CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

DRAFT COMMITMENT FOR CANADA'S 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON OPEN GOVERNMENT (2022-2024)

PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED

Problem Statement: People in Canada raised the need for the Government of Canada to better communicate and engage with citizens on its decisions and progress on combatting climate change[i] and ensuring sustainable growth.

Background: The people in Canada are increasingly concerned about climate change. According to a 2021 United Nations Development Program's Survey, three-quarters of Canadians surveyed believed climate change is an emergency. Discussions on the post-COVID-19 recovery have put an onus on building back with environmental considerations[ii] in mind, as pointed out by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Governments, the business community, and citizens seek to make informed decisions to contribute to the reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate against climate risk, and adapt to climate change and modifications of the natural environment. The annual Synthesis Report on the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change already provides information on progress on Canada's fight against climate change. Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan presents what the Government of Canada plans to do, in collaboration[iii] with provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples, to continue the fight against climate change, protect our environment, and ensure sustainable growth. By enhancing access to detailed, reliable, accessible and timely climate and environmental science, information and data, the Government of Canada will help other levels of government, businesses, Indigenous Peoples and citizens to better understand climate change and its impacts on ecosystems. Overall, it will help inform their decision-making and build climate change resiliency.

COMMITMENT TITLE

Climate Change and Sustainable Growth

LEAD DEPARTMENTS

1. Environment and Climate Change Canada
2. Natural Resources Canada
3. Statistics Canada
4. International Development Research Centre

MILESTONES AND INDICATORS

1. **Milestone: Through the Open Science and Data Platform, make information[iv] related to cumulative effects, including climate change and sustainable[v] growth, easier for people in Canada to find and understand**

   Indicators

   1.1 Add content and features[vi] to the Open Science and Data Platform (by 2023).

1.2 Provide accessible science-based educational content on 10 key topics (air, biodiversity, climate, cumulative effects, development activities, economy and industry, health, land, society and culture, and water[vii]), which may be supported by interactive maps (by 2023).
1.3 Engage[viii] with governments, Indigenous Peoples, and external groups (e.g., industry, environmental non-government organizations) to verify that cumulative effects are better understood, new content is identified (data, publications) and overall use of the platform is increased (by 2023).

2. **Milestone: Improve and expand information on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions through the Physical Flow Accounts as part of the Canadian Centre for Energy Information (CCEI)**

Indicators:

2.1 Disseminate an infographic and datasets related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions embedded in goods and services purchased by households. Link environmental data on energy consumption and GHG emission physical flow accounts with economic satellite accounts on tourism, clean technologies, natural resources (by 2022).
2.2 Develop an "Energy and Environment" webpage for the Canadian Centre for Energy Information portal that will include detailed GHG information from both Statistics Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada, including several data visualization dashboards and indicators (by 2022).
2.3 Link environmental data on energy consumption and GHG emission physical flow accounts with economic satellite accounts on transportation and agriculture (by March[ix] 2022)

3. **Milestone: Make climate change science more open and accessible**

Indicators:

3.1 New metric to be designed and included in yearly reports to assess open access of climate change science publications using data from an abstract and citation database (by June 2022).
3.2 Yearly[x] reports on progress against existing metrics measuring implementation of open science by Science-Based Departments and Agencies, with a focus on open access metrics and diverse types of open access, to be released in the open (by June 2022 for reporting year 2022 and by June 2023 for reporting year 2023).
3.3 Support 10 climate change innovation research projects as well as 10 master's students focused on the intersection of machine learning and climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa and promote knowledge exchange with Canadian scholars (by December 2024).
3.4 Work with Lacuna Fund to support the creation, aggregation, and maintenance of open datasets for the training and evaluation of machine learning models by and for local communities most affected by climate change around the world (by March 2023).

4. **Milestone: Provide accessible, reliable, and practical climate data and information to support adaptation decision-making and help people of Canada, across all sectors and regions, build their resilience to climate change**

Indicators:

4.1 Increase the number of clients accessing climate information through Canadian Center for Climate Services (CCCS) by 10% by 2023 from 2021 baseline, by working to increase climate data and addressing information gaps driven by user needs (by March 2023).

4.2 Publish two sector-based modules on ClimateData.ca by 2023 to provide relevant climate projections and information for users in the buildings and transportation sectors (by March 2023).

4.3 Respond to at least 300 user enquiries via the Canadian Centre for Climate Services support desk each year to continue to provide high-level quality of support, and use their feedback to help us advance our mandate to help users understand and become more resilient to climate change (by March 2023).

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[i] Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:48pm
Incentives to combat these issues are needed for citizens and various stakeholder partners and communities. These should be well communicated with accessibility and participation considered in terms of support to implement. Similar to other rights and responsibilities, this is an opportunity to expand what this means for climate change in terms of tangible roles and responsibilities, and to be inclusive in our approach.

[ii] Posted by Kim Davis on 02/21/2022 at 12:37am
"...building back with environmental [and social] considerations...
As seen in France with Les Gilets Jaunes, a purely environmental approach without socioeconomic considerations will most probably fail... If addressing environmental degradation including but not limited to carbon cycle (cause *and* effect of the climate crisis) is one side of the coin, addressing inequality is the other side. Data shows a negative correlation between sustainability and intra-country inequality: the more unequal society becomes, the more unsustainable it usually is (contrast Norway, Sweden, Japan with the US, Australia, UK...)"

[iii] Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 10:15pm
Once again, without collaboration with municipal govs ,where the rubber hits the road, this won;t be fully successful. Must include local gov representation

[iv] Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 10:19pm
There are so many initiatives happening from orgs like UN, EU Commission and community organizations like Open Earth with a data harmonization project with experts from around the globe. Please leverage the work going on outside our borders

[v] Posted by Kim Davis on 02/21/2022 at 1:07am
To the question: “What is the goal of a green economy?” one may answer - sustainability. Yet the current definition of sustainability used by institutions makes it difficult for stakeholders to
gauge the validity and effectiveness of trade-offs, when looking to strategically allocate public funding for different progress paths.

Vision
To put in place a process establishing—from sound scientific principles and “lessons learned”—the boundaries between “Sustainable Growth” and non-“Sustainable Growth”.

Strategy
If it seems quite difficult to precisely define what “Sustainable Growth” is (there's a very large amount of solutions, each a possible future in which Nature and people's well-being aren't threatened systemically), it seems way easier to precisely define what non-“Sustainable Growth” is, since 19th/20th/21st -century examples exist...
Clearly establishing those boundaries would create a level-playing field, necessary for sound business, while enabling society to steer away from risky paths bringing us closer to irreversible tipping points beyond which no amount of money can avert catastrophic chain reactions...

[vi] Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 10:11pm
Difficulty in understanding how you get to "Add content and features" without a design process and consultation with the end users.

[vii] Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:35pm
Accessible data is important, and also to ensure biases/limitations are clearly identified, including considerations for data re-use. Here, participation from communities is important for ensuring alignment with public interest and perspectives. I've heard of the concept of a "social license" to refer to this aspect of establishing open data. It brings credibility to how the data should be treated, how it is shared and what insights can be extracted.

[viii] Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:40pm
It needs to be considered also when and how the data was collected, and whether it is still relevant to current questions needing to be answered. It may be important to consider ways to bring in other data sets to compliment and collaborate with external parties around data sets, to provide the representation in the data needed. This relates also to the need to consider roles and responsibilities and capacity needing to be established across GOC to support this level of mobilizing and service delivery.

[ix] Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 10:22pm
Am I to assume this work is almost complete and this is simply a check-box for the plan to be checked off as you launch the plan?

[x]Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 10:28pm
Yearly summaries are fine but with the importance of climate change, we really need to have a dynamic Dashboard with simple analytics to let the public understand the trends