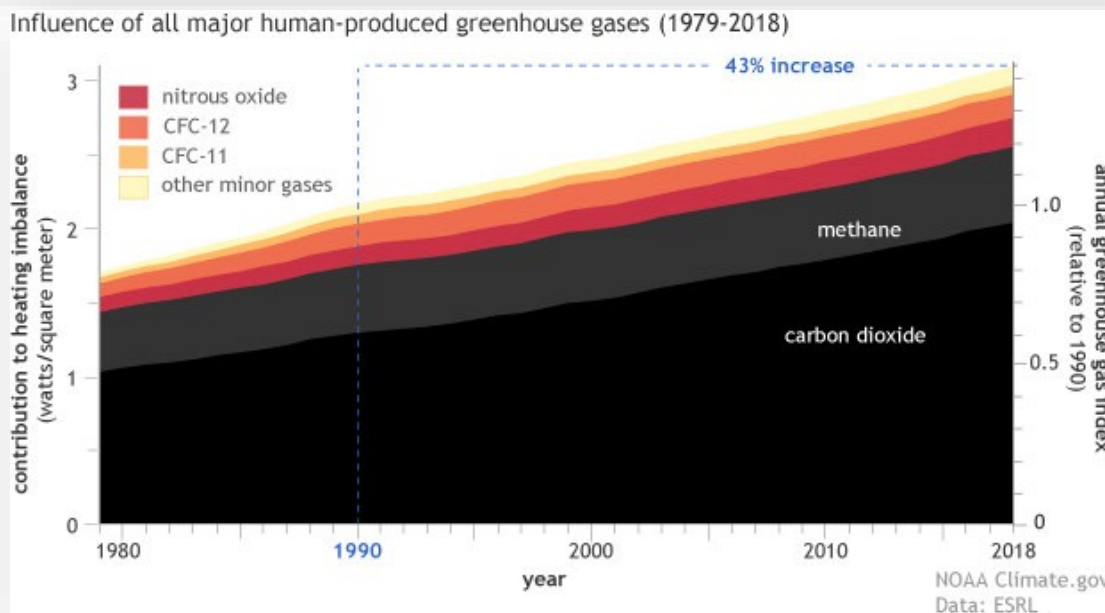
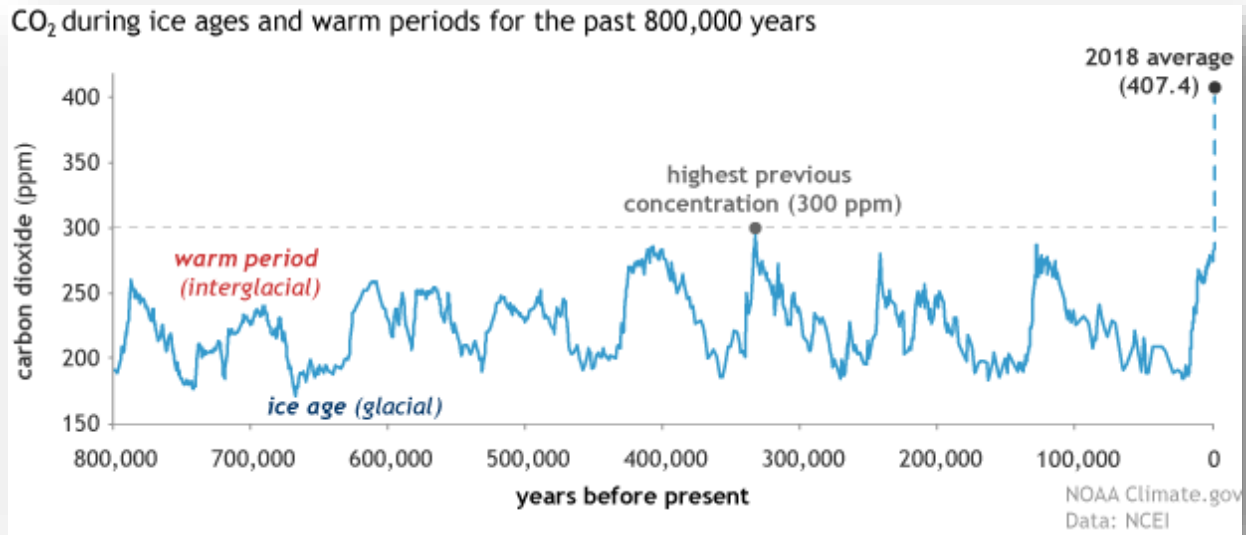


Climate Change

Cheryl Ambrose
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We've known for some time that climate-related risks grow with the magnitude of global warming and associated changes in climate. The main driver of climate warming during the Industrial Era has been the increase in atmospheric GHGs, mostly carbon dioxide from human activities.



The diverse audience for climate change information makes communicating the material contained in the expanding body of published literature challenging. So it's not surprising that the results of a recent poll showed that while close to half of Canadians surveyed ranked climate change among the top 3

issues facing the world today, there was a disconnect between their understanding of climate science and their sense of their own climate awareness.¹

More than half of respondents felt that climate change can't be blamed on human activity alone. Ten percent of Canadians, 21% of Albertans, and 22% of Conservative voters self identified as full-on climate deniers.²

And these beliefs are reflected in [party platforms](#).

Why the panic?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has produced global-scale science analyses every 5-7 years since 1990 and is recognized as the gold standard regarding the state of knowledge on climate change, its potential consequences, and response options.

Last fall, the IPCC reported that 2°C of warming would be catastrophic for ecological systems and human health, and force hundreds of millions of people into poverty by 2050.³

According to the IPCC, we have until 2030 (that's eleven years) to hold off the accelerated risks of extreme heat waves, wildfires, flooding, drought, sea level rise, and extensive poverty, by pursuing a tough but doable pathway to 1.5°C.⁴

Canada is already experiencing average temperature increases at twice the global rate, and our far north is suffering temperature increases at triple the global rate.⁵

Consequences there include decreased ice thickness, melting permafrost, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and altered distribution and migration of wildlife and likely lead to the spread of animal-transmitted diseases throughout the North, putting children at increased risk of disease.

Globally, women play a central role in food production and provision, family care, fuel and water collection and overall community well-being.

Hunger, population migration, labour intensification, wars over access to fertile land or water, and the necessity to travel further to collect water or fuel are just a few of the impacts that put women at greater risk of harm as a result of climate change.

What's Canada's roll?

Canada is among the top 10 emitters of GHG emissions, along with China, the US, EU, India, Russia, Japan, Brazil, Indonesia, and Iran.⁶

As a signator of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, we pledged to cut our emissions by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030. By doing so, it was expected to hold increases in global temperature to between 1.5°C – 2°C above pre-industrial levels, which would **reduce**, but not eliminate, the risks and impacts of climate change.

Unfortunately, Canada, along with other developed nations, is on track to exceed 2°C of warming by as early as 2040.⁷ In fact, a 2018 study reported that **Canada's Nationally Determined Contributions**⁸ – the government's intent to achieve an economy-wide target to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 – are less ambitious than their **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities**⁹ hybrid allocations, (a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change),

Fuel Subsidies vs Renewable Energy Subsidies¹³

“Fossil fuel subsidies send out a terrible signal: burn more carbon.”

Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank

Every year, the federal government and some provinces subsidize Canada’s coal, oil and gas companies to the tune \$3.3 billion, effectively paying polluters \$19/tonne to pollute and undermining climate action in Canada.

Renewable energy also receives subsidies, but not to the same degree as fossil fuels and nuclear power, which historically have received more government subsidies than renewables ever have.

The fiscal burden of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies weighs heavily on the economies of some developing countries, squeezing the resources that could be available for other industries and public services.

Fossil fuel subsidies should be reallocated toward more sustainable categories, such as infrastructure, education, health, childcare, or renewable energy sectors.

What should climate action look like?

According to Naomi Klein¹⁴, climate action strategy must engage the best science. She says, “we have a lot of pundits who know a lot about politics and very little about climate science.” She says, “It comes off as very serious because they’re all wearing suits, but it’s really a joke”.

The inclusion and participation of Canadian women at multiple levels is vital to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. At the family and community level, women often take primary responsibility for household recycling, efficient energy use, the purchase and preparation of food, and education and care of family members.

However, Canadian women’s participation in developing a national response to climate change has been fairly low.

The real solution to the Climate Crisis

We cannot **defeat** climate change within the framework of a free market economy with market-based half measures like a carbon tax or cap and trade. A successful climate strategy needs a sense of mission. It prescribes legislative and personal solutions to halt a global calamity and it means having an honest conversation about climate change.

We are failing to meet the inadequate targets that were set under a earlier administration

We need a new framework—an infrastructure plan that changes the bones of our [carbon-emissions-reliant] economy that transforms transportation, how we get energy, and changes how we live.

The idea that individuals are going to fix the climate is part of the problem.

Political organizing is necessary to achieve massive regulatory and legislative change.

Personal changes can’t fix the climate by themselves, but buy less stuff, limit air and sea travel, reduce animal products in your diet.

The good news

Too many Canadians associate climate action with their electricity prices going up or paying more at the pump. They think it's all loss, but there are real benefits.

The good news is that in addition to reducing deaths from air pollution and boosting innovation, the net costs of climate action may be reduced to zero or even result in a net economic gain.¹⁵

Health co-benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions could be worth \$100 US per tonne of CO₂ in high-income countries like Canada.¹⁶

Climate change is a global problem that requires global action, which is why governments around the world, including ours, have committed to work together to limit global warming,

Call to action

Climate change is a reality we must confront together. We urge federal parties to make climate change mitigation and the inclusion of gendered perspectives a priority in the upcoming election.

The federal and provincial governments must work together to address Canada's role in climate change – the indisputable cause of global crises including heatwaves, floods, hurricanes, tornados and wildfires, food insecurity and insect borne diseases.¹⁷

¹ <https://bit.ly/2kilcEB>

² Ibid

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

⁴ https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

⁵ <https://bit.ly/33r5TvX>

⁶ <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions.html>

⁷ <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/>

⁸ <https://www.climatescorecard.org/2018/06/canadas-nationally-determined-contribution/>

⁹ <https://bit.ly/2kKkr3y>

¹⁰ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07223-9.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-canadas-carbon-tax-a-guide/#carbon>

¹² <https://davidsuzuki.org/project/carbon-pricing/>

¹³ <https://egyptoil-gas.com/features/getting-rid-of-the-elephant-in-the-room/>

¹⁴ <https://www.chatelaine.com/living/naomi-klein-on-fire/>

¹⁵ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/climate-change-mitigation-co-benefits-1.5205552>

¹⁶ <https://bit.ly/2lWmSF7>

¹⁷ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/climate-change-mitigation-co-benefits-1.5205552>