

# NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION

## Climate Proof Canada Recommendations

Parliament Hill through the wildfire smoke (7:15 a.m. on June 7, 2023). Photo Credit: Blair Gable Photography

We need to take action now to fully fund and rapidly implement Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy. To better protect Canadians from climate-related threats and harm, the federal government needs to invest at least \$5.3 billion annually over the next six years. Climate Proof Canada has developed a series of recommendations to guide federal investment, that will enable Canada to make rapid, tangible progress on the targets set out in the NAS and become more climate resilient. A range of immediate actions that do not require additional budgetary investment has also been identified.

### By the numbers:

**2023** *Canada's most extreme wildfire season ever recorded*



**6,569 fires**



**18.5 million  
hectares burned**



**More than \$1.4 billion =  
cost to fight wildfires**



**155,856 evacuees**

**\$3.4 billion** *Total amount of insured damage for losses from extreme weather and climate-change-related disasters in 2022*

**1.5 million** *Number of homes currently built in areas at high risk of coastal, riverfront or urban flooding*



# Climate Proof Housing

1

**Build New Homes in the Right Way:** By 2026 prioritize an off-cycle reform to codes and standards, integrate of climate resilience objectives, and accelerate retrofits, including cooling mechanisms.

2

**Build New Homes in the Right Places:** By 2026, expand the Greener Homes Initiative and Greener Neighbourhoods Pilot Program. Work with municipalities, provinces and territories, and Indigenous communities. Use federal levers to incentivize building away from flood- and wildfire-prone areas. Take an integrated approach to housing, flood insurance and DFAA programs to deploy federal dollars to build in the right places.

3

Immediately **map communities at high risk of wildfire** and fund development of **Wildfire Community Action Plans** in these areas.

4

**Integrate Resilient Retrofit Programs for Homes** with existing programs in a new federal program under Natural Resources Canada.

5

**Accelerate creation of a Community Resilience Standard** (scaled from the mandate letter commitment to develop a home adaptation rating system).

6

In Budget 2024, **invest the necessary resources to establish and administer an affordable National Flood Insurance Program** for those at highest risk. Implement a national education program to promote guidance on extreme weather protection and physical risk at the level of the home.

These actions will drive progress on the following targets from the **National Adaptation Strategy**:



**By 2025**



of Canadians have taken concrete actions to better prepare for and respond to climate change risk facing their households.



of Canadians, including northerners and Indigenous peoples, are aware of the disasters facing their households.



**By 2026**

additional climate change resiliency considerations have been incorporated into three Canadian Codes – National Building Code, Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code, and Canadian Electrical Code.



**By 2028**

the federal government, provinces and territories have worked collaboratively to prioritize at least 200 higher-risk flood areas for new flood hazard maps/regional level modelling, and have taken evidence-based risk mitigation actions in accordance with scientific guidance.





# Building Climate Resilient Infrastructure

Significantly more public funding is needed to protect Canadians from the catastrophic weather events increasingly disrupting their lives, the economy, and grey and green ecosystems.

1

## Scale Investment in Climate Resilient Infrastructure in Budget 2024:

- Surge funding for the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund of \$2 billion in the first year and at least \$1 billion/year for 10 years thereafter.
- Deliver direct investment for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure program of \$1 billion annually over 10 years through a mixture of grey and green investments.
- Ensure that future programs, such as DFAA, include pre and post-disaster funding for communities to rebuild rapidly.

2

**Unlock Private Capital:** To support the estimated need of over \$5.3 billion annually to adapt municipal infrastructure to climate change, private investors could allocate capital to resilient infrastructure if financial models are comparable to other investment opportunities.

3

**Prioritize Natural Infrastructure:** Provide \$500 million over five years to scale up natural asset management capacity under the Natural Infrastructure Fund or FCM's Green Municipal Fund channels. Properly value and integrate natural infrastructure investments with grey infrastructure to enhance community protection.

These actions will drive progress on the following targets from the [National Adaptation Strategy](#):



### Starting in 2024

resilience to climate change impacts is factored into all new federal infrastructure funding programs.



conserve 25% of our lands and waters by 2025 and 30% of each by 2030, working to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada.




### By 2026

additional climate change resiliency considerations have been incorporated into three Canadian Codes – National Building Code, Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code, and Canadian Electrical Code.



### By 2030

 of public and municipal organizations have factored climate change adaptation into their decision-making processes.



### By 2030

robust guidance, codes and standards covering the top climate change risks for key public infrastructure systems are available to be adopted by all infrastructure decision-makers.





# Indigenous Resilience

1

**Immediately expand existing program eligibility requirements to empower** First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples to improve their ability to access/engage in all existing and future National Adaptation Strategy-related activities.

2

**Leverage existing national dialogue mechanisms** with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, groups, and organizations to effectively deliver on National Adaptation Strategy targets and goals to bridge the gap until the future operationalization of the Indigenous Climate Leadership program.

3

**In Budget 2024, invest in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit resilience to climate change** through direct funding to enhance capacity for climate adaptation and emergency management. Enable community-level cooperation, collaboration, training, and coordination with all levels of government and relevant partners.

- Invest \$501 million over five years in Indigenous Climate Resilience for First Nations to support Emergency Management.
- Invest \$145 million in Indigenous Climate Resilience and Emergency Management for the Métis Nation.
- Support critical investment in Indigenous Climate Resilience for Inuit Peoples in the North.

These actions will drive progress on the following targets from the **National Adaptation Strategy**:

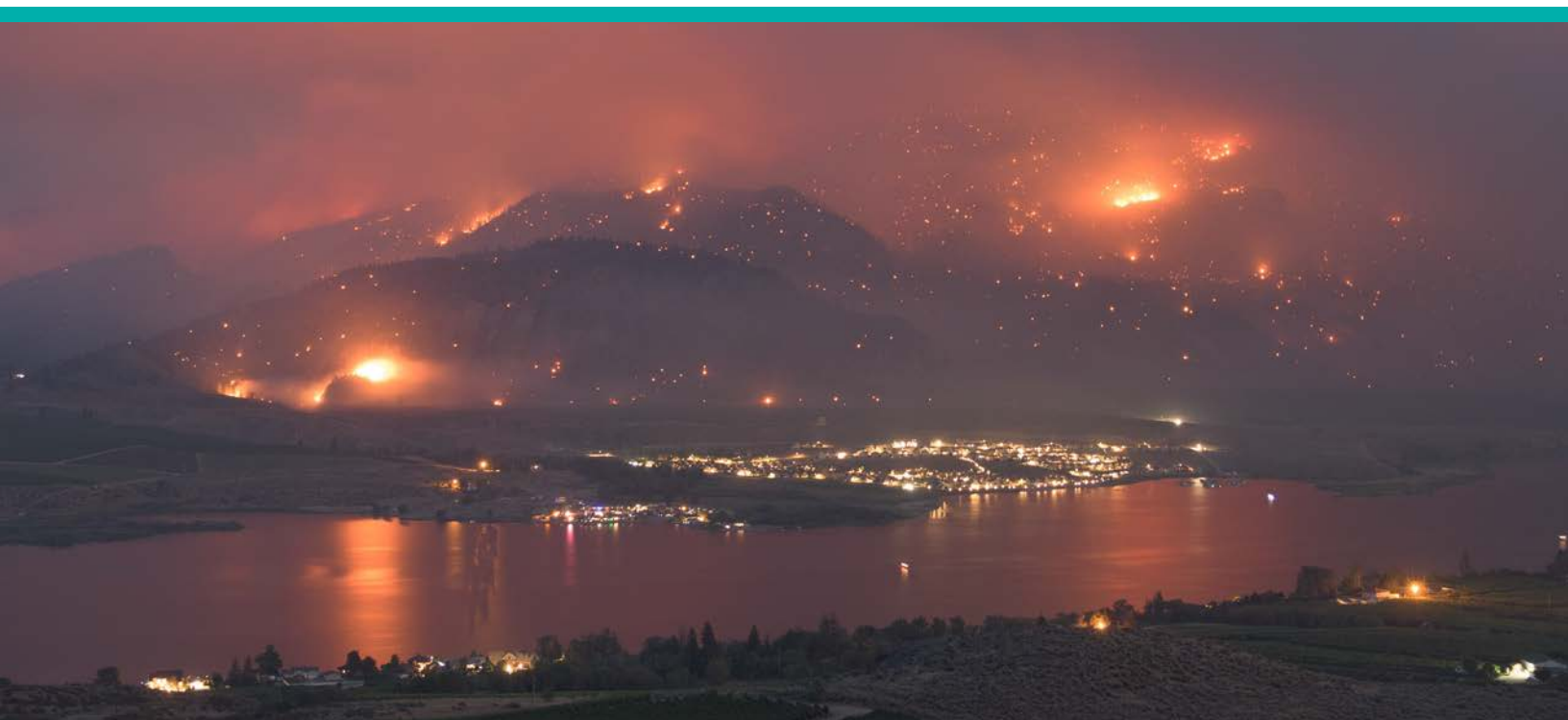


**By 2030**

the government of Canada, in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis will continue to make immediate and long-term investments to support ongoing work to close the infrastructure gap by 2030.



all northern and Indigenous communities have resources to develop, or have access to, culturally appropriate tools and information to address climate risks.





# Adapting to Extreme Heat

1

**Track and publish deaths related to extreme weather events, starting with extreme heat events, in the Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database.**

- Standardize collecting, modelling and disseminating of this data; ensure scalability to other extreme weather events, e.g., freezing temperatures, flooding, wildfire, hurricanes.
- By 2025, integrate data with the Climate Atlas of Canada and Climate Data Canada.

2

**Equip Canada's healthcare systems with data to prevent and manage the impacts of extreme heat events and educate Canadians on how to protect themselves:**

- In Budget 2024, fund an \$80 million program over five years managed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research on the link between climate change, severe weather events and health outcomes.

3

**Provide direct funding through municipalities for planning and community interventions to support the most vulnerable in severe weather events:**

- Scale up federal investments in municipal building retrofits, including through FCM's Green Municipal Fund and Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program. Funding for retrofitting publicly-owned buildings must prioritize investment in public facilities providing essential community services.

**These actions will drive progress on the following targets from the National Adaptation Strategy:**



**By 2026**



of health regions will have implemented evidence-based adaptation measures to protect health from extreme heat.



**By 2030**

consideration of health impacts and benefits have been integrated into key climate change tools, guidelines, standards, and health systems have identified risks, developed adaptation plans and are measuring progress towards climate-resilience.



**By 2040**

Deaths due to extreme heatwaves have been eliminated.



**CLIMATE PROOF CANADA**

Building a Resilient Tomorrow

Climate Proof Canada is a national coalition of Canadian business representatives, disaster relief organizations, municipalities, Indigenous organizations, environmental NGOs, and think tanks that believe Canada must prepare for the present and growing effects of climate change through building a more disaster-resilient country.

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