



Our Energy and Climate Future in a Changing World

Notre avenir énergétique et climatique dans un monde en transformation

A Visual Summary

of What We Heard During the Multilateral
Dialogue by Alison McCreesh

Résumé visuel

Ce que nous avons entendu pendant le
dialogue multilatéral Alison McCreesh

March 2024 – Mars 2024

About the Engagement

Between June and October 2023, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) engaged with partners, stakeholders, and the public to discuss its approach to energy and climate change mitigation in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Entitled “Our Energy and Climate Future in a Changing World,” the engagement ran from June to October 2023 and involved a public submission period, in-person meetings, and a three-day, in-person multilateral dialogue.

Visual artist Alison McCreesh was invited to attend and record visual minutes from the sessions of the multilateral dialogue held July 5-7, 2023 in Yellowknife. This ‘by-invitation’ event gathered 148 representatives from Indigenous governments, the Climate Change Council, the Climate Youth Advisory Group, as well as Indigenous organizations, non-governmental organizations, utilities, industry, businesses, territorial governments, Government of Canada and other stakeholders from across the NWT.

As part of its commitment to public awareness, the GNWT has compiled Alison McCreesh’s illustrations into an informative booklet, aimed to summarize the issues, opportunities and concerns discussed at the event. The illustrations provide a glimpse of the NWT’s collective energy and climate change aspirations and bridge the gap between technical dialogue and visual understanding by blending art and information. This booklet accompanies the *What We Heard* report—a comprehensive collection of feedback gathered throughout engagements—released by the GNWT in March 2024 to inform the upcoming review of the *2030 Energy Strategy* and greenhouse gas reduction targets under the *Climate Change Strategic Framework* in 2024-2025.

This booklet is organized to broadly follow the agenda of the multilateral dialogue. More information about the event, including the agenda and an overview of speakers and participants, is included in the main What We Heard report, which can be accessed at: https://www.inf.gov.nt.ca/sites/inf/files/resources/our_energy_and_climate_future_in_a_changing_world_what_we_heard_report.pdf.

Opening Reflection by Elder Jonas Sangris

The drastic decline in muskrats and beavers is a clear call for action on climate change. Harnessing our shared responsibility will be a powerful force in mitigating climate challenge.



OPENING WORDS by ELDER JONAS SANGRIS

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Welcome from GNWT by Julian Kanigan

Julian Kanigan, Assistant Deputy Minister with Environment and Climate Change presented the current energy and climate context of the NWT.



Based on a presentation by JULIAN KANIGAN, ECC

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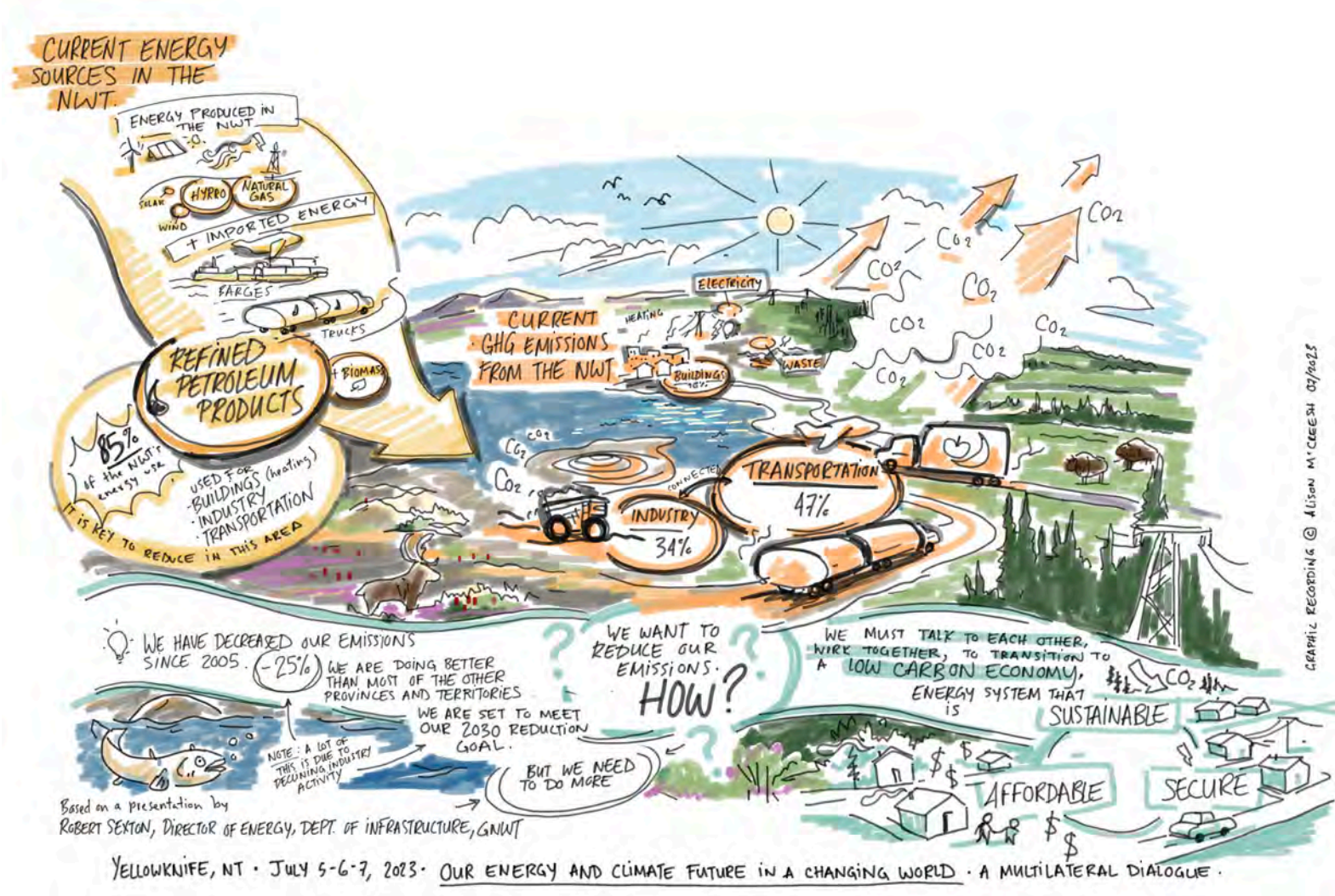
Community Agreement: All Voices Need to be Heard

Hilary LeRoy-Gauthier, the main facilitator of the multilateral dialogue, proposed a community agreement that articulated values and principles for participants to engage in the dialogue. Hilary LeRoy-Gauthier presented the community agreement on the first day of the event and offered to revisit it at the beginning of days 2 and 3.



Where We Stand

Robert Sexton, Director of Energy with the GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, provided participants with an overview of the state of energy and climate mitigation initiatives in the NWT. The NWT primarily depends on refined petroleum products for its energy supply, with the majority of greenhouse gas emissions coming from transportation and industry. While the NWT has cut its emissions by about 25% since 2005, more needs to be done to achieve the vision of a secure, affordable, and sustainable energy system.

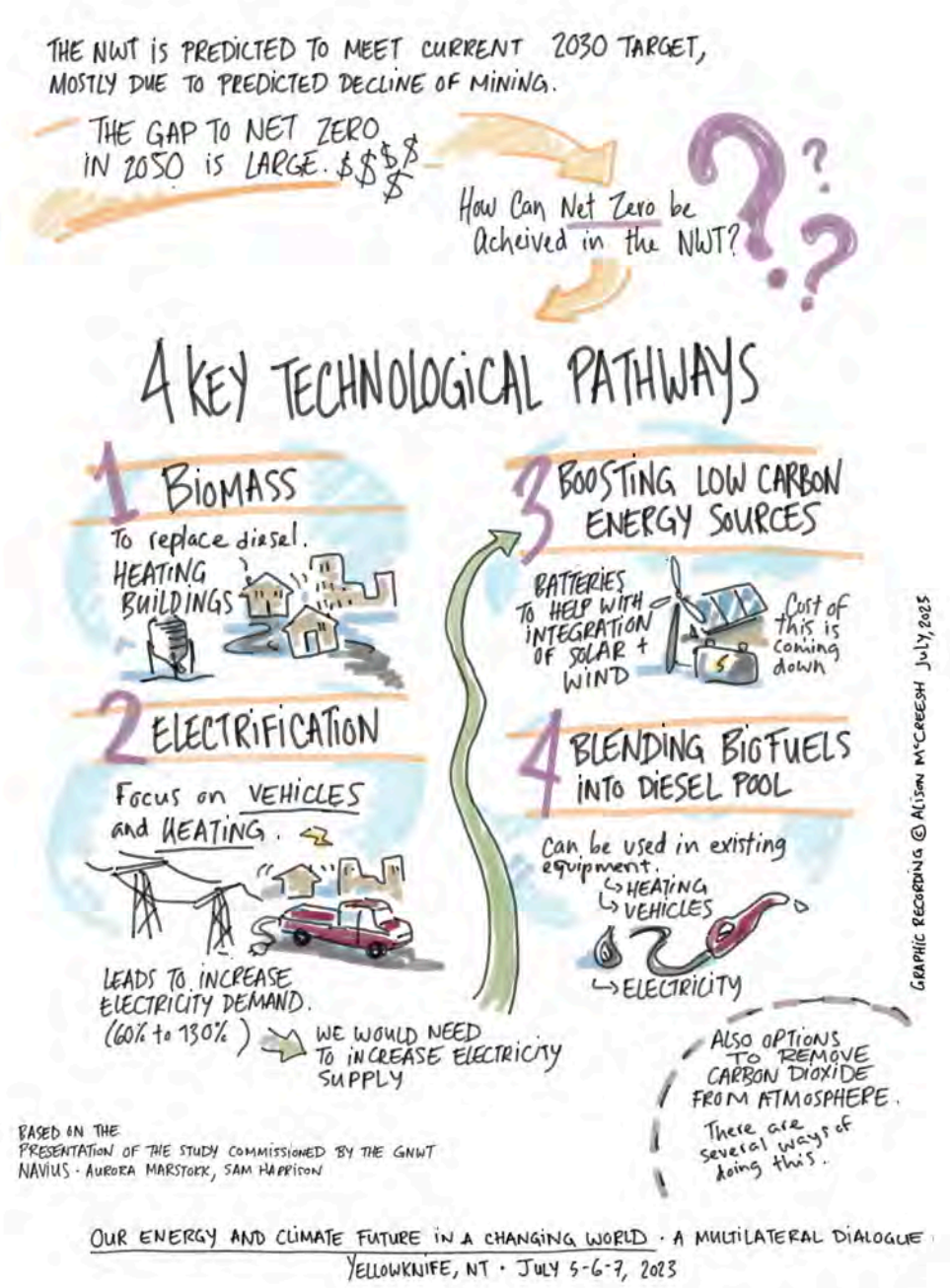


Low-Carbon Pathways in the NWT

The GNWT commissioned Navius Research to better understand what low-carbon pathways could look like in the NWT, including the technology and economic implications of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Two representatives of Navius Research presented the key findings of their analysis, which were used to inform the overall engagement.

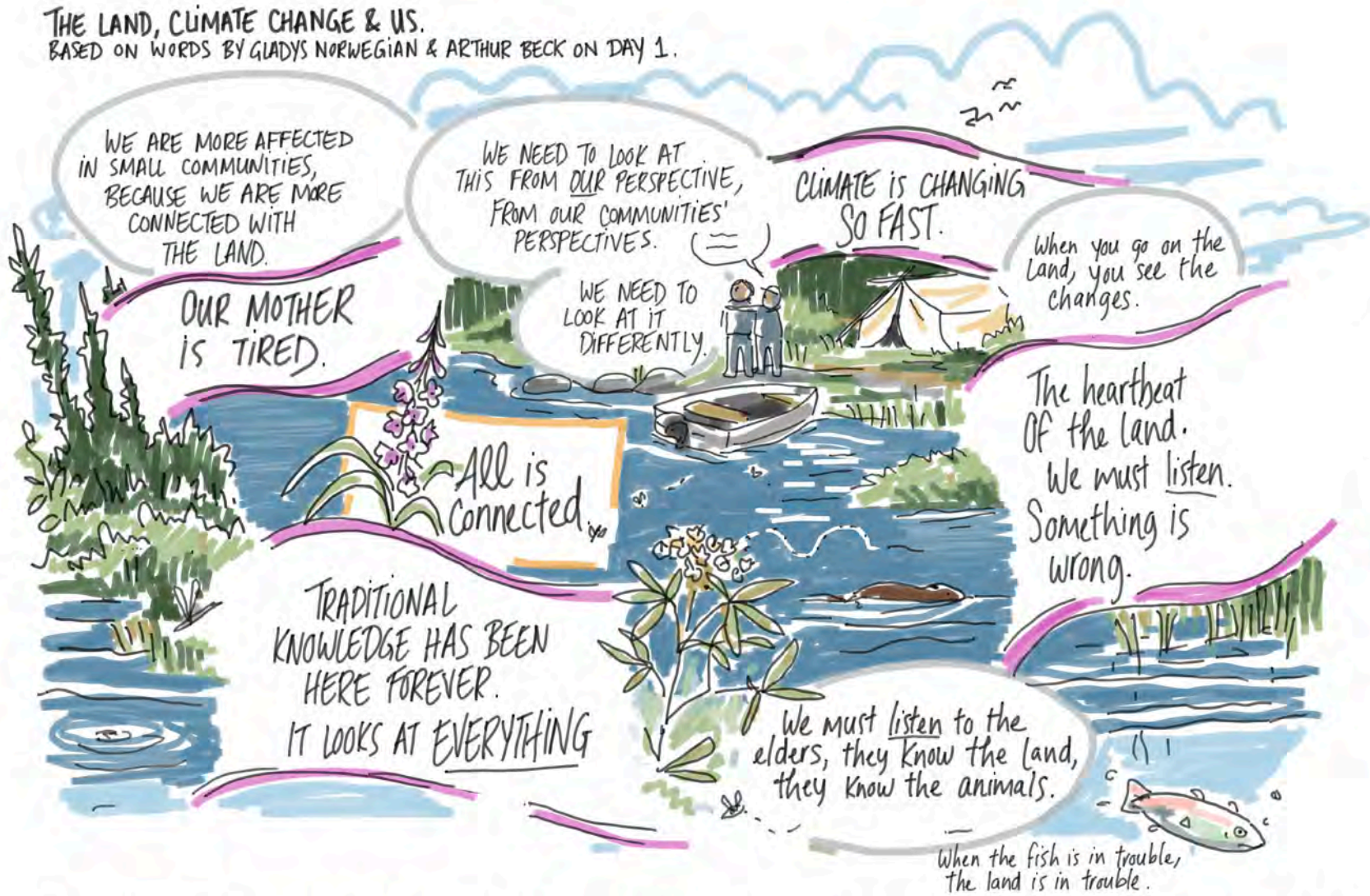
Released in 2023, the report prepared independently by Navius Research found that four key technologies are key for the NWT to reach net zero emissions by 2050. These include biomass to heat buildings, the electrification of transportation and heating, renewable electricity combined with battery technology, and suitable biofuels for end-uses for which there is currently no clean alternative.

The report can be accessed at <https://www.inf.gov.nt.ca/en/services/energy/modelling-emissions-reduction-pathways-northwest-territories>



An Indigenous Perspective on Low-Carbon Pathways

Gladys Norwegian, retiree/former Grand Chief of Dehcho First Nations, provided an Indigenous perspective on climate change in the NWT.



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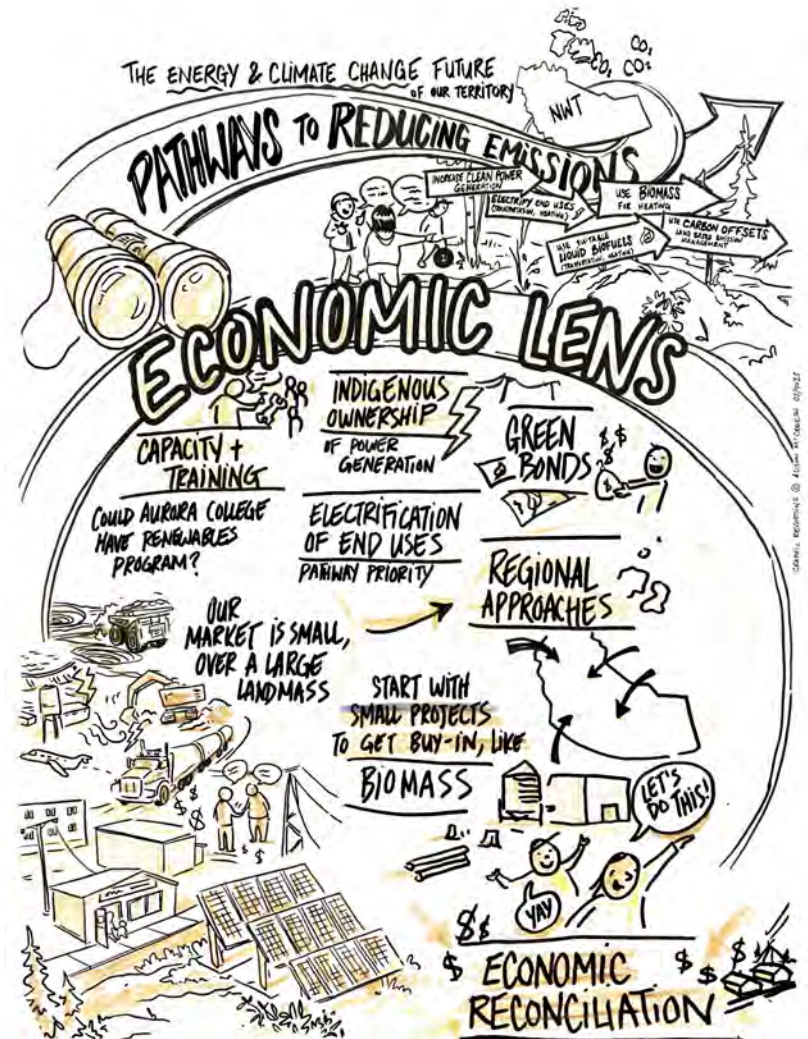
Examining Low-Carbon Pathways Through Various Lenses

Day 2 of the multilateral dialogue offered participants to examine the challenges and opportunities associated with low-carbon pathways in the NWT through a combination of six lenses: Indigenous Leadership, Economic, Policy, Technical, Non-Hydro Communities, and Hydro Communities. Participants rotated between moderated tables to contribute to up to three lenses. The following posters summarize what was said on each of the lenses.



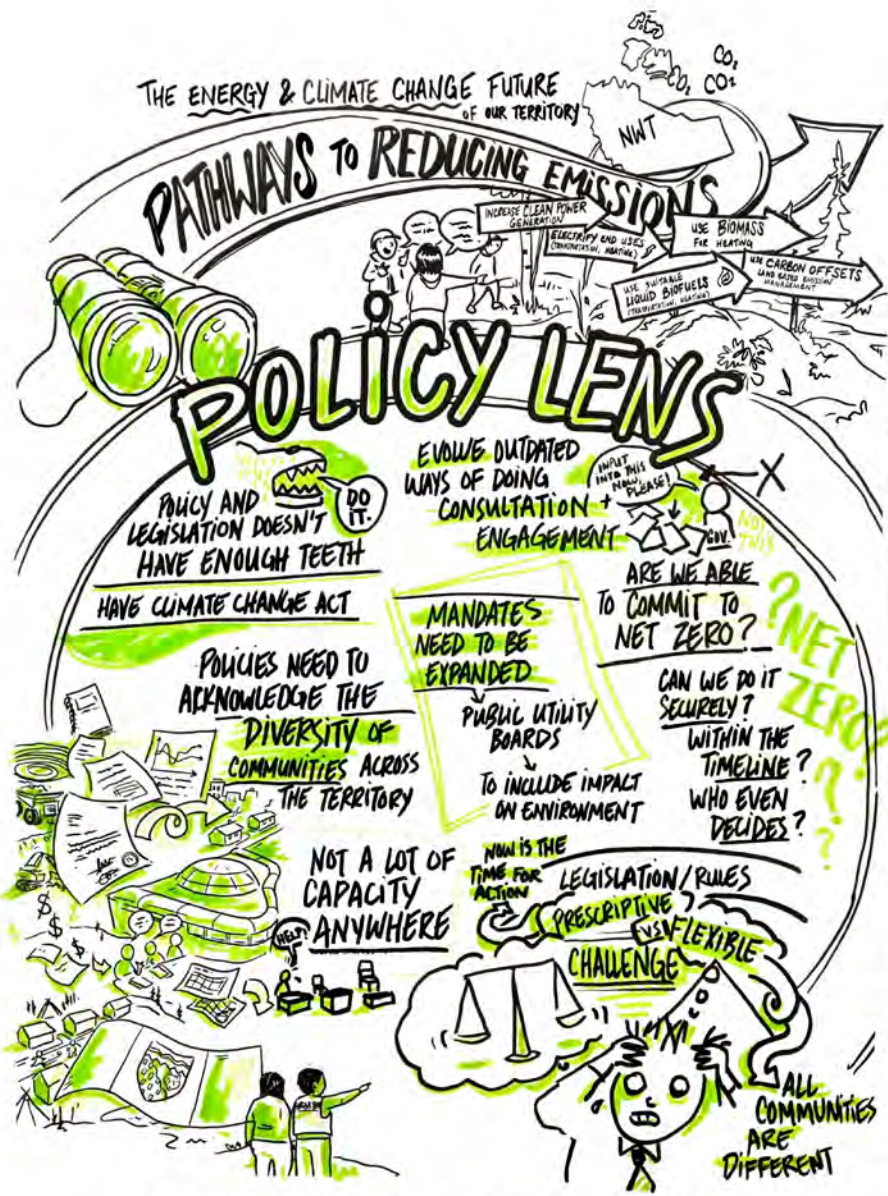
A LENS-BASED DISCUSSION ON LOW-CARBON PATHWAYS

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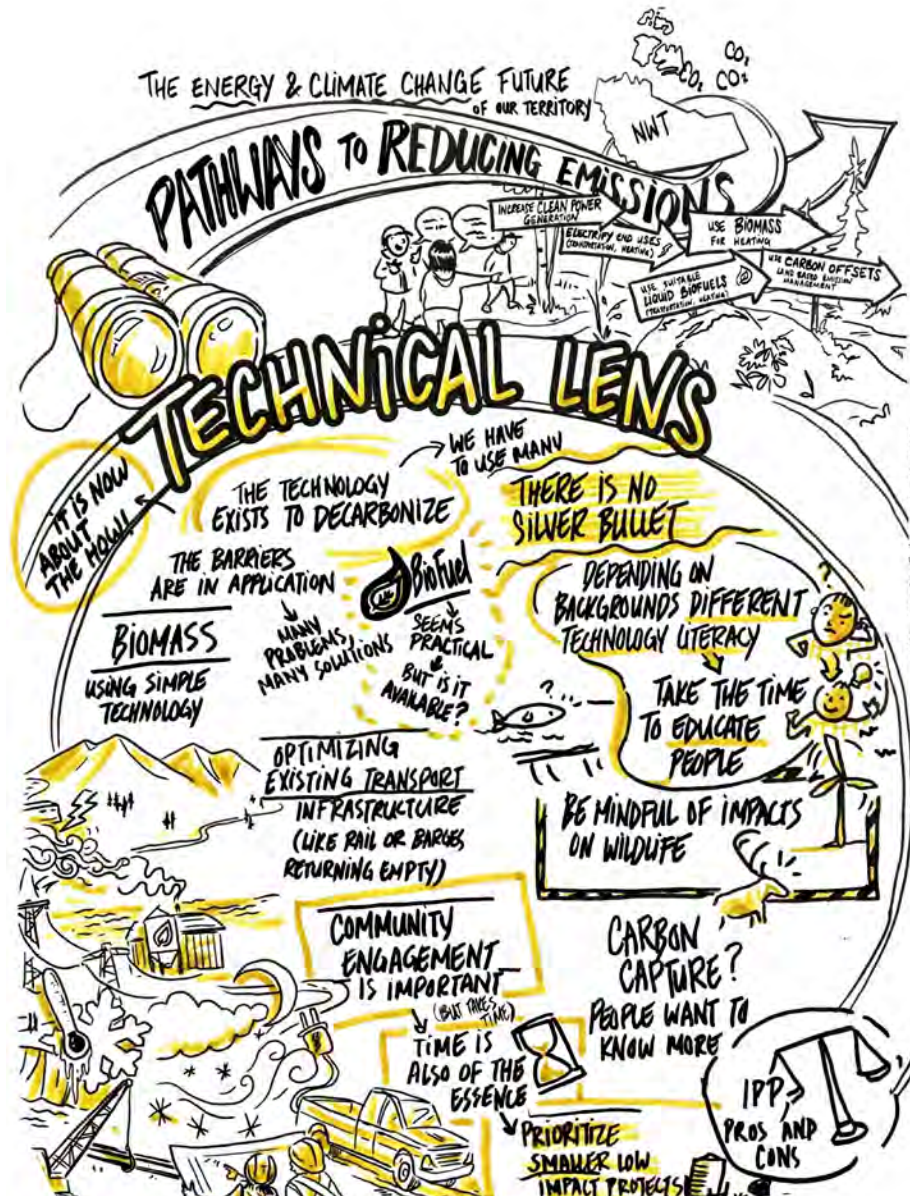
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A Low-Carbon Future for Communities

One main takeaway of the lens-based discussion on day 2 was that involving communities is essential in NWT's shift towards a low-carbon future. Focusing on community-specific solutions, ensuring community or indigenous ownership, sharing resources, starting with manageable projects, and investing in capacity building are all integral to reducing emissions in the NWT.

A SUMMARY OF SOME KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM DISCUSSIONS ON DAY 2

A LOW CARBON FUTURE FOR COMMUNITIES



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Principles and Values Guiding GNWT's Energy and Climate Strategies

Day 3 featured a breakout session to hear from participants on principles and values that should guide a renewed GNWT strategy on energy and climate mitigation.

A REVIEW OF PRINCIPLES AND VALUES GUIDING THE GNWT'S ENERGY & CLIMATE STRATEGIES
 A RECORDING OF PARTICIPANTS' THOUGHTS, IN THEIR OWN WORDS.

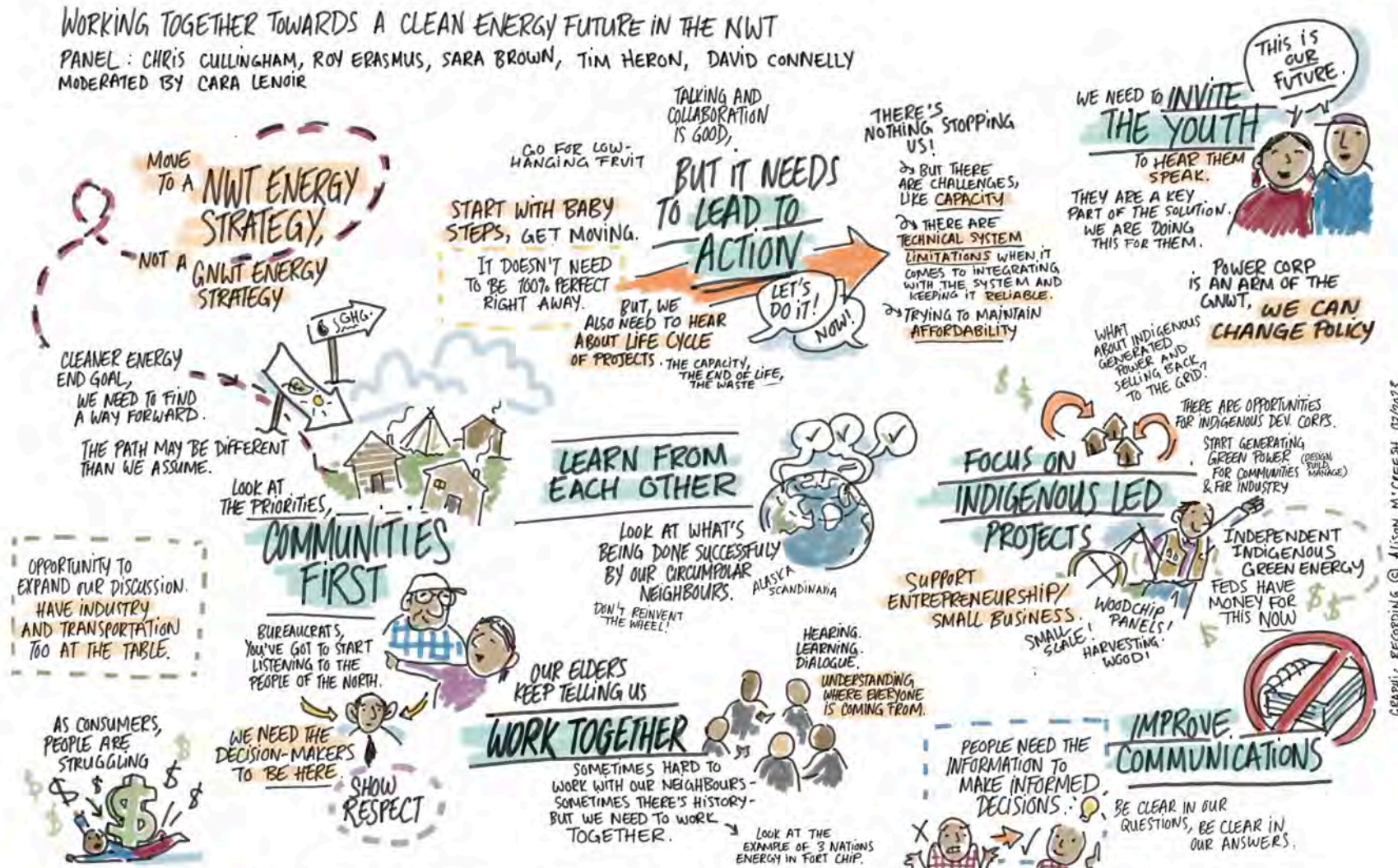


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Working Together Towards a Clean Energy Future

On this panel, representatives from an electricity utility, the NWT Association of Communities, industry, and an Indigenous government exchanged on how NWT governments, partners and stakeholders could better work together towards a clean energy future.



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