



Indigenous Peoples
Meeting on
Climate Change

Reading Package

Sponsored by
Keepers of the Athabasca



Indigenous Climate Action

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First and Foremost

“According to Environment Canada scientists. Canada is warming at twice the global rate and the Arctic region is being hit the hardest,”

Indigenous Peoples Rights and Climate Change

First and Foremost the government has a fiduciary obligation to consult Indigenous peoples over actions that might affect their rights, including rights that are not yet proven and that are in the process of being litigated (Van der Peet) or negotiated (in modern treaties).

Concerning climate change, the duty to consult may require active consultation by governments contemplating and authorizing emissions-intensive development projects, which may in turn lead to concession to Aboriginal peoples. [Aboriginal Peoples and Legal Challenges to Canadian Climate Change Policy, pg. 15]

Indigenous peoples have known for decades that climate change is happening, and they know better than most exactly what it means. These changes have disrupted the natural order of the lives and livelihoods of many Indigenous communities. From loss of sea ice and access to traditional lands, high temperatures, changes in migration patterns of species, flooding, forest fires, and loss of certain plants and medicines. It's now undeniable that these changes are being exacerbated by humans and rising greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

However, there continues to be a knowledge gap on the impacts that climate change and increasing GHG emissions are having on our traditional, cultural, spiritual and constitutionally protected and internationally affirmed rights. Climate change is a major issue for Indigenous



communities, as it has wide-ranging impacts on their territories, rights and way of life. However, the particular context of Indigenous Rights and impacts – in terms of governance, economy, infrastructure, activities related to the territory, etc. – means that most solutions developed for non-Indigenous communities can't be applied to First Nation communities.

In 2015 Canada saw two major political shifts, Alberta elected a NDP majority government ending 44 years of conservative rule, and Canada elected a Liberal government led by Justin Trudeau. What was remarkable was that both levels of government made commitments to develop progressive climate policy and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

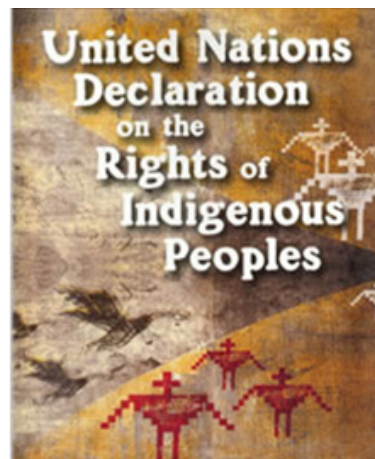
Given the commitments of government you would assume that a duty to consult would be triggered and our communities would be actively engaged in the research, recommendations and development of the suite of climate change policies that have potential to both negatively and positively impacts our rights and title.

Indigenous Peoples hold unique rights as defined by Treaty agreements and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These rights have the potential to arm our communities with the tools to challenge existing policies, laws, and legislation in Canada that violate these rights.

Currently, the rights of Indigenous peoples are not being actualized when it comes to discussions and development of progressive climate policies and thus our rights are being violated.

While Indigenous peoples may appear to be actively engaged in climate change dialogue at the National and international levels for decades and have succeeded in introducing rights-based safeguards within these discussions we still lack formal decision making powers.

As such our inherent, treaty and aboriginal rights have been ignored.



UNDRIP

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007, by a majority of 144 states in favour, 4 votes against and 11 abstentions. At the time Canada was one of the countries that voted against the Declaration. However, on November 12, 2010, Canada announced that it had advised the President of the United Nations General Assembly that it was endorsing the UNDRIP.

Market based solutions, such as carbon trading and forest offsets do not directly benefit Indigenous communities and often do not offset the direct impacts to our lands, territories and rights associated with them. It is imperative that countries implement UNDRIP and developed real solutions that are sustainable, significantly reduce emissions and respect the rights, traditions, traditional knowledge and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples (ie. Understanding how climate change impacts rights and developing mechanism to reduce those impacts with either carbon tax levies, tighter regulations, faster emission reductions, etc).

UNDRIP contains many provisions that affirm rights related to the causes, impacts and solutions to Climate change. These include Self-determination; protection from forces assimilation forcible removal; protection of sacred sites and cultural practices; participation in decision making that affects them; subsistence and traditional economic activities; health, conservation of vital plants and animals; traditional lands, territories and resources; conservation of the environment and productive capacity of lands; traditional knowledge and cultural heritage including plants, animals and seeds; Treaty rights; and free, prior and informed consent regarding development. Article 42 also calls upon UN member states, agencies and bodies to promote the Declaration's full application internationally and at the country level. [Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Climate Change, International Indian Treaty Council]

In conclusion, Canada needs to live up to its commitments to not only develop progressive climate change policy but to its commitments to the Indigenous peoples and the implementation of UNDRIP. First Nations and Metis peoples need to be directly informed and involved in the development of options, implementation and policing of policies that affect their lands, territories and rights.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples UNDRIP

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UN Declaration” or “UNDRIP”) passed on September 13, 2007, by an overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly. One hundred and forty-four member States voted in favor of the UNDRIP, only eleven abstained, and only four (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States) voted against it. Since 2007, all four countries, including the United States, have reversed their positions and now officially endorse it.

Each of the UNDRIP's rights and duties are relevant to First Nation and Metis communities and individuals in

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), must be fully recognized and respected in all decision-making processes and activities related to climate change. This includes our rights to our lands, territories, environment and natural resources as contained in Articles 25–30 of the UNDRIP. When specific programs and projects affect our lands, territories, environment and natural resources, the right of Self Determination of Indigenous Peoples must be recognized and respected, emphasizing our right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, including the right to say “no”.

-Anchorage Declaration, 2009

Canada. The UN Declaration ensures that indigenous peoples' rights to cultural integrity, education, health, and political participation are protected. The UNDRIP also provides for the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to their lands and natural resources, and the observation of their treaty rights. The UN Declaration also requires countries to consult with indigenous peoples with the goal of obtaining their consent on matters which concern them, including the development of laws, legislation, policy and resource development.

At its core, is the UN Declaration's recognition of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination to “freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development” and identifies **Free, Prior and Informed Consent** as a means to achieving this.

As explained by former U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, the right of self-determination is “to be full and equal participants in the creation of the institutions of government under which they live and, further, to live within a governing institutional order in which they are perpetually in control of their own destinies.”



Defining Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Free

Communities must be free to participate in negotiations that affect them without force, intimidation, manipulation, coercion, or pressure by the government, company, or organization seeking consent.

Prior

The community must be given a sufficient amount of time to review and consider all necessary information and to reach a decision before the implementation of the project begins. Because every community

is different and has different decision-making processes, the community and only the community must decide how much time it needs.

Informed

The interested parties must provide adequate, complete, relevant information to the community so that it can assess the potential pros and cons of a particular action. Information must be provided in a form that is easily accessible to the community, including translated documents and media and descriptions of proposed actions that can be understood by a layperson. Scale models, videos, maps, diagrams and photographs can only do so much in depicting complex, large-scale changes that the community may never have experienced and are hard to conceptualize. Ideally, representatives of affected communities are able to visit similar projects in person and enter into dialogues with people who have experienced similar developments firsthand. It is also crucial that the community have access to independent, neutral counseling and the necessary legal and/or technical expertise to understand all of the potential results of the proposed action.

Consent

The community must have the option of saying “yes” or “no” to the project before planning begins, along with a detailed explanation of the conditions under which consent will be given. This decision must be respected absolutely by all interested parties. The community must also be given the opportunity to provide feedback at every stage of project development and execution to ensure that the conditions of consent are met. If the conditions of initial consent are not met, the community must have the option of withdrawing its consent and all interested parties must immediately cease any part of the project to which the community had not agreed.

Articles of the UNDRIP on FPIC

FPIC is the right of indigenous peoples to be fully informed and to reject or give their consent based on their own collective decision making process to any project or programmes or laws that concerns them. With sufficient time all facts must be shared to the community where they can base their decision and agreement by the people is with out force or manipulation by outside parties or the state.

- Article 10: Indigenous peoples should not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples concerned.
- Article 11, No.2: related to the right to culture and religion
- Article 19: related to self governance and the formulation of laws and policies affecting IPs
- Article 28, no 1: right to land and to redress
- Article 29, no.2: right to territory and security from hazardous materials
- Article 32, no.2: right to land and resources



Climate Change 101

“Climate Change is defined as: a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels” - Oxford Dictionary

Climate change refers to a long-term shift in weather conditions. It is measured by changes in a variety of climate indicators (e.g. temperature, precipitation, wind) including both changes in average and extreme conditions. Climate change can be the result of natural processes and/or human activity.

Over most of Earth’s history, natural processes have been responsible for periods of climate change. The Earth's climate has changed throughout its history long before human activity could have played a role. For example, the planet has swung between cold glacial periods or "ice ages", and warm interglacial periods over the last few million years. Changes in the past can be explained by natural factors such as changes in the Earth's orbit, in the sun's intensity, in the amount of explosive volcanic activity, by changes to the surface of the Earth, and farther back in time, to the position of the continents. Of these, only changes in the sun’s intensity and volcanic activity are relevant on century timescales.

Human activity has now become the main cause of recent climate change. The strong global warming observed since the mid-20th century has been largely attributed to human influences on the climate. Global warming refers to the observed long-term rise in global average surface temperature and is one manifestation of climate change. The rate of global warming over the last half of the 20th century was about twice that for the whole century. This human influence results primarily from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. Burning these fuels generates carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Land use changes, such as deforestation and conversion of land to agriculture, have also contributed carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

Global warming is primarily attributed to the enhancement of the natural greenhouse gas effect. Greenhouse gases are so-named because they reduce heat loss from Earth to outer space. In this respect they act in a way that is similar to a greenhouse, creating warmer conditions than there would otherwise be, were these gases not present. Atmospheric concentrations of key greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone have risen substantially as a result of human activity. This has enhanced or intensified the natural greenhouse effect.

Climate change is a warming trend, not just a warming cycle. Global temperature naturally varies up and down from year to year and decade to decade. Natural climate variability will continue to have an influence on the state of the climate over short time periods, but superimposed on these natural fluctuations is a long term trend towards global warming. In order to detect climate change – a long term trend – above the ‘noise’ of natural climate variability, it is important to look to long term data records. A long term global warming of about 0.85 °C has been observed over the period 1880 to 2012.

Climate change will affect communities all over the world. Climate change is projected to lead to both changes in average conditions and in extreme weather events. Increases in droughts, heavy rains, floods, and severe storms, where these occur, can be very disruptive for society and are among the potential impacts of most concern. As well, rising sea levels will affect coastal areas, along which, in many regions, human communities are concentrated. Changes in temperature and precipitation will affect natural habitats and managed ones, with impacts on agriculture and food supplies of particular concern to a growing human population. There will be opportunities as well as risks associated with climate change, but in balance, impacts are expected to become increasingly negative as global average surface temperature becomes increasingly warmer. *[Government of Canada, Canada’s Action on Climate Change, Facts on Climate Change]*

Climate Change Myths



“The Earth’s climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era — and of human civilization.

Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth’s orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives.”

- NASA

Myth 1: Climate change is an environmental issue

Climate change is an environmental challenge but it is far from being an environmental issue only. Changing climate will affect the environment but also food production, access to water and energy, ecosystems and habitats, sea levels, temperatures and more. Moreover, climate change and poverty are inextricably linked since access to resources is based on income. The financial, emotional and cultural consequences of the climate crises from flooding, forest fires, hurricanes and tsunamis are hardest felt by low income communities. To end poverty within a generation, we need climate action now.

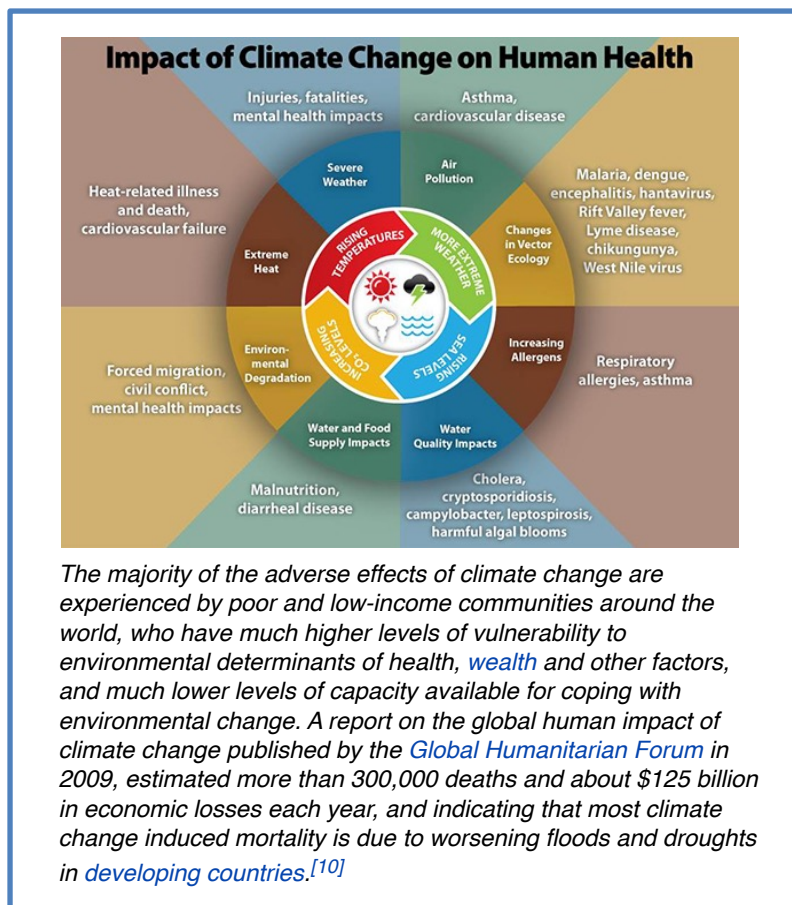
Myth 2: Climate change and global warming are the same thing

No they are not. Climate change is the change in climatic patterns due to natural and man-made causes while global warming, which means a rise in temperatures, is a result of climate change. Since 1900, every decade has been warmer than the previous one and 2014 was the

hottest year on record- a reality endorsed by reports of the world’s top meteorological agencies (NASA, NOAA, UK Met Office, JMA)

Myth 3: Climate change does not affect ME

While one may think climate change is restricted to the low-lying Pacific islands or the drought-prone regions of Africa, the truth is it affects each and every one of us. Extreme weather events like droughts, earthquakes and floods, increases in the cost of food, energy, and other essentials, rising sea levels and decreasing freshwater sources, we are all either directly or indirectly affected by climate change.



Furthermore all oil and gas production and infrastructure projects like refineries and pipelines impact on the land, air and water. As well proposed solutions that are being sought to address fossil fuel production like Carbon Offsets and REDDS, or industrial projects that produce renewable energy like hydro dams and nuclear power have direct impact on local communities.

Myth 4: Climate change is an issue of the future not the present

While it is always easy to put things off for later, climate action cannot afford to wait. Failing to act now to curb emissions and keep the rise in temperature below the 2 degree Celsius mark will impact sea levels, food security and habitats drastically. From the food we eat to the

extreme weather events that are affecting countries around the world (Superstorm Sandy, typhoon Haiyan, Cyclone Pam to name a few), climate change is affecting us, and our planet today.

Climate Policy is being planned now and decisions made by governments and corporations have consequences for the long term that need to be held accountable to constitutional rights and community interests.

The consequences of climate change directly affect food, energy and water security, how we take action today ensures sustainable and just outcomes for the future.

Myth 5: Climate change is only the government’s responsibility

Governments have an important role to play in addressing the climate change and the impacts on people, however all people have a role in identifying the root causes and contributing to climate solutions that end our dependence on fossil fuels and ensure future food, energy and water security.

Climate Change Policies

Global Climate Policy

In 1991 the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) developed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This was signed by 166 nations at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and came into force in 1994 (parties to the convention subsequently increased, to 192 by 2009). These Parties have been meeting routinely over the years to advance conversations on global climate policy in what have been known as Conference Of the Parties. (COP)

Although the UNFCCC did not contain any specific national or international targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it contained key points or principles that have been foundational in subsequent international

Just five years ago, governments, pundits, and the general public were talking about climate change—to the extent they were talking about it at all—as a vague issue that was open to question. Today it is not just accepted as a fact; it is seen as a crisis. In trying to address climate change, policy statements have been made on a Global, Nation and Regional level, however there is yet to be any enforceable climate change policies and practices.

- Survival International

climate change debates and processes. It set out the following.

- An objective of stabilising the climate to prevent 'dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system' in a time-frame that would allow natural systems to adapt without major damage to food systems and economic development. The need for countries to monitor and limit their greenhouse gas emissions and for different national limits, taking account of countries' different responsibilities and capacities.
- Particular concerns for developing countries - and especially those most vulnerable to damaging climate change impacts (such as small islands and exporters of fossil fuels).
- The importance of precautionary measures to respond to the severity of climate change threats, despite real scientific uncertainties regarding climate change processes and impacts.

United Nations Climate Change Conferences

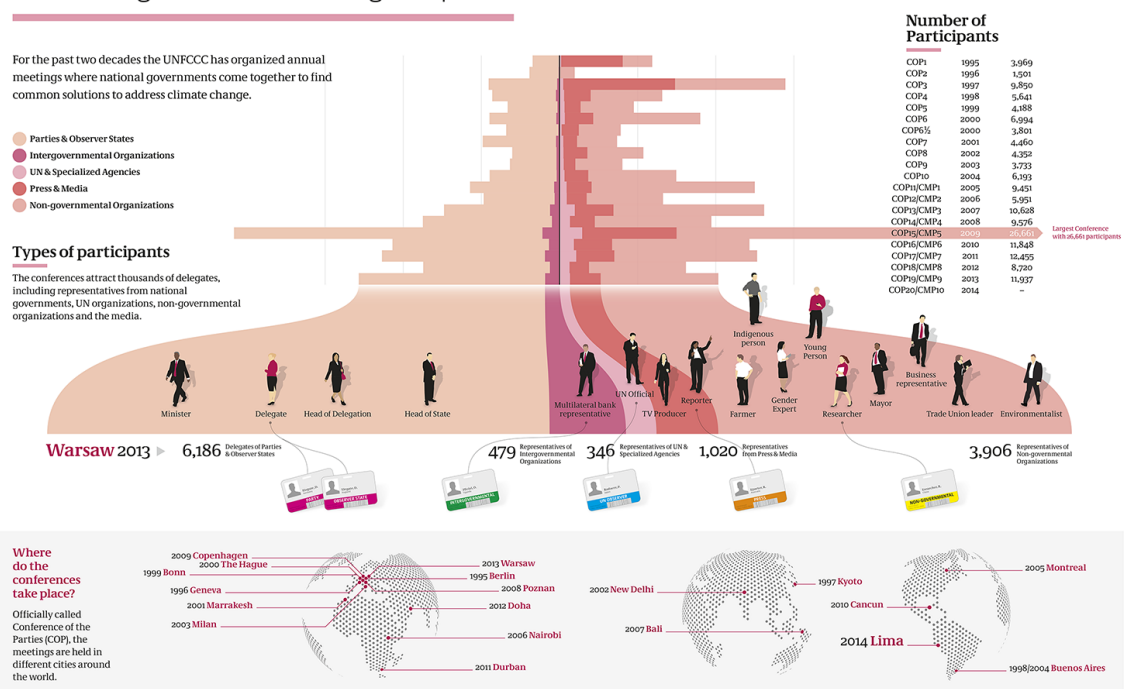
Venue for global climate change response

For the past two decades the UNFCCC has organized annual meetings where national governments come together to find common solutions to address climate change.

- Parties & Observer States
- Intergovernmental Organizations
- UN & Specialized Agencies
- Press & Media
- Non-governmental Organizations

Types of participants

The conferences attract thousands of delegates, including representatives from national governments, UN organizations, non-governmental organizations and the media.



The next international meeting on Climate Change happened in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan and developed what is known as the Kyoto Protocol. This established developed country emissions targets for 2008-2012 and three main mechanisms for meeting them:

- an emissions trading scheme (ETS which allows international trade in emission allowances)
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), allowing developed country signatories emission credits for investing in emissions savings in developing countries
- Joint Implementation (JI), linking emissions in developed country signatories to emissions savings in developing countries, necessary for the CDM

However a number of countries (notably the US and Australia) subsequently refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, arguing that developing countries also need to limit their emissions. These arguments were supported by major public debates questioning the scientific

basis for climate change predictions - with substantial investments by the oil industry, in particular, in lobbying groups questioning or denying climate change.

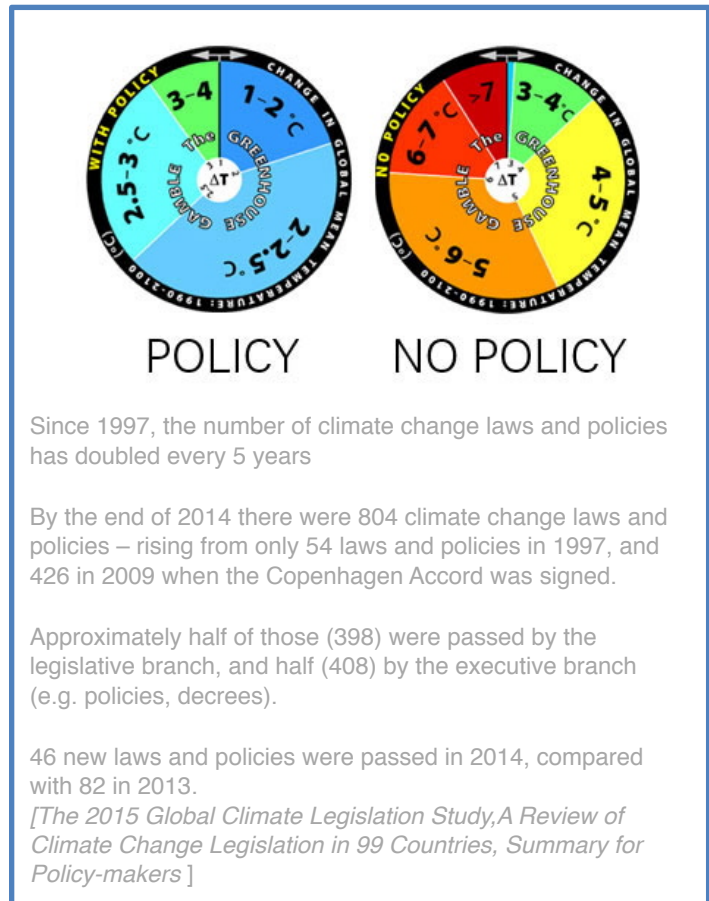
In 2009, a third international conference was held to draft the successor to the Kyoto Accord in Copenhagen, Denmark. What is known as the Copenhagen Accord continued the mechanisms of the Kyoto Accord, but because of a lack of political will, the parties were unable to come to further agreement on how to address climate change.

After two decades of climate talks within the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), world leaders from 195 countries got together in Paris, France and developed a legally binding agreement on climate change, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C and reducing carbon emissions across the globe.

The two-week long Conference of Parties (COP 21) process also brought together some of the world's largest corporations, environmental and human rights organizations, and grassroots activists to hash out international energy goals, standards, and implementation. Over 250 Indigenous delegates were present and advocated for the inclusion of Indigenous rights in the Paris Agreement.

Hailed as "historic" and as "a turning point for the world," the deal reached its goal to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change, yet disappointed many Indigenous Peoples due to its ultimate failure to include legally binding references to protecting Indigenous Peoples rights and their sovereignty.

Earlier drafts of the agreement included the protection of Indigenous rights in Article 2.2. But in the second week, this reference was annexed from the operative text – the part of the text that is legally binding – under direction from the European Union, Norway, and the United States. The European Union and the US have been poised as two key players in the fight against climate change – but their



support for Indigenous rights will leave Article 2.2, and consequently, Indigenous Peoples, without binding legal or political clout. References to the protection of Indigenous rights was finally included in the preamble to the text, which crafts the framework for interpreting and implementing the operative section.

One of the world leaders who surprised the world by fighting for the inclusion of this amendment in the operative section was newly elected Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. He stated on November 30 in Paris, "Indigenous peoples have known for thousands of years how to care for our planet. The rest of us have a lot to learn and no time to waste."

Paragraphs in the Paris Agreement Mentioning Indigenous Peoples:

Preambular Paragraph 8 (PP8) in page 1, states 'Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind. Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerations equity. "

PP 16 in page 2: states "Agreeing to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples."

Page 19 V. Non-Party Stakeholders. Paragraph 136, "Recognizes the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, and establishes a platform for exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner."

ANNEX; PARIS AGREEMENT

Page 20 PP 12, "Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind. Parties when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality and empowerment of women and intergenerational equity."

page 24: Article 7: Para 5. "Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socio-economic policies and actions, where appropriate."

World's indigenous peoples' proposals to COP21

- Respect their rights
- Recognize their traditional knowledge, innovations, and positive contributions
- Ensure their full and effective participation
- Ensure direct access to climate finance and funds

Source: International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)

#COP21

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National Climate Change Policy

National Climate Policy

“We have an opportunity to make history in Paris - an agreement that supports a transition to a low-carbon economy that is necessary for our collective health, security, and prosperity.”
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



Canada's Action on Climate Change

Contributing to Global Efforts

The Government of Canada is committed to working with international partners to reach an ambitious global agreement this is anchored in science and leads the world towards a low-carbon, climate resilient economy. Canada is also committed to supporting the poorest and most vulnerable countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, and is doing its part to mobilize critical investments that will achieve sustained emissions reductions in developing countries.

Collaborating with Provinces and Territories

The Government of Canada will provide national leadership and join with the provinces and territories to take action on climate change, put a price on carbon, and reduce carbon pollution. Together, we will:

- Attend the Paris climate conference, and formally meet within 90 days to establish a pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change.
- Set a truly national target that we will work together to achieve.
- Ensure that the provinces and territories have targeted federal funding and the flexibility to design their own carbon pricing policies.

Investing in Clean Energy and Clean Technology

The Government of Canada will protect Canada's communities and grow our economy by making significant new investments in green infrastructure and clean technologies. As part of this commitment, we will:

- Endow a \$2 billion Low Carbon Economy Trust to fund projects that reduce carbon.
- Fulfill our G20 commitment and phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.
- Work with the Provinces and Territories to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy to protect Canada's energy security, encourage energy conservation, and bring cleaner renewable energy into the electricity grid

[Government of Canada, Canada's Way Forward on Climate Change]

Currently the Canadian Government does not have a National Climate Policy. Rather they have a Canada's Way Forward on Climate Change, which simply describes their commitment to *'provide national leadership and join with the provinces and territories to take action on climate change, put a price on carbon, and reduce carbon pollution.'*

The closest document to highlight any actual targets for reduction of emissions in Canada is Canada's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) Submission to the UNFCCC. This document was crafted under the leadership of Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party and outlined the intention of the Canadian Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030, using a "responsible sector by sector approach that ensured Canada's economic competitiveness is protected."

The emissions targets outlined in the outdated INDC are neither progressive nor do they actually do anything to ensure Canada would meet targets set in Paris.

Trudeau and the Canadian Liberal government were touted as champions for the inclusion of Indigenous Rights in the Paris Accord, and prime minister Justin Trudeau made a public commitment to host a meeting by early March, 2016 to craft a pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change.

Paired with the appointment of Catherine McKenna as the new Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, there seems to be an opportunity to influence the direction of Canada's Climate Policy in 2016.

The fact that Canada has not created an actual climate change policy creates an opportunity

for Indigenous input and participation. However, there seems to be little indication that the Canadian Government has taken adequate steps to ensure proper consultation with First Nations, Metis or Inuit Nations on any of its plans to address climate change.

Climate Change Policy Provincially

Highlights of the Alberta Climate Leadership Plan

Electricity

- Coal phaseout by 2030 (schedule and details to be worked out, presumably over the course of this year)
- 2/3 of coal-generated electricity will be replaced by renewables (primarily wind power), the remaining 1/3 of coal would likely be replaced with natural gas
- 30% mandated (RFP or renewable electricity portfolio) renewable energy requirement by 2030

Oilsands

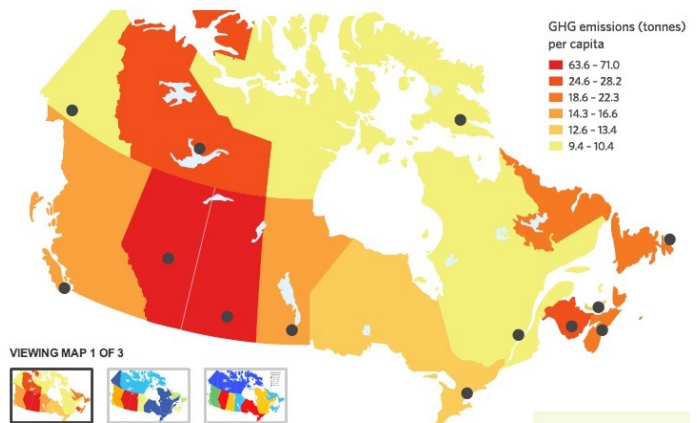
- Emission limit of 100 Mt with a factor applied to co-generation in the determination of the limit and allowances for new upgrading (i.e., new upgrading is excluded from the limit).
- Oilsands facilities (and I believe all large emitting facilities currently captured under SGER) will be required to bring their emission intensity to the level of best performers (under SGER it was determined on a facility-by-facility basis) or pay a price on carbon for anything above emission intensity of best performers
- There are quite a few details to be worked out here in the reg design, and again, this is likely to happen over the course of the year

Methane

- Methane reduction of 45% from 2014 levels by 2025 (comparable to what President Obama has proposed for the US).

Carbon pricing

- \$20/tonne economy-wide in January 2017
- \$30/tonne economy-wide in January 2018
- It will be revenue neutral, 100% will be reinvested in Alberta, incl. to reduce pollution (clean energy research and technology, green infrastructure such as public transit, and programs to help Albertans reduce their energy use, i.e., energy efficiency programming), First Nations, transitional support for small businesses, support the poor who would be unfairly impacted and people working in affected coal facilities.



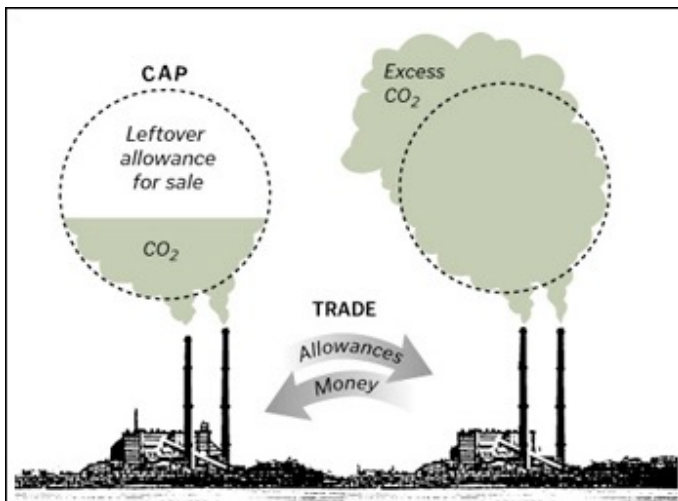
Each provincial government within Canada has a certain degree of autonomy, and therefore each have different ways of dealing with issues, including climate change. Some have strong mandates to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change, others have no plan at all.

CBC released a report in April of 2015 stating 'emissions regulations is a mixed bag' referring to the all over the map regulations, standards and targets set by each province.

Under the newly elected NDP government, Alberta announced a process by which they would review and develop a new and progressive climate change policy. This was a bold step given that Alberta's long history of heavy development of oil and gas is one of the major factors for Canada's overall large GHG footprint. Alberta's creates 37% of Canada's overall emissions, accounting for 66 metric tonnes GHG/person, the second highest in Canada (Saskatchewan number one), 13.4X higher than the global average. Alberta's emissions surpassed Ontario's, increasing by 53% since 1990.

A Climate Leadership Plan was unveiled on November 22nd, 2015, just days before the start of the UNFCCC COP 21 meetings in Paris, France. The policy was touted as groundbreaking and historic largely due to the consultation done with Industry sectors and environmental groups. While the Alberta Climate Leadership Plan does recognize and indicate a move towards the inclusion of Indigenous communities it still falls flat. How will they find a way to actually reduce emission in an oil producing province and how are they going to be including the rights of Indigenous communities who are most impacted by climate change?

The recognition of Indigenous peoples rights and title and how to adequately include our communities seem to vary by each province. However, a lack of a concrete climate policies, provincial or nationally, creates opportunities for our communities to take hold of these moments and influence governments to recognize rights and titles as defined by our Treaties and the UNDRIP.



Carbon pricing — the method favored by many economists for reducing global-warming emissions — charges those who emit carbon dioxide (CO₂) for their emissions. That charge, called a carbon price, is the amount that must be paid for the right to emit one tonne of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

There are two types of carbon pricing:

1. Emissions trading systems (ETS) or Cap and Trade

- Caps the total emissions and creates system for industries with lower emissions to 'sell' their extra carbon credits to larger emitters. It is similar to a water licence system. There is an allowed carbon budget for specific regions developed by the state. There is some concern with how this would work if we developed global cap and trade systems (ie. Canada oil and gas operator buys credit from the global south with no development).

2. Carbon taxes or price on carbon

- directly sets a price on carbon through a tax rate on GHG emissions or on the carbon content of fossil fuels. There is no pre-defined emission reduction outcome from a carbon tax, but there is a set price on carbon

What are Market Based Solutions to Climate Change?

Market-based instruments (MBIs) or solutions are policy instruments that use markets, price, and other economic variables to provide incentives for polluters to reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts. Examples include environmentally related taxes, including a carbon tax, charges and subsidies, emissions trading and other tradeable permit systems such as cap and trade, and environmental labeling laws and licenses.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is a mechanism that has been under negotiation by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2005, with the objective of mitigating climate change through reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries.

The biggest concern with these solutions are how the levy will directly or indirectly affect low-income, marginalized and rural

communities (good or bad). Past royalty mechanisms have not trickle back to support First Nation and Aboriginal communities. Current policies in Canada only allow Indigenous peoples to benefit from large industrial resource development through individually procured Impact Benefit Agreements, private business agreements or direct employment. At the same time, these communities are often times the ones that bare the most direct and adverse impacts from the very projects under scrutiny.

What are Community Based Climate Solutions?

Community Based Climate Solutions occur at the community level (at smaller scale than municipality as a whole, at larger scale than the household) and has the community interests at heart of its purpose and intent. It can grow and involve and supported by other actors as long as the community continues to lead the initiatives.

Many communities that are vulnerable to climate change impacts have been dealing with climate variability for decades and have a wealth of knowledge about how to adapt. Community-based adaptation to climate change focuses on empowering communities to use their own knowledge and decision-making processes to take action.

Many communities are already engaged in developing their own solutions without realizing it. Through local environmental governance and community-based efforts to sustainably manage local ecosystems we are already taking the first steps to identifying the solutions and providing the necessary process for climate change at the regional level.

Some examples of Community Based Climate Solutions are:

- Sustainable Land Use Practices
- Restoration and Reclamation
- Protection and preservation
- Development of small scale, locally produced energy or Energy Democracy

Community based climate solutions are one of the most undervalued and underfunded avenues to addressing climate change. “Forest communities can be a potent source of local climate solutions when they are empowered with resource rights and access to support networks,” said Mr. Mock.

Just because it is 'community-based' doesn't mean that it should operate solely at the community level. We need to empower our community to take our local adaptation plans of action into national adaptation planning frameworks to demonstrate the value and necessity of our communities in finding solutions to climate change.

What is the Renewable Energy Boom?

With the dropping price of oil there is now a boom in the renewable energy sector. This boom is supported by a global push for the necessity of subsidies and support of a renewable energy sector. Some compelling arguments made include:

- Global investors have contributed \$265Bil to the renewable energy sector, doubling that of the investments in NEW fossil fuel and coal electricity indicating that trends for major investments are moving towards renewable energy.
- Growing trend from the developing world to invest heavily in renewable energy sectors representing \$131Bil investments.
- There are now currently over 2.5Mil people (globally) employed in the renewable energy sector making it one of the fastest growing economic sectors.
- The entire clean energy economy (clean tech, solar, wind, energy efficiency, etc) represents \$790Bil of the global economy and is set to grow to a staggering \$1.8Trillion by 2020.

Clean Energy Canada has produced a series of report Tracking the Energy Revolution – Global 2014 and Tracking the Energy Revolution – Canada 2014 that both serve as a great resource for understanding the global trends for both curbing GHG emissions and support a new energy and economic paradigm. This is a trend that Indigenous peoples should be fully engaged and supported in pursuing.



SOLAR IN THE TAR SANDS

Indigenous community launches solar powered health centre

One of Alberta's biggest solar projects has been built in one of the most unlikely places—the heart of Canada's Peace River oil sands. This summer the community of Little Buffalo launched the Piitapan Solar Project, a 20.8kW renewable energy installation that powers the health centre. The inspiring 80-panel solar project was developed in a bid to create more green jobs and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

This booklet was created as a resource guide for participants at the Indigenous peoples meeting on Climate Change January 24-26, 2016 in Edmonton, Alberta



"We all need to come together and try to find a way to stop this killing of mother earth"

- Violet Poitras, Elder - Paul First Nation