

National Waters Strategy - Canada

Canadian waters matter as it is vital to our lives, our communities, our economies and our ecosystems. Canada has the largest wetland in the world and more lakes in Canada than the rest of the world combined.

However, this water is not necessarily well protected and is being polluted. This water is not necessarily accessible to all or is contaminated. For this reason, François Lépine-Cossette from the Prime Minister's Youth Council (PMYC) decided to find a way to unite all Canadian youth to fight for water protection and sustainability.

On January 17-19 2019, the Prime Minister's youth council met and as a whole decided to support the initiative. Each member took a picture and wrote concerning water issues close to their heart. Each individual council members' contribution adds weight on the pan Canadian concern over the issue and request for actions and measures to be taken now.

The infographic will propose a contemporary National Waters Strategy that will safeguard communities' water and address urgent water issues. The National Waters Strategy is currently being written and is requesting support. The proposal will be directly given to the Prime Minister at the next in-person meeting and will be published on all platforms with support of relevant youth organisations.

Goal:

Share the Canadian youth perspective on pressing water related issues and stress the urgency of a contemporary National Waters Strategy.

Key themes:

- *Water as a Human Right and legal rights for water bodies*
 - *Canada as a world leader on waters' protection*
 - *Accessibility to drinking water*
E.g. Drinking advisories in First Nations communities
 - *Great Lakes (algae bloom, water bottling of by great firms such as Nestlé, future geopolitical conflicts, etc.)*
 - *Phreatic waters protection*
 - *Protection of fauna and flora biodiversity*
E.g. Wetlands and amphibians' protection
 - *Marine life protection*
Sustainable hunting for indigenous communities
 - *Plastic pollution*
E.g. Great Garbage Patch
 - *Micro plastics*
National zero plastic waste strategy
 - *Legislation for the construction of large infrastructures,*
E.g. Greater evaluation of risks
 - *Consideration of nature based solutions*
New monitoring measures
 - *Legislation on the dumping of toxics products and heavy metals by consumers and industries*
 - *Lake and rivers protection*
 - *Ocean and coast protection*
 - *Protection of world heritage/nature beauty*
 - *Water and geopolitical issues around the world*
 - *Water and the Sustainable Development Goals*
- (These key topics give a rough idea of what the National Water Strategy look at but is not exhaustive. It is meant to be large and comprehensive. The Government of Canada already does work on these points and this wants to be acknowledged and used to direct advices.)*

The text can be either a follow-up text or a structured text of ¾ in a common format of a page per language. The final text needs to be bilingual, but if you're not able to translate it yourself, someone will. If possible these texts should be sent by Friday July 19th.

Examples of text (English will follow (Google Translated))

Ex 1:

Des zones protégées pour nos eaux:

Avec plus de deux millions de lacs et rivières et la plus longue côte maritime au monde, les écosystèmes aquatiques sont essentiels au support de la vie au Canada. Une innombrable diversité de faune et de flore s'approvisionnent ou habitent ces cours d'eau.

Agissant comme un substrat à toute vie, il est primordial de s'assurer que ces sources d'eaux soit effectivement et largement protégées. L'ensemble du territoire doit être partagé d'une façon à faire perdurer l'abondance et la pureté de l'eau.

Le Canada doit prendre un rôle de leader et protéger 17% ou plus de ses zones côtières et marines d'ici 2020 grâce à un réseaux d'aires marines protégées et d'autres mesures de conservation zonales efficaces. Cet objectif est le fruit du Sommet des Champions de la Nature organisé par le gouvernement du Canada pour catalyser la communauté internationale à la préservation de l'abondance naturelle de notre monde.

Les jeunes stressent l'importance d'accélérer les efforts mis en place en 2016 afin de dépasser l'objectif de protéger au moins 17% des zones terrestres et des eaux intérieures d'ici 2020 grâce à des réseaux d'aires protégées et à d'autres mesures de conservation zonales efficaces.

En protégeant efficacement son eau, le Canada doit agir comme leader à la prochaine COP20 and COP15 en prêchant par l'exemple et en supportant les états insulaires et dans le besoin en offrant experts scientifiques et la possibilités d'offrir un système de paiement de dettes en l'échange de création de zones protégées.

Protected areas for our waters:

With more than two million lakes and rivers and the longest coastline in the world, aquatic ecosystems are essential to sustaining life in Canada. An innumerable diversity of fauna and flora sources or inhabits these streams.

Acting as a substrate for all life, it is essential to ensure that these water sources are effectively and largely protected. The whole territory must be shared in such a way as to maintain the abundance and purity of the water.

Canada must take a leadership role and protect 17% or more of its coastal and marine areas by 2020 through networks of marine protected areas and other effective zonal conservation measures. This goal is the result of the Government of Canada's Champions of Nature Summit to catalyze the international community to preserve the natural abundance of our world.

Young people stress the importance of accelerating the efforts put in place in 2016 to exceed the goal of protecting at least 17% of terrestrial and inland waters by 2020 through networks of protected areas and protected areas. other effective zonal conservation measures.

By effectively protecting its water, Canada must act as a leader at the next COP20 and COP15 by leading by example and supporting island states and needy by offering scientific experts and the possibilities of offering a debt payment system in exchange for creating protected areas.

Ex 2:

L'accès universel à l'eau et le rôle du Canada

Problème

L'accès à l'eau est un droit fondamental, pourtant plus de 40 % de la population mondiale n'a pas accès à suffisamment d'eau salubre. D'ici 2025, 1,8 milliard de personnes vivront dans des pays ou régions avec une pénurie absolue de l'eau selon UN-Water.

Les changements climatiques viennent aussi impacter les plus pauvres et vulnérables nations qui sont le moins capable de s'adapter à ces conséquences d'inondations, sécheresses, tempêtes extrêmes, fonte des glaces, hausse du niveau de la mer, acidification des océans..

Les filles et les femmes sont souvent particulièrement touchées par le manque d'accès à l'eau potable, des installations sanitaires et hygiéniques adéquates, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement.

Cibles:

- Apporter de l'assistance d'urgence aux nations dans le besoin
- Développer du support à long terme et durable au développement de projets reliés à l'eau et les installations sanitaires, afin de réduire les tensions et augmenter la résilience et bien-être des communautés.
- Focuser sur les priorités de femmes dans les investissements reliés à l'eau, améliorer leur accès à l'eau potable, des installations sanitaires et hygiéniques adéquates d'une façon durable et culturellement sensible.

Efforts actuels:

Le Canada finance une quantité de projets internationaux reliés à l'eau et aussi à des actions humanitaires reliées à l'eau.

Le Canada contribue en moyenne 98.9 millions de dollars annuellement depuis 2014-2015 sur des initiatives améliorant la disponibilité et gestion durable de l'eau et des installations sanitaires dans les pays en voie de développement.

Le Canada avait supporté l'organisation multilatérale WinS (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools) de 2014-2017 dans des projets pour les filles, dirigé par UNICEF et l'initiative pour l'éducation des filles de l'ONU. L'investissement de 7,5 millions de dollars avaient permis de supporter de façon majeure les programmes dans 10 pays.

Le Canada s'est engagé à investir 2,65 milliards de dollars sur 5 ans sur le dossier des changements climatiques.

Prochaines étapes (à rajouter quelques points)

Comme les changements climatiques se manifestent de façon grandissante dans notre monde, les actions mondiales sur la gestion de l'eau et la résilience aux risques reliés au climat doivent être encouragés et accélérés. Les actions doivent être pratiques et pragmatiques.

Le efforts de développement international et d'aide humanitaire doivent focusé sur les pays en voie de développement fragile, insulaires et/ou sensibles aux conflits comme ils sont les pays les plus vulnérables à des crises de l'eau et à l'incapacité d'y répondre.

Un focus sur les femmes doit être donné sur chaque projet afin de comprendre le rôle profond des femmes dans leur communauté et l'impact du projet sur elles. Les projets devraient chercher à améliorer leur accès à l'eau et des installations sanitaires et hygiéniques.

Universal access to water and Canada's role

Problem

Access to water is a basic right, yet more than 40% of the world's population does not have access to enough clean water. By 2025, 1.8 billion people will live in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity according to UN-Water.

Climate change is also impacting the poorest and most vulnerable nations that are least able to adapt to these consequences of floods, droughts, extreme storms, melting ice, rising sea levels, ocean acidification.

Girls and women are often particularly affected by lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, especially in developing countries.

targets:

- Providing emergency assistance to nations in need
- Develop long-term and sustainable support for the development of projects related to water and sanitation, to reduce tensions and increase the resilience and well-being of communities.
- Focus on women's priorities in water-related investments, improve their access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitary and hygienic facilities in a sustainable and culturally sensitive way.

Current efforts:

Canada funds a number of international projects related to water and also to water related humanitarian actions.

Canada has contributed an average of \$ 98.9 million annually since 2014-15 to initiatives that improve the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in developing countries.

Canada had supported the 2014-2017 WinS (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools) Multilateral Organization in Girls' Projects, led by UNICEF and the UN Girls' Education Initiative. The investment of \$ 7.5 million had made it possible to support major programs in 10 countries.

Canada has committed \$ 2.65 billion over five years to climate change.

Next steps (to add some points)

As climate change is increasingly occurring in our world, global actions on water management and resilience to climate-related risks need to be encouraged and accelerated. Actions must be practical and pragmatic.

International development and humanitarian aid efforts must focus on fragile, island and / or conflict-sensitive developing countries as they are the most vulnerable countries to water crises and the inability to answer to.

A focus on women should be given on each project in order to understand the deep role of women in their community and the impact of the project on them. Projects should seek to improve their access to water and sanitary and hygienic facilities.