

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
CLIMATE CHOICES



INSTITUT CANADIEN POUR DES
CHOIX CLIMATIQUES



BRINGING CLARITY TO THE CHOICES AHEAD

2019–2020 ANNUAL REPORT



WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Institute for Climate Choices is an unparalleled collaboration of experts from a diverse range of disciplines and organizations across the country. We undertake rigorous and independent research, insightful analysis and broad engagement to bring clarity to the climate challenges and transformative policy choices ahead for Canada.

OUR VISION

Canadians acting together on climate solutions to create resilient communities, thriving, inclusive economies, and a better world.

OUR MISSION

We clarify Canada's climate policy choices to create a strong foundation for decision making.

Sound Research. Integrated Policy. Better Decisions.

WHY THE INSTITUTE? WHY NOW?



Today, the factual evidence no longer leaves any doubt as to the seriousness of global warming or the required scale and urgency of efforts to combat it. One way or another, the world will have to come to grips with climate change.

Under the Paris Agreement, Canada has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Recently, the federal government also announced an aim to make Canada “carbon neutral” by 2050. But how do we get there? How do we navigate the challenges and the opportunities that climate change brings—particularly in light of other global threats and priorities?

Faced with these questions, Canadians and their governments are making choices that will shape our country's future for decades to come. The mission of the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices is to clarify and inform those choices.

Does Canada really need another climate-focused organization when many others are already doing so much? In a word, yes. Our Institute brings a uniquely integrated perspective on climate policy, examining not just how Canada can reduce emissions but how it can, at the same time, help keep life affordable, maintain economic competitiveness, safeguard human and ecological health, and ensure the resilience of physical infrastructure.

Our credibility comes from our independence and our commitment to evidence. While the Institute is funded by the federal government, we are an arm's-length organization with our own agenda, and our advice will follow from where the evidence leads. Our work is informed by more than three dozen Expert Panel members representing a broad range of disciplines, overseen by a national Board of Directors, and guided by an Advisory Council made up of leaders from many sectors of society. Together, we are rigorously applying facts and reason to the realities of Canada's situation.

There is no easy path to the sustainable, resilient future that Canada and the world must achieve. To play a constructive role, our new Institute needs to speak forthrightly but with respect for the range of passionately held views on Canada's role in addressing global climate change. I can assure you we will.

Drawing on experience and expertise from across the country, the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices will help the nation's decision makers confront this epochal challenge of climate change and chart a course toward a clean, resilient, and prosperous future for all Canadians. 

A YEAR OF MOMENTUM AND THE LONG ROAD AHEAD



Kathy Bardswick
President & CEO

As we wrap up the first year of operations for the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices, we face a unique and frankly, unsettling, moment in time. Friction within the Federation over resource development, Indigenous rights, and climate action has rapidly been overshadowed by a new, all-hands-on-deck mission: offering emergency aid to individuals and businesses directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, while taking collective action to “flatten the curve” and avoid worst-outcome scenarios.

In the months ahead, governments across the country will be focused on delivering support for those hit hardest by the outbreak, providing relief to our healthcare workers and over-extended emergency response services, and rolling out short-term economic stimulus measures to build an economic bridge over these turbulent waters.

The fight against COVID-19 offers parallels and lessons for addressing another profound threat to society: climate change. These circumstances underscore how important it is to approach highly complex and uncertain policy challenges with clear, comprehensive and integrated analysis about our choices, and their implications.

I’m pleased that, in this first year, we have established an Institute capable of providing that type of robust, integrated analysis about climate policy. Our work has only just begun, however. The economic and societal fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic will have a profound influence on Canadian governments’ policy priorities for the immediate future. The decisions governments make in the wake of this crisis could have lasting implications for Canada’s progress toward building a cleaner, more prosperous and more resilient future.

While the stakes are high as we enter the second year in the Institute’s mandate, our team looks forward to contributing constructively and substantively to addressing policy priorities and challenges in the year ahead.

Let’s reflect, for a moment, on the year behind us. Building a new organization brings the excitement and energy of vision and purpose. The 23 organizations that contributed to founding the Institute articulated a compelling need for a trusted voice to bring clarity to the complex policy decisions the country faces. They understood that complexity requires more effective ways to collaborate, more commitment to inclusion in a variety of forms, and an unwavering desire to leverage what we know while seeking answers to what we don’t know.


► A YEAR OF MOMENTUM AND THE LONG ROAD AHEAD

This year, I was fortunate to work with a slate of accomplished colleagues from those founding organizations and elsewhere to bring the Institute to life. The Board of Directors has provided wisdom and direction to our strategic planning. It has also ensured professionalism in our governance practices and operations as we built the Institute—no small feat in year one of an organization's life. I am grateful for its guidance.

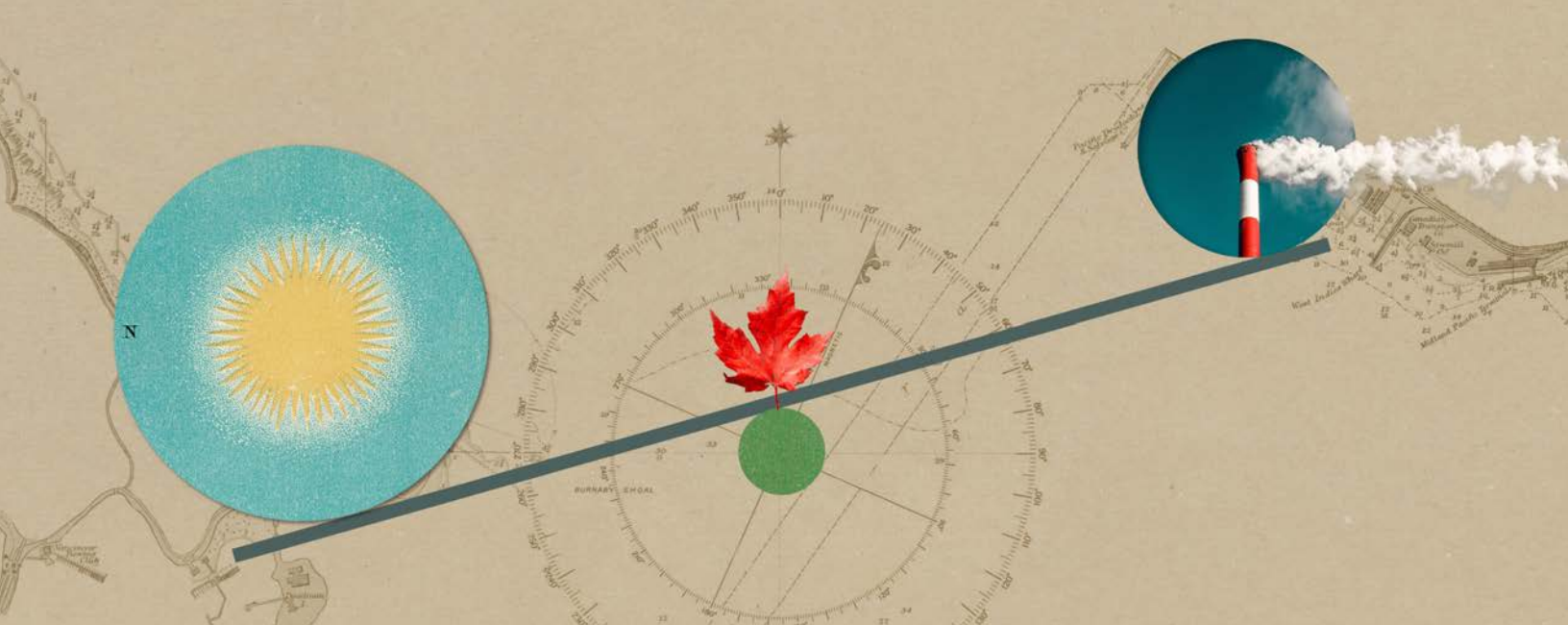
The members of our Expert Panels and Advisory Council have provided needed rigour, generous expertise, diversity of thought, and support as we established and began executing our initial research workplan. Any new endeavour brings successes and challenges, and I appreciate the effort and patience shown as we implemented engagement processes.

Our staff is second to none. In addition to its proven level of competence and expertise, this team has demonstrated a core willingness to pitch in, roll up their sleeves where needed, and go the extra mile when called on—requisites to a successful first-year rollout.

Finally, we are grateful to Environment and Climate Change Canada for taking the initiative to establish such an entity and for its ongoing support, allowing us to provide all levels of government with credible, independent, research-based advice.

As we step into year two of the Institute's mandate, we seek to bring clarity and insight to the essential policy choices ahead. Now more than ever, Canada's governments, businesses and citizens must work together to navigate the challenges, uncertainty and opportunities of climate change, putting Canada on a path to greater prosperity and resilience. 





YEAR ONE: BUILDING A STURDY FOUNDATION

In 2018, the Government of Canada put out a competitive request for proposals to establish an independent organization that would provide policy advice on clean growth and climate change to governments across the country. They were seeking independent experts to compile information and data, carry out research and analysis, and identify and communicate best practices to support ambitious climate action.

Our proposal, developed in collaboration with organizations and experts across Canada, was selected in April 2019—and the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices was born.

Since then, we've been busy. We spent much of our first year recruiting staff and experts, getting new in-depth research projects underway, and laying the groundwork for our public launch in January 2020. We built a high-calibre team of 20 staff across the country. Because we operate as a virtual team, we were able to hire top candidates regardless of where they live.

We established a Board of Directors, recruiting highly respected Canadians from a wide range of disciplines. Together, they provide overall direction, ensure accountability, and help identify the big policy questions to focus on.

The three dozen members of our Expert Panels bring deep understanding in economics, climate change adaptation and mitigation, Indigenous knowledge,


► BUILDING A STURDY FOUNDATION

natural and social sciences, public policy, energy systems, and engineering. Once a month, they convene online to provide guidance on research scope and methods and to review our major publications and policy recommendations.

Meanwhile, the members of our Advisory Council—drawn primarily from industry and civil society—are called on as needed to ensure the Institute’s work is relevant, timely, and practical.

Next, we began tackling the first wave of research priorities. Job one was conducting an overall analysis of the climate policy landscape in Canada, which is reflected in our debut report, *Charting Our Course*. We’re now working on a number of research projects and reports slated for publication in 2020–2021.

To complement our major research projects, we’ve begun publishing blogs and case studies that share policy success stories, lessons learned, and expert perspectives on the policy implications of current affairs and emerging issues. We’re also developing resources pages on our website to improve Canadians’ access to external sources of credible climate change research and expertise.

Our ongoing engagement with a range of policy makers and stakeholders across Canada ensure that we’re focusing on questions with real material value and generating policy analysis that’s grounded in real-world issues and constraints. Meanwhile, because climate change has broad implications for the future of this country, we’re also reaching out to a broader audience, fostering frank, open, and thoughtful conversations to inform policies that work for all Canadians. 




LAUNCH OUTCOMES: INTRODUCING THE INSTITUTE TO CANADIANS

Our public launch on January 21, 2020, aimed to introduce the Institute's staff and mandate to a broader audience across Canada, including various levels of government, civil society organizations, industry and business leaders, and the news media. It featured:

- ▶ the release of our bilingual website (climatechoices.ca) and social media channels through Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn,
- ▶ our debut report, *Charting our Course: Bringing clarity to Canada's climate policy choices on the journey to 2050*, and
- ▶ an initial lineup of six blog posts, addressing themes such as the implications of Canada's aim to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2050, how sound policy can help Canada to prosper through the changes ahead, and why we need a more integrated, less siloed approach to developing climate policy.

In the lead-up to launch day and in the weeks following, Institute staff reached out to a wide variety of stakeholders and thought leaders in the climate policy realm. We hosted more than 30 stakeholder meetings, sent introductory letters to relevant provincial, territorial, and federal ministers, and shared our launch materials extensively with key contacts across the country.

In the days surrounding the launch, we saw robust traffic to our website and established a strong following on social media. We also secured positive media coverage across the country, including a series of in-depth interviews with CBC radio programs in more than 20 locations, from Yellowknife to Goose Bay.

Overall, this coverage successfully conveyed our aim to bring clarity to Canada's climate choices by conducting rigorous research, providing expert analysis, and bringing an independent, integrated perspective to the most pressing climate policy challenges facing Canada. 

BY THE NUMBERS: LAUNCHING THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE CHOICES

269

Total news stories about the Institute

36M+

Potential reach of news coverage

65K

Organic impressions on Twitter within 48 hours of launch

4,000

Website visits within 48 hours of launch

1,830

Twitter followers by March 31

334

Emails to stakeholders sharing news about the launch

33


Briefings with stakeholders



OUR DEBUT REPORT: CHARTING OUR COURSE

The Institute's first report—*Charting Our Course: Bringing clarity to Canada's climate policy choices on the journey to 2050*—examines what climate change means for Canada and the choices ahead. It offers a broad analysis of the current policy landscape in Canada and lays out a new, integrated framework of climate change goals and objectives encompassing the health and resilience of Canadians, economic prosperity, and global action.

From that foundation, the report makes four recommendations:

1. **Canadian governments should broaden objectives for climate policy.** Historically, governments have focused on relatively narrow objectives: achieving emissions-reduction targets, for example, or managing specific climate risks. Bringing a broader perspective to policy design can help clarify goals, embed climate change objectives in all policy choices, and guide more innovative policy solutions.
2. **Canadian governments should embrace Canada's role in global outcomes.** With one of the world's larger economies and a seat at the United Nations, G7, and G20, Canada has influence. At the same time, Canadians are among the world's largest per-capita emitters. This creates the opportunity to demonstrate leadership through actions here at home, develop cost-effective low-carbon technologies, and work internationally to help solve global policy challenges.
3. **Canadian governments should expand the scope, scale, and pace of climate policies.** Decisions made today should be ambitious enough to lay the groundwork for long-term success. This means expanding the coverage of policies across regions, issues, and sectors, ramping up the magnitude of change, and tightening the timeframe for achieving results.
4. **Those analyzing and developing policy options should seek out integrated solutions that drive multiple benefits.** The most effective policies will achieve multiple benefits across a range of climate change and other objectives. The best way to identify and develop these is by breaking down traditional silos and bringing together people with different expertise, backgrounds, and perspectives. 



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

~\$2.4M
ANNUAL
OPERATING
BUDGET

61%
STAFF AND
CONTRACTORS

27%
EXTERNAL
RESEARCH

10%
COMMUNICATION
AND ENGAGEMENT

2% OPERATIONS AND
ADMINISTRATION

2020–2021

OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES

Much of our effort in 2019–2020 focused on building the structures and capacity of our new Institute. In that, we have largely succeeded.

As we move into year two, Canada and the world are still in the early days of taking stock of how vulnerable our communities, social systems and economy are to the global shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the year to come, governments everywhere will be largely focused on the immediate task of supporting those most affected by the outbreak, fast-tracking policy and investments that will make society more resilient, and putting people back to work. This context will undoubtedly have implications for Canada's policy priorities, including those related to climate change, and will shape the Institute's strategic priorities and impact in year two.

The pandemic has highlighted the interconnectedness of global economic systems, the vulnerability of individual communities, regions and even countries to new and unexpected threats, and the importance of proactive, collective action in protecting society's most vulnerable and staving off the worst of the impacts.

There are lessons here for policy makers in how to prepare for and address the threats of climate disruption—lessons that will become increasingly evident with time. Climate change is a threat multiplier and driver of uncertainty that is best addressed through collective action.

As we head into the Institute's second year, our work will aim to bring clarity to how decision makers can address the immediate needs, priorities and challenges emerging from the health and economic crisis, without losing sight of the longer-term goal: putting Canada on track for a future that is low-carbon, prosperous and resilient.

Research Priorities

- ▶ developing a set of “clean growth” indicators to help Canadian governments prioritize policies that are compatible with progress toward a future that is low-carbon, resilient, and prosperous in 2050 and beyond;
- ▶ analysis of different scenarios for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, and the implications those pathways could have for the long-term health, stability, resilience and economic prospects of Canadians; and
- ▶ assessment of the economic costs of climate change associated with specific physical climate impacts, such as risks to Canadian's health, infrastructure, or investments (to support a more comprehensive analysis in 2021) and implications for policy makers.

► OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES

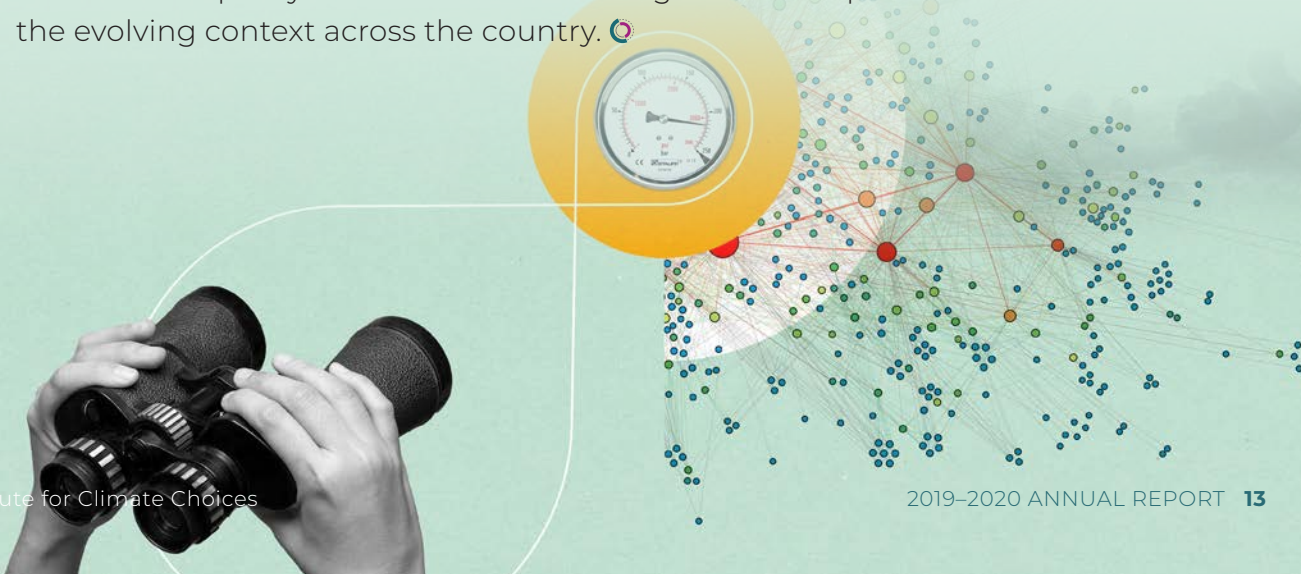
To deliver on our mandate to provide timely, relevant and rigorous policy analysis and advice to governments across Canada, we expect to undertake additional work throughout the year, including a series of commentary and analysis exploring the climate policy implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other projects will aim to keep momentum building behind policy commitments, such as the federal government's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Engagement Initiatives

The Institute's communications and engagement work will be critical to our success in sharing our research and insight with the right people at the right time. To support those efforts, we are undertaking four significant initiatives in 2020–2021:

- hosting the first annual planning and coordination workshop, in partnership with Ouranos, l'Institut d'énergie Trottier, and the Ivey Foundation,
- working in close consultation with Indigenous partners to develop and launch a proposed approach to Indigenous engagement and research, to determine how the Institute can best incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and doing in our work and support Indigenous leadership and resilience in the face of climate change,
- developing a youth engagement strategy, including launching two youth internships with the Institute, one focused on research and one focused on communications and engagement, and
- launching a virtual network of women working in climate policy, to build capacity, share learnings, and ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in the Institute's work.

We will continue to focus on growing the Institute's profile as a credible and trustworthy source of policy research and insight, expanding our presence in Quebec and in French-speaking media markets across Canada, and engaging with a broad cross-section of experts, governments, business leaders and Canadians to ensure our research and policy recommendations are grounded in practical considerations and the evolving context across the country.




CHOICES AHEAD

Climate change is one of the most complex challenges of our time. It is already affecting the natural environment, the economy, and the health and quality of life of many Canadians. Science indicates the effects of climate change will intensify as the years go by, creating more risk and unpredictability—as well as new opportunities—for Canada.

The COVID-19 outbreak has underscored the critical importance of building greater resilience to complex and potentially coinciding risks to our health, economy and way of life in Canada. It has also taught us the value of prevention, agility and collective action when confronting threats to society as a whole.

As we move forward together, we have an opportunity to reflect on, and learn from, our shared experiences in addressing this crisis.

As far as climate policy is concerned, there's one lesson we can put into practice immediately: that Canadians will benefit from a more integrated approach to developing climate policy — one that addresses the causes and effects of climate change while also keeping life affordable, reducing health risks, and making Canada's communities, infrastructure and economy more resilient.

The Canadian Institute for Climate Choices has a unique opportunity to bring clarity to the complex choices ahead. We intend to apply ourselves diligently to meeting that need in the year to come. 



OUR TEAM

The Canadian Institute for Climate Choices is an unparalleled collaboration of experts from a diverse range of disciplines and organizations across the country.

EXECUTIVE

Kathy Bardswick

President and CEO
Burlington, ON

Dale Beugin

Vice President, Research and Analysis
Ottawa, ON

Julia Kilpatrick

Vice President, Communications
and Engagement
Canmore, AB

RESEARCH

Dave Sawyer

Chief Economist
Ottawa, ON

Jonathan Arnold

Senior Research Associate
Vancouver, BC

Julien Bourque

Research Associate
Montreal, QC

Jason Dion

Research Director, Mitigation
Ottawa, ON

Dylan Clark

Senior Research Associate
Vancouver, BC

Anna Kanduth

Research Associate
Toronto, ON

Ryan Ness

Research Director, Adaptation
Toronto, ON

Caroline Lee

Senior Research Associate
Ottawa, ON

Rachel Samson

Research Director, Clean Growth
Ottawa, ON

Weseem Ahmed

Research Associate
Toronto, ON

COMMUNICATIONS, ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Catharine Tunnacliffe

Director, Communications
Toronto, ON

Jennifer Otoadese

Operations Manager
Comox, BC

Kate Shippam

Operations and Engagement
Specialist
Mayne Island, BC

Rebecca World

Director, Engagement
Whitehorse, YT

Pierre Verrière

Senior Communications Specialist
Gatineau, QC

Alexandra Gair

Engagement Manager
Markham, ON

Laurence Jutras

Content and Production Specialist
Squamish, BC

GOVERNANCE

The Climate Institute's Board of Directors provides overall strategic direction and ensures the Institute's operational excellence, transparency and financial accountability.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Nicholson (Chair)

Retired inaugural president of the Council of Canadian Academies
Annapolis Royal, NS

Elizabeth Beale

Retired president and CEO, Atlantic Provinces Economic Council
Halifax, NS

Mel Cappe

Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy,
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

Dave Collyer

Corporate Director and Energy Consultant
Calgary, AB

Charmaine Dean

Vice President, Research and International, University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON

Bruce Lourie

President, Ivey Foundation
Toronto, ON

Normand Mousseau

Professor of physics, Université de Montréal et Directeur académique de l'Institut de l'énergie Trottier
Montréal, QC

Sandra Odendahl

Vice President, Social Impact and Sustainability, Scotiabank
Toronto, ON

Chris Ragan

Director, Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University
Montreal, QC

Sybil Seitzinger

Executive Director, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
Victoria, BC

Dominique Souris

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Youth Climate Lab
Ottawa, ON

Tosh Southwick

Associate Vice President of Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation, Yukon College
Whitehorse, Yukon

EXPERT PANELS

ADAPTATION PANEL

Blair Feltmate (Chair)

Head, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo

Jean Andrey

Dean, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo

Alain Bourque

Directeur général
Ouranos - Consortium sur les changements climatiques

Christina Chan

Co-Director, Global Adaptation Commission and Director, Climate Resilience Practice, WRI

Bernadette Conant

Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Water Network

Ashlee Cunsolo

Director, Labrador Institute of Memorial University

Bev Dahlby

Research Director, Tax and Economic Growth, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

Jimena Eyzaguirre

International Team Director and Senior Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, ESSA Technologies Ltd.

Deborah Harford

Executive Director, Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT), Simon Fraser University
Climate Solutions Fellow, SFU Centre for Dialogue
Adjunct Professor, School of Resource and Environmental Management, SFU

Glen Hodgson

Economist, Financial Consultant, Senior Fellow, C.D. Howe Institute

Brian Horton

Manager, Northern Climate ExChange, Yukon College, Yukon Research Centre

Ian Mauro

Principal, Richardson College for the Environment
Executive Director, Prairie Climate Centre University of Winnipeg

Deborah McGregor

Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Environmental Justice, York University

Daniel Scott

Executive Director, Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate Change (IC3), University of Waterloo

Roger Street

Research Associate, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford

MITIGATION PANEL

Nancy Olewiler (Chair)

Professor, School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University

Louis Beaumier

Directeur exécutif, Institut de l'énergie Trottier

Kathryn Harrison

Professor of Political Science, University of British Columbia

Melina Laboucan-Massimo

Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Change Fellow,
David Suzuki Foundation
Founder, Sacred Earth Solar
Campaign Director, Indigenous Climate Action

Mark Jaccard

Director and Distinguished Professor, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University

David Layzell

Director, Canadian Energy Systems Analysis Research (CESAR), University of Calgary

Justin Leroux

Associate Professor of Economics, HEC Montreal

Catherine Potvin

Canada Research Chair, Climate Change Mitigation and Tropical Forests, McGill University

Nicholas Rivers

Canada Research Chair, Climate and Energy Policy, University of Ottawa

Jennifer Winter

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Scientific Director, Energy and Environmental Policy Research Division, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

EXPERT PANELS

CLEAN GROWTH PANEL

Stewart Elgie (Chair)

Executive Chair, Smart Prosperity Institute
Professor, Law & Economics, University of Ottawa

Catherine Beaudry

Canada Research Chair, Creation, Development and Commercialisation of Innovation, Polytechnique Montréal

Don Drummond

Stauffer-Dunning Fellow, Queen's University

Carolyn Fischer

Canada 150 Research Chair, Climate Economics, Innovation and Policy, University of Ottawa

Sara Hastings-Simon

Research Fellow, University of Calgary

Jane Kearns

Vice President, Growth Services and Senior Advisor, Cleantech, MaRS Discovery District

Richard G. Lipsey

Professor Emeritus, Simon Fraser University

James Meadowcroft

Professor, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University

Mike P. Moffatt

Senior Director, Policy and Innovation, Smart Prosperity Institute

Helen Mountford

Vice President for Climate and Economics, World Resources Institute

Peter W.B. Phillips

Founding Director of the Johnson-Shoyama Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy, University of Saskatchewan

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our advisors are leaders in government, industry and civil society across Canada, and their perspectives help ensure the Institute's work is relevant, timely and practical.

Catherine Abreu

Ottawa, ON

Geoff Cape

Toronto, ON

Corey Diamond

Toronto, ON

Robert Larocque

Ottawa, ON

Steve Lee

Toronto, ON

Monique Leroux

Montreal, QC

Shianne McKay

Winnipeg, MB

Suzann Méthot

Montreal, QC

Miles Richardson

Vancouver, BC

David Runnalls

Ottawa, ON

Jean Simard

Montréal, QC

Scott Skinner

Dartmouth, NS

Sasha Sud

Toronto, ON

Katie Sullivan

Toronto, ON

John Zhou

Edmonton, AB

FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations contributed to the development of the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices:

ACT (the Adaptation to Climate Change Team), SFU

Alberta Innovates

Canada's Ecofiscal Commission

Canadian Energy Systems Analysis Research (CESAR)

Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

Evergreen

Foundation for Environmental Stewardship (FES)

Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation

L'Institut de l'énergie Trottier (IET)

Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate Change

Ivey Foundation

Labrador Institute

MaRS Discovery District

McConnell Foundation

National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development

Northern Climate ExChange, Yukon College

Ouranos

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS)

Prairie Climate Centre

Smart Prosperity Institute

SWITCH (L'Alliance pour une économie verte au Québec)

Trottier Family Foundation

World Resources Institute (WRI)

The Canadian Institute for Climate Choices is made possible through the financial support of Environment and Climate Change Canada.



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Copyright © 2020

Canadian Institute for Climate Choices



@climatechoices

climatechoices.ca