

Know - Wonder - Learned

Guest Speaker Edition

Name of Speaker: Megan Curren, Dennis Thomas

KNOW	WONDER	LEARNED
<p><i>What do you know about the speaker? (before)</i></p>	<p><i>What questions do you have? (before)</i> <i>What questions came up as you listened? (during and after)</i></p>	<p><i>While you listen, what are some of the interesting points you are hearing?</i> <i>What were the answers to the questions?</i></p>
<p>Megan Curren:</p>		<p>Note: I completed this column with the help of a friend's notes, seeing as I was ill and therefore absent for the presentation.</p>
<p>She is a "North Vancouver District Counsellor".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What made you decide to try for the role of a city counsellor? • What impact have you made in this role? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COLLECTIVE CHANGE/ACTION - start change locally! • typically, local is more effective as opposed to federal/provincial (similar reason as to why our audience is provincial for the project) • POLITICS - politicians stray from actions that may not get them re-elected • all of Megan's actions POLITICALLY are based around social and environmental issues • CHANGE CAN HAPPEN: we do not need to change at the expense of people within our community

<p>Environmentalist? - paper straw ban</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you identify as an environmentalist? • What active steps have you taken to support the environment other than your paper straw ban? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.C.'s biggest environmental issue: COLONIALISM. • CHANGE is NOT EASY: those in power usually benefit from pre-existing systems/rules/laws • transforming systems is key to change • listening to Indigenous VOICES - systemic changes; 94 calls to action! • a LOVE for nature & earth - mom and brother • she disliked seeing nature being damaged and destroyed quickly and globally • destroying nature is destroying YOURSELF • "we're just floating in space" - PERSPECTIVE • paper straw ban - government operating within a local level has ability to create laws
<p>She owns a number of businesses within Deep Cove.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How difficult is it to own and maintain businesses in such a popular area? • What steps have you taken to make these businesses eco-friendly? • What inspired you to become a business owner? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she felt the want to "be her own boss" • believe that within corporations, there is typically less CREATIVITY - standardized/uniform/strict? • opened studio in order to HELP LOCAL ARTISTS sell their pieces • reliability upon others - TEAMWORK "couldn't have done it herself"
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DNV's tree protection bylaw efficient in terms of saving trees? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is not; currently under review • ECOSYSTEMS have biodiversity • we need a BETTER UNDERSTANDING of: ecosystems, biodiversity, the ENVIRONMENT • more trees: proper types of trees in proper places • older trees are DYING because of CLIMATE CHANGE • DIVERSITY of trees in key in surviving invasive species

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can WE do to promote change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YOU ARE NOT ALONE - find someone to help you! • it is more than okay to go AGAINST the systems: they are not perfect. • when it comes to promoting change, it is collective! WORK TOGETHER - teamwork! • be open to asking for advice - especially from those who have done what you want to do • LISTEN to INDIGENOUS VOICES • if you need help finding people who can help you and your cause, reach out to Megan! SHE CAN HELP.
Dennis Thomas:		
The owner of Takaya Tours		
An elected councillor of the Tseil-Waututh Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What responsibilities do you have in this role? • What priorities do you have? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the TOP PRIORITY are the people! • LOOKING over & LISTENING to the people - caring • in this role, the DECISIONS you make CAN and WILL influence your FAMILY • NATION BUILDING - long term • Land Back: about environment & Indigenous ways; a SUSTAINABLE way of living
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we contribute/help out when it comes to Truth & Reconciliation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grandfather went to residential schools - was never told that he is loved. • SUPPORT and LISTEN TO one another - otherwise they are "still in their little bubble", secluded
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHANGE - What changes within our community have you noticed over the years? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change in education system • previously only ONE textbook page on Indigenous peoples (mostly Metis) • Indigenous experiences/history is now part of curriculum

Reflection:

Looking at your K-W-L Chart, what is something that you taking away from this Guest Speaker session? They were brought in to help you with your current project. How will this persons words help you with your current project?

Megan Curren and Dennis Thomas' words will help me with my environmental issue & letter in quite a few ways. I now understand why having an audience to write to within our province will help me make a larger impact: it is easier to influence others locally. I also now know of the importance of relying on others and being able to ask for advice when it comes to environmental issues. Because of this, I think that I will be more open to peer feedback going forward in this project, and that I will take into consideration how I can have my voice reach towards those within our community who can make an impact on my environmental issue. The explanation that "by destroying nature, we are destroying ourselves" really stuck with me, since that's a theme I have seen a lot throughout this project, and as we learn more, it only seems increasingly true. I agree that we all need to educate ourselves more on environmental topics, whether it be climate change, ecosystems/biodiversity, or systems set in place by the government regarding the environment. Although we are at a stage in our project where we've already handed in our letter, I've found myself wanting to research more, learn more, and discover more. It is disappointing I wasn't able to actually listen to our guest speakers, though I am glad to have been able to hear their voices, albeit paraphrased.