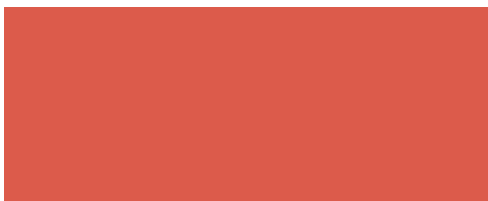


**SOMMET
DE QUÉBEC**
sur les
changements
climatiques

**CANADA'S PROVINCES
AND TERRITORIES:
KEY ACTORS**
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Throughout the international community, reducing the carbon footprint is no longer only seen as a necessity but also as a societal choice that holds the promise of prosperity while allowing for the prevention of a variety of long-term public health, social justice and security problems. By virtue of their powers in key areas pertaining to the fight against climate change, Canada's provinces and territories are an integral part of the solution to this planetary challenge. Several greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and climate change adaptation measures are currently in effect or in the works, while four provinces have already implemented various carbon pricing mechanisms.



MAIN PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ACTIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



WORKING TOGETHER

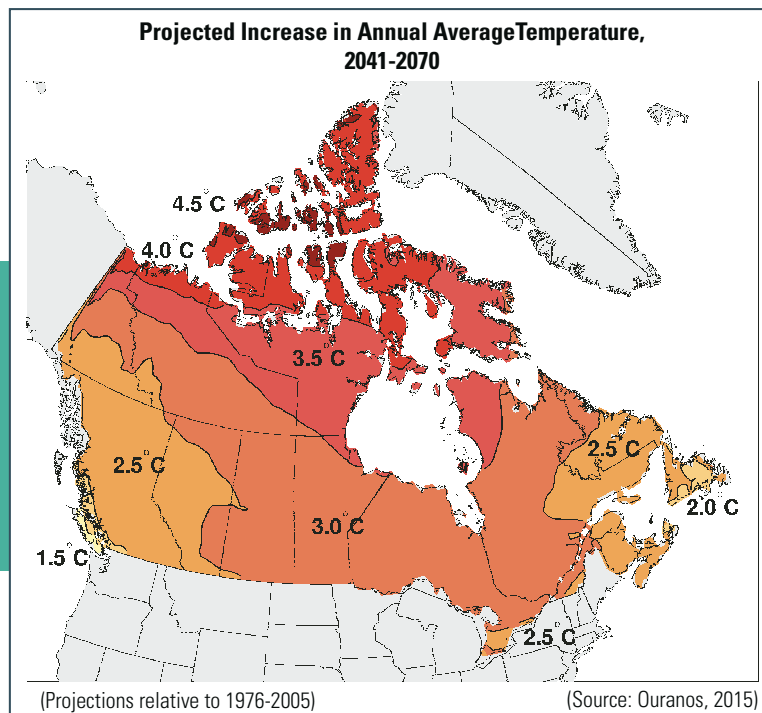
Provinces and territories from coast-to-coast share a common determination to make a positive contribution to address the climate change challenge. In 2015, as governments worldwide are mobilizing for the Conference of the Parties to the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, Canadian provinces and territories have taken the initiative to enhance this crucial dialogue, both in Canada and throughout the Americas:

- Québec Summit on Climate Change, April 14, 2015, Québec City, QC
- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, June 22-23, Winnipeg, MB
- Climate Summit of the Americas, July 7-9, 2015, Toronto, ON
- Council of the Federation, July 14-18, 2015, St. John's, NL



CLIMATE CHANGE FROM COAST TO COAST

Over the last decades, the average temperature in Canada has increased by 1.5°C; twice the level observed worldwide. This temperature increase will continue right across Canada in the 21st century and will be particularly felt in the Canadian North, which will become one of the world's regions most affected by climate change.



This general trend will have multiple and diverse consequences for the different regions of Canada.

In the Canadian North, climate change already has a major impact on infrastructure, housing and life habits, notably because of permafrost melting and the shrinking of the ice pack. Glaciers in Western Canada have lost a significant part of their mass, even reaching 25% in Alberta alone. Milder winters have opened the door to a mountain pine beetle infestation that affected some 18.1 million hectares of forests in British Columbia in 2012.

In the Prairies, a higher frequency of extreme weather events is increasing the risks of flooding. Provinces in this region also have to deal with lower farm production due to higher numbers of invasive pests, and an increase in crop disease and drought.

MORE KNOWLEDGE MEANS MORE EFFICIENT ACTION

Acquiring knowledge and sharing of best practices are strategically vital to our efforts to adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change. In this context, many institutions supported by provincial and territorial governments have become essential research centers in this field: the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, the Ouranos consortium, the Institut de prévention des sinistres catastrophiques, the Ontario

In South Central Ontario, mortality rates due to extreme heat are forecast to more than double by 2050. This alarming trend is also of concern to many Canadian metropolitan areas. Great Lake water levels could drop, thereby affecting the management of water flows in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, the availability of drinking water for numerous municipalities, and international maritime trading. The increased risk of flooding also poses a threat to numerous river and lake communities.

In the Atlantic Provinces and Eastern Québec, increased storm frequency and ferocity, coupled with rising seas, will contribute to deepen problems related to soil erosion and coastal flooding. In this region, dryer summers will become a source of stress in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Climate Consortium, and the Northern Climate Exchange of Yukon Research Centre and the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative. In addition to this list, the Adaptation Platform of Natural Resources Canada also stimulates research in collaboration with the private sector.