

EARLY ACTIONS BOOK

EARLY MANDATE ACTIONS;
PROPOSED OUTREACH;
ACTIVE LITIGATION; AND
PRIORITY FILES REQUIRING ATTENTION
EARLY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S MANDATE

NOVEMBER 20, 2019
MINISTER COPY



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

Proactive Disclosure

The Access to Information Act

The *Access to Information Act* lays out proactive disclosure and publication requirements for Ministers' offices to follow. The relevant provisions of the Act are:

- That Ministers proactively disclose briefing materials upon assuming office (within 120 calendar days of appointment).
- That Ministers proactively disclose the titles and tracking numbers of memoranda (briefing notes) prepared for the Minister within 30 days of their receipt by a Minister's office.
- That Question Period notes, as prepared by a government institution for the Minister are proactively disclosed within 30 calendar days following last sitting day in June and December.
- That briefing materials for parliamentary appearances by the Minister be proactively disclosed within 120 calendar days after their appearance.

Proactive publication does not require the release of information that would normally be withheld in response to an access to information request.

Proactive Disclosure

The proactive disclosure and publication requirements will affect all the contents of this transition Early Actions Book and the accompanying transition materials the Minister will receive on his/her date of appointment. In the past, the Department has published transition material on the internet and the Environment and Climate Change Canada website to make it available to the public.

EARLY ACTIONS BOOK

November 20, 2019



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Early Mandate Actions (November–January) for the Portfolio

#	Item	Description	Action
November 2019 – Priority Items			
1	Climate Change – 25 th Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<p>COP25 will take place December 2 to 13, 2019, in Madrid Spain, including a high-level Ministerial segment. Chile who had been planning to host, still holds the presidency.</p> <p>Events related to the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) will also take place on the margins of COP25. Canada is a convening member and financial contributor to the Commission, which is designed to raise the profile of climate change adaptation.</p>	<p>Decision on elements of Canada's participation in COP25.</p> <p>Decision on Canada's Commissioner.</p>
2	Redacted	<p>Redacted</p> <p>Will also include an overview of decisions needed early in 2020.</p> <p>Redacted</p>	Early briefing, discussion and decisions
3	Impact Assessment – Designation Requests (LEAD: <i>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</i>)	Requests have been received to designate 15 projects.	Designation decisions.
4	Climate Change – Mitigation Programming	Numerous ECCC climate change mitigation funding programs, including those that support the return of revenues collected under the federal carbon price, the Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF), and the Climate Action Fund (CAF).	Direction on next steps.
5	World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2020	ECCC is co-organizing the WCEF2020, a global event that brings together business leaders, policymakers and experts to advance circular economy solutions.	Potential announcement regarding Canadian host city and dates for the WCEF2020.

Legend:

Legislative Requirement	Requires tabling in Parliament	Policy, Program & Regulatory Decisions
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#	Item	Description	Action
November 2019 – Regular Business Items			
6	Redacted <ul style="list-style-type: none">ECCCParks Canada AgencyImpact Assessment Agency	Redacted	Approval and signature. Redacted
7	Significant New Activity Notice for a New Substance (New Substances Notification No. 20087)	Publication of a Significant New Activity Notice for a new substance notified under the <i>New Substances Notification Regulations (Chemicals and Polymers)</i> .	Decision on the notice.
8	Amendments to the Domestic Substances List	The Domestic Substances List (DSL) is an inventory of substances in commerce in Canada.	Decision on adding substances to the DSL.
9	ATIP/Privacy Act Annual Reports	Annual reports tabled in Parliament under the <i>Access to Information Act</i> and the <i>Privacy Act</i> .	Approval and tabling of the reports.
10	Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) ATIP reports (LEAD: <i>Parks Canada Agency</i>)	Annual report tabled in Parliament under the <i>Access to Information Act</i> .	Approval and tabling of the report.
December 2019 – Priority Items			
11	Methane for the Oil and Gas Sector Equivalency Agreements with British Columbia	Equivalency agreement for federal methane regulations.	Decision on the final equivalency agreement.
12	Nature – Imminent Threat Assessment - Wood Bison	Assessment required under section 80 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (SARA).	Opinion regarding imminent threat to Wood Bison.
13	Impact Assessment – Teck Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project (LEAD: <i>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</i>)	Joint Review Panel Report found there is a potential for significant adverse environmental effects associated with project.	Decision regarding potential significant adverse environmental effects.
14	Nature – Negotiating mandate for post-2020 biodiversity framework.	A new global biodiversity framework is slated for final adoption at Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (CoP) 15 in October 2020. Working group negotiations are scheduled for February 2020 and throughout 2020.	Secure approved negotiating mandate prior to mid-February negotiation session.

Legend:

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#	Item	Description	Action
15	Climate Change Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Annual Synthesis Report on the Status of Implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF) Canada's 4th Biennial Report to the UNFCCC 	<p>The Synthesis Report is an annual report drafted in collaboration with all PTs on progress achieved towards implementing the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF). The Synthesis Report is approved by jurisdictions and provided to First Ministers through Intergovernmental Affairs channels.</p> <p>The 4th Biennial Report updates Canada's climate change-related activities including GHG emissions and trends, emission reduction targets and progress in achieving them, and the provision of support to developing countries.</p>	<p>Review of report.</p> <p>Approval of the report and communications strategy.</p>
16	Nature – Publication of multi-species report on critical habitat protection under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>	Updates for listed species under Section 63 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> .	Approval of the report.
17	Nature – Conservation Agreements for Southern Mountain Caribou	The federal government has negotiated two conservation agreements under SARA for southern mountain caribou: a bilateral agreement with British Columbia and a Partnership Agreement with British Columbia and the West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations.	Approval of various actions.
18	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted
19	Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution	The report is a state-of-the-science assessment on plastics in the environment and examines the fate, behaviour, and environmental and human health impacts of plastic pollution.	Approval to publish the document.
20	Redacted	Redacted	Direction on next steps.
21	Heavy-duty Vehicle Trailer Standards	GHG emission standards for trailers.	Decision on whether to maintain or amend the trailer provisions.
22	Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform	Review of non-tax inefficient fossil fuel subsidies next steps.	Early briefing and direction.
23	Climate Change – Annual Canada Gazette Notice for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting	Annual notice of the federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program collecting and publishing GHG emissions information from 1,700+ facilities.	Decision on publication in the <i>Canada Gazette</i> .

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#	Item	Description	Action
24	Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) Report	The CESD is expected to table its report when Parliament resumes.	Awareness.
25	Nature – International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2020 World Conservation Congress (WCC) (LEAD: <i>Parks Canada Agency</i>)	Parks Canada is Canada's State Member for the IUCN and coordinates the Government of Canada's preparations and contributions to the WCC which occurs every four years and is taking place in Marseille, France June 11-19, 2020. Canada will be expected to vote on approximately 100 non-binding motions prior to and during the Congress. Online discussion of draft motions occurs from December 11, 2019, until March 11, 2020.	Decision on Canada's positions and approach to WCC motions.
26	Impact Assessment – Request to conduct a Regional Assessment – James Bay Lowlands in Ontario (LEAD: <i>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</i>)	Redacted	Decision on whether a regional assessment should be conducted.
27	Impact Assessment – CNOOC Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project (LEAD: <i>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</i>)	A proposed offshore exploration drilling project within two of CNOOC's exploration licences located in an offshore geographic area known as the Eastern Newfoundland Region, approximately 480km east of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.	Decision on whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
December 2019 – Regular Business Items			
28	The Annual Report on Activities on Federal Lands and Outside Canada under the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i> .	Consolidated report on behalf of federal authorities under schedule 1 of CEEA 2012 tabled in Parliament.	Approval of the annual report for tabling in December 2019.
29	2018-19 Fees Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECCC Parks Canada Agency Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 	Annual reports tabled in Parliament under the <i>Service Fees Act</i> .	Approval and tabling of the reports.
30	2018-19 Public Accounts	Public Accounts of Canada for the year ended March 31, 2019.	Provided for information. Will be tabled in the House of Commons by the President of the Treasury Board in December 2019.

Legend:

Legislative Requirement	Requires tabling in Parliament	Policy, Program & Regulatory Decisions
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#	Item	Description	Action
31	ECCC's Delegation Matrix	Establishing financial authorities through delegation of spending and financial signing authorities.	Approval of the Delegation Matrix.
32	Regulatory Forward Agenda	Regulatory priorities.	Determine path forward on the regulatory agenda.
33	Plastics – Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenge	Three grants (up to \$1 million each) to companies to develop prototypes of innovative technologies to address plastic pollution.	Decision on selection and signing of three grants.
January 2020			
34	Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA)	Administrative agreement used to align federal and provincial actions to meet the commitments of the <i>Canada–U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement</i> , and restore and protect Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health which expires in Dec 2019.	Next steps for draft negotiated COA to cover the next five-year period, 2020-2025.
35	Membership on the Governing Council of the Global Plastics Action Partnership	The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) aims to translate political commitments to address plastic pollution into action by fast-tracking circular economy solutions in coastal countries battling plastic waste. The annual meeting of the Governing Council members is planned on the margins of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos in January.	Decision on whether to assume the Governing Council membership seat.
36	Passenger vehicles and Light-Truck GHG Emission Regulations	Canada's light-duty vehicle GHG emission standards. Redacted	Potential decision.
37	Impact Assessment – Cedar LNG (LEAD: <i>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada</i>)	The Government of British Columbia has requested that the British Columbia assessment process be utilized.	Decision on the impact assessment process.
38	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted
39	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted

Legend:

Legislative Requirement	Requires tabling in Parliament	Policy, Program & Regulatory Decisions
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#	Item	Description	Action
40	<div>Redacted</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ECCCParks Canada AgencyImpact Assessment Agency of Canada	<div>Redacted</div>	<div>Redacted</div>

Legend:

Legislative Requirement

Requires tabling in Parliament

Policy, Program & Regulatory Decisions

Proposed Outreach

Fulfilling your duties as Minister of the Environment will require close collaboration with a number of partners and stakeholders. Over the first few weeks of your mandate, it is recommended that you contact your provincial counterparts as well as the leaders of national Indigenous organizations. In addition, you may wish to reach out to some key stakeholders such as environmental and industry organizations, as well as international counterparts.

You will find attached a number of lists. The first is a list of your provincial counterparts. In a number of provinces, you have two counterparts, with responsibilities split across environmental matters, parks and wildlife. The second list presents the leaders of the National Indigenous Organizations. In addition, attached are lists of some of your key international interlocutors, non-governmental organizations, and private sector representatives.

It is important to note that these lists contain a sample of some (not all) of the many stakeholders and partners with whom you will interact. These lists are intended to give you an early indication of breadth of the players that you will engage with, but they are not inclusive of all the important stakeholders you will meet, even in the early days.

The department will provide you with details on each partner and stakeholder as needed to support any outreach you might decide to do.

Provincial and Territorial Counterparts		
Province/Territory	Representative	Description
Alberta – Minister of Environment and Parks	Jason Nixon	The Ministry of Environment and Parks supports environmental conservation and protection, sustainable economic prosperity, quality of life and outdoor recreation opportunities.
British Columbia – Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	George Heyman	The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is responsible for the effective protection, management and conservation of B.C.'s water, land, air and living resources.
British Columbia – Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	Doug Donaldson	The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for the stewardship of provincial Crown land and natural resources, and for the protection of B.C.'s archaeological and heritage resources.
Manitoba – Minister of Conservation and Climate	Sarah Guillemard	The Department of Conservation and Climate is responsible for ensuring environmental and climate stewardship.
New Brunswick – Minister of Environment and Local Government	Jeff Carr	The Department of Environment and Local Government is responsible for air quality, water resources, land use planning, conservation, waste management, and climate change. The Department is also the primary connection to communities in the province.
New Brunswick – Minister of Energy and Resource Development	Mike Holland	The Department of Energy and Resource Development is responsible to manage province's natural resources (fish, wildlife, forest and Crown lands) as well as minerals, petroleum, energy, renewable resources).

Provincial and Territorial Counterparts		
Province/Territory	Representative	Description
Newfoundland and Labrador – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment	Derrick Bragg	The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment is responsible for advancing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of municipalities. It is also responsible for climate change and energy efficiency initiatives, water resources management, pollution prevention and air quality.
Newfoundland and Labrador – Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources	Gerry Byrne	The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources is responsible for supporting the development of the provinces' fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and agriculture industries. It is also responsible for conservation and protection of natural areas, wild life and their habitat, administration of crown lands.
Nova Scotia – Minister of Lands and Forestry	Iain Rankin	The Department of Lands and Forestry has broad responsibilities relative to the development, management, conservation and protection of forest, mineral, park and wildlife resources and the administration of the province's Crown land.
Nova Scotia – Minister of Environment	Gordon Wilson	The Department of Environment is responsible for air quality, climate change, land, sustainable prosperity, and water.
NWT – Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister of Lands	Shane Thompson	The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for promoting and supporting the sustainable use and development of natural resources and protecting, conserving and enhancing NWT's environment for the social and economic benefit of all residents. The Department of Lands manages, administers, and plans for the sustainable use of public land in the Northwest Territories.

Provincial and Territorial Counterparts		
Province/Territory	Representative	Description
Nunavut – Minister of Environment	Joe Savikataaq	The Department of Environment is responsible for ensuring the protection, promotion and sustainable use of natural resources in Nunavut through the management of the environment, wildlife and parks.
Ontario – Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry	John Yakabuski	The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry protects Ontario's biodiversity while promoting economic opportunities in the resource sector and supporting outdoor recreation opportunities.
Ontario – Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks	Jeff Yurek	The Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks is responsible for protecting and improving the quality of the environment in Ontario, as well as coordinating the province's actions on climate change.
Prince Edward Island – Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change	Brad Trivers	The Department of Environment, Water and Climate Change is responsible for protecting water resources, forests, wildlife, air quality and taking actions to address climate change.
Québec – Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change	Benoit Charette	The Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change contributes to the sustainable development of Québec by playing a key role in the fight against climate change, the protection of the environment, and the conservation of biodiversity, for the benefit of current and future generations.
Québec – Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks	Pierre Dufour	The mission of the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks is to ensure the sustainable development and optimal use of these resources in Québec.

Provincial and Territorial Counterparts		
Province/Territory	Representative	Description
Saskatchewan – Minister of Environment	Dustin Duncan	The Ministry of Environment supports compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and balancing economic growth.
Yukon – Minister of Environment	Pauline Frost	The Department on Environment is responsible for regulating and enforcing safe standards for air, water, and soil; managing human impacts on fish and wildlife; and addressing climate change.

Indigenous Organizations			
Organization	Representative	Description	Rationale
Assembly of First Nations (AFN)	Perry Bellegarde National Chief	<p>The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization representing First Nation citizens in Canada, which includes more than 900,000 people living in 634 First Nation communities and in cities and towns across the country.</p> <p>The AFN advocates on behalf of First Nations on issues such as Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, Economic Development, Education, Languages and Literacy, Health, Housing, Social Development, Justice, Taxation, Land Claims, Environment, Land and Resources, and other issues of common concern.</p> <p>The AFN National Executive is made up of the National Chief, 10 Regional Chiefs and the chairs of the Elders, Women's and Youth councils.</p>	<p>Introductory calls and discussion on ongoing partnership with First Nations.</p> <p>Priority work for AFN related to ECCC's mandate includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Environmental and Regulatory Reviews • Species at Risk • Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas • Indigenous Knowledge • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • Environmental Health and Contaminants • Convention on Biological Diversity

Indigenous Organizations			
Organization	Representative	Description	Rationale
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)	Natan Obed President	<p>The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is a representational organization that serves as a national voice protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit peoples and culture across Canada. ITK is governed by leaders of Inuit rights-holding land claims organizations.</p> <p>ITK's environment mandate is to ensure that the Inuit are partners in decision-making, and that Inuit knowledge, perspectives and interests are considered in the development of environment and wildlife research, policy, legislation, and programs. ITK's environment mandate also includes actively communicating on environmental and wildlife issues affecting Inuit, and supporting the enhancement of Inuit capacity to better address environment and wildlife priorities.</p>	<p>Introductory calls and discussion on ongoing partnership with Inuit.</p> <p>Priority work for ITK related to ECCC's mandate includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Inuit Knowledge • Species at Risk • Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas • Resource Development • Marine Protection • Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program

Indigenous Organizations			
Organization	Representative	Description	Rationale
Métis National Council	David Chartrand Interim Leader	<p>The Métis National Council (MNC) is the national representative body for the Métis Nation; descendants of distinct Métis communities developed along the routes of the fur trade and across the Northwest within the Métis Nation Homeland.</p> <p>MNC considers itself to be the national representative for the regional governing members of the Métis Nation.</p>	<p>Introductory calls and discussion on ongoing partnership with Métis.</p> <p>Priority work for MNC related to ECCC's mandate includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Species at Risk • Indigenous Knowledge • Convention on Biological Biodiversity • Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program • Canada's Plastics Science Agenda

Indigenous Organizations			
Organization	Representative	Description	Rationale
Native Women's Association of Canada	Gail Paul Interim President	<p>The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national organization representing the political voice of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people in Canada, inclusive of First Nations on and off reserve, status and non-status, disenfranchised, Métis and Inuit.</p> <p>NWAC's mission is to help empower women by being involved in developing and changing legislation which affects them, and by involving them in the development and delivery of programs promoting equal opportunity for Aboriginal women.</p>	<p>Priority environmental work for NWAC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Species at Risk • Convention on Biological Diversity • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Indigenous Organizations			
Organization	Representative	Description	Rationale
First Nations Major Projects Coalition	Chief Sharleene Gail Chair	<p>Several First Nations have formed the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (“FNMPC” or “Coalition”) for the purposes of examining: i) how ownership of major resource projects on their lands could be facilitated, and ii) how environmental practices can be improved to meet their needs.</p> <p>Membership in the FNMPC is mainly from British Columbia nations, with some representation from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Yukon.</p>	<p>The purposes of the FNMPC are to work collaboratively, cooperatively and cohesively towards the enhancement of the economic well-being of its members, understanding that a strong economy is reliant upon a healthy environment supported by vibrant cultures, languages and expressions of traditional laws, and in particular to:</p> <p>(a) safeguard air, land, water and medicine sources from the impacts of resource development by asserting its members’ influence and traditional laws on environmental, regulatory and negotiation processes;</p> <p>(b) receive a fair share of benefits from projects undertaken in the traditional territories of its members; and</p> <p>(c) explore ownership opportunities of projects proposed in the traditional territories of its members.</p>

International Counterparts		
Body	Representative	Description
United States	Andrew R. Wheeler Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Andrew R. Wheeler leads the EPA, whose mission is to protect human health and the environment in the US.
United States	Mary Neumayr Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)	CEQ is a division of the Executive Office of the President of the U.S. that coordinates federal environmental efforts in the development of environmental and energy policies and initiatives. Its mission is to oversee federal agency implementation of environmental impact assessments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
France	Ms. Élisabeth Borne Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition	Canada and France work closely together on climate and environment issues, including through the Canada-France Climate and Environment Partnership.
European Union (EU)	Frans Timmermans Commissioner Designate European Green Deal	Canada and the EU collaborate closely on climate change issues and the EU is an influential player in international negotiations.
European Union (EU)	Virginijus Sinkevičius Commissioner Designate Environment and Oceans	Canada and the EU collaborate closely on environment issues and the EU is an influential player in international negotiations.
Mexico	Víctor Manuel Toledo Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources	Canada and Mexico engage in strong trilateral collaboration through the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the Canada-Mexico Partnership. Mexico is one of Canada's important partners in the Americas.

International Counterparts		
Body	Representative	Description
Chile	Carolina Schmidt Minister of Environment	Canada and Chile have a longstanding bilateral relationship on the environment through the Canada-Chile Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. While the event will now be held in Spain, Chile is the President of COP25 and it would be appropriate to make an introductory call ahead of this event.
Spain	Teresa Ribera* Minister for Ecological Transition	A courtesy call could be made to thank Spain for agreeing to host COP25. * note that Spain held elections on November 10 and it remained unclear at the time of writing whether Ms. Ribera would continue in this role
China	Li Ganjie Minister of Ecology and Environment	Canada and China share a long-standing history of cooperation on environmental matters and ECCC is working to maintain this collaboration, despite the bilateral relationship. China plays a leadership role on climate change, has significant influence over developing countries and can facilitate consensus at COP meetings.
United Kingdom	Theresa Villiers Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Canada collaborates closely with the United Kingdom on climate change, including on the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA).

Non-Governmental Organizations		
Organization	Representative	Description
The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)	John Lounds President and CEO	<p>“The NCC is Canada's leading national land conservation organization. A private, non-profit organization, we partner with individuals, corporations, other non-profit organizations and governments at all levels to protect our most important natural treasures — the natural areas that sustain Canada's plants and wildlife. We secure properties (through donation, purchase, conservation agreement and the relinquishment of other legal interests in land) and manage them for the long term. Since 1962, NCC and its partners have helped to protect 14 million hectares (35 million acres), coast to coast.”</p> <p>- http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/</p>
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Karla Guyn CEO	<p>“Established in 1938, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is a national, private non-profit organization that has been working towards waterfowl habitat conservation for more than 70 years. DUC's vision is to achieve a mosaic of natural, restored and managed wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl.”</p> <p>- https://www.ducks.ca/</p>
International Institute for Sustainable Development	Jane McDonald Interim President and CEO	<p>“The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization that promotes change towards sustainable development by conducting policy research and providing a forum to engage governments, business, non-governmental organizations and other sectors in the development and implementation of sustainable development policies. Their mission is to promote human development and environmental sustainability through innovative research, communication and partnerships.”</p> <p>- https://www.iisd.org/</p>
Nature Canada	Graham Saul Executive Director	<p>“Founded in 1939, Nature Canada is a member-based non-profit conservation organization, representing a network of 45,000 supporters and more than 350 naturalist organizations operating at the local, regional and provincial levels across Canada. Nature Canada's mission is to protect and conserve wildlife and habitats in Canada by engaging people and advocating on behalf of nature.”</p> <p>- https://naturecanada.ca/</p>

Non-Governmental Organizations		
Organization	Representative	Description
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	Sandra Schwartz National Executive Director	<p>“The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is a community-based, non-profit organization that focuses on establishing new marine and terrestrial parks and protected areas and making sure the needs of nature come first in their management</p> <p>CPAWS’ major areas of work include: Wildlife Habitat Conservation; Parks; Forests; Oceans; and Grasslands”</p> <p>- https://cpaws.org/</p>
The Schad Foundation	Peter Kendall Executive Director	<p>“We believe that people will be motivated to protect the environment when they recognize the extent to which they are dependent upon nature. For this reason, our primary long term focus is youth environmental education. Our work in this area is dedicated exclusively to Earth Rangers, a national youth conservation organization.</p> <p>Education, however, can be a slow process. It can take generations for people to change their values and alter their behaviour. Meanwhile, human activity is destroying biodiversity on a global scale. We therefore complement our education efforts by supporting strategic projects that have a direct and measurable impact on biodiversity restoration, protection and conservation.”</p> <p>- http://www.schadfoundation.com/</p>
David Suzuki Foundation	Steve Cornish CEO	<p>“The David Suzuki Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan charity registered in Canada and the U.S. that explores human impacts on the environment, with an emphasis on finding solutions. With a mission to protect the diversity of nature and quality of life, the foundation works to achieve its goals through major projects (e.g., the Nature Challenge), education (e.g., guidebooks for consumers), research and publications and advocacy.”</p> <p>- https://davidsuzuki.org/</p>

Non-Governmental Organizations		
Organization	Representative	Description
Canadian Environmental Network	Ian Peace Acting Chair	<p>“The Canadian Environmental Network facilitates cooperation and networking among non-profit, non-governmental environmental organisations across Canada and internationally. Since 1977, they have been enabling and enhancing their members' work of protecting, conserving, restoring and promoting a clean, healthy, sustainable environment.”</p> <p>- https://rcen.ca/</p>
Équiterre	Colleen Thorpe Interim Director General	<p>“Équiterre offers concrete solutions to accelerate the transition towards a society in which individuals, organizations and governments make ecological choices that are both healthy and equitable.”</p> <p>- https://equiterre.org/</p>
Green Budget Coalition	Andrew Van Iterson Manager	<p>“The Green Budget Coalition (GBC) brings together 22 leading Canadian environmental organizations, to present an analysis of the most pressing issues regarding environmental sustainability in Canada and to make a consolidated annual set of recommendations to the federal government regarding strategic fiscal and budgetary opportunities.”</p> <p>- https://greenbudget.ca/</p>

Private Sector Organizations		
Organization	Representative	Description
Advanced Biofuels Canada	Ian Thompson President	<p>“ABFC is a national industry association established to: promote the production and use of advanced biofuels in Canada; collaborate with other stakeholders to expand market access...; collaborate broadly to de-carbonize transportation”</p> <p>- https://advancedbiofuels.ca</p>
Business Council of Canada	Goldy Hyder President and CEO	<p>“The Business Council of Canada is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization representing business leaders in every region and sector of the country. The Council’s member companies employ 1.7 million Canadians, contribute the largest share of federal corporate taxes, and are responsible for most of Canada’s exports, corporate philanthropy, and private-sector investments in research and development.”</p> <p>- https://thebusinesscouncil.ca</p>
Canada Cleantech Alliance	Denis Leclerc Chair	<p>“CanadaCleantech Alliance coordinates regional clusters, associations and hubs to identify and crowdsource issues, obtain guidance and mobilize for change.”</p> <p>- https://www.canadacleantechalliance.ca/</p>
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)	Tim McMillan President and CEO	<p>“CAPP is the voice of Canada’s upstream oil and natural gas industry. We enable the responsible growth of our industry and advocate for economic competitiveness and safe, environmentally and socially responsible performance.”</p> <p>- https://www.capp.ca/</p>
Canadian Electricity Association	Francis Bradley President and CEO	<p>“The CEA is the only national energy association representing all aspects of the electricity industry – from generation through transmission and distribution to customer relations. CEA members represent every generation source, every province and the North. CEA’s corporate partners are drawn from all aspects of the sectors supply chain that underpins the entire industry.</p> <p>- https://electricity.ca</p>

Private Sector Organizations		
Organization	Representative	Description
Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA)	Chris Bloomer President & CEO	<p>“CEPA represents Canada’s transmission pipeline companies who operate approximately 119,000 kilometers of pipeline in Canada and 14,000 kilometers in the United States. CEPA members move approximately 1.2 billion barrels of liquid petroleum products and 5.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas each year. In fact, 97 per cent of Canada’s daily crude oil and natural gas is moved from producing regions to markets throughout North America by CEPA members.”</p> <p>- https://cepa.com/en/about-us/what-we-do-and-why/</p>
Canadian Plastics Industry Association	Carol Hochu President and CEO	<p>“The national voice for and leader in plastics industry sustainability since 1943.”</p> <p>- https://www.plastics.ca/</p>
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada	Bob Masterson President and CEO	<p>“The Association represents over 50 companies manufacturing basic chemicals and resins for a wide range of Canadian industries, while adhering to the ethic and principles of Responsible Care®.</p> <p>The chemistry industry is positioned at the crossroads between Canada's resource base—including mining, forestry, agriculture and oil and gas—and Canada's manufacturers, including the food and beverage sector, construction, plastics and rubbers, textiles and clothing, electrical and electronics and transportation equipment.”</p> <p>- https://canadianchemistry.ca/</p>
Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)	Derek Nighbor President and CEO	<p>FPAC provides a voice for Canada’s wood, pulp and paper producers nationally and internationally in government, trade, and environmental affairs. Canada’s forest products industry is a \$73.6 billion dollar a year industry that represents 2% of Canada’s GDP. Canada’s forest industry operates in more than 600 forest-dependent communities from coast to coast, and directly employs 230,000 Canadians across the country.</p> <p>- https://www.fpac.ca/</p>

Private Sector Organizations		
Organization	Representative	Description
Mining Association of Canada	Pierre Gratton President and CEO	<p>“Since 1935, the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) has been the national voice of the Canadian mining industry. Working alongside our members, MAC promotes the industry nationally and internationally, works with governments on policies affecting the sector and educates the public on the value mining brings to the economy and the daily life of Canadians.”</p> <p>- https://mining.ca/</p>
Newfoundland Oil and Gas Association	Mark Collett Chair	<p>“Established in 1977, and now with almost 600 member companies, NOIA is Canada's largest offshore petroleum association. NOIA core members provide products and services for the petroleum industry and associate members represent operators, trade associations, educational institutions and government bodies.”</p> <p>- https://www.noia.ca/About-Noia/About-Noia/</p>
Prospectors and Developer's Association of Canada	Felix Lee President	<p>“The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is the leading voice of the mineral exploration and development community. With over 7,500 members around the world, PDAC's work centres on supporting a competitive, responsible mineral sector.”</p> <p>- https://www.pdac.ca/about-pdac</p>

Tab 3 redacted

Climate Change

Issue

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) leads the Government's action on climate change. Through engagement with other federal departments and agencies, provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, other stakeholders and external experts, the Department is working to reduce Canadian greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; drive clean growth; develop regulatory instruments; support businesses and Canadians to adapt and become more resilient to climate change; and contribute to international climate change actions to increase global benefits.

Background

- According to the “Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from October 2018, greenhouse gases (GHGs) caused by human activities have caused global temperatures to rise by 1° C above preindustrial levels, and temperatures are likely to reach an additional 0.5° of warming between 2030 and 2050 if warming continues to increase at the current rate.
- In 2015, Canada and 194 countries adopted the Paris Agreement with a common goal to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. Despite this, the IPCC's Special Report concluded that pathways reflecting current global commitments will result in global warming of about 3.0°C by 2100. Under the Paris Agreement, Canada has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.
- Canada's Changing Climate Report from April 2019 indicated that Canada is experiencing warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world, with the north warming at almost three times the global average. The effects of widespread warming are evident in many parts of Canada. Some additional warming and further changes in climate are unavoidable.
- On December 9, 2016, Canada's First Ministers adopted the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF).¹ The PCF is built on four pillars: pricing carbon pollution, complementary actions to reduce emissions across the economy, adaptation and climate resilience, and clean technology, innovation, and jobs. The PCF includes more than fifty concrete actions that cover all sectors of the Canadian economy, and positions Canada to meet its Paris Agreement target.
- Key actions under the PCF include:
 - Passage of the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*;
 - Regulating methane emissions in the oil and gas sector;

¹ Saskatchewan and Manitoba did not adopt the PCF at that time. Manitoba joined in February 2018.

- Accelerating the phase-out of traditional coal-fired electricity generation by 2030 and limiting GHG emissions from natural gas-fired electricity generation;
 - Developing “net-zero energy ready” building codes for new buildings to be adopted by 2030, and model retrofit codes for existing buildings by 2022;
 - Establishing mandatory labeling of building energy use to provide businesses and consumers with information on energy performance, and setting new standards to improve the energy efficiency of appliances and equipment; and
 - Increasing the stringency of emissions standards for light- and heavy-duty vehicles, and taking steps to improve efficiency and support fuel switching in the rail, aviation, marine and off-road sectors.
- Canada’s recent climate actions have put us on a path to meeting our Paris Agreement targets, but further action will be needed to meet or exceed these or any future targets.

25th Conference of the Parties

Issue

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) will take place from December 2-13, 2019, in Madrid, Spain. (Chile had originally planned to host but cancelled due to domestic unrest). This year's conference will focus on advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement and enhancing global ambition on climate change.

Background

- The UNFCCC is a multilateral treaty adopted in 1992, and is the primary forum for addressing climate change at the global level. It has near universal membership with 197 Parties.
- At the annual COP under the UNFCCC, Heads of Government and ministers discuss priorities for global climate action, while country officials work on and negotiate a number of technical implementation aspects.
- Approximately 30,000 delegates attend the COP each year, including Indigenous Peoples' Groups, as well as a wide variety of stakeholders from around the world representing subnational governments, businesses, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), youth delegates, and more. Stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples attend to observe negotiations and high-level events, as well as participate in side events.
- At COP21 in December 2015, the international community adopted the Paris Agreement. By establishing a universal framework for long-term and progressively more ambitious action, the Paris Agreement marked a turning point in multilateral cooperation on climate change.
- Between 2015 and 2018, Parties negotiated a detailed set of guidelines (referred to as the 'Paris Rulebook') outlining how countries are to meet their obligations under the Agreement. The completion of the rulebook last year at COP24 marked a shift in discussions towards increasing ambition and the implementation of each Party's commitments.
- This year, COP25 will continue to focus on advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as on enhancing global ambition on climate change. In particular, finalizing guidance on the use of international carbon markets (Article 6 of the Paris Agreement) will be a priority negotiating issue for Parties at COP25. Canada has advocated strongly for robust guidelines to ensure that international carbon markets have credibility and can drive further ambition.
- In response to the climate urgency highlighted by recent scientific reports, the push for higher ambition will continue to play out at COP25, where some countries may announce new initiatives, more funding for global climate action, and more stringent emission reduction targets under the Paris Agreement.

- Note that while this meeting is taking place in Madrid, Spain, Chile will continue to serve as COP President. Chile has outlined several priority areas that they will champion at COP25, including oceans, renewable energy, circular economy, ecosystems, biodiversity, and electro-mobility. Canada has committed to provide \$1 million through the UNFCCC in support of Chile's COP25 Presidency.
- The Chilean Presidency initially planned to include a number of ministerial meetings in the COP25 programme related to finance, transport, energy and science, as well as leaders-level events on December 1-2, 2019. There is no clarity on how these plans will be adjusted in light of the change of venue for COP25.
- Many of the COP25 themes identified by the Chilean Presidency (e.g. healthy oceans, plastics, nature based solutions, nature conservation and protected areas) allow Canada to show leadership. Depending on Chile's approach, Canada will have opportunities to advocate for integrated and holistic efforts to address environmental issues as an essential part of ambitious climate action, and showcase our broader priorities on issues related to the environment, climate change and energy.
- Canada has historically supported multilateral processes related to the environment and climate change, and has engaged actively on the international stage. Canada has participated actively in the UNFCCC and at COPs with the objective of supporting the establishment of a fair and comprehensive global climate change regime that will effectively address global climate change and serve Canadian interests.
- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change leads Canada's delegation to COP. The Minister is supported by Canada's Chief Negotiator for Climate Change as well as Canada's Ambassador for Climate Change and other federal government officials. Canada's delegation has traditionally included more than just federal officials, including representatives from Indigenous Peoples, and representatives from provinces and territories, business, youth, and ENGOs, reflecting the nature of climate change as an issue that impacts all segments of society, and requires action by all actors. There is an expectation among certain stakeholders that this practice will continue.

Species at Risk

Issue

The Minister of Environment is responsible for the overall implementation of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and for the vast majority of the over 600 species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act.

Background

- The implementation of the SARA through the federal Species at Risk Program is a shared responsibility of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Parks Canada (PCA).
- The Minister of Environment is responsible for the overall implementation of the Act and for the vast majority of the over 600 species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act.
- Once a species has been assessed as being at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), it triggers a process under the Act consisting of the following steps: listing, recovery planning, protection, and monitoring and reporting. The Act also requires consultation and cooperation with provinces and territories, Indigenous peoples and a broad range of stakeholders throughout the cycle.
- The Minister is required to make decisions at key steps of the SARA process. Most notably at the listing and protection stages of the Act. For listing, and for protection of critical habitat that is not on federal lands, the Minister makes a recommendation to Governor in Council, for its decision. The Minister also reviews and approves certain statutory reports, including progress reports on unprotected portions of critical habitat and the SARA annual report. The Minister can also enter into conservation agreements under the Act with other governments, Indigenous peoples or other partners, to benefit a species at risk or enhance its survival in the wild. In 2019, several agreements with provinces/territories have been developed and ratified to protect boreal caribou, and three draft agreements on the Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia and Alberta were consulted upon.
- Several SARA-related decisions are expected to arise in the early days of the mandate.
- ECCC is also facing a number of litigation actions related to species at risk, particularly species on non-federal land.
- The nature of the lawsuits relate to: actions to compel the Minister to recommend emergency measures to protect endangered species, challenging existing protection orders, and seeking compensation for alleged economic losses resulting from emergency protection orders.

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Issue

The global community has begun negotiating a new set of international targets on biodiversity to further expand the global coverage of protected areas, to curb the loss of species, and to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation.

Background

- Canada hosts the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat in Montreal and hosted the April 2019 Nature Champions Summit.
- In 2010 the Parties to the CBD, including Canada, agreed on a 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including 20 global targets, called the Aichi Targets. These targets cover topics such as protected areas, managing invasive alien species, and raising public awareness about biodiversity, amongst others.
- The Aichi Targets were to have been met by 2020. While some progress has been made towards meeting many of these global targets, the international community is very far from meeting the 20 targets, and biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate. Canada is on track to meeting 11 ½ of its 19 targets by 2020 (one target has two components, one of which is on track).
- In November 2018, Parties to the CBD agreed to a 2-year roadmap to develop the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including a new set of global targets. Initial negotiations have begun, with key negotiating sessions scheduled for February and July 2020.
- In October 2020, at the CBD 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) in Kunming, China, the global community will adopt a new global biodiversity framework, with associated targets. It is anticipated that this new framework will guide global biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts over the next 10 years.
- Canada, along with other G7 countries, have agreed to the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, which commits to “accelerate and intensify” efforts to halt biodiversity loss, and “support the development and implementation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which should have a strong level of ambition and practicality”.
- Canada has taken a strong international leadership role on the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This was recognized as Canada’s Basile van Havre was asked to co-chair (with Uganda) the international negotiation.

Freshwater

Issue

The quality and quantity of freshwater resources in Canada is generally acceptable, though there are pockets of regional challenges and emerging pressures to address, and governance is complex and multi-jurisdictional.

Background

Freshwater in Canada

- Access to clean, fresh water is essential for human health, biodiversity, and the economy.
- Canada has the third largest renewable supply of fresh water in the world — about 7% of global renewable supply. However, a significant amount of Canada's supply is not easily accessible, as 60% is stored in ice or flows into the Arctic Ocean, away from major population centers.

Jurisdiction and Federal Role

- Freshwater resource management in Canada is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial and territorial governments. In practice, federal governmental action has mostly been associated with federal lands, fisheries, shipping and navigation, international relations, and interprovincial boundary and transboundary waters. Provinces are responsible for provincial public lands, creation and regulation of municipal governments (including utilities responsibilities for water delivery and treatment), property and civil rights in the province, and matters of a merely local or private nature.
- The Government of Canada undertakes extensive watershed initiatives in collaboration with provincial governments, Indigenous communities and stakeholders. Some examples include management of Canada's national water quantity monitoring network, transboundary water quantity and quality management, the Great Lakes Protection Initiative, the St. Lawrence Action Plan, and the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program.
 - In 2017, the federal government invested \$70.5 million over five years to protect Canada's freshwater resources. This investment is refocusing efforts to reduce the release of toxic chemicals; improve water quality, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; and enhance collaboration with Indigenous peoples. In 2018, Canada's national water quantity monitoring service received \$89.7 million over five years in support of sustained water monitoring, innovation to identify emerging technologies to strengthen water quantity monitoring and, to develop water prediction services to support emergency preparedness for water-related disasters.

- The Government of Canada collaborates with the United States on the joint management of boundary and transboundary waters through the International Joint Commission and other bilateral arrangements such as the *Canada-US Water Quality Agreement*.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada is the lead federal department on a broad range of water issues. Given its mandate under the *Department of the Environment Act*, Environment and Climate Change Canada works with over 20 federal departments and agencies who also have responsibilities regarding fresh water. In addition to the *Canada Water Act*, the Minister of the Environment administers and has responsibilities under over a dozen federal water-related acts.

State of Freshwater, Emerging Pressures, and Opportunities

- Freshwater quality is generally good across Canada. The Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) indicates that the vast majority of Canada's freshwater quality was rated as excellent and good (41%) or fair (42%) over the 2015-2017 period at monitoring sites across the country. A number of localized issues exist across the country, including contamination and pollution, invasive species, and algal blooms.
- Freshwater quantity is also generally acceptable, though an increasing recurrence of drought and floods events is a cause for concern in different parts of the country. According to CESI, in 2015, 25% of the monitoring stations had a higher-than-normal quantity of water, and 10% had a lower-than-normal quantity, which represented an increase from 2010 (there is limited time series data available).

Extreme Weather Events

Issue

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), through its Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC), provides weather and environmental services to Canadians in order to help them make informed decisions to protect their health, safety, and security and has a mandate regarding public safety and emergency management in the context of extreme weather events.

Background

- ECCC delivers forecast and warning services regarding weather, water, ice, climate, solar radiation, and air quality in support of safety, enhanced resilience, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. ECCC is also the authoritative voice for alerting Canadians to severe weather.
- In case of an extreme weather event, the MSC plays an important role in forecasting water, and air quality conditions, providing alerts and warnings to the public, Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs) and other decision-makers.
- The MSC monitors the weather conditions across Canada and beyond on a 24/7 basis, tracks and predicts storm systems and, issues an average of 1.5 million forecasts including for example, 115,000 public weather forecasts, 17,000 severe weather warnings, 750,000 aviation forecasts, and 40,000 marine, ice and sea-state forecasts annually. These forecasts and warnings are used by various provincial, territorial, and municipal agencies and departments, as well as other organizations, such as EMOs, for decision-making and actions to protect Canadians in case of an emergency.
- When Public Safety Canada (PSC) activates the Government Operations Center (GOC) to manage an event affecting national interest and the weather plays an important role in this event, ECCC provides notification products, shares strategic assets/resources (surge capacity) and provides subject matter experts and liaison officers to the GOC, as required.
- The Department's weather products are disseminated to the public, EMOs, and other decision makers through a variety of means. ECCC's severe weather warnings are disseminated through the National Public Alerting System, which is overseen by federal, provincial, and territorial emergency management officials, under the federal leadership of PSC.
- ECCC also works in collaboration with agencies from the United States (US), the International Joint Commission and provincial and territorial partners to provide water level and flow data, including real-time water level data to support international and domestic water management and flood response measures.

- ECCC provides advice for the predicted dispersion of pollutants in both atmosphere and water in the event of forest fires, volcanic ash, oil spills and other hazardous substances spills in water, as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents.
- ECCC also provides specific predictions and services for targeted, weather-sensitive sectors on a cost recovery basis through arrangements with the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Coast Guard, and private entities including NavCan to support the specific decision-making needs of the Canadian military, marine transportation sector, and aviation sector.

Environmental Emergencies

Issue

Environmental emergencies caused by the unplanned, uncontrolled, or accidental release of hazardous substances can harm the natural environment, human health, and the economy.

Background

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has legislated authorities to better prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the harmful effects of environmental emergencies.
- Due to their size or impact on the environment, approximately 1,000 to 1,500 pollution incidents reported each year in Canada constitute environmental emergencies and require ECCC's scientific advice or oversight.
- Environmental emergencies can be highly visible and concerning to the public, and often receive significant media attention.
- Response to environmental emergencies is one of two Critical Services identified for Departmental Business Continuity Management (BCM) and is integrated with the overall Government of Canada approach to emergency management.
- When there is an environmental emergency, the National Environmental Emergencies Centre (NEEC) is the departmental 24/7 focal point for responding and coordinating the provision of ECCC's expert advice. NEEC's primary role is to coordinate ECCC's technical and scientific expert advice and provide assistance, upon request, to the lead agency overseeing the responsible party's response actions.
 - For example, NEEC coordinates the provision of advice related to weather forecasts (Meteorological Service of Canada), location of wildlife and sensitive ecosystems (Canadian Wildlife Service), and expertise on spill fate and behaviour, countermeasures and remediation options (Science and Technology Branch).
- ECCC also participates in all aspects of the emergency management cycle, to varying degrees:
 - Prevention – implements the *Environmental Emergency Regulations (E2 Regulations)* and provides expert advice related to accidents and malfunctions on projects subject to environmental assessment;
 - Preparedness – national and international contingency planning, preparedness training, and partnership building;
 - Response – provides 24/7 spills notification and, upon request, consolidates scientific and technical advice from departmental experts to inform responsible party (the polluter) and lead response agencies, providing them with the information needed to respond effectively;

- Recovery – assessment and advice to the responsible party on restoring environments that have been damaged by major spills of oils or chemicals; and,
- Scientific Support and Research and Development – research to improve knowledge of the fate and effect of spilled hazardous substances, spill countermeasures, and clean-up technology.

Legislation

- Environmental emergency authorities are primarily found within the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) and the *Fisheries Act*, which have provisions requiring responsible parties to notify authorities (as per specific regional arrangements) of a release of a substance or the likelihood thereof, and take appropriate corrective measures. If the party responsible fails to take appropriate actions, ECCC has the authority to direct the party to take such measures, or act to mitigate the spill and seek reimbursement from the responsible party.
- ECCC also administers the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2019*, under CEPA. When certain criteria and thresholds are met, the Regulations require industry to prepare emergency plans in anticipation of an uncontrolled, unplanned, or accidental spill of the hazardous substances they store or handle at a fixed facility and also provide written reports relating to environmental emergencies. The new regulations came into force on August 24, 2019 and regulate 249 hazardous substances.

Intergovernmental Collaboration

- ECCC works closely with provincial and territorial emergency response organizations, and with its American response partners across four emergency management pillars: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Indigenous peoples are important partners in the development and delivery of the emergency management pillars given they are often first on the scene for incidents in remote locations, their close dependence on environmental quality for food security, culture and self-governance of their territories (including lands and water), as well as traditional knowledge of local ecosystems. ECCC is supporting initiatives to co-develop environmental emergency plans with First Nations in British Columbia and to improve early notification of affected Indigenous communities across Canada about environmental emergencies close to these communities. ECCC also considers indigenous and traditional knowledge along with other scientific information when providing expert advice during emergency response.

Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999

Issue:

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) has not been comprehensively amended since it was enacted twenty years ago. Although the Act remains fundamentally sound, there are some provisions that have limited program delivery, the ability to fully implement some international obligations or the authority to regulate in certain areas.

Background:

- CEPA is one of Canada's core environmental laws and is relied upon to deliver environmental and health protection programs administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Health Canada (HC), such as:
 - the National Pollutant Release Inventory;
 - the Canada-wide Air Quality Management System;
 - the Chemicals Management Plan;
 - the Disposal at Sea Program; and
 - various initiatives to reduce emissions from vehicles and fuels (e.g. Clean Fuel Standard).
- CEPA also provides the legislative and regulatory basis for the domestic implementation of various international obligations under bilateral and multilateral environmental agreements, such as:
 - the *Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement* (re: acid rain)
 - the *Basel Convention* (re: transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous wastes);
 - the *London Convention* and the *London Protocol* (re: marine dumping); and
 - the *Rotterdam Convention* (re: prior informed consent for certain hazardous chemicals).
- Parliament has reviewed CEPA three times since the Act came into force in 1999, with each review resulting in recommendations for reform. In its response to the [most recent review](#) by the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) in 2016-2017, the Government agreed that changes are needed to modernize and improve CEPA and committed to introducing a bill to reform the Act as soon as possible in a future parliament.
- There was a very high level of stakeholder interest in the 2016-17 parliamentary review of CEPA, with some ENGOs calling for extensive CEPA reform.
- In early 2019, NDP MP Nathan Cullen introduced a private member's bill (C-429) seeking to amend CEPA to prohibit the use of consumer product packaging that is not recyclable or compostable. The House of Commons adjourned for the summer before the bill was debated at Second Reading.

- On June 10, 2019, the Government committed to a number of actions to reduce plastic pollution, including to ban harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021 under CEPA, where supported by scientific evidence and when warranted.

Compliance with *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations*

Issue

Compliance issues associated with the *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations* (WSER).

Background

- The WSER came into force in 2012, with national effluent quality standards coming into effect in 2015. The effluent quality standards are achievable through a secondary level of treatment.
- Communities that were not able to meet a secondary level of treatment when the regulations came into force were able to apply until June 2014 for a transitional authorization, which allows for additional time to plan, finance, and construct new infrastructure needed to comply with the effluent standards. Depending on risk to the environment, timelines for compliance in transitional authorizations were issued for December 31 of 2020, 2030, or 2040.
- There are approximately *Redacted* municipalities across Canada who did not apply *Redacted*.
- There is no mechanism in the regulations to issue new transitional authorizations at this time, or to modify an existing one.
- *Redacted*
 - Metro Vancouver, responsible for the Metro Vancouver Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is discharging undertreated wastewater into Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) and prey habitat, has indicated that they will take the opportunity provided * to move to tertiary level of treatment *.
- Compliance with WSER requirements is a sensitive topic * and has garnered significant media attention in the past months.
- Since 2015, ECCC has been implementing a national enforcement approach to address WSER non-compliance in a fair, consistent and predictable manner.

- Moving forward, ECCC will continue to coordinate a comprehensive approach that integrates the enforcement strategy with compliance promotion activities, with a goal to address compliance issues in communities across the country including First Nations.

Plastics

Issue

Plastics provide significant benefits to the Canadian economy and quality of life; however, plastic pollution stemming from both plastic usage and end-of-life management is a major global challenge.

Background

- In Canada, 90% of plastics are landfilled, with an estimated lost value of unrecovered plastic of \$7.8 billion in 2016. Plastic debris, including microplastics, have been found in large quantities in the Great Lakes and even in remote ecosystems such as the Canadian Arctic.
- Plastic pollution is a growing threat to Canada's environment and is a burden on our economy. Canadians want the Government of Canada to take action.
- At the 2018 G7 in Charlevoix, Canada launched the Ocean Plastics Charter, which outlines actions to eradicate plastic pollution and recognizes the need for urgent action to address the impacts of marine litter. As of November 1, 2019, 22 governments and 64 businesses and organizations have endorsed the Oceans Plastics Charter.
- In November 2018, the federal, provincial and territorial environment ministers, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), agreed in principle to a Canada-wide [Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste](#), and in June 2019, approved Phase 1 of an Action Plan. A Phase 2 Action Plan will be ready in late spring 2020.
- Parliament has looked at the issue and the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development presented its [report](#) in the House of Common on June 18, 2019.
- Provinces, territories and municipalities have taken various measures to reduce plastic pollution. These measures take the form of restrictions, levies, or bans on certain single-use plastics, such as plastic bags and straws. Certain provinces, such as British Columbia and Québec, have implemented extended producer responsibility programs that make companies responsible for the costs of managing the plastic they manufacture or import into Canada at the post-consumer stage.
- The Government of Canada has also committed to undertake a suite of actions, including banning harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021 where supported by scientific evidence and warranted, and holding companies responsible for plastic waste.
- To inform the federal government's policy agenda and regulatory options under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, including possible plastic bans, ECCC and Health Canada are conducting a Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution. This assessment is being followed closely by industry and environmental organizations.

- Global scientific understanding of how much plastic pollution is in the environment, how it gets there, and the impacts on ecosystems and humans is evolving. The government released Canada's Plastics Science Agenda in June 2019 to identify priority research areas towards which efforts could be directed to address critical knowledge gaps and to help leverage scientific capacity from key actors across all sectors, inside and outside of government.
- The Basel Convention on the transboundary movements of hazardous waste and their disposal was amended in May 2019 to make the global trade of non-recyclable plastic waste more transparent and better controlled, The amendments will enter into force on January 1, 2021 which will bind Canada at that time.
 - These amendments will enable countries to refuse imports of certain plastic waste when they are not in a position to manage the waste properly. This could result in an increase in demand for recycling and collection services in Canada.

Enforcement Overview

Issue

The Minister of the Environment is responsible for enforcing wildlife and pollution laws and regulations (eight acts, approximately 70 regulations) and six habitat protection orders.

Background

- The Enforcement Branch (EB) has over 470 employees, 270 of whom are designated enforcement officers in various regional offices.
- ECCC's uniformed enforcement officers have peace officer powers under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. All are issued defensive equipment and are trained in use of force; wildlife officers are also issued a sidearm.
- Officers can employ a range of measures to address alleged non-compliance. These include warning letters, directions, environmental compliance orders, administrative monetary penalties, and prosecutions.
- ECCC enforcement officers have the powers of a peace officer for the purpose of enforcing the laws under which they are designated, and are independent from the direction of the Minister for the purpose of initiating and conducting investigations.
- The decision to take enforcement action and lay charges rests with ECCC enforcement officers, while the decision to pursue a prosecution is the responsibility of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC), and the PPSC leads files after charges are laid.
- Officers work closely with:
 - Other federal, provincial and territorial law enforcement agencies
 - International organizations, such as INTERPOL
 - Other governments, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Environmental Protection Agency
- In recent years, penalty amounts have increased. In 2018-19, monies from prosecutions that were cases initiated totalled \$10.9 million in fines and penalties. \$7 million of these funds were directed to the Environmental Damages Fund, where they are often used to support community-based environmental initiatives.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada*

Mission

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is responsible for providing high-quality impact assessments and coordinating Crown Indigenous consultation related to the review of major projects under federal jurisdiction.

Operating Context and Major Challenges and Pressures

The *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) came into force on August 28, 2019, expanding the Agency's mandate and responsibilities as the single Agency responsible for impact assessment and the Crown coordinator for Indigenous consultation of major projects. Under the IAA, the Agency is responsible for assessing the positive and negative environmental, economic, social, and health impacts of potential major projects.

The IAA repealed and replaced *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012). It includes transitional provisions for projects that began under previous legislation.

Under the IAA:

- Impact assessments are carried out on designated projects. These projects can either be designated by the *Physical Activities Regulations* or they can be designated by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change under s. 9.
- The *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* enable the new impact assessment system to function and enhance clarity, transparency and predictability in the process.

During the Parliamentary review of the IAA, it was controversial and received a high profile in the press. While supported by the mining industry and many Indigenous communities and environmental groups, it was not supported by the oil and gas industry and some provinces.

The Agency is in the early stages of implementing the IAA, which has involved: the development of regulations; new policy and guidance; the negotiation of agreements with other jurisdictions; memoranda of understanding with federal authorities; development of a new public registry; and the hiring of new FTEs.

As of October 30, 2019, 63 projects are being reviewed pursuant to federal legislation. Of these 63 projects, 44 are ongoing environmental assessments by the Agency, six are ongoing active review panels, eight are approved and ongoing substitution projects, one is undergoing a Regional Assessment, and four projects are being reviewed under the IAA (planning phase). Over the next 90 days, the Agency expects to receive submissions for 12 new projects.

**Prepared by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada*

Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project

Issue

Ensuring the timely implementation of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project (TMX) accommodation measures and responses to National Energy Board (NEB) recommendations.

Background

- The TMX project (the Project) will twin an existing oil pipeline that was built in 1953. It runs from Edmonton, Alberta, to the Westridge Marine Terminal and the Chevron refinery in Burnaby, British Columbia. It was purchased by the Government of Canada in August 2018, following Kinder Morgan's decision to suspend all non-essential activities related to the pipeline. The Government views the pipeline, and the potential to get Canada's oil resources to tidewater, as being in the national interest. It does not intend to be the permanent owner of the pipeline.
- On February 22, 2019, the NEB released its Reconsideration Report for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, outlining 156 conditions for the Project and 16 recommendations for the Government of Canada pertaining to Project-related marine shipping. The recommendations include plans and measures to offset increased underwater noise, marine oil spill response, marine shipping and small vessel safety, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from marine vessels. On June 18, 2019, the Government of Canada approved the Project, including eight accommodation measures and programs to respond to the NEB recommendations.
- ECCC is responsible for the implementation of one accommodation measure - the Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative in partnership with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). ECCC has also developed two programs in response to NEB recommendations - the Regional Cumulative Effects Management Plan and the Marine Bird Monitoring Program.
- Each program includes Indigenous-led studies focused on monitoring and baseline data acquisition.
- The consultation and approval process for up to five Species at Risk permits is being undertaken by officials.
- Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative:
 - Component 1: Engagement and Governance: ECCC, DFO, and NRCan will engage with Indigenous groups to co-develop governance structure for program implementation.
 - Component 2: Indigenous Capacity Building and Cumulative Effects Projects: Make strategic investments to support local communities and build Indigenous capacity for Indigenous-led monitoring, data acquisition, and reporting on cumulative effects.

- Component 3: Technical and Advisory support: Establish technical and advisory support to provide guidance for the consistent implementation of Indigenous-led studies. This will aid the integration of Indigenous knowledge with Western-science.
- Regional Cumulative Effects Management Plan:
 - Air Quality-Marine Emissions: ECCC will work with Transport Canada to analyze current and future emissions from marine vessels. ECCC will develop an online Marine Emissions Inventory Tool and will engage with Indigenous communities on the use of the tool.
 - Air Quality Research and Monitoring: ECCC will coordinate and lead air quality research and monitoring efforts that focus on on-land and marine-based pollutants contributing to changing air quality.
 - Water Quality Research and Monitoring: Improve the understanding of point and non-point sources of pollution being deposited into the Salish Sea and design pollution prevention programs.
- Marine Bird Monitoring Program:
 - Component 1: Marine Bird Baseline Monitoring and Research: Government led research to collect data and establish baselines for distribution and populations.
 - Component 2: Integration of Indigenous led monitoring of Marine Birds: Indigenous led research to complement Government research which focuses on species of priority for Indigenous groups.
 - Component 3: Adaptive Management: Utilize the outcomes of components 1 and 2 to develop mitigation strategies to protect marine bird populations.

Parks Canada Agency*

Mandate

Parks Canada's mandate is to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

Operating Context, Major Challenges and Pressures

Parks Canada is the largest land steward in the country, managing over 450,000 km² of lands and waters across Canada. It has year round operations in each province and territory with responsibility for the management and administration of 47 national parks, 5 national marine conservation areas, Rouge National Urban Park, and 171 national historic sites (including nine heritage canals). The Agency works closely with over 300 Indigenous communities and has twenty-nine cooperative agreements with Indigenous groups to manage national heritage places.

Welcoming on average 25 million visitors per year, Parks Canada operates in a competitive environment and is the country's largest tourism provider. Its tourism infrastructure and offers are pivotal to hundreds of communities across the country – many of which are in economically disadvantaged and remote locations – by stimulating local economies and providing jobs.

Parks Canada is a federal essential service provider given its public safety responsibilities. This includes the management of some of the highest risk sections of the Trans-Canada highway, avalanche control, search and rescue, fire management, as well as an armed enforcement branch. Parks Canada also provides municipal services in five townsites including drinking water, sewage treatment, road maintenance, snow removal and garbage collection and disposal.

The Agency is the second largest asset custodian in the federal government with an extremely diverse portfolio valued at \$25.5 billion. In addition to historic sites and national parks this portfolio includes major highways and waterways systems, including more than 200 dams.

Climate change and other environmental forces challenge the integrity of ecosystems and the condition of Parks Canada's cultural resources and contemporary assets. Shoreline erosion at national parks and historic sites, the arrival of invasive species in national parks, and changing species communities and vegetation patterns are all examples of the direct and indirect effects of climate change. The increasing severity and frequency of disturbances such as storms, floods, avalanches, and the incidence of severe wildfires also impact Parks Canada infrastructure, such as highways and bridges.

The Agency also plays a key role in supporting the attainment of Canada's domestic and international commitments. For example, the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 calls for the conservation of at least 17% terrestrial and inland water and 10% coastal and marine areas by 2020 which the Agency contributes to through the establishment of parks and national marine conservation areas.

**Prepared by the Parks Canada Agency*

Phoenix Pay System

Issue

Since Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) implemented the Phoenix Pay System (“Phoenix”) in February 2016, thousands of employees across the federal government, including ECCC, have been negatively impacted financially and in their personal lives.

Background

- ECCC developed a plan, strategies and initiatives to support ECCC employees and managers with Phoenix pay issues.
- This plan includes ECCC actions to help stabilize the pay system and ensure that employees are paid accurately and on time.
 - ECCC Human Resources Branch (HRB) is supporting all Branch Heads and pay delegated managers in meeting the minimum standards set by Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) on the timeliness of Human Resources (HR) transactions including communication to managers of the Department’s internal business processes and timelines for hiring students.
 - Creation of a comprehensive virtual Pay and Leave Guide to support employees and managers for any transaction or life event that has an impact on pay.
 - Mandatory training sessions for over 1000 pay delegated managers, to ensure the full engagement of ECCC management.
 - HRB has a dedicated Pay Liaison Team which provides the following services to ECCC employees and managers:
 - ✓ Facilitate the implementation and functioning of the PSPC Pay pod and work in close collaboration with PSPC to get to a steady state as quickly as possible and to mitigate pay hardships on ECCC employees;
 - ✓ Focus on priority pay cases such as no pay, low pay, maternity/parental leave and students;
 - ✓ Offer priority payments to employees experiencing financial hardship;
 - ✓ Supplement pod activities to address significant, longstanding and/or complex pay issues in our backlog;
 - ✓ Submit accurate PARs on behalf of ECCC employees to the PSPC Pay Centre; and,
 - ✓ Provide general assistance to employees and managers on issues related to pay and benefits.

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

Issue

The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) is Canada's primary vehicle for federal sustainable development planning and reporting, as legislated by the 2008 *Federal Sustainable Development Act*.

Background

- The 2008 *Federal Sustainable Development Act* (the Act) requires developing, and reporting on, a FSDS that makes environmental decision-making more transparent and accountable to Parliament. The Act requires the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to table a strategy at least once every three years following a 120-day public consultation period.
- Since 2008, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has developed, with input from participating federal organizations, four FSDSs (2010-2013; 2013-2016; 2016-2019; and 2019-2022). The current 2019-2022 FSDS was tabled on June 19, 2019. It highlights the federal government's vision and plan for a more sustainable Canada by setting out environmentally focused federal goals, targets, and supporting actions for meeting each target. Forty-two federal departments and agencies (the 26 departments listed in the schedule of the Act, and 16 voluntary departments) contribute to meeting the targets and goals of the 2019-2022 FSDS. The 2019-2022 FSDS is also a key element of Canada's response to the UN 2030 Agenda as it supports the environmentally related elements of 12 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- A whole-of-government FSDS Progress Report is also required under the FSDA at least once every three years. The 2018 Progress Report on the 2016-2018 FSDS was published in December 2018, and shows where the government is on track to achieve its targets, and where more attention is required.

An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act

- In 2016, the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, during its review of the 2016-2019 FSDS, decided to review the Act, and produced a report with 13 recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness and implementation of this legislation. In response, the government tabled Bill C-57, *An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act*. It received Royal Assent in February 2019 and will come into force on December 1, 2020.
- The amendment shifted the purpose of the 2008 Act to make decision-making related to sustainable development more transparent and accountable. It included the consideration of new principles, including an emphasis on considering all aspects of sustainable development and promotes coordinated action across the federal government. It expands the number of mandated federal organizations from 26 to more than 90, further supporting a whole-of-government approach to reporting on sustainable development.

Linkages between the FSDS and Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy

Budget 2018 provided support for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) was tasked with leading this exercise, which includes developing Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy. ESDC released an interim document, *Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy*, in June 2019. The FSDS is a key element of Canada's response to the UN 2030 Agenda by supporting the environmentally-focused SDGs.

Role of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development

- The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD), currently Andrew Hayes, on behalf of the Auditor General of Canada, provides parliamentarians with analysis and recommendations on the federal government's efforts to protect the environment and foster sustainable development. In addition, the CESD is empowered to conduct performance audits and is responsible for:
 - monitoring sustainable development strategies of federal departments
 - overseeing the environmental petitions process
 - auditing the federal government's management of environmental and sustainable development issues
- More specifically under the *Federal Sustainable Development Act*, the CESD is required to review the draft FSDS to determine whether the targets and implementation strategies can be assessed. The CESD does this during the 120 day legislated public consultation period on the draft FSDS.
- In addition, under the *Auditor General Act*, the CESD also examines the FSDS progress reports in order to assess the fairness of the information contained in the report with respect to the progress of the federal government in implementing the FSDS and meeting its targets. The CESD also examines the extent to which federal organizations listed under the Schedule of the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* contribute to meeting the targets set out in the FSDS and have met the objectives, and implemented the plans, set out in their own sustainable development strategies. The CESD has recently conducted a review of the 2018 Progress Report on the 2016-2019 FSDS.