



**CLIMATE PROOF  
CANADA**

Building a Resilient Tomorrow

# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY

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## Essential Elements of a National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)

Climate Proof Canada considers the following elements to be essential in any national adaptation strategy:

### Principles focused on Risk, Vulnerability and Inclusivity

1. Take a risk-based approach. Address with urgency the climate perils that those living in Canada are facing today while laying the foundation to address slower-onset changes that will affect us in the coming decades.
2. Prioritize climate adaptation efforts for those most at risk, including the unique needs of Indigenous communities.
3. Create a nationally consistent framework that ensures no one living in Canada is left behind while ensuring regional flexibility, given that climate effects manifest differently across the country.

## The National Adaptation Strategy Needs Clear Objectives Tied to Urgent Action to Make Canada More Resilient

The NAS objectives have evolved considerably since the spring. We can no longer afford to silo our work on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction/emergency preparedness. Climate Proof Canada fully supports the Disaster Resilience and Security Advisory Table recommendations for priority objectives:



**Eliminate mortality and reduce morbidity, displacement, and damage from wildfires.**



**Protect households in high-risk flood zones and those subject to flooding from extreme precipitation.**



**Eliminate mortality and reduce morbidity and hospitalizations from extreme heat.**



**Establish clear recovery timelines with milestones for those impacted by disasters including a timeframe for return to home.**

With Climate Proof Canada membership across all advisory tables, we can quickly sharpen priority objectives in other thematic areas. Further, clear objectives must be established over the next year in consultation with provinces, territories and Indigenous peoples related to slow onset events such as drought, food security and sea level rise.

### Achieve Goals Through a Series of Consecutive 5 Year Action Plans

The NAS should establish clear goals for a resilient Canada by mid-century, where resilience is defined as protecting those in Canada and reducing the overall impacts of acute disasters and slow-onset events. Those goals should be achieved through a series of consecutive five-year national action plans spanning 25 years of effort (following the approach pioneered in the United Kingdom and followed by New Zealand). Each five-year action plan should be preceded by an updated national climate risk assessment and should be designed to drive and reflect whole-of-society efforts to achieve the plan's objectives and meet its targets. Complementary provincial/territorial and Indigenous plans should follow.

### Performance Measurement (National not Federal Targets)

National five-year targets must be established based on expert advice to coordinate adaptation efforts across the country. ECCC has set national targets for protected area establishment (30% of all lands and inland waters), elimination of toxic substances and emissions reduction. There is sound precedent for rolling up provincial or sectoral achievements within a national framework of targets. Through its federal action plan, the federal government may make catalytic investments to spur action towards these targets; however, attainment of targets will also require contributions and effort from provinces/territories, Indigenous and municipal governments, the private sector and individuals.

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