



# CLIMATE PROOF CANADA

Building a Resilient Tomorrow

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY: CHECKLIST

NOVEMBER 23, 2022

This checklist was developed by Climate Proof Canada to help evaluate Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy (NAS). It can be used to assess if the NAS lays out the necessary steps to reduce climate-related risk and protect people in Canada from harm in the face of climate change.



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

The organizations assembled as Climate Proof Canada have worked closely through the formal Advisory Table on Disaster Resilience and Security to strengthen the risk reduction elements of Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy. These elements were presented directly to Minister Blair and Minister Guilbeault as well as officials in the Prime Minister's Office, the Privy Council Office and other line departments.

#### **We are expecting the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) to be released in two parts:**

1. A national strategy that will set long-term (2050) goals and mid-term (2030) objectives for a broad suite of categories aligned to federal departmental responsibilities (health, infrastructure, environment and economy).

*Climate Proof Canada has advised that nearer term targets must be set in the strategy to reduce disaster risk (floods, wildfire, extreme heat) and expedite disaster recovery.*

2. A federal action plan on climate adaptation that will set out programs and priorities related to the strategy.

*Climate Proof Canada has advised that a federal action plan on climate adaptation should lay out a concise five-year implementation plan to address the risk reduction targets (rather than a shopping list of every conceivable program related to adaptation).*

## National Adaptation Strategy

Natural Resources Canada released Canada's Changing Climate assessment in 2019. That report identified both slower onset climate risks (sea level rise, ocean acidification, permafrost melt) and acute climate risks that we are already facing as a country (wildfires, flooding, drought, extreme heat).

Included in the National Adaptation Strategy?



**Does the NAS establish explicit plans to deal with each of these risks? If not, does it identify how plans for these risks will be developed in the future?**

**In particular, does the NAS:**

Establish measurable targets and a plan to protect people in Canada at high risk from flooding?

*Climate Proof Canada recommended protecting the 300,000 homes at highest risk from riverfront and coastal flooding by 2028 through relocation and property- and community-based measures.*

Define short term, measurable targets and a plan to protect people in Canada from wildfires?

*Climate Proof Canada recommended 15% of highest risk communities develop community protection plans by 2028.*

Define short term, measurable targets and a plan to protect Canadians from extreme heat?

*Climate Proof Canada recommended that Health Canada start tracking hospitalizations and deaths from extreme heat and that a number of actions be taken with urgency to reduce mortality by 70% and hospitalizations by 50% by 2028.*

Define clear recovery timelines for those impacted by disasters to return to their homes after a severe weather event?

*Climate Proof Canada recommended two years for severe displacement and one year for moderate events.*

Does the NAS establish clear targets for addressing climate impacts on the economy?

*For example, impacts on supply chains, forestry, agricultural and fisheries sectors, on built infrastructure, on health system capacity and on nature.*

Does the NAS establish a framework for achieving mid-century goals through a series of consecutive five-year national action plans, spanning 25 years of effort?

*Following the approach pioneered in the United Kingdom and adopted by New Zealand.*



## Federal Action Plan on Adaptation

Given the above, does the Federal Action Plan on Adaptation establish short term actions, policies and programs that will measurably help achieve the targets identified in the NAS over the next five years?

### Ideally, do these actions focus on:

Improving the availability and accessibility of climate risk data so that Canadians can be better informed about the risks they face and governments can prioritize action to protect those at highest risk?

Launching a national education program that provides guidance to people living in Canada on actions they can take to protect themselves and their homes/properties?

Developing a climate adaptation home rating program and the retrofit programming needed to improve resilience at the household level. In particular, the NAS should support the roll-out of the Climate Adaptation Home Rating Program announced by the Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault in 2021?

Improving civilian response capacity to floods, wildfires and extreme heat?

Addressing the needs of municipalities through increased funding for resilient built- and natural- infrastructure and capacity to develop community adaptation plans?

An enhanced recovery compact, including measures to reduce recovery timelines and improve disaster preparedness?

**For more information or to speak with a member of Climate Proof Canada, please contact:**

Sheri Papps | [media@climateproof.ca](mailto:media@climateproof.ca) | 416-413-5207

[climateproof.ca](https://climateproof.ca)

