 – Week of October 11, 2004
Final focus groups, transcription and analysis – Fall 2004
Final report of findings – January 2005

For information contact: M.J. Barrett, ph. 585-5644, barret2m@uregina.ca