

# National knowledge Assessments in Canada

Expert meeting to assess progress to formulate and  
implement National Adaptation Plans,

7-9 February, 2018, Sao Tomé and Príncipe

# Outline

- Brief outline of relevant context
- Lessons learned from national adaptation knowledge assessments
  - Scope and scale
  - Resources
  - Process

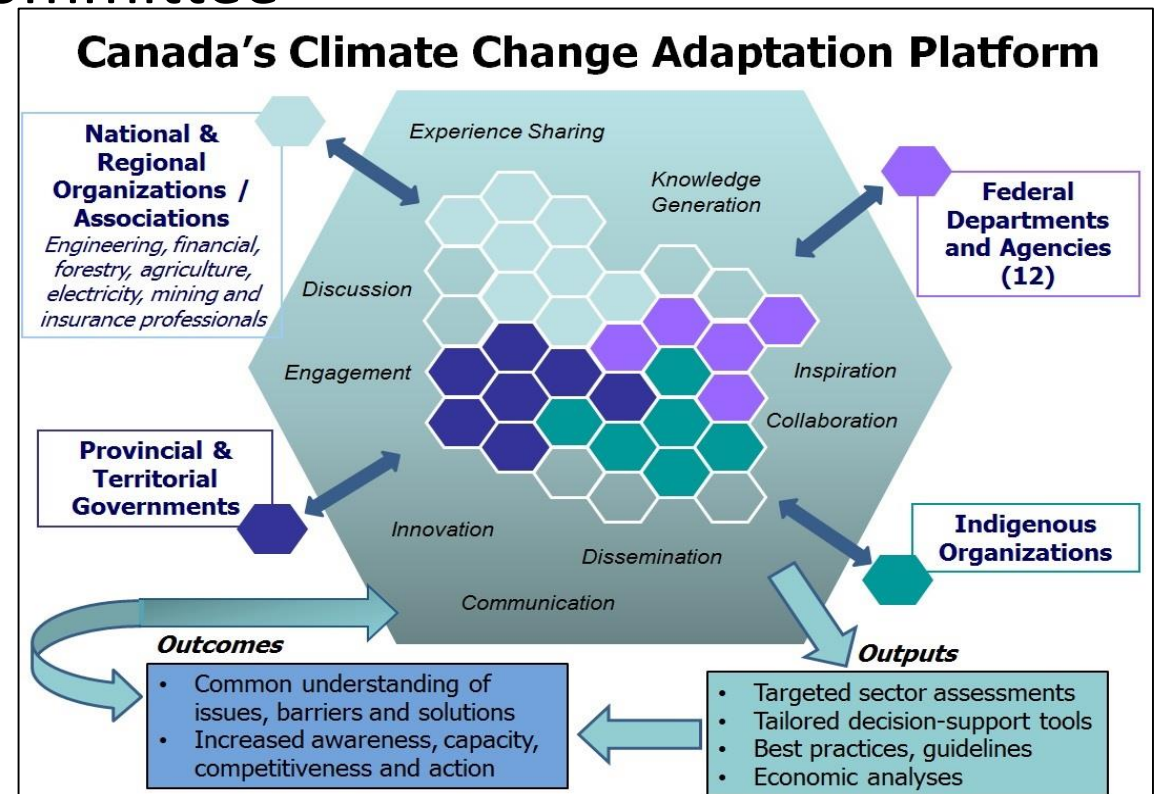
# Current policy context

- Decentralized federation
- Adaptation Policy Framework (2011) defines the federal role as:
  1. Generating and sharing knowledge
  2. Building adaptive capacity
  3. Integrating adaptation into federal policy and planning
- Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change (2016)
  - Includes Adaptation and Climate Resilience pillar\*
  - Five theme areas under ACR pillar:
    1. Translating information into action
    2. Building climate resilience through infrastructure
    3. Protecting and improving human health
    4. Supporting particularly vulnerable regions
    5. Reducing climate-related hazards and disaster risks

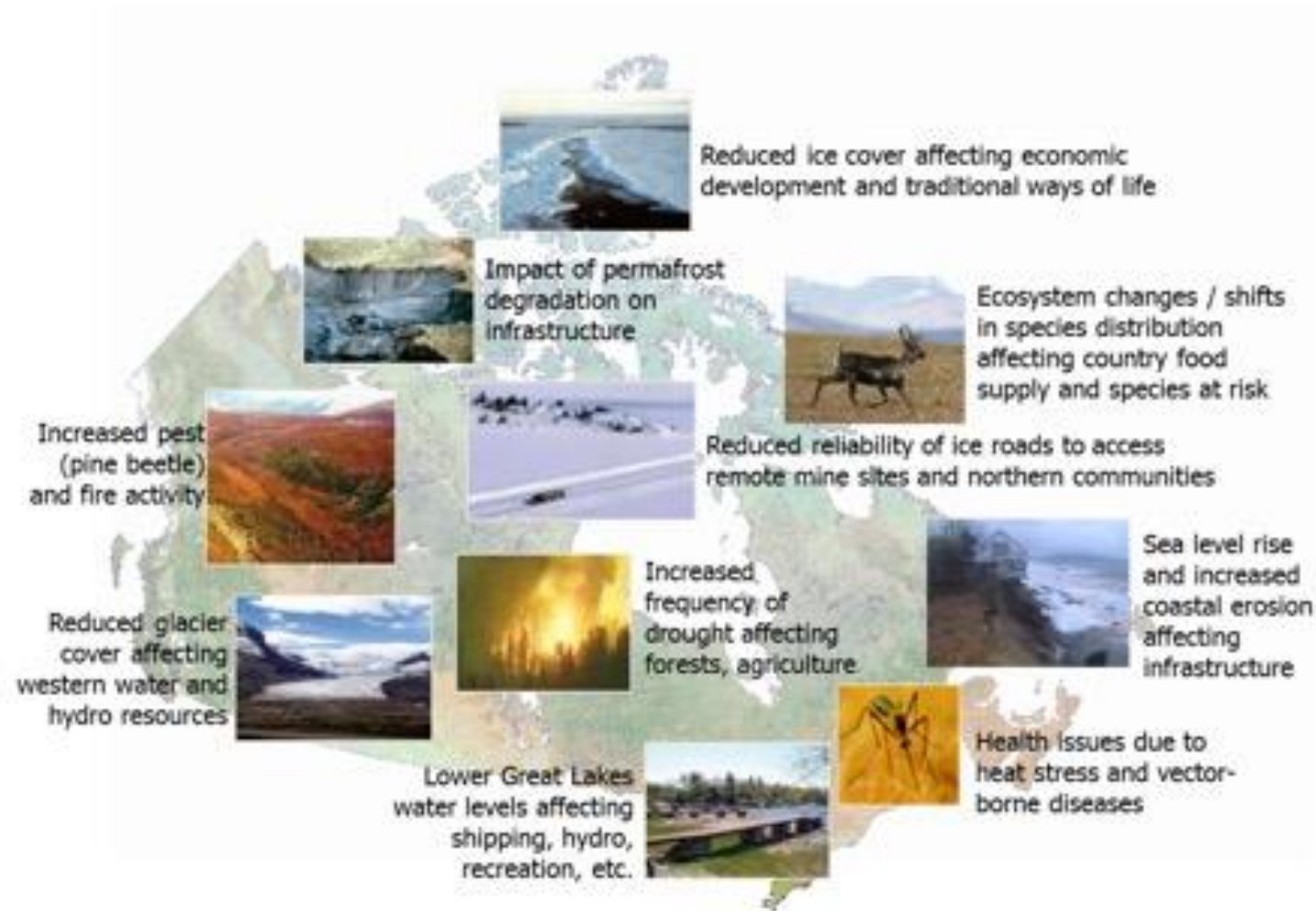
\* Other pillars are carbon pricing; complementary measures to reduce emissions; and clean technology, innovation, and jobs

# Institutional context

- Interdepartmental committees: all departments with adaptation programs, central agencies, foreign affairs, national defense
- Federal, Provincial, Territorial policy committee
- Federal, Provincial, Territorial +



# Current climate change impacts context



# Climate Change Knowledge Assessments in Canada

*Definition we use: **Credible, useful and decision-relevant products** that synthesize **existing knowledge\*** on climate change **risks, opportunities and adaptation***

## Assessment goals:

- **raise awareness** of issues
- **provide a foundation** for decision-making (policy relevant, not policy prescriptive)
- **build capacity** on adaptation through the assessment development process.

\* Information sources include scientific and technical publications, Indigenous Knowledge and practitioner experiences

# How the assessments are developed and used

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

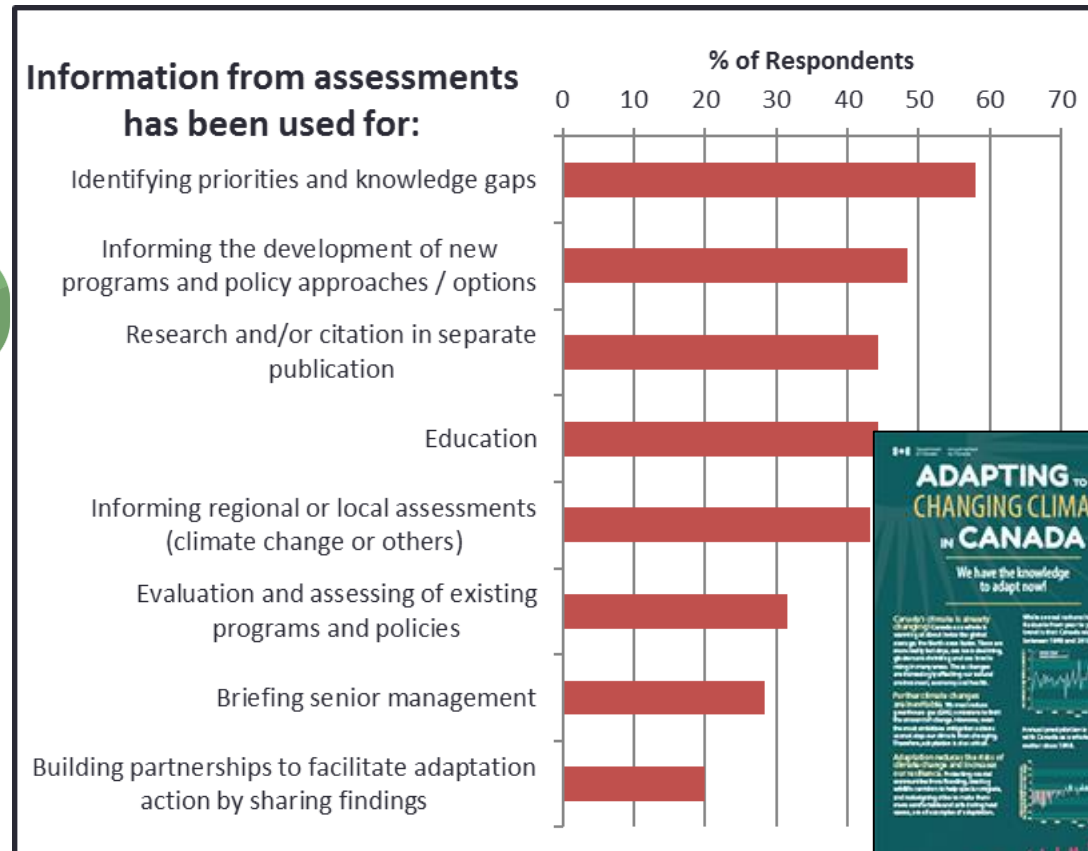
**+90**  
AUTHORS

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**CANADA IN A CHANGING CLIMATE:**  
Sector Perspectives on Impacts and Adaptation

**+115**  
EXPERT REVIEWERS

Canada



**+15K**  
↓  
VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS

**ADAPTING TO OUR CHANGING CLIMATE IN CANADA**

We have the knowledge to adapt now!

**EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN CANADA**

**HOW IS CANADA ADAPTING?**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**CLIMATE**

What are climate change impacts and adaptation?  
What is the difference between climate change and changing weather?  
Adapting - There's a lot we can do!

For more information, go to [adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca](http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca)

# Outputs for current knowledge assessment

- **Canada's Changing Climate Report**
  - observed climate trends and future climate changes
- **National Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Technical Report**
  - comprehensive investigation of impacts on the health of Canadians and the measures needed to adapt
- **Regional Perspectives**
  - a series of chapters that address regional priorities, with additional support for regional participants
- **National Issues**
  - a series of chapters on issues that are important at the national scale (our society, our environment, our economy)
- **Targeted Outreach Products**
  - a series of products developed by amplifier organizations for key audiences
- **Enhanced Synthesis**
  - a report that draws from, and provides added value to, the findings of all other products
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
  - a list of common questions and answers about climate change impacts and adaptation in Canada



# Approach to incorporating traditional knowledge

- Indigenous Knowledge included throughout assessment as an equivalent “way of knowing”
- Each regional chapter will include and Indigenous scholar or other expert with extensive experience working with Indigenous communities
- Guidance for incorporating Indigenous Knowledge being developed by experts from national Indigenous organizations
- Focus on “knowledge systems” to ensure broader context is retained (holistic approach)
- Video provides powerful tool to share Indigenous Knowledge in the words and environment of the knowledge holders

# Climate Change Knowledge Assessments in Canada: lessons learned

## 1. Scale:

- National and sub-national scales are important. In Canada the PCF has been important in ensuring increased effort on regional-scale content
- International scale is also important – consideration of how climate impacts outside your national border affect you (supply chains, security, etc.)

## 2. Resources:

- Does not require significant capital investment
- Need basic capacity and willingness of experts to volunteer their time to achieve results

## 3. Scope:

- Focus on issues important to the target audience: what they worry about and what they should be worried about!
- Climate science component is important context, but not critical for this process. Adaptation chapters focus on current vulnerabilities and how they may change

# Lessons learned (continued)

## 4. **Process may be more important than product:**

- Inclusive process helps to build capacity, promote joint leadership and ownership
- Various elements should be led by people/groups who have the best understanding of the people and systems affected
- “Amplifier” organizations are very helpful in communicating to specific audiences – they should be involved from the start of the process
- Someone (organization or department) needs to coordinate and to ensure consistency

## 5. **“Assessment” is an ongoing process:**

- Knowledge continually evolves, even as assessments are being developed
- Work on adaptation needs to advance in parallel: decisions are being made daily that need to be informed by the best information available

## 6. **Cooperation with other countries is very helpful:**

- To pool resources, access other sources of information, address issues of common concern (e.g. transboundary issues), benefit from experiences and lessons learned

# Thank you

For more information, contact Don Lemmen  
([Donald.Lemmen@Canada.ca](mailto:Donald.Lemmen@Canada.ca))

or

Fiona Warren  
([Fiona.warren@Canada.ca](mailto:Fiona.warren@Canada.ca))