



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada



# The Government of Canada's Environmental Priorities

December 2018

# Protecting the Environment and Conserving Canada's Natural Heritage

- The Government of Canada plays a critical leadership role in protecting the health of Canadians and the environment
- Canada's environmental priorities include:
  1. Climate Change
  2. Conservation and Biodiversity
  3. Impact Assessments
  4. Weather and Environmental Prediction and Monitoring
  5. Water
  6. Clean Air
- Canada works with international partners to advance these priorities, as well as green infrastructure, clean technologies, and oceans

A clean environment helps maintain a strong economy and support a high quality of life



# Constitutional context

---

- In Canada, responsibility for protecting the environment and promoting sustainability is shared between the federal (national) and provincial levels of government
  - Issues are addressed under federal or provincial legislative powers depending on their nature and scope
  - Effective authority for a number of environmental issues lies with provinces and territories
- The Government committed to renewing its nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples
  - The Crown has a legal duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous peoples in any decision with the potential to adversely impact Aboriginal or treaty rights



# 1

## Addressing Climate Change is a Top Priority

- Canada signed the Paris Agreement, which entered into force on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- To support Canada's commitments, Federal and Provincial/Territorial Ministers adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and committed to put a price on carbon
- The Pan-Canadian Framework is built on four pillars:
  - Pricing Carbon Pollution
  - Complementary mitigation actions across all sectors
  - Adaptation and climate resilience
  - Clean technology, innovation and jobs

The Framework is the first-ever pan-Canadian climate change plan. It will help grow the economy while reducing emissions and building resilience to adapt to a changing climate



# Addressing Climate Change is a Top Priority

---

- Carbon pollution pricing is central to the Pan-Canadian Framework given that it is broadly recognized as one of the most effective, transparent, and efficient policy approaches to reduce GHG emissions
- Pricing is complemented by a series of regulations, investments, and other policies across all sectors to further drive down emissions
- Therefore, the Pan-Canadian Framework includes dozens of policy measures across all sectors of the economy. Policies focus on further cleaning the electricity grid, making better use of energy, and helping switch to cleaner fuels
- The Government has also made a commitment with its partners in the G20 to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and remains committed to doing so by the year 2025

Page 5 – December 12, 2018



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

# 2 Conservation and Biodiversity

- Canada confirmed its commitment to conserve, by 2020, at least:
  - 17% of terrestrial and freshwater areas
  - 10% of marine and coastal areas
- The Government is investing \$1.3 billion over five years to support biodiversity and protect species at risk
  - Nature Fund in partnership with corporate, not-for profit, provincial, territorial and other partners
  - management of national parks, national marine conservation areas and historic sites
  - protect, conserve and aid in recovery of endangered whale species

Protected areas are lands and waters where development and use are restricted for the conservation of nature. So far, 10.5% (1.05 million km<sup>2</sup>) of Canada's terrestrial area (land and freshwater), and 7.75% (400 thousand km<sup>2</sup>) of its marine territory have been recognized as protected.



# Working with International Partners: Climate finance

- Canada's international climate finance sustains a wide range of programs and initiatives to:
  - help partners manage risks, adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change,
  - deploy clean energy technology, and
  - manage natural resources sustainably
- The Government continues delivering C\$2.65 billion by 2020 to help developing countries transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies
  - Canada's support is being delivered through the UN Green Climate Fund, as well as through a number of multilateral and bilateral initiatives.
  - The Government of Canada seeks to advance gender equality around the world through efforts to address climate change and mitigate its impacts

Page 7 – December 12, 2018



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

# Working with International Partners: Outcomes of Canada's G7 Presidency

- During its G7 Presidency, Canada advanced the *Charlevoix Blueprint on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities*, including commitments to:
  - Support innovative financing for resilience;
  - Support better adaptation planning, emergency preparedness and recovery; and
  - Expand Earth Observation capabilities in developing countries.
- Canada also spearheaded the *Ocean Plastics Charter*, which takes a comprehensive lifecycle approach to prevent marine plastic pollution
- Canada took an innovative approach to advancing sustainable finance by partnering with multilateral development banks, philanthropists and institutional investors to:
  - mobilize private investment;
  - remove access barriers;
  - advance disclosure of climate-related financial risk;
  - launch innovative finance projects to protect natural infrastructure; and
  - advance blended finance and other mechanisms to boost investment in sustainable infrastructure.

Page 8 – December 12, 2018





# Other Priorities: Green Infrastructure, Clean Technologies and Oceans

- Green Infrastructure Funding to help protect communities from the challenges of climate change and deliver a number of additional environmental benefits
- Supporting the transition towards sustainable economic growth
- Canada and the UK launched the Powering Past Coal Alliance, to help meet the goals of the Paris Agreement by supporting a transition away from unabated coal power.
- Through its Oceans Action Plan, Canada is committed to
  - maximize the use and development of oceans technology,
  - establish a network of marine protected areas,
  - implement integrated management plans, and
  - enhance the enforcement of rules governing oceans and fisheries, including rules governing straddling stocks
- Canada has also pledged \$500 million over six years to federal research focused specifically on oceans and freshwater science

Page 9 – December 12, 2018



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

# 3 Impact Assessment

---

- Proposed changes to the Assessment system to :
  - Consider not just impacts on our environment, but also on social and health aspects, Indigenous peoples, jobs and the economy over the long-term.
  - Provide greater clarity and consistency by establishing the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to lead all federal reviews of major projects
- Investment of about \$1 billion over five years to support the new Impact Assessment system and Canadian Energy Regulator, increase federal scientific capacity, and support Indigenous and public participation



# 4 Weather and environmental prediction and monitoring

- The Government maintains Canada-wide networks to collect data and monitor changes in weather, climate, water, ice and air. These networks enable the weather, water and environmental predictions that help keep people safe
- The Government is modernizing Canada's weather forecast and severe weather warning systems, and maintaining direct support to the emergency management organizations that prepare for and respond to severe weather
- The Government is also committed to:
  - Revitalize water stations, improve services for long-range water forecasts, test and implement new technologies and expand technical and engineering capacity
  - Support the operation of water stations that are cost-shared with provinces and territories



# 5 Protecting Canada's Freshwater

---

- The Government of Canada recognizes that freshwater is a precious resource that deserves protection and careful stewardship.
- The Government also invests significant resources to support infrastructure projects to protect Canada's freshwater. This includes:
  - A \$2 billion Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to improve water and wastewater infrastructure
  - About \$2 billion to support access to clean and safe drinking water on reserves
- The Government is committed to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous groups and others to ensure that Canadians now, and for generations to come, have access to reliable and clean water resources



# 6 Improving Air Quality

---

- Poor air quality can have significant impact on human health, the environment and the economy
- Both domestic and international sources of air pollutants affect air quality in Canada
- The Government has committed to provide leadership to improve air quality
- The Air Quality Management System (AQMS) is a comprehensive approach for reducing air pollution in Canada and is the product of an unprecedented collaboration by the federal, provincial and territorial governments and stakeholders.
- 

