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# A MANIFESTO OF RESISTANCE

Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat (CAN-Rac)  
Canada Brief on COP26



The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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## Introduction

We are heading towards one of the most exclusionary and unsafe COPs. The risk of this summit becoming a virus super spreader is real. The health and security of all participants remain our first concern. Canada must advocate for equitable and inclusive access to all negotiating rooms and plenaries.

**COP26 represents a clear moment of resistance.** The COVID-19 pandemic brought us to our knees, showed the vulnerabilities of our economic, social and political systems and how - when most were losing too much from this pandemic, those at the very top continued to see their wealth increase. The pandemic showed us how risky and dangerous it is when countries and leaders ignore science and take a me-first approach.

**The mobilization in favour of climate justice globally is now unstoppable** -- from climate heroes challenging the status quo in local governments to youth going to the streets for the past two years every Friday to courts forcing governments to increase ambition. We know [the resistance led by Tribal Nations](#), Indigenous water protectors, land defenders, pipeline fighters, and grassroots organizations in what is called Canada and the United States have so far stopped the equivalent of one-quarter of emissions from these two countries.

**This is a moment for the people, the planet and justice.** In this era of painful, more severe and frequent unequally distributed losses and damages, we rise. To keep 1.5°C within reach. To unlock the global, transformational, equitable and just energy transition away from dangerous fossil fuels. To expose those who promote false and dangerous solutions. To close the finance gap, the loss and damage gap, the adaptation gap, the climate governance gap.

## Our Vision And Asks COP26

Over the course of the year, we have seen this country increase ambition by putting forward an enhanced [Nationally Determined Contribution](#) (NDC) which included a revised - yet still [insufficient](#) 2030 target - a [new climate finance contribution](#) and new and important announcements to tackle emissions from critical sectors such as coal and transportation.

On paper, the federal government has enhanced its performance. But the government's inability to drastically reduce emissions at the domestic level [hurts Canada's international credibility](#). Canada continues to support the [colonial extraction of natural resources](#) which goes against global climate goals and reconciliation.

Our overarching ask for COP26 is clear: **Canada must step up. In Glasgow, Canada must acknowledge the inadequacy of current efforts and use COP26 as a renewed opportunity to show it's ready for nothing less than a rapid, fair, just and inclusive alignment of our climate policies with a 1.5°C compatible future in light of equity, solidarity and reconciliation.**

## Ambition – Canada’s Contribution To A 1.5°C Compatible Future

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that to limit global warming to 1.5°C we [need](#) radical emissions cuts and a swift and deep decarbonization of the energy sector by the end of this decade. The International Energy Agency (IEA) concluded that [the global energy transition to keep 1.5°C will require at least 4 trillion dollars annually](#) in investment and resource flows.

Per capita, Canada remains the [highest](#) historical contributor to the climate crisis and the 10th largest historical emitting country. Canada is the only G7 country where emissions have risen since 2015. Current projected expansion for the upcoming decades could end up taking [16% of the global and very small carbon budget](#). To have a 50% chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, [Canada must keep 83% of oil and gas reserves in the ground](#). But Canada continues to highly prioritize the interests of fossil fuels with \$13 billion in support to domestic and international oil and gas companies each year.

Increasing ambition is not only [possible](#) but also feasible and desirable. We call on Canada to:

- Use Glasgow and every subsequent opportunity in 2021 and 2022 to [enhance its NDC](#) until it aligns with a 1.5°C compatible future ahead of the [global stocktake](#) in 2023.
- To commit to doing its fair share in the global effort to keep 1.5°C within reach. Canada must [reduce emissions to at least 140% below 2005 levels by 2030](#). This includes a reduction of 60% domestically and 80% globally, by supporting developing countries' transition to a zero-carbon world.
- To align all of Canada’s international investments, crown corporations, trade and investment agreements, and international development assistance support to the Paris Agreement. That includes, for example, phasing out all fossil fuels subsidies and public financing of the fossil fuels sector by 2022 at the latest.
- To present a new long-term low emissions development strategy that aligns with Canada’s net-zero plans.
- To put forward a plan to help workers and communities transition in a just manner and end the expansion of its oil and gas industry, beginning by putting forward a clear plan to cap and decrease emissions from oil and gas as announced during the 2021 federal election. This cap should end the expansion of the sector and ensure that full life-cycle emissions from the sector align with Canada’s domestic and international climate commitments.
- Canada must phase out all fossil fuels subsidies and public financing of the fossil fuels sector by 2022 at the latest.
- We look to Canada and all provinces - particularly the province of Quebec - and territories to join the [Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance \(BOGA\)](#) which will be launched in Glasgow by Costa Rica and Denmark, an initiative to stop the production and expansion of fossil fuels.

Additionally, Canada should:

- Announce an ambitious timeline and process for the development of a Clean Electricity Standard that will get Canada to a 100% clean grid by 2035.

- Announce a regulated sales requirement that 100% of new light-duty vehicle sales be zero-emissions vehicles by the year 2035 at the latest.
- Announce the updated implementation of Canada's climate plan by the end of March 2022 as required by the Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act, with a clear indication of both federal and provincial/territorial contributions to meeting Canada's 2030 emissions reduction target and detailed modelling of expected contributions from each measure, as well as sectoral breakdowns. Canada must seize upon currently available solutions to do most of the heavy lifting to achieve rapid, deep and sustained emissions reductions this decade.
- Announce a Working Group on Just Transition responsible for establishing the process, mechanisms, tools, funding and indicators for a Just Transition and creating an appropriate Federal-Provincial funding mechanism for the transition.
- Announce the implementation ban on the export of thermal coal through and from Canada by 2023.
- Announce the requirement of climate-related financial disclosures and the development of Paris-aligned climate change plans for federally regulated institutions, which includes financial institutions, pension funds, and government agencies.

## **Elevating And Amplifying The Needs And Priorities Of The Global South**

This summer's [deadly heatwave saw Western Canada break more than 100 all-time temperature records](#). Hundreds of people lost their lives, forests burnt to a crisp and thousands were evacuated due to wildfires. [The Arctic is warming at three times the global average](#), and climate change is depleting First Nations' food sources. In Africa, Asia and in the European Union, devastating drought, storms, floods, and other extreme conditions have ravaged communities in unimaginable ways. [Most climate-vulnerable countries have signalled the highest levels of ambition](#). But, because of the limited action of major emitters, it is vulnerable countries that face greater climate risks in the future.

Without adequate resources nations, regions, and communities can't implement those policies that are needed to build a 1.5°C compatible and safe future. [The UN Environment Programme concluded that in developing countries alone, adapting to climate change will require between \\$140 billion to \\$300 billion annually by 2030](#). The OECD estimates that [\\$6.9 trillion needs to be mobilized annually through 2030](#) to meet the current climate and development objectives.

Canada made progress by doubling its international climate finance contribution to the highly inadequate USD 100 billion annual pledge. But, the government is still far from providing support in accordance with our historical responsibility to the climate crisis. So far, Canada's contributions represent 0.007% of our Gross National Income on average.

In Glasgow, Prime Minister Trudeau must support:

- The call for an equitable mobilization of the trillion of dollars required to unlock the global energy transition globally, in particular in developing countries.
- The end of international support for fossil fuels.

- The establishment of a permanent agenda item in the negotiations, where countries agree on new and additional streams of finance for losses and damages.
- The commitment to secure new, predictable finance for adaptation, including longer-term pledges to the Adaptation Fund.
- Closing the annual USD 100BN gap until 2025 and mobilize a total of USD 600 billion dollars in public finance over the period of 2020 up until 2026. That includes a commitment to scale up its climate finance contribution to the USD 100 billion to CAD 5 billion per year from all channels and sources and 1.8 billion in bilateral commitments.
- In the context of the allocation of Canada's new climate finance pledge, the government must:
  - Commit to 50% of public funds to go to adaptation and align all climate finance to the Feminist International Assistance Policy;
  - Protect nature and biodiversity respect communities, human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples;
  - Count only principal purpose climate projects;
  - Increase direct access and grants;
  - Reduce Canada's reliance on loans and increase grants to at least 75%;
  - Expand the role of Canadian CSOs in all aspects of implementing the \$5.3 billion pledge, particularly in advancing a focus on adaptation;
  - Ensure climate finance respects and upholds the rights of Indigenous Peoples and promotes rights-based partnerships with them globally; and
  - Announce scaled-up support to the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environmental Facility and new funding to the Adaptation Fund.
- We look to Canada to advocate for the 2025 finance goals to be anchored in solidarity and a mission for increased global equity and support science. The process must have specific milestones for delivery over the next coming years and include subgoals for adaptation, and loss and damage.

## Addressing The Adaptation And Loss And Damage Gaps

The rapid escalation of climate impacts is exposing how unprepared and/or under-resourced many countries and communities are to properly adapt to a changing climate, and how significant the unmitigable losses and damages resulting from climate change are. [Currently, adaptation finance accounts for just 25% of total climate finance from developed to developing countries.](#)

- In Glasgow, Canada must support the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP26 and request that the IPCC produce a special report on adaptation progress.

But adapting to climate change is simply not enough. Continuing to ignore tackling losses and damages is dangerous and irresponsible.

- We call on Canada to make loss and damage a priority at COP26. Canada should constructively engage in the review of the [Warsaw International Mechanism \(WIM\)](#) and

build on the COP25 decision in Madrid to establish a robust, operational mechanism for the [Santiago Network on Loss and Damage \(SNLD\)](#). A website is not climate action.

## Addressing the Paris Agreement Implementation Gaps

### Article 6

With a very small global carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5°C, implementing the Paris Agreement should not rely on mechanisms that let polluters off the hook via offsetting. Oil and gas companies are expecting the adoption of weak Article 6 rules. The fossil fuels industry has introduced climate pledges that rely on offsetting to justify future exploration and expansion of their dirty product. In the past, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers has advocated for exports of LNG to result in Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) for Canada.

It remains to be proved how Article 6 activities won't exacerbate colonial practices that seek to dispossess Indigenous Peoples, workers and local communities in the Global South from the lands, their rights, and their power to build a hopeful and thriving life. We question Canada's ability to prove that using Article 6 mechanisms will not result in weak climate ambition, transgenerational trauma, cultural, economic, social and human losses that could come as a result of Article 6 transactions.

We call on the Canadian Government to:

- Advocate for carbon market rules that move away from the principle of offsetting. [There is currently no certainty that Article 6 will produce high environmental credits and help countries reduce emissions](#), meet climate goals and help us achieve net-zero by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5°C
- Advocate for strong safeguards for human rights protection for both Article 6.2 and Article 6.4. Projects not consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) should not be approved.
- Oppose the transition from Pre-2020 projects from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to be used under Article 6.4.
- Support the [San Jose Principles](#) for High Ambition and Integrity in International Carbon Markets as a floor of necessary safeguards and principles.
- Advocate for corresponding adjustments for both Article 6.2 and Article 6.4 to ensure transparent rules for the accounting of Article 6 credits, upholding environmental integrity and no double counting.

### Transparency and Common Timeframes

In Glasgow, we need to make progress on transparency of support. Currently, there are significant variations in reporting on climate finance. Canada for example has many times overreported on adaptation finance beyond what is truly disbursed.

To ramp up ambition, at COP 26, Canada must join those countries that advocate for a single 5-year common time frame for NDCs over a longer 10-year period.

# Making The Implementation Of The Paris Agreement About People and Planet

## Nature and Resilience

1.5°C is unachievable without bringing an end to deforestation and protecting and restoring natural ecosystems through a rights-based approach. In Glasgow Canada must:

- Take a leadership role in advancing existing initiatives and coalitions like the [High Ambition Coalition for Nature](#) and the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#) to better align Canada's obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity and UN Climate Convention.
- Strengthen climate action in agriculture, the [Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture \(KJWA\)](#) must take forward [agroecological approaches](#), and recommend policies and measures including shifting subsidies away from synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, increased finance flows for agriculture, and support to smallholder farmers.

## The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

Canada has a constitutional mandate and obligation to ensure all climate policies, measures and investments respond to the needs and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples. The Canadian government has played a critical leadership role in the ongoing operationalization of the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform \(LCIPP\)](#), including through the creation of the [Facilitative Working Group \(FWG\)](#) - the first Constituted body with equal representation between Indigenous Peoples and States. The FWG's [two-year work-plan \(2020-2021\)](#) focused on the three functions of the Platform: capacity for engagement, knowledge exchange, and climate policies and actions.

- We ask the Canadian Government to engage with us in working with grassroots, right-based organizations and Indigenous groups to amplify the voices of Indigenous leaders and activists working on the implementation of LCIPP, and broader Indigenous priorities.
- Canada must maintain its leadership role and commit to respectfully and meaningfully include Indigenous Peoples' rights, knowledge, and approaches to climate action.

## Action On Climate Empowerment

This year, governments will agree on the [future Work Programme on Action On Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#). In Glasgow, Canada must:

- Call for a robust international framework to implement ACE everywhere and mainstream and prioritize ACE across the UNFCCC and at the domestic level, and commit to full implementation of the ACE framework at the domestic level through a task force that facilitates collective progress, and the increase of funding for projects and programs.



## **Just Transition**

- Canada should engage constructively in all negotiations and discussions related to economic diversification and just transition. In Glasgow, Canada must be an active voice at the negotiations on the Forum on the Impact of the Implementation of Response Measures.

## **Human Health And Climate Commitments**

- We call on Canada to use every opportunity in 2021 and 2022 to include [health considerations in its national adaptation strategy and enhanced NDC](#). When including these health considerations the government should seek out input from public health institutions whether internally through the Public Health Agency of Canada or through a consultative process.

## **Gender Action Plan**

- We look forward to Canada continuing to play a leadership role in the work related to the [Gender Action Plan](#). Expand support for principle purpose gender equality projects in Canada's climate finance.

We are grateful for Canada's ongoing advocacy and support for the strong participation of civil society organizations in the UNFCCC.