

Nisqually River Education Project
Summer Institute 2022: Droughts and Fires

Collaborative Poem:

Listening to the Earth speak in the face of climate change

In the face of climate change,
The Mountain says, remember me, come climb,
set high goals, and reach for the stars. The Mountain
says: Without my glaciers, the rivers will stop
and I am at risk of flooded rivers changing
paths, extreme rockslide due to erosion,
disrupting my unique plants and wildlife.

The Mountain says: Stand Tall — no matter what, even if you blow your top.

In the face of climate change, The Prairies say
We need you and you need us. The Prairies say:
Diversity Matters! The Prairies say, in the face of climate change:
Some like it hot! Biodiversity is here, but I'm getting drier
longer, and I might erode away from flash flooding.

The Prairies say: Take it slow and easy.

In the face of climate change, Rivers and Streams remind us
to bend. That the only certain thing is change. To protect
our waters, it is all we have. You depend on us. I worry
for warming waters, algae blooms and fish kills.

Rivers and Streams remind us: Go with the flow. We need Beavers!

In the face of climate change, Fires can teach us
healthy, necessary fear. Fires teach us that with death
comes life. They teach us that they will happen but we
can mitigate with management.

Fires teach us: Things move faster than we can think.