



Climate Education Reform BC

.....

# R2T: Year In Review

CERBC Newsletter: Issue #4



December 31, 2021

2021 has been a year of challenges and triumphs. Through it all, CERBC has reached and surpassed numerous milestones to advocate for climate education in the British Columbia K-12 curriculum—all thanks to your support. As we look back and think forward, we reflect on the accomplishments and progress that our community has achieved together.

.....

Recalling each month, here are the memorable highlights from our team and the Reform to Transform campaign:

## January 2021: Finalizing a Campaign Name

After several brainstorming sessions and voting from an exhaustive list of potential names, our team arrived at the perfect term for CERBC's campaign for climate education: Reform to Transform (R2T).

*Our campaign name, 'Reform to Transform,' reflects two intentions we set for our organization: first, to dismantle oppressive and outdated systems, and second, to transform our society through education. This name embodies our purpose to reform both the curriculum and our collective mindsets to make long-overdue changes toward a more sustainable and equitable future for all.*

## February 2021: R2T's Soft Launch



February 19, 2021—on this day, we publicly announced the Reform to Transform campaign and our intentions of advocating for the implementation of climate education in BC's K-12 curriculum! Furthermore, we also released our soft-launch toolkit.

[View Our Soft Launch Toolkit](#)

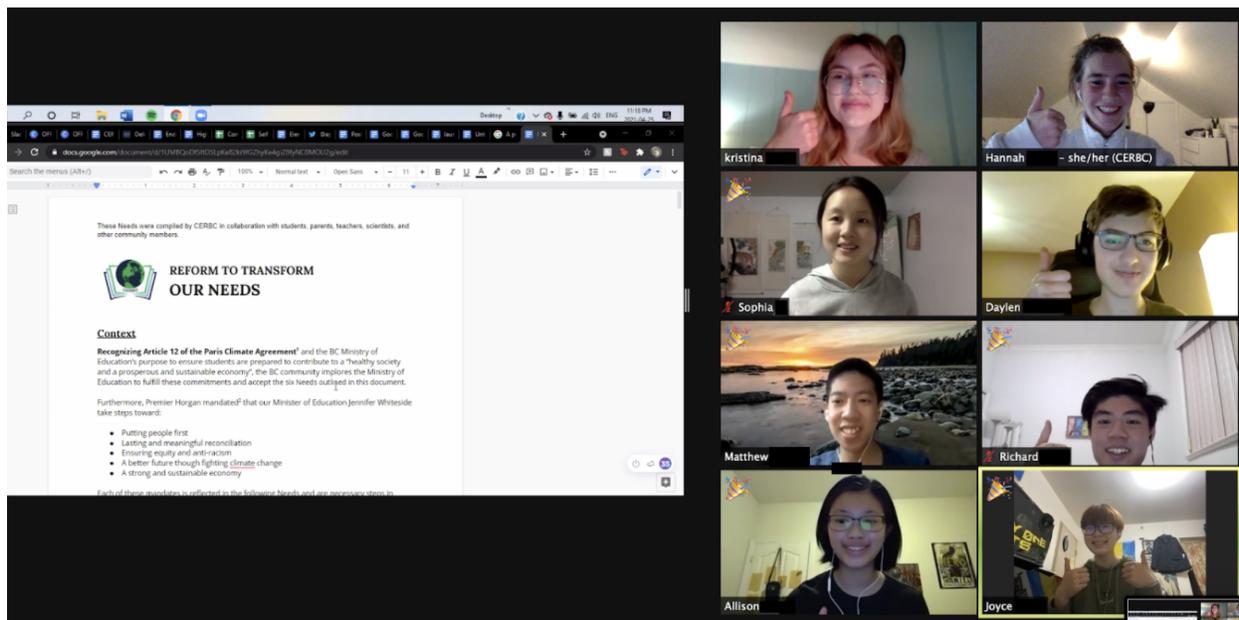
## March 2021: Preparing for Our 1st Wisdom Circle



Reform to Transform organizers celebrates the conclusion of the first community wisdom circle.

In March, our team planned our first wisdom circle, which took place on Zoom in early April. We had over 70 community members participate across two sessions. Hearing voices from our community immensely helped us shape our “6 Needs!”

## April 2021: R2T Is Officially Launched!



Reform to Transform organizers meet to finalize the “Our Needs” documents ahead of the official launch.

Arguably, one of the most memorable events occurred this month—the Reform to Transform campaign was formally launched! On April 26, 2021, CERBC officially released our six 'Needs' (asks) directed at the BC Ministry of Education, along with our open letter and three action toolkits.

[View “Our Needs” Document](#)

[View the Open Letter](#)

## May 2021: Endorsed By The BCTF

In May, BC Teachers’ Federation—the union of professionals representing 45,000+ public school teachers in the province—officially endorsed the Reform to Transform campaign. This was our first endorsement and acted as a great stepping stone in our movement.

[View All R2T Endorsements](#)

## June 2021: Setting Up A Meeting W/ The Ministry

Our open letter reached over 500 signatures in June—thanks to your support. Subsequently, we obtained a date to meet with Hon. Jennifer Whiteside and the BC Ministry of Education to introduce & discuss our climate education campaign. Initially *set in late August, this meeting was later pushed back to mid-October. View below for a summary of the event and our response.*

## July 2021: Resting & Recharging

Heading into the summer break, our team paused from organizing and had a much-needed period to relax and refresh.

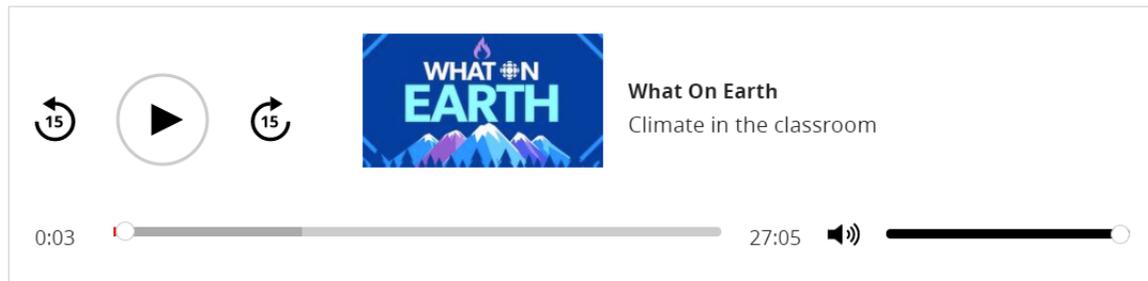
## August 2021: First In-person Team Meeting



Reform to Transform organizers meets at Trout Lake for a day of bonding and strategizing.

In August, CERBC held our first in-person meeting. Organizers from Metro Vancouver met up at Trout Lake, where we spent the day bonding, strategizing, and visioning as we prepared for the new school year. Those organizing outside of Metro Vancouver joined the fun through Zoom!

## September 2021: On CBC What On Earth



As kids head back to school this month we take a look at what students across Canada learn about climate change. And we meet youth and educators who say a more comprehensive climate education is needed. 27:05

CBC What On Earth Podcast episode featuring CERBC.

This month, CERBC is featured on CBC's What On Earth Podcast. In the episode "Climate in the classroom," one of our R2T organizers speaks on taking action to improve climate change education in schools. Additionally, our team held our first in-person workshop, alongside Fresh Roots, during Climate Literacy Week.

[Read CBC's News Article Here](#)

## October 2021: First Meeting W/ The Ministry

In mid-October, R2T organizers met with Minister Whiteside and Assistant Deputy Minister Melanie Stewart on Zoom, in which our team thoroughly introduced each of [our six 'Needs'](#) and held a discussion. In short, the meeting went well; we spoke on our hopes and heard the steps the Ministry of Education is currently undertaking. For instance, the Ministry is working on Need 3. Minister Whiteside definitely seemed supportive of our campaign (*excellent news*) but did not directly respond regarding taking the steps concerning most of our Needs. Further, the Ministry gave the impression of shifting responsibility in a manner. For example, the Ministry noted Needs 1, 2, and 6 as dependent on the CleanBC Roadmap (*released in November 2021*) released by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and COP26 outcomes. Regardless, our team left the meeting feeling optimistic about working together with the Ministry to achieve an education system that places the climate crisis at the forefront.

Our next meeting with the Ministry was scheduled in early December to provide time for the release of the CleanBC Roadmap.

## November 2021: CleanBC Response

At the first ministry meeting, many of our key asks were noted to be addressed in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030---released a couple of weeks after our first meeting. Unfortunately, much to our disappointment, the documents released displayed an absence of connection regarding education, and youth engagement, in response to climate change. Beyond that, there was little mention of school infrastructure, which we had hoped to be addressed alongside public infrastructure plans. Overall, with the lack of relevancy in the CleanBC Roadmap to our campaign, it appeared that the Ministry of Education did not take our asks seriously nor planned to be involved with any major systems change.

[View CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#)

## December 2021: Second Meeting W/ The Ministry

In early December, our team met with Assistant Deputy Minister Stewart and Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator Nick Poeschek. Following the disappointing release of the CleanBC roadmap to 2030, we wanted clarification and updates on progress at our next Ministry Meeting. We frankly did not have the enthusiastic engagement we had hoped; the meeting outcomes were underwhelming. It seemed as if for the Ministry of Education, this was merely a way to “check the box” of consulting with youths and our team, rather than valuing and supporting the work we have done.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education is evidently not treating the climate crisis like a pressing issue. When asked about Need 4 (curriculum change), it was briefly stated that since the new curriculum is from 2019 and no students have gone all the way through with it, a revision at this point does not make sense. The question to ponder now is when will be the right time to ensure that students are sufficiently learning about the climate crisis? Should it take another three or four years before we start thinking of a curriculum that places climate education as a priority for our students? This is a Need that we indisputably need to push. A nice update is that Minister has had initial discussions about a youth council for the Ministry of Education.

Despite our meeting having been rather disheartening, we are still working hard to engage more youth and have our voices heard for more comprehensive education reform. Our next tentative meeting date is in March 2022.

## Looking Forward: 2022

Although the meeting with the team at the Ministry of Education did not deliver the outcome that we desired, it has propelled us to work harder. We are back at the drawing board and coming up with new plans and actions for the new year. Stay tuned on how you can participate and support the inclusion of climate change education in the British Columbia curriculum!

***We are passionate and honoured to do this work, and we are so grateful for your support. Questions or comments regarding our campaign and/or this newsletter issue? We would love to hear from you! Email us at [info@cerbc.ca](mailto:info@cerbc.ca) or PM us on social media.***

## Calling All Students: We're Intaking!

If you are passionate about climate education activism and are ages 12 and up, or know anyone of age, use [this form](#) to join our core organizing team! Gain new skills, meet lasting friends and advocate for a positive change alongside like-minded individuals. Welcoming youth from all backgrounds, experiences, and skill levels!

[Fill Our Intake Google Form](#)

## Show Your Support

Support the Reform to Transform campaign by following us on social media:

Instagram: [@climateedureform](#)

Facebook: [@climateedureformbc](#)

Twitter: [@climateedreform](#)

Donate to our "Go Fund Me" [here](#).

[Visit Our Website](#)

---

*It is important we acknowledge that CERBC is not the first to be advocating for climate action and that Indigenous peoples have been leading and are continuing to initiate this work across Turtle Island. We are thankful to reside, work and organize on traditional, unceded and stolen territories of Indigenous peoples across British Columbia.*



**Climate Education Reform BC**

[info@cerbc.ca](mailto:info@cerbc.ca)