

IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

March 12, 2020



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada 

Protecting the Environment and Conserving Canada's Natural Heritage

- The Federal government plays a critical leadership role in protecting the health of Canadians and the environment
- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change leads the federal government's environmental agenda on:
 1. Climate Change
 2. Conservation and Biodiversity
 3. Freshwater
 4. Environmental Protection
 5. Impact Assessment
 6. Weather and environmental prediction and monitoring
- The Minister also supports a number of other priorities led by other Ministers

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



The Environment is a Shared Responsibility

- In Canada, responsibility for protecting the environment and promoting sustainability is shared between the federal (national), provincial, and territorial levels of government
 - Issues are addressed under federal, provincial, or territorial legislative powers depending on their nature and scope
 - Effective authority for a number of environmental issues lies with provinces and territories
- 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, a global agreement to limit global average temperature to well below 2°C from pre-industrial levels, which entered into force on November 4th, 2016
- To support Canada's commitments, First Ministers adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change on December 9th, 2016
- In 2018, the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* was passed, ensuring that carbon pollution pricing is in place across the country

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

Going Forward, the Government of Canada has committed to:

- Strengthen existing and introducing new GHG reducing measures to exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction goal
- Develop a plan to set Canada on a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Plant 2 billion trees as part of a broader commitment to nature-based climate solutions
- Advance toward zero-emission vehicles targets of 10% sales by 2025, 30% by 2030, and 100% by 2040



Working with International Partners: Climate Finance

- The Government continues delivering C\$2.65 billion by 2020/21 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
 - Canada recently announce C\$223.5 million to the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in the Americas in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and IDB Invest. this initiative will help countries in the Americas and the Caribbean region adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change
 - 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
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2 – Conservation and Biodiversity

- Canada has met its international commitment to protect 10% of marine areas and is working towards meeting its commitment to protect 17% of terrestrial and freshwater areas by 2020
- Going forward, the Government of Canada has committed to:
 - Conserve 25% of Canada's land and oceans by 2025, working toward 30% of each by 2030
 - Continue to work to protect biodiversity and species at risk, while engaging with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, scientists, industry and other stakeholders



3 – Protecting Canada's Freshwater

- The Government of Canada recognizes that freshwater is a precious resource that deserves protection and careful stewardship
- Going forward, the Government of Canada has committed to:
 - Create a new Canada Water Agency to work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep Canada's water safe, clean and well-managed;
 - Develop further protections and take active steps to clean up the Great Lakes, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Simcoe and other large lakes; and,
 - Work with provinces and territories to complete all flood maps in Canada



4 – Environmental Protection

- The Government of Canada has committed to:
 - Implement a plan to ban harmful single-use plastic products and take steps toward eliminating plastic pollution in Canada;
 - Protect the environment from toxins and other pollution, including by strengthening the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999;
 - Ensure that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency makes timely science-based decisions to support the safe and sustainable use of effective pesticide products in Canada; and,
 - Use good scientific evidence and traditional Indigenous knowledge when making decisions affecting ecosystem management



5 – Impact Assessment

- The new *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) came into force in August 2019, which put in place better rules for major projects, to protect the environment and communities, advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and ensure good projects can go forward, creating good jobs and economic opportunities for middle-class Canadians
- The Act created the new Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which leads all project reviews under the IAA, and works in cooperation with other regulatory bodies such as the new Canada Energy Regulator and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to conduct integrated reviews of designated projects
- As announced in Budget 2018, the Government of Canada will invest approximately \$1 billion over five years to support the new impact assessment regime and Canadian Energy Regulator; increased scientific capacity in federal departments and agencies; changes required to protect water, fish and navigation; and increased Indigenous and public participation



6 – Weather and Environmental Prediction and Monitoring

- The Government of Canada brings leading-edge technology and science together to provide timely and accurate forecasts on which Canadians, businesses, communities and others rely to make health and safety decisions
- ECCC delivers forecast and warning services regarding weather, water, ice, climate, solar radiation, and air quality in support of safety, enhanced resilience, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability
- In case of an extreme weather event, ECCC forecasts water, and air quality conditions, providing alerts and warnings to the public, Emergency Management Organizations and other decision-makers

