



The Adaptation Platform

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Platform Plenary Members (2012–2013)

- Plenary Chair – Natural Resources Canada; Niall O’Dea

Territorial and Provincial Governments

- Alberta – Alberta Energy and Utilities Board; Bob Savage
- British Columbia – Ministry of Environment Climate Action Secretariat; Thomas White
- Manitoba – Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship; Neil Cunningham
- New Brunswick – Department of Environment; Darwin Curtis
- Newfoundland and Labrador – Department of Environment and Conservation; John Drover
- Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources; Lisa Dyer
- Nova Scotia – Climate Change Directorate; Jason Hollett
- Nunavut – Department of Environment; Rob Eno
- Ontario – Ministry of Environment; John Vidan
- Quebec – Ministère du développement durable de l’environnement et des parcs; Geneviève Moisan (*observer*)
- Prince Edward Island – Environment, Labour and Justice; Jim Young
- Saskatchewan – Ministry of Environment; Kim Graybiel
- Yukon – Climate Change Secretariat; Eric Schroff, Rebecca World

Federal Government Departments and Agencies

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; Catherine Conrad

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Ian D. Campbell
- Environment Canada; Matt Parry
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Helen Joseph
- Health Canada; Jim Frehs
- Infrastructure Canada; Sonya Read
- Natural Resources Canada – Earth Science Sector; Marian Campbell Jarvis
- Natural Resources Canada – Energy Sector; David Henry
- Natural Resources Canada – Forestry; Kelvin Hirsch
- Natural Resources Canada – Mining; David McNabb
- Parks Canada; Mike Wong
- Public Health Agency of Canada; Rose Dugandzic
- Standards Council of Canada; Michel Girard
- Transport Canada – Environmental Policy; Christian Pilon

Private Sector and Research Organizations

- Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants; Gordon Beal
- Engineers Canada; Marie Carter
- Forest Products Association of Canada; Etienne Bélanger
- Insurance Bureau of Canada; Robert Tremblay
- Mining Association of Canada; Ben Chalmers
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Message from the Chair

How can we effectively adapt to a changing climate?

It is a question that we as governments, businesses, institutions and others have begun to consider, as prudent management practice, to respond to the risks and opportunities associated with the effects of increased climate variability, extremes and incremental changes on our operations. Decisions on whether, how and when to adapt will differ for each of us – reflecting the cultures, precedents and priorities specific to each organization – but those individual decisions are rarely taken in isolation, often depending on decisions taken by or information held by others, crossing jurisdictions, sectors and disciplines.

The multi-faceted nature of climate change impacts and the interconnectedness of the decisions taken in response mean that the knowledge, capacity and financial resources needed to effectively adapt are scattered among many players. That is why collaboration is key.

The Adaptation Platform is designed to support collaboration. It is a network governance structure that brings together knowledge, capacity and financial resources from across Canada to produce information and tools that regions and key industries need to better respond to the risks and opportunities of our changing climate. It is an innovative means to address Canada's adaptation priorities – where we transform and mobilize information, knowledge and tools into user-defined products ready for broad application.

In its first year of operation, Plenary and Working Group members committed considerable time, expertise and financial resources to the Platform. Across the thematic working groups, some 200 participants identified what we do and do not know, and then considered what we could do to address our knowledge gaps.

The outcome was eight pragmatic programs of work that will result in a range of targeted adaptation products. Active participation in planning the programs of work and related activities totaled some 1770 hours, generating 38 climate change adaptation projects for a total of \$10 million through an initial call for proposals.

These projects include a review of existing hazard mapping processes that determine where northern infrastructure is vulnerable to permafrost degradation in the North, case studies of adaptation in the mining sector and regional assessments of climate change risks to economic, human and cultural assets on Canada's coasts. Looking ahead, the second call for proposals will fund activities in the existing themes, as well as the newly established ones of energy and economics.

Adaptation is management science, not rocket science. It certainly demands information, but it also demands that we figure out how to share and apply that information more effectively, that the products generated do not sit on the shelf but are used in the real world in everyday management. That begins by talking to each other. The Adaptation Platform is a people platform – its capacity and productivity will increase as the network it represents is strengthened. It's an investment that takes time, but we expect a significant pay-off for all involved.

Many thanks to the Plenary and the Working Group members for contributing your resources and networks – you've helped in making the first year of the Adaptation Platform a success.

Niall O'Dea
Chair, Adaptation Platform Plenary

The background features a teal color palette with a pattern of hexagons. Some hexagons are solid teal, while others are white outlines. The pattern is more dense on the left side and becomes sparser towards the right. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

Common priorities

Practical solutions
Innovation

The Adaptation Platform: Advancing adaptation in Canada

A changing climate presents both risks and opportunities for Canada's regions and resource sectors. To reduce these risks and take advantage of these opportunities, we must adapt.

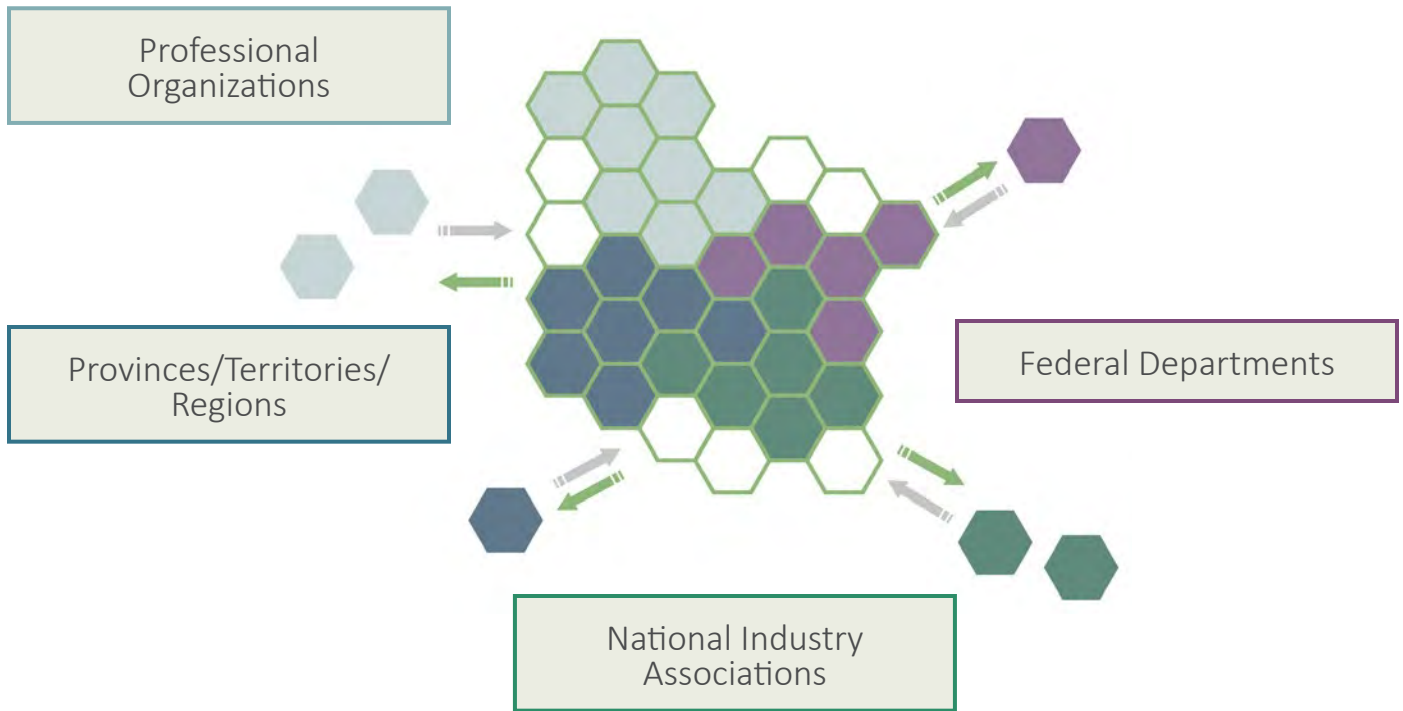
Adaptation entails adjusting what we do and how we decide what to do based on our understanding of present and future climate. Decision-makers in the private and public sectors will need to adapt to a changing climate in order to maintain and enhance Canada's economic competitiveness, reduce risks to communities, regions and economic sectors, and protect the resources and services provided by water, forests, and other natural systems. To do so, they will have to understand why climate change is relevant to their operations and then have access to the tools and information needed to adapt accordingly.

Though some uncertainties remain about the exact form or magnitude of climate change impacts, information and tools to inform adaptation decision-making in Canada exist now. However, that information is often fragmented, incomplete or unavailable and those tools do not always exist in forms useful to those who need them. Additionally, since climate change impacts cut across economic sectors and jurisdictional boundaries, information sharing and co-operation among multiple levels of decision-makers is required to successfully plan for and manage the impacts of a changing climate. And having access to the right information and tools may not, on its own, be sufficient to motivate adaptive action. We often understand better why to act and how to do it by learning from those in our sector or region who have done so already. Sharing those experiences, whether through case studies or peer-to-peer networks, can provide a powerful push to adaptation action.

The Adaptation Platform is designed as a means to use collaboration to tackle the complex and cross-cutting issue of adapting to a changing climate. The Platform is a unique mechanism in Canada that brings together national industry associations, national professional organizations, representatives from federal, provincial and territorial governments, as well as other relevant organizations to address shared adaptation priorities. Platform participants are both knowledge users and knowledge generators, ensuring the Platform's work is demand-driven and usable, directly responding to the needs of decision-makers in the public and private sectors in Canada.

“[The Platform] has been proven to be an effective initiative for raising the awareness of the need to examine how we factor in climate change adaptation to our business. It has provided a great tool for bringing governments and industry together from across the country to address this important issue in a collaborative fashion.”

Ben Chalmers
Mining Association of Canada



Launched in March 2012, the Adaptation Platform is structured around two components: a plenary body and a series of working groups. The Plenary, comprised of senior-level representatives, meets twice yearly to identify critical and emerging adaptation priorities across Canada, channel them into focused areas of work to address common issues and advance shared interests, mobilize new and more efficiently used limited resources, and generate support for adaptation action within member organizations and their extended networks.

Plenary membership is diverse, with members coming from regional and national entities including federal government departments, provincial and territorial governments, national industry and professional organizations. This diversity brings different perspectives to the framing of issues and potential solutions,

and provides an extensive network for the dissemination of the tools and information created through the Platform.

The Platform Working Groups work to address priorities identified by the Plenary. Participants – working-level experts from governments, national industry and professional organizations, industry sector champions, and academia – design and deliver a program of work for their thematic working group. By jointly defining the nature of the problem and the type of actions needed, and pooling their resources, Working Group participants collaborate on meeting common objectives. In 2012, nine Working Groups were launched to address priorities identified by the Plenary.

Working Groups	Objectives
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Natural Resource Sectors

Energy	Advance adaptation and increase resilience to a changing climate in the electricity and oil and gas sectors.
Forestry	Address sustainable forest management in the context of a changing climate.
Mining	Address information gaps while developing tools and information that will help the sector to adapt.

Cross-Sectoral and Regional Themes

Coastal management	Increase understanding of the impacts of climate change on economic, human and cultural coastal assets and potential adaptation responses.
Economics of adaptation	Creating economic knowledge and tools that help decision-makers in both the private and public sectors make better adaptation investment choices and policy decisions.
Measuring progress in adaptation	Improve the ability of decision-makers to measure progress in the implementation and effectiveness of adaptation.
Northern regions	Provide northern decision-makers with the information and tools necessary to advance adaptation.
Regional Adaptation Collaboratives and Tools synthesis	Provide a forum through which value-added RAC and Tools products can be identified and developed.
Science assessment	Improve how science assessments in Canada are developed, how they are communicated, and how they are used.



Opportunities

Focused action

Convening

Plenary in 2012–13: Charting a path forward

The objective of the Plenary in 2012–13 was to establish its membership, widen participation throughout the year, deepen the conversation amongst different actors on adaptation in Canada, and establish Working Groups to address shared priorities.

The Plenary meetings are designed to align interests and priorities, identify new opportunities for adaptation actions, provide strategic guidance to Working Groups, and secure resources to effectively and efficiently advance activities across the Working Groups.

The inaugural Plenary meeting, held on March 28 and 29, 2012, in Toronto, Ontario, convened 42 participants from provincial and territorial governments, federal departments with an adaptation mandate and private sector participants. It was a successful meeting, helping Plenary members to establish links across issues, understand differing perspectives, and provide new insights on elements common to the various themes such as supply chains, transportation and economics. Interest in all of the proposed Working Group themes resulted in seven Working Groups being established, in the areas of science assessment, mining, forestry, northern regions, coastal management, measuring progress in adaptation, and synthesis of Regional Adaptation Collaboratives and Tools Program products. The members were eager to move quickly onto the work and into defining the strategic objectives for the Working Groups and the activities to achieve these objectives.

The focus of the second Plenary meeting held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 25 and 26, 2012, was to explore the Program of Works developed by the Working Groups established after the March 2012 Plenary. Plenary members identified various opportunities and suggested approaches for undertaking the work, including establishing

links between Working Groups to ensure a coherent approach and efficient use of Platform resources, and engaging industry on specific issues directly at the Working Group level to increase the private sector's engagement in the work.

Plenary meetings: a building block for collaboration

High levels of knowledge sharing and creation can only be sustained after meaningful relationships are established and constantly nourished. Plenary meetings such as the one pictured here in Winnipeg in September 2012 are an opportunity to build trust, relationships and momentum for joint adaptation work with existing and new partners.



Plenary members also had an opportunity to resume discussions started in March 2012 on potential priority areas, namely economics of adaptation and energy, as well as health, climate information and water, and infrastructure. Members and invited representatives from relevant government organizations, companies and professional organizations provided the Plenary with information on critical adaptation issues in these sectors. The members endorsed the establishment of the Economics and Energy Working Groups, and agreed to finalize discussion on the three remaining Working Groups at the March 2013 Plenary meeting.

The growing diversity of interests around the table and the high-level attendance at the Winnipeg meeting firmly established the Plenary meeting as a powerful convening mechanism in Canada to foster innovation and the collaboration needed to manage climate-related risks and take advantage of climate-related opportunities across sectors, regions and governments.



Partnering
Knowledge & Tools
Co-creation

Identifying needed actions: Working Groups at work

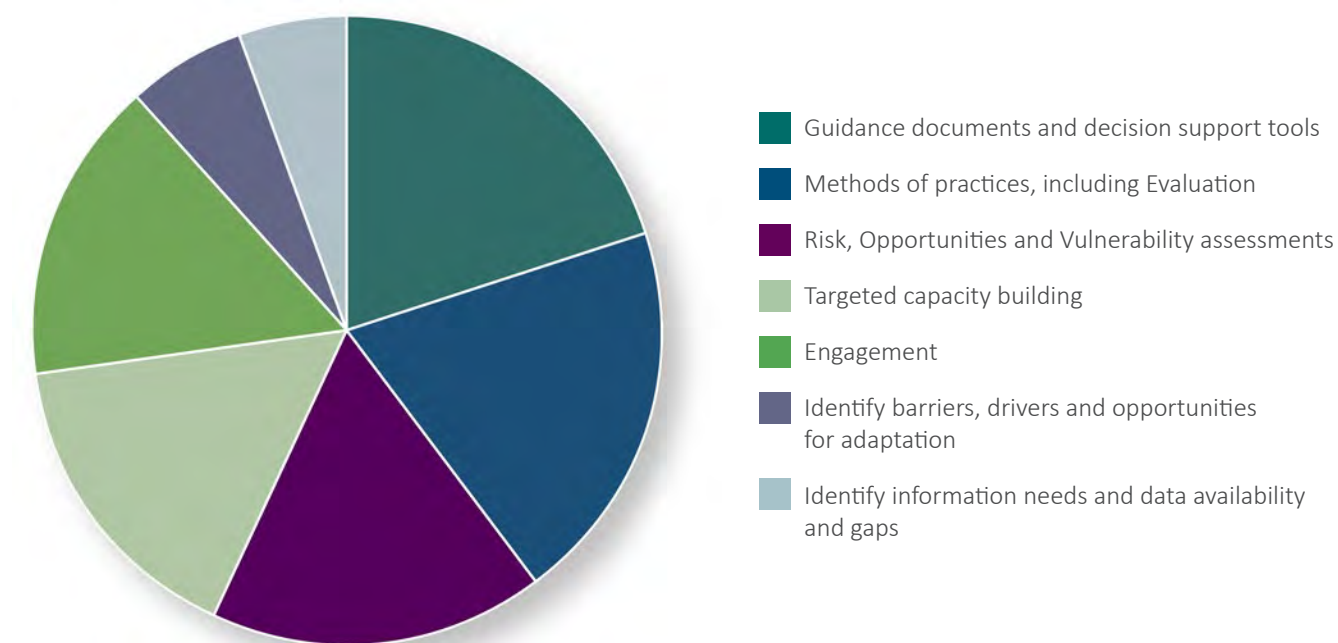
The Platform Working Groups work to address priorities identified by the Plenary.

Between May and July 2012, the seven Working Groups established at the March 2012 Plenary produced State of Play reports identifying adaptation needs in their thematic area, and developed pragmatic Programs of Work to address them. The Energy and Economics Working Groups, launched after the September 2012 Plenary, undertook a similar process between November 2012 and February 2013.

Working Group objectives and Programs of Work reflect the status of existing adaptation knowledge and activities within each thematic area. For example, in the case of coastal management, there is evidence that adaptive action to address climate change is occurring along all of Canada's marine coasts. These actions are primarily

local in nature, and while there is potential for transfer and scaling-up, further work is needed to ensure that local actions can have regional and national-scale impact. As a result, the Coastal Management Program of Work focuses on enhancing the transferability, availability, and application of knowledge through the production of guidance documents and identification of best practices. Conversely, measuring progress on adaptation is a new area of endeavour in Canada, and the activities of the Measuring Progress Working Group have a greater focus on targeted capacity-building and engagement with key actors in the public and private sectors. Activities outlined in the Programs of Work are thus diverse, with each Working Group operating differently based on the adaptation needs identified.

Adaptation Platform Activities 2012–13



Natural resources sectors

Mining

The mining industry plays a significant and multifaceted role in Canada's economy and society. A changing climate poses risks for mining operations, such as the effect of thawing permafrost on mining infrastructure, and may also create indirect impacts for social, economic and environmental systems. In writing the State of Play Report, it became clear that there was little information on region-specific risks to the industry or on the actions to adapt that have already been taken by the industry in Canada. Thus, the Program of Work was designed to address information gaps while developing tools and information that will help the sector to adapt.

Activities in 2012–13 included:

- A review of industry initiatives to identify opportunities and to mainstream adaptation within them
- Initiating seven cost-shared projects to deliver case studies of adaptive actions undertaken by the Canadian mining industry, examine policy barriers and drivers of adaptation in four provinces, and identify how climate change risks were addressed in completed environmental assessments
- Designed an on-line survey, led by the Mining Association of Canada, to better define current awareness, action, adaptation barriers and drivers, and information/products that would be helpful to the sector
- Planning a national assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation for the mining sector in order to comprehensively understand the potential opportunities, challenges and costs. Where possible, the assessment will also look at cross-sectoral impacts of climate change, including connections and feedback between the mining sector and other closely-related sectors.

In the coming year, the Mining Working Group will start to address other knowledge gaps and needs in the Program of Work and continue to engage the industry in this issue.

Forestry

The Forestry Working Group is focused on addressing the adaptation of sustainable forest management to changing climatic conditions. Adaptation for the forestry sector is essential for managing forest sustainably so as to keep the industry competitive and maintain the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. A number of activities related to adaptation are currently being undertaken by the Canadian Council of Forestry Ministers and the Forestry Adaptation Community of Practice, including capacity-building activities for forestry practitioners to assess vulnerability.

The Working Group, building on the above initiatives, will continue to raise awareness on the importance and benefits of adaptation, focus on enhancing cooperation and collaboration on existing and potential adaptation initiatives, and identify common issues and knowledge gaps pertaining to forestry adaptation in Canada. Another key objective of the Working Group is to document and disseminate existing tools, best practices and lessons learned to forest practitioners in order to integrate climate concerns into sustainable forest management activities.

In 2012–13, monthly teleconference meetings of the Forestry Working Group were established during which participants from government, industry, and non-governmental organizations provided information on adaptation initiatives and activities in their jurisdiction. These meetings increased awareness on adaptation within the forestry community and provided new opportunities for collaboration between Working Group members on external projects. They also served to build a common understanding of adaptation issues and approaches in the forestry sector, thus setting the stage for future Working Group activities.

In 2013–14, through its networking capabilities, the Working Group will continue to focus on sharing adaptation best practices and lessons learned with a view to further disseminating the range of information and tools, both existing and under development. Efforts will be made to develop case studies of actual adaptation practices in the sector.

Energy

The Working Group was launched in September 2012 to advance adaptation and increase resilience to a changing climate in the oil and gas and electricity sectors. The State of Play Report tabled in December provided a “snapshot” of adaptation action in the energy sector. The report found that while industry champions such as hydro electric companies have started incorporating climate risks in their decision-making processes, there is no clear understanding of the level of awareness of adaptation, the perception of climate risks, and the level of adaptation actions for the sector as a whole. The Program of Work, which was finalized in February 2013 and discussed at the March 2013 Plenary, aims to address this gap and increase the sector’s understanding of climate risks and related impacts.

In 2013–14, work will be initiated which will consist of a range of activities that will:

- Increase sector understanding of climate change, hydrological scenario information and use
- Assess the impacts of a changing climate on the various aspects of Canada’s energy systems
- Test existing tools, technology and resources, identify gaps and options to address these gaps
- Establish the business case for investing in adaptation
- Identify barriers and enablers for the energy sector
- Identify linkages between climate change mitigation and adaptation in the energy sector, and
- Engage stakeholders to raise awareness and mobilize knowledge.

Where exactly the Energy Working Group will focus its efforts depends on the alignment of participant resources and priorities.

Cross-sectoral and Regional thematic areas

Northern regions

Canada’s northern regions are already experiencing the effects of a changing climate, such as thawing permafrost and reduction of the extent of sea ice, due to rates of warming about twice that of the rest of the world. Northern governments, communities and businesses must adapt to a rapidly changing climate against a backdrop which includes complex governance structures, cultural, social and demographic changes, and current and planned natural resources development.

The objective of the Northern Working Group is to provide northern decision-makers with the information and tools necessary to advance adaptation. This is being achieved through activities that contribute to the assessment of climate change-related vulnerabilities of both the built environment and natural resource sectors, the transfer of adaptation knowledge to decision-makers and the integration of climate change concerns into planning and decision-making.

“The Northern Working Group has provided insight into how elements of an inclusive process can unfold. Instead of creating a program of work that is narrow in its focus in response to the mandate of one funding organization, (...) [the Platform] has set up its Working Groups to include ideas most suitable to the Work Group population.”

Rebecca World
Yukon Government,
Co-Chair of the Northern Working Group

Key activities in 2012–13 included:

- Initiation of projects to identify and develop adaptation practices for natural resource development in northern regions, identification of opportunities and constraints for the standardization of climate hazard-related mapping and vulnerability assessments of the built environment, and development of information and communications products for adaptation decision-making in the northern mining and ground-based transportation sectors
- Enhancing Working Group exchange and collaboration, with a particular focus on how best to move forward on priority issues such as building adaptation capacity, addressing thawing permafrost and transferring adaptation-related knowledge across northern regions of Canada

2013–14 will see the Working Group develop and implement activities in the above-noted thematic areas, informed by the outcomes and lessons-learned from the delivery of the projects already underway.

Coastal management

All of Canada's coasts are faced with impacts from a changing climate, including increased storm-surge flooding and enhanced rates of coastal erosion, affecting coastal ecosystems and infrastructure such as ports and roads. The Coastal Management Working Group is working to increase our understanding of the impacts of climate change on the economic, human and cultural assets of Canada's coasts as well as the impacts on coastal ecosystems and the role that these ecosystems can play in long-term coastal resilience. The Working Group is also mobilizing knowledge, raising awareness and engaging with stakeholders about coastal climate change impacts and adaptation.

Key activities in 2012–13 included initiating 15 cost-shared projects focused on:

- Understanding the role of coastal ecosystems in long-term coastal resilience, for instance by studying the impacts of coastal squeeze – a situation where the coastal margin is

squeezed between the land and the rising sea level – on coastal ecosystems in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

- Conducting targeted coastal risk assessments, including a coastal flood risk assessment for the City of Vancouver and the development of a model bylaw for coastal sea-level rise in British Columbia

The overall aim of the projects is to develop common lessons learned that can help facilitate adaptation action on a regional and national scale. In order to share project plans and encourage cross-regional exchange and collaboration, The Working Group conducted series of webinars and teleconferences with project proponents.

2013–14 will see the completion of a number of projects whose deliverables will be of value to all coastal regions of Canada.

Regional Adaptation Collaboratives and Tools synthesis

As part of the Government of Canada's Clean Air Agenda (2007–2012), Natural Resources Canada led two initiatives designed to advance adaptation decision-making in Canada: the Regional Adaptation Collaborative (RAC) Program, and the Tools for Adaptation Program (Tools). At the end of 2012, the RAC and Tools Programs delivered a variety of products that facilitate the integration of climate-related risks and opportunities into planning and decision-making in Canada.

The mandate of the RAC and Tools Synthesis Working Group is to develop synthesis products of significance for more than one region, thereby facilitating knowledge transfer across Canada. The work draws exclusively on the results and lessons learned from the RAC and Tools Programs and will be completed by March 2014.

Projects launched in 2012–13 include:

- Case studies write-up and compendium of innovative projects from which important learning experiences can be drawn and transferred to local government managers, forestry managers and practicing engineers

- Community adaptation resources compendium and guidance for local governments and communities across Canada
- Guidance documents to assist community decision-makers to strategically select and use climatic information based on their needs, capacity, variables in adaptation history, region, etc.
- Testing the Adaptive Policy Assessment Tool for broader application in terms of evaluating program resiliency to climate change, initially piloted under the Prairies RAC
- Developing a Sea Level Rise Primer publication and companion materials to provide guidance on “how to make the business case” for adaptation in coastal zones, based on British Columbia and Atlantic RAC activities

These projects will be completed in 2013–14. Two additional products under consideration for next year involve: (i) analyzing related outcomes from the RAC projects and developing guidance for good practices for water management in a changing climate; and (ii) analyzing the methods used to evaluate the costs and benefits of climate change adaptation to inform related work under the Platform.

A communications plan is a key component in getting these products into the hands of those who need them. The RAC and Tools Synthesis Working Group and Platform participants will have an important role in widely disseminating the final products through their networks. In addition, each project is developing a strategy specific to its target audience.

Economics of adaptation

The economics of climate change adaptation is complex. One striking feature is that the aggregate economic impacts of a changing climate may be very different from the economic impacts at a local or regional level. In 2011, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy assessed the costs of climate change to the Canadian economy to be in a range of \$21 billion to \$43 billion per year.

Determining the economic costs of climate change impacts on a country-wide scale depends on a wide range of variables – including global greenhouse gas emissions, economic and demographic trends and policy responses. Thus, estimates of the aggregate economic costs of climate change adaptation are subject to considerable uncertainty. While this big-picture analysis is helpful to understanding the economic issues in a larger context, it fails to provide a useful lens for decision-makers to assess their particular economic risks and determine an economically efficient path forward.

Regardless of the scale of analysis, decisions about climate change adaptation will necessarily be made under conditions of uncertainty, but analysis of the relative costs, benefits, efficiency and effectiveness of a range of possible options will help to enable more fully informed decision-making and to justify investment in adaptation measures.

“The Adaptation Platform provides a knowledgeable forum for actively exchanging ideas and information and thereby helping to move the adaptation yardstick forward. Insurance Bureau of Canada’s participation in the Adaptation Platform Economics of Adaptation Working Group has shown us that the commitment we have to promoting adaptation is broadly shared across Canada. NRCan’s efforts to reach out to the private sector in this critical initiative is to be commended.”

Barb Sulzenko-Laurie
Vice-President, Policy,
Insurance Bureau of Canada

The Economics Working Group, established in September 2012, is working towards generating economic knowledge to help bring clarity to adaptation choices. It will also assess the potential of existing economic instruments (financial, regulatory, behavioural) in the private and public sectors to encourage efficient adaptation, and will work with leaders in the financial sector to develop guidance on incorporating aspects of a changing climate in their policies, practice and operations.

In the coming year, 2013–14, the Economics Working Group will initiate work on regional economic impact and adaptation option analysis in such subjects as the Great Lakes, water on the Prairies, and coastal zones in Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Work will also begin on the economic tools that promote efficient and effective decisions in both the public and private sectors. Scoping out work with the financial services sector to help identify opportunities for incorporating information on climate impacts and adaptation into financial sector decisions will be undertaken during this period as well. Also in 2013–14, the Insurance Bureau of Canada will lead the work to determine the economic costs of climate change in large Canadian municipalities and create a methodology for communities to develop a business case for adaptation measures.

Science assessment

The cross-cutting character of climate change impacts and adaptation, and the rapidly growing body of relevant scientific, technical and other types of information, can easily overwhelm and confuse decision-makers. Science assessments are an important tool through which the large and rapidly growing body of scientific, technical and other information relevant to climate change can be synthesized, evaluated and condensed. These assessments generate clear, concise, evidence-based information in a timely manner to assist decision-making.

The goal of the Science Assessment Working Group is to help improve how science assessments in Canada are developed, how they are communicated, and how they are used. The Group will achieve this through enhancing the participation of key stakeholders, informing the development of new assessments, identifying major knowledge and information gaps, and enhancing the uptake of assessment findings.

Key activities in 2012–13 included:

- Engaging stakeholders, including Adaptation Platform organizations, in expert and government review of eight chapters of the update to the 2008 National Assessment – From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate
- Undertaking a pilot survey of decision-makers on how they have used past science assessments, in order to inform the development of future assessments
- Suggestions relating to participants and approaches for planned climate change impact and adaptation assessments being led by Natural Resources Canada (Coastal Assessment), Transport Canada and the Mining Working Group

2013–14 will see the completion and release of the update to the 2008 National Assessment noted above. The Working Group will play a major role in the dissemination of the report and communication of its key findings, which include developing supplementary, targeted assessment products. Other working group activities will focus on the leading-edge work in science assessments as a means of familiarizing Working Group members with this type of tool and its value to their work. The intent is to develop champions to promote and contribute to ongoing science assessments, building towards a new National Assessment in 2018.

Measuring progress

The goal of this Working Group is to improve the ability of decision-makers to measure progress in the implementation of adaptation actions, as well as the effectiveness of these actions. Measurement helps to assess whether resources have been effectively allocated and to design actions that better deliver adaptation benefits to end-users. Measuring the effectiveness of adaptation can be challenging. The actions may need to be implemented now but not tested by events until well into the future. They often do not have a defined numerical target, and measurement may need to capture avoided damages.

Since this is a new topic for many participants, the Program of Work was designed to build the Working Group's capacity first by studying and testing measurement approaches used by others. Later phases of work will focus on developing guidance for use in Canada and sharing the information more widely.

Key activities to date include:

- a seminar on an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development paper concerning the measurement of evaluation was led by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment
- Sharing of lessons learned by the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives Canada in preparing their National Adaptation Measures Report
- Initiation of three projects that will study measurement approaches in five programs outside of the adaptation issue. These programs deal with measurement issues similar to those found in relation to adaptation. The approaches used to measure their progress and impact will be examined for lessons that can be applied to measurement of adaptation.

In the coming year, the Working Group will examine whether adaptation measurement tools and approaches used outside of Canada would be useful in the Canadian context. Combined with the lessons learned from the three funded projects, the information will form a basis for next steps in developing Canadian approaches to measurement.



Online tool

User-generated knowledge

Connecting

Technology-enabled collaboration: The Workspace

An online Workspace was launched in March 2012 to facilitate the gathering, organization and dissemination of knowledge resources related to the different thematic areas of work, and to create a means for enhanced interaction among Platform participants.

The screenshot shows the 'Adaptation Platform Workspace' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'PLENARY', 'WORKING GROUPS', and 'PEOPLE'. A search bar is positioned on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with a list of thematic areas: Plenary, Coastal Management, Economics, Energy, Forestry, Infrastructure & Buildings, Measuring Progress, Mining, Northern, RAC Synthesis, Science Assessment, and Water & Climate Information. Below this sidebar is a 'Workspace Q&A' section with a list of questions. The main content area starts with a 'Welcome' message from Niall O'Dea, Director of CCIAD, which includes a photo and a brief description of the workspace's purpose. Below the welcome message is an 'Events' section featuring a webinar titled '1. Adaptation Platform Webinar Series - Webinar # 1 (English)'. The webinar details include the topic 'Adaptation in Response to Extreme Climate Events', a speaker 'Ken Daly, President of National Grid, New York', and the date 'May 29, 2013'. A video recording link is provided. Below the events section is a 'Featured Resources' section with two items: '1. 1st Adaptation Platform Annual Report, March 2012 - February 2013.' and '2. March 2013 Plenary Meeting Summary'.

The Workspace is an interactive forum complementing other engagement mechanisms, such as teleconferences and face-to-face meetings. The virtual forum does not replace traditional forms of discussion and collaboration, but rather provides an additional means to participate in a structured collaborative work experience, such as the creation of the Programs of Work, and it provides a space to manage and share the knowledge generated.

Using this as the primary mechanism for working group collaboration, a total of

198 participants generated 465 comments on documents posted to the forum in 2012–13 and an average of 100 individuals logged in to the Workspace each month. This was complemented by more than 70 teleconference calls where Workspace material was discussed.

The objectives for the Workspace in 2013–14 are to maintain and increase participation rates, respond to users' emerging needs, and keep up to date with the evolving features and functionalities of this Web 2.0 tool.



Creating value

Working together

Pooling Resources: Our investment in climate change adaptation

The adaptation landscape in Canada is diverse and rapidly evolving with a growing number of players bringing new resources to invest in adaptation.

The Adaptation Platform enables organizations from the public and private sectors to channel knowledge, capacity and financial resources to effectively and efficiently address adaptation priorities and to ensure the results of that work – information, tools, recommendations, etc. – are broadly accessible to those who can use them.

In 2012-13, Plenary members and Working Group participants committed their time, expertise and financial resources to the Platform in a meaningful way. Indeed, active participation in conference calls to plan Programs of Work and related activities totalled some 1500 person-hours, generating projects to carry out work under the Platform worth some 10 million dollars.

Working Group participants committed an additional 270 person-hours in providing expert advice to the proposal review process, guidance as members of a project advisory committee, or developing survey instruments to assess the level of awareness of climate change risks and adaptation in their thematic areas.

While Platform contribution varies widely, from in-kind activities at the Working Group level to large projects that are financially supported by multiple organizations, the guiding principle of identifying and mobilizing resources and more efficiently using limited resources to address common adaptation issues and advance shared interests was consistent. The commitment and substantial investment of Platform participants in 2012-13, either in Plenary or Working Groups, must continue in 2013-14 in order to consolidate our early successes and bring all of the planned activities to fruition.

“The Adaptation Platform fulfills the very important role of bringing together the Canadian adaptation stakeholders from both governments and industry sectors at the operational level to ensure an optimal coordination of adaptation efforts towards achievable goals. The Platform is instrumental in optimizing scarce resources by avoiding duplication of efforts by multiple organizations.”

Robert Tremblay
Director, Research,
Insurance Bureau of Canada





New products
Spreading Innovation

Going forward in 2013–14

The Adaptation Platform is an innovative and novel approach to advancing adaptation in Canada.

The Platform's membership brings diverse knowledge, resources and players together. That membership reflects the diversity of Canada's regions and economic sectors, as well as the diversity of decision-makers who must be engaged to advance adaptation. As a model for collaboration, the Platform is new and therefore imperfect, but its first-year test-run is a success and it will improve in the year ahead.

Collaboration is built on relationships and on trust. The Platform was built on strong federal–provincial–territorial relationships and strong relationships with professional and private sector organizations forged through past initiatives such as the Regional Adaptation Collaborative and Tools programs. It has helped to integrate those two communities and has also engaged other federal government departments with mandates to advance adaptation. The past year has also seen substantive engagement from both industry associations and specific companies. Next year, we will deepen and broaden private sector engagement and include other key players from such areas as the financial sector to explore what we can effectively do together to advance adaptation.

Adaptation is still a nascent field which means that knowledge and capacity are unevenly distributed among regions and sectors across Canada. Generating useful information and designing useful tools can be challenging in the absence of experience and knowledge of precisely what information and tools we will need. Consequently, strategic capacity building must remain an important element of our work and an important consideration for Platform members in the coming year.

The Platform provides an innovative structure to pool the resources of a wide range of partners to more efficiently initiate and undertake activities to advance shared adaptation priorities in Canada. As Working Group activities progress, it will become important to identify additional resources to carry out the work, and create new partnerships to share existing ones. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the nine established Working Groups focus on sectoral and cross-cutting priorities that Natural Resources Canada shares with Plenary colleagues. However, with work well advanced on the proposed establishment of a Water and Climate Information Working Group and an Infrastructure Working Group, we are seeing other partners taking the lead in advancing their adaptation priorities. In 2013, it will be important that others continue to come to the Platform to lead work on the areas that they care about and to pool the resources of a wide range of actors to more efficiently initiate and conduct adaptation activities.

Finally, in the coming year, as the Working Groups generate a growing body of knowledge and an extended suite of products, the ability to transfer knowledge and create synergies will become imperative. Improving the mechanism to efficiently transfer results and lessons learned amongst the different Working Groups will be an essential component to realizing the potential of the Adaptation Platform to enhance the dissemination and application of the information and tools developed and bring adaptation innovations to a larger scale.

The Adaptation Platform helps us tackle the complexity of adaptation by building networks,

facilitating action, devising partnerships to channel limited resources, and championing adaptation as a prudent business practice and a strategic management tool. Through these means, we are helping to push past the paralysis of climate change uncertainty and equip others with the information and tools they need. In 2012-13, we built the structure for success; now in the Platform's

second year, we'll start seeing the result. New knowledge and new approaches will be delivered. Opportunities to scale these new products upward and apply them outward will be seized. Together we will generate value well beyond the individual projects and influence adaptation choices across Canada from coast to coast to coast.

