

Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities

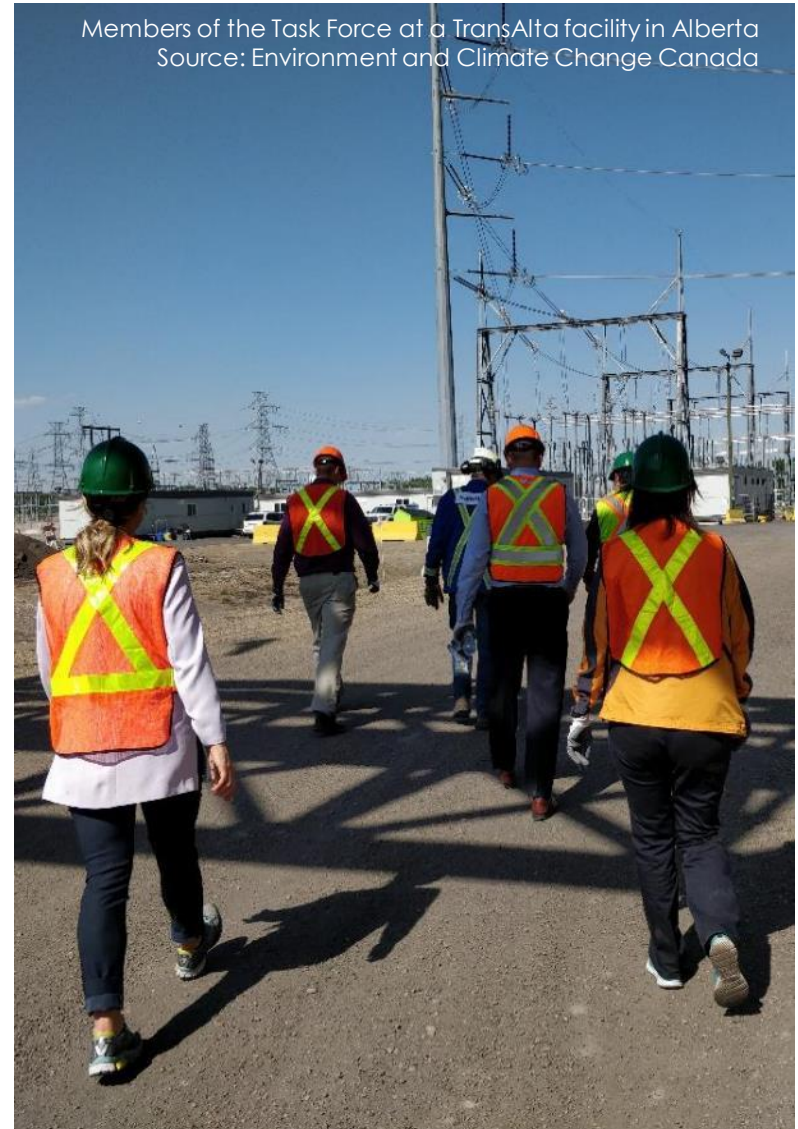
Part 1: Context

Part 2: Task Force

Part 3: Canada's related programs

Presentation by Environment and Climate Change Canada

Members of the Task Force at a TransAlta facility in Alberta
Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada



Part 1: Coal workers and communities in Canada

- Coal use has a long history in Canada
 - Indigenous Peoples
 - Settler use began in the 1600s
 - Whole new communities were built around it
- Nearly 50 communities continue to rely on thermal coal mining and coal power for local employment and taxes, which can form the majority of their municipal budget

COAL POWER IN CANADA

15 coal-fired generating stations

9 thermal coal mines

3,000 to 3,900 workers

- **Highly skilled** workforce
- **Full-time, unionized jobs**
- Higher than average **wages**, health **benefits**, and **pensions**

MAP OF COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATIONS AND THERMAL COAL MINES IN CANADA



Alberta

- 1 Battle River Generating Station
- 2 Genesee Generating Station
- 3 H.R. Milner Generating Station
- 4 Keephills Generating Station
- 5 Sheerness Generating Station
- 6 Sundance Generating Station
- 7 Coal Valley Mine
- 8 Genesee Mine
- 9 Highvale Mine
- 10 Paintearth Mine
- 11 Sheerness Mine

Saskatchewan

- 12 Boundary Dam Power Station
- 13 Poplar River Power Station
- 14 Shand Power Station
- 15 Estevan Mine
- 16 Poplar River Mine

New Brunswick

- 17 Belledune Generating Station
- 18 Coleson Cove Generating Station

Nova Scotia

- 19 Lingan Generating Station
- 20 Point Aconi Generating Station
- 21 Point Tupper Generating Station
- 22 Trenton Generating Station
- 23 Donkin Mine
- 24 Stellarton Mine





A KEY QUESTION IS HOW CAN
WE SUPPORT THESE WORKERS
AND COMMUNITIES AS WE
PHASE OUT COAL-FIRED
ELECTRICITY?

Part 2: Just Transition Task Force

To help answer this question, in 2018 Canada launched the Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities, comprised of representatives of labour, environmental groups, local government, and industry.



2015

- Paris Agreement acknowledges just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs

2016

- Canada recognizes the importance of providing Canadian workers with a just and fair transition

2017

- Canada agrees to create the Task Force, following engagement with Canada's labour movement

2018

- Canada launches the Task Force in April
- Task Force delivers final report by December 31

Purpose



The Task Force was responsible for providing knowledge, options and recommendations to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on implementing a just transition for workers and communities directly impacted by the accelerated phase-out of coal fired electricity in Canada

Secretariat and administrative support

Government of Canada officials provided administrative support, and also drafted written reports and presentations

Mandate

- A. **Engage** with relevant stakeholder groups, provinces, and municipal governments
- B. Provide a summary of **what was heard**
- C. Provide **options and recommendations** on what could be included in a just transition plan for coal power workers and communities
- D. Provide options and recommendations to the Minister on **how to structure a subsequent phase of consultation** and analysis concerning just transition... for Canada to prosper throughout the global transition to a clean growth and low-carbon economy



A. Engagement

- Travelled to 4 provinces
- Visited 15 communities
- Toured 7 facilities
- Hosted 8 public town hall-style sessions
- Met with more than 80 stakeholder groups

The Task Force met with:

- workers and their families
- employers
- labour union representatives
- provinces
- municipalities
- community members
- business representatives
- non-governmental organizations
- other stakeholders

B. What Was Heard

Captured in a special companion report



Available online (linked)

Achieving a Just Transition means:

Keeping workers working – in their communities

Allowing for early retirement

Making electricity secure and affordable

Reducing the stress of financial uncertainty

Helping communities thrive

Communicating and collaborating openly and honestly

Each with common concerns and solutions from directly affected Canadians

Over **100 people** attended a meeting with the Task Force in Estevan (SK), and over **200 people** attended a meeting with the Task Force in Coronach (SK). They voiced their concerns about the transition, including the impacts on **children**, families, **home values**, and the overall **future** of their communities.

Our **community college** provides opportunities to retrain workers and gain transferable skills, but **we need an active industry** here for that to be possible.

- Community member, Bathurst, NB

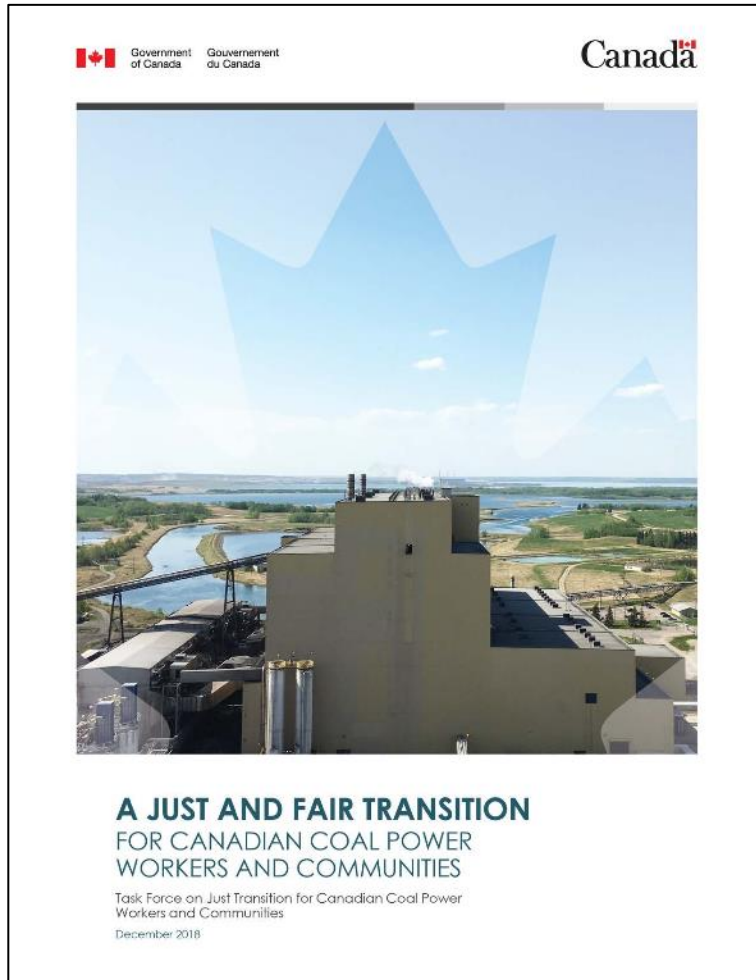
Our population keeps getting old and we **can't afford to lose any more families**. Young families don't want to stay in our community anymore because there are fewer jobs.

- Resident, Trenton, NS

Planning is required to ensure that the low-carbon transition's many benefits for health... are not offset by abrupt decreases in the **social determinants of health [caused by unemployment]**.

- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

C. Recommendations for Coal Transition



“When putting in place environmental policies that impact Canadian workers and communities, governments must take responsibility for these adverse impacts and collaborate with stakeholders to find ways to minimize them.”

The Task Force made **10 recommendations** across 3 interrelated areas:

1. Foundational
2. Workers
3. Communities

Available online (linked)

Foundational Recommendations

1. Develop, communicate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and publicly report on a **just transition plan for the coal phase-out**, championed by a lead minister to oversee and report on progress
2. Include **provisions for just transition** in federal environmental and labour legislation and regulations, as well as relevant intergovernmental agreements
3. Establish a targeted, long-term **research fund** for studying the impact of the coal phase-out and the transition to a low-carbon economy
4. Fund the establishment and operation of locally-driven **transition centres** in affected coal communities



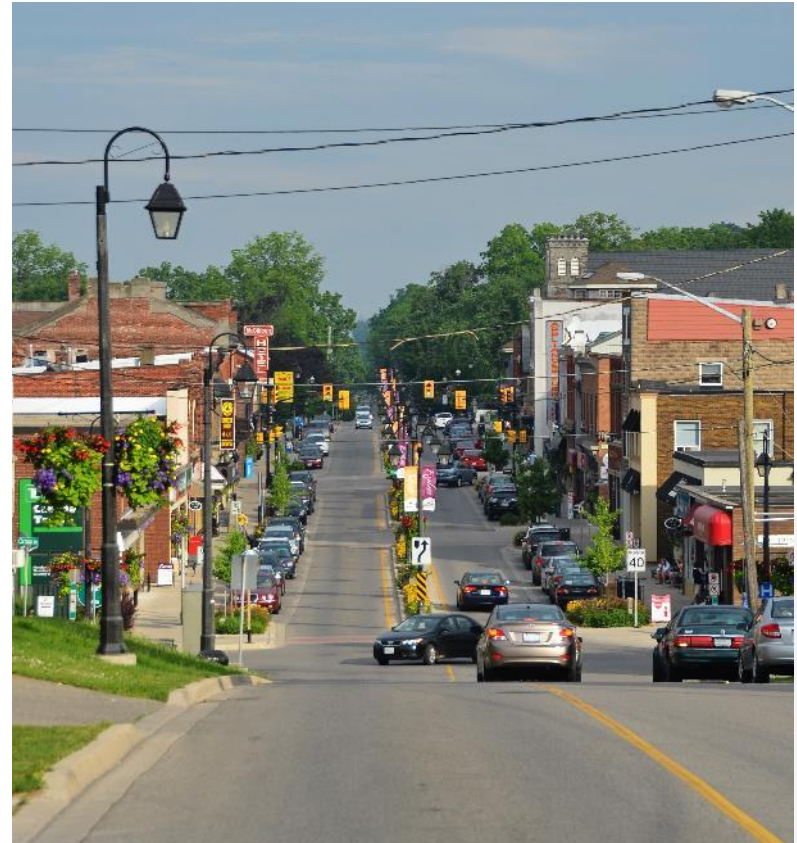
Recommendations for Workers



5. Create a **pension bridging program** for workers who will retire earlier than planned due to the coal phase out
6. Create a detailed and publicly available **inventory with labour market information** pertaining to coal workers, such as skills profiles, demographics, locations, and current and potential employers
7. Create a **comprehensive funding program for workers** staying in the labour market to address their needs across the stages of securing a new job, including income support, education and skills building, re-employment, and mobility

Recommendations for Communities

8. Identify, prioritize, and fund local **infrastructure projects** in affected communities
9. Establish a dedicated, comprehensive, inclusive, and flexible just transition **funding program for affected communities**
10. Meet directly with affected communities to learn about their **local priorities**, and to **connect them with federal programs** that could support their goals



Other Key Messages

- “Taking actions to ensure a fair and just transition for Canadian coal workers and communities is critical to creating hope, sustaining the middle class, ensuring good jobs into the future, taking action on climate change, and building public support for these and future actions.”
- *“Just transition will be critical to building a broad consensus for taking action on climate change and reassuring Canadians that they will not be left behind.”*

Seven Principles for a Just Transition:

1. *respect for workers, unions, communities, and families*
2. *worker participation at every stage of transition*
3. *transitioning to good jobs*
4. *sustainable and healthy communities*
5. *planning for the future, grounded in today's reality*
6. *nationally coherent, regionally driven, locally delivered actions*
7. *immediate yet durable support*

D. Recommendations for Future Consultation on Broader Transition

- Future consultation could take several forms
 - on a policy-by-policy basis—following our Task Force's approach
 - on a sector-by-sector basis
- Establishing an independent task force of experts is a proven model
 - fair and sincere brokers, who would report back to government openly and honestly
- Independent Task Forces cannot replace engagement with Government—that remains necessary
- Should involve Indigenous peoples, consistent with Canada's commitment to renewing nation-to-nation relationships
- Must follow the Task Force's Seven Principles for a Just Transition

Part 3: Canada's Response

- Canada's Budget 2018 announced the Canadian Coal Transition Initiative: \$35 million to assist coal affected communities and workers.
 - To date, 26 projects have been announced, totaling over \$17 million
 - A high degree of flexibility in type of projects being funded to meet individual community needs
- Canada's Budget 2019 announced a dedicated \$150 million infrastructure fund, starting in 2020–21, to support priority projects and economic diversification in coal impacted communities.
- The Minister of Natural Resources was mandated to advance legislation to support the future and livelihood of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon global economy
 - COVID-19 has halted consultations for safety reasons. New strategies for advancing just transition are currently being developed.

Examples: Announced Projects to Assist Coal-Affected Communities & Workers

- Establishing a business hub and concierge center in Hanna, Alberta
- Implementing a solar installation training program at Southeast Regional College in Estevan, Saskatchewan
- Implementing projects in Atlantic Canada focused on assisting the affected communities' economies, including for renewable energy and market diversification.





For more information, please
visit the Task Force's webpage

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/task-force-just-transition.html>