



# ACCOUNTING FOR ECOSYSTEM CHANGE IN CANADA:

SELECTED FINDINGS FROM HUMAN ACTIVITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, 2021

ECOSYSTEM TYPE	ECOSYSTEM EXTENT	CONDITIONS AND DRIVERS	SERVICES AND BENEFITS
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## SETTLEMENTS

**11%**

Percentage growth of built-up and artificial surface area between 2000 and 2015

**76%**

Percentage of population centre area classed as 'green' in the summer of 2019

**3.7 grams**

Quantity of air pollutants filtered annually per square metre of urban tree cover



## AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS

**64%**

Proportion of Canada's directly modified land used for agriculture

**515 m**

Longest average distance to a parcel of natural land, occurring in the Prairies

**\$28.1 billion**

Contribution of primary agriculture to GDP in 2018



## FORESTS

**36%**

Percentage of Canada's landmass covered by forest

**1%**

Average percentage of total forest area harvested or burned annually between 1986 and 2019

**205 tonnes per hectare**

Average amount of carbon stored in Canada's managed forests



## WETLANDS

**11%**

Percentage of Canada's landmass covered by organic wetland known as peatland

**1.7°C**

Average annual increase in air temperature over peatlands from 1948 to 2016

**147 gigatonnes**

Amount of carbon stored in Canada's boreal and subarctic peatlands



## FRESHWATER

**13%**

Percentage of inland area covered by freshwater

**3.3°C**

Average increase in winter air temperature over freshwater from 1948 to 2016

**36.8 billion m<sup>3</sup>**

Amount of water used by industry and households in 2017



## OCEANS

**5.75 million km<sup>2</sup>**

Area included in Canada's exclusive economic zone

**19%**

Decline in 10-year average Arctic ice coverage between the 1980s and 2010s

**784,000 tonnes**

Fish, shellfish and marine plants harvested in 2019



## CANADA

**9%**

Percentage of Canada's landmass is directly modified

**7°C**

Largest average increase in winter air temperature in Canada from 1948 to 2016, occurring in northwestern Canada

**16.1 million**

Number of visitors who enjoyed the nature of Canada's national parks in 2019

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, "Accounting for ecosystem change in Canada," *Human Activity and the Environment*, 2021. Catalogue number: 11-627-M ISBN: 978-0-660-40365-6

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