

CALL FOR SPEAKERS INFORMATION GUIDE

UPDATED 31.10.25



ACTING TODAY FOR OUR
SHARED TOMORROW



ADAPTATION
CANADA 2026
SEPT 22-24 TORONTO

SPEAKING AT ADAPTATION CANADA

Speaking at Adaptation Canada 2026 offers the chance to share your work and insights with those in attendance by contributing to one of the **50+ sessions**. In addition to participating in important conversations taking place from **September 22 to 24**, speaking at Adaptation Canada provides the opportunity to:

- **Promote and amplify your work;**
- **Share important tools and resources;**
- **Build connections across sectors;**
- **Share research outcomes and findings;**
- **Learn from other session contributors; and**
- **Inspire others to action.**



Before submitting your application, we recommend that you review the information contained in this package to ensure that your final submission meets the evaluation criteria.

When you are ready to submit your application, you can [access the Speaker Submission Portal here.](#)

All applications must be submitted by 11:59pm PT on Sunday, November 30, 2025.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

To get started, follow these steps:

- Review the full **Call for Speakers Information Package** and the [Addendum to Call for Speakers.](#)
- Read through the list of [Session Descriptions](#) to identify the session where your contribution will have the biggest impact.
- Complete the [Speaker Submission Form.](#)

That's it! For more detail on what's included in the Speaker Submission Form, see [page 5.](#)



CONFERENCE THEMES

The 50+ sessions at Adaptation Canada are broken down by the following **conference themes**:



NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY: RISKS, IMPACTS, AND URGENCY

Explores Canada's evolving climate risk landscape, considering topics such as regional and sectoral vulnerabilities, the role of climate data in decision-making, understanding and assessing risk, navigating uncertainty, and more.



POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS: CO-CREATING ADAPTATION

Looks at collaboration, reconciliation, and shared leadership, including topics such as working together in the face of multiple and evolving crises, coordinating policy and action across jurisdictions and sectors, weaving together Indigenous knowledge and Western science, collaborative approaches for financing adaptation, and more.



DESIGNING SOLUTIONS: ADAPTATION IN PRACTICE

Highlights practical tools, models, and scalable projects that are driving adaptation forward on the ground, including topics such as resilient infrastructure and housing, nature-based solutions, emerging investment practices, and more.



EQUITY AT THE CENTRE: JUST AND INCLUSIVE ADAPTATION

Considers adaptation through an equity and justice-based lens, considering topics such as systemic barriers, accessible and community-designed solutions, how equity can be integrated into all levels of action, and more.



ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP: SYSTEMS FOR CHANGE

Reflects on the systems and leadership needed for long-term resilience, considering topics such as local and regional leadership, legal and regulatory frameworks, learning from failure, measurement and accountability, the conditions needed for transformative change, and more.



OUTSIDE THE BOX: INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE APPROACHES

Presents bold and creative approaches to adaptation, including topics such as intergenerational dialogue and storytelling, innovative technologies, art, design, and cultural expression as tools for adaptation, building a culture of resilience across sectors and jurisdictions, and more.



In addition to the six main conference themes, the following cross-cutting themes feature across a variety of sessions and program areas:



- **Indigenous ways of knowing and governance**
- **Equity, diversity, and inclusion**
- **Climate data and digital tools**
- **Policy levers and regulatory mechanisms**
- **Resilience financing**
- **Capacity building and local leadership**
- **Biodiversity and ecosystem services**

FORMATS & SPEAKER ROLES *UPDATED*

For sessions where no format is indicated, you may submit for any role (presenter, panelist, facilitator, etc.). The role you have selected will help to inform the final design of the session. For example, you may submit a proposal to facilitate the session as a workshop. If your proposal is accepted, the session will then be delivered as a workshop. If all of the accepted proposals are for speaker roles (e.g. presenter, panelist, etc.), then the session will be delivered as either a traditional presentation session, panel discussion, or PechaKucha session. In the event that your proposal is accepted but the format does not align with your preferred role, a member with the organizing team will reach out to confirm the change.

Pre-set workshops and interactive dialogues are indicated on the session listing. For these sessions, you may apply as a facilitator or as a presenter. For all workshops and interactive dialogues, facilitators will be required to submit a more substantial content overview that communicates their vision for the session. A select number of speakers may be chosen to present at the workshop. The timing for these presentations will be determined in collaboration with the facilitator.

PRESENTATION SESSION

Each presenter can expect approximately 12 – 15 minutes to deliver their presentation, generally followed by audience Q & A (or other audience interaction).

PANEL DISCUSSION

Each panelist can expect between 12 – 15 minutes of speaking time over the course of a moderated panel discussion, generally followed by audience Q & A (or other audience interaction).



PECHAKUCHA SESSION

As understood for the PechaKucha format, each presentation is expected to be 6 minutes and 40 seconds long featuring 20 slides shown for 20 seconds each. Presentations are generally followed by audience Q & A (or other audience interaction). Speakers must present using a PowerPoint or similar visual format.

WORKSHOP

Workshops are structured around 1 or more guided activities that aim to increase understanding of a particular topic or tool through applied learning. In addition to 1 or more facilitators, workshops may include presenters whose participation will help to ground the session topic and themes. If you are applying to facilitate a workshop, please include a more detailed overview that outlines your vision for delivering the workshop.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Other interactive dialogue formats should aim to foster conversation between session participants. 1 – 2 facilitators may be required to lead the session. If you are applying to facilitate an interactive dialogue, please include a more detailed description of your vision for the session that outlines the nature of the interactivity and how you will foster this interaction amongst attendees.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

As you prepare your submission, be sure to review the list of concurrent session titles and descriptions to identify where your presentation/content will be the best fit. The full list of session titles and description broken down by theme can be accessed [here](#) (page 12 of the Information Guide).



PREPARING YOUR SUBMISSION

[Access the Speaker Submission Portal here!](#)

Proposals must be submitted through the Speaker Submission Portal by **Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 11:59 pm PT**.

The following information outlines the sections you will be asked to complete, offering guidance as you prepare for submitting. We recommend that you consider this information in relation to the criteria outlined on **pages 8 to 9** of the Call for Speakers Information Guide to ensure that your proposal is of the highest quality for review.

Note: *Proposals must be prepared and submitted by or on behalf of the individual who will be speaking at Adaptation Canada 2026. Submissions cannot be submitted on behalf of an organization without a named individual.*

SESSION TITLE (QUESTION 1)

Select your chosen session from the drop-down list. Be sure to review the session descriptions beforehand to ensure that your presentation/perspective is best suited to the subject-matter covered in the selected session.

ROLE (QUESTION 2)

Identify the role for which you are applying. Be sure to review session formats and roles on **pages 3 – 4** of the Call for Speakers Information Guide to ensure that your submission is appropriately tailored.

PRESENTATION/CONTENT OVERVIEW (QUESTION 3)

Suggested length of response: **250 words**

Provide a brief overview of your presentation and/or the perspective through which you will approach the session topic. Consider the unique lens you will bring to the subject matter, including details on the projects, initiatives, experiences, and/or research that inform your presentation and/or perspective. *If you are applying to be a session facilitator, please provide a point form outline that details your vision and approach for leading the session.*



RELEVANCE TO SESSION TOPIC/THEMES (QUESTION 4)

Suggested length of response: **150 words**

Clearly describe how your presentation and/or perspective will speak to the topics/themes outlined in the session description. Your answer should consider how your presentation or perspective adds detail and/or a unique point of view to the session.

AUDIENCE TAKEAWAYS (QUESTION 5)

Suggested length of response: **150 words**

Describe the key takeaways that audience members will gain as a result of your participation in this session. All sessions aim to provide clear and actionable takeaways, including tools, guidance, and/or insights; in some cases, the session description may offer more specific guidance on the kinds of insights or takeaways that will be prioritized.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES (QUESTION 6)

Presentations and/or perspectives that highlight one or more of the following cross-cutting themes may receive additional consideration during the review process:

- Indigenous ways of knowing and governance
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Climate data and digital tools
- Policy levers and regulatory mechanisms
- Resilience financing
- Capacity building and local leadership
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services

If you select one or more of the cross-cutting themes in your submission, you will be prompted to provide a very brief (max. 50 words) overview of the connection.

IMPLEMENTATION (QUESTION 7)

Presentations and/or perspectives that highlight one or more projects/initiatives that have been implemented on-the-ground or in a community may receive additional consideration during the review process. If your presentation/content is informed by a specific on-the-ground project or initiative, check yes in response to the prompt and provide any additional details.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE (QUESTION 8)

Suggested length of response: **100 - 150 words**

Confirm that you have the relevant experience and/or qualifications for presenting on the outlined material. Factors such as research, learning, teaching, volunteering, and youth experience may factor into the perspective that you bring. A higher score may be given to speakers who bring lived experience, experience working in/with communities, or experience with applying the content being discussed (in addition to research or other qualifications). *Please do not copy and paste your bio into this section as it will be requested in question 10.*

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE (QUESTION 9)

Please feel free to share any additional experience that informs your unique perspective on the session topic. This may include lived experience in addition to professional experience, especially for members of equity-denied groups. While this information will not factor into the scoring process, we aim to ensure that diverse lived experiences are represented across speakers.

SPEAKER BIO (QUESTION 10)

Suggested length of response: **50 - 100 words**

Provide a short speaker biography that can be shared to the Adaptation Canada 2026 website in the event that your speaker submission is approved.



SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

Submissions are to be evaluated on a 17-point scale* based on the answers provided in your proposal. In addition to the final score assigned to your proposal, ensuring a diverse array of perspectives (from different organizations, individuals, and lived experiences) will factor into final decision making.

The following information outlines the criteria through which submissions will be reviewed. We recommend reading through this section as you prepare your final submission to ensure that it is of the highest quality for review.

RELEVANCE (5 POINTS)

Submissions will be evaluated based on how well they align with the session description and its highlighted topics or themes. Points will be given based on your responses to questions 3 and 4.

APPROACH (3 POINTS)

Submissions will be evaluated based on whether they bring a unique lens or novel approach to the session topics and themes. The more specific you are in detailing the perspective you bring to the session, the easier it will be for the reviewers to identify the distinct lens you bring. Points will be given based on your responses to questions 3 and 4.

TAKEAWAYS (3 POINTS)

Submissions will be evaluated based on whether there are clear and/or actionable takeaways that the audience can expect as a result of your presentation or perspective. Alignment with any specific takeaways noted in the session description may also factor into your final score. Points will be given based on your responses to question 5.

EXPERIENCE (4 POINTS)

Submissions will be evaluated based on the experience provided and whether it is relevant to the presentation/content that you will be sharing. Factors such as research, learning, teaching, volunteering, and youth experience may factor into the perspective that you bring. Points will be given based on your responses to question 8.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES (1 POINT)

Submissions that address cross-cutting themes (question 6) are eligible to receive an additional point in their scoring.

IMPLEMENTATION (1 POINT)

Submissions that highlight one or more projects and initiatives that have been implemented on-the-ground (question 7) are eligible to receive an additional point in their scoring.

Note: Submissions may be redirected to a different session based on the number and nature of the proposals received. In the event that your submission is assigned to a different session, a member of the organizing team will reach out to you to confirm the change and, if needed, request additional information or updates.

**Although answers to specific questions will be prioritized in the scoring of each criteria (as indicated above), reviewers may reference other answers as needed for assigning final scores.*

CONTACT

Proposed speakers can expect to hear back on the status of their submission no later than the end of January 2026.

If you have any questions about the Call for Speakers, please reach out to ac2026@iclei.org.



**ADAPTATION
CANADA 2026**
SEPT 22-24 TORONTO



Local Governments
for Sustainability
Les gouvernements locaux
pour le développement durable
CANADA

Adaptation Canada 2026 is delivered by [ICLEI Canada](https://www.iclei.org/) with support from a network of partners. It is funded in part by the Government of Canada. Visit AdaptationCanada2026.ca to learn more.

ADDENDUM TO CALL FOR SPEAKERS

This page contains important information about the Adaptation Canada 2026 Call for Speakers. Please review it in full before completing your submission. If you have any questions, you can reach out to ac2026@iclei.org.

I. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting to the Call for Speakers has been extended to **Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 11:59 pm PT**. The application form can be accessed at adaptationcanada2026.ca/call-for-speakers/.

II. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS

Individuals and organizations submitting on behalf of individuals are welcome to submit as many proposals as they would like. However, the review process prioritizes a balanced speaker line-up. The number of times that an individual or organization is accepted to speak will reflect this need for balance.

III. MULTIPLE SPEAKERS IN THE SAME PRESENTATION

More than one speaker may be listed for the same presentation. In this case, it is important to provide an explanation for why 2 or more speakers are required. The time allotment for the presentation will not change regardless of the number of speakers included on a single proposal.

IV. JOINT SUBMISSIONS

A joint submission, submitted only by one individual, will not be accepted as a part of the Call for Speakers. However, if multiple organizations have a vision for speaking together, they are welcome to submit individual speaker proposals that reflect their own content while noting somewhere in **Question 3 (Presentation/Content Overview)** that this content aligns with submissions made by *[insert names of other submitting organizations]* as part of a joint vision. If a set of connected proposals is accepted into a session, other applicants for the same session may be accepted if their proposal aligns with the joint vision. In the event that other high scoring submissions to the same session do not fit within the accepted joint vision, they may be redirected to a different session.

V. ADDITIONAL SESSIONS

Following the Call for Speakers submission period, additional sessions may be added to the program. Additional sessions must aim to fill content gaps (topic and/or format) thereby ensuring a robust and well-rounded program. If you have a session idea that fits within this description, please feel free to reach out to ac2026@iclei.org. As only a select number of submissions will be accepted, it is recommended that you still apply to speak at one of the listed concurrent sessions through the Call for Speakers to ensure that your work is included in the Adaptation Canada 2026 program.

VI. LANGUAGE OF SESSIONS

All sessions will have the option for French or English translation. In some cases, presentations may take place in both English and French during the same session, depending on the language preferences of the speakers. In the event that a session has only French or English language speakers, then that session will be delivered in the language of the speakers with live translation available.

VII. SPEAKING AT A WORKSHOP

Workshops and interactive sessions provide multiple opportunities for getting involved. While the major role within these sessions is the facilitator role, applicants are welcome to submit proposals to speak or present within a workshop. The selected facilitator will work together with any accepted speakers to incorporate their presentation into the workshop design.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A blue-tinted background image of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a patterned top and a lanyard, sitting at a table in a workshop or conference setting. She is holding a small object in her hand and looking towards the right. Other people are visible in the background, also seated at tables.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

As you prepare your speaker proposal, be sure to review the list of session titles and descriptions to identify where your presentation/content will best fit and tailor your proposal accordingly. The following list of session titles and description is broken down by conference theme.

NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY: RISKS, IMPACTS & URGENCY



Session 1-1 **Climate Science and Beyond: Science and Data-Informed Decision-Making**

In a sea of scientific information, choosing the right climate data to inform adaptation decision-making can be daunting. These challenges can be compounded when factoring in other forms of data such as social, demographic, and geographic data that paint a clearer picture of community vulnerability and risk. This session provides guidance on the use of climate data in decision-making, showcasing meaningful and practical examples of how climate data can be used in conjunction with other sources to shape action across communities, sectors and systems.

Session 1-2 **From Risk Awareness to Risk Readiness: The Role of Understanding Risk in Implementing Adaptation**

Greater awareness and understanding of the role that risk and risk acceptance play in climate adaptation is needed to support the widespread adoption of resilience measures across Canada. This is true at both the population and decision-making levels. This session explores questions of risk perception and acceptance, sharing strategies and expert approaches for improving readiness.

Session 1-3 **Costs and Benefits: Building the Economic Case for Adaptation**

Quantifying and communicating the economic benefits of adaptation alongside the costs of inaction can be crucial for financing and advancing adaptation work. This session equips participants with a range of tools and methods for making the financial case for adaptation, sharing how these insights have been leveraged to communicate to decision-makers, funders, and the public the importance of adaptation, and helping to garner buy-in and investment.

Session 1-4 **Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate: Challenges and Opportunities on the Road Ahead**

Health impacts from climate hazards such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, vector-borne diseases, and food borne illnesses are affecting the health of people in Canada, driving up health care costs, and exacerbating existing health inequities. Responding requires adaptation action in the health system and across sectors to protect health and wellbeing. This session centres health and wellbeing in climate change planning and action, fostering greater understanding of the health threats posed by climate change, and exploring how to integrate health considerations into adaptation efforts to build climate resilient health systems and empower those working to protect health in a rapidly changing climate.



Session 1-5 Climate Grief and Mental Health: Supporting Mental and Emotional Wellbeing as Impacts Increase

The mental health impacts of climate change are already being felt, presenting themselves through phenomena such as climate grief and eco anxiety. This session explores how we make space for these experiences in a way that promotes mental health resilience in the face of growing climate threats. Speakers will share stories, experiences, and insights related to the mental health impacts of climate change, including strategies backed by new research to support mental and emotional wellbeing.

Session 1-6 On the Horizon: Emerging Issues in a Changing Climate

A whole-of-society approach is increasingly recognized as essential to building climate resilience. This session will shine a light on the issues and sectors that are only beginning to enter the adaptation conversation. From national defence and immigration to youth-led decision-making and beyond, participants will explore where new climate impacts are emerging, what gaps remain, and how their own efforts may intersect with these evolving priorities.

Session 1-7 Testing Real-World Applications: Choosing the Right Data for the Right Decision

In addition to navigating and selecting the right data, it can be helpful to test its effectiveness for real world application against specific decision-making needs. This interactive session digs deeper into conversations on data-informed decision-making presented in 'Climate Science and Beyond: Science and Data-Informed Decision-Making.' It enables participants to test their methods through key data use-cases and sector-specific scenarios with expert data producers and users. Attendees will engage in discussions on what data can and cannot do, identify next steps to integrate projections into their own work, and establish lasting connections for future collaboration. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 1-8 Messaging that Resonates: Effective Communications for Climate Resilience

Effective communication is vital for communities to better understand, respond to, and recover from climate risks and impacts. In this interactive session, participants will explore how behaviour-based communications strategies can be applied to craft clear, action-oriented messages and stories, tailored for diverse audiences. Come away from this session with insights for identifying and working with trusted messengers to deliver these messages and engage those with diverse needs, values, and experiences to inspire collective action and drive change. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 1-9 Choosing the Right Tool for Climate Change Risk Assessment

Which climate risk assessment tools and frameworks are right for different community and organizational needs? What is the balance in the trade-offs between depth, speed, participation, and rigor? In this session, learn from plans and projects that have leveraged risk assessment methods ranging from technical engineering-based protocols to community-based, participatory assessments. Gain hands on experience by workshopping sector-relevant case studies with the support of experienced practitioners. **[WORKSHOP]**



POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS: CO-CREATING ADAPTATION



Session 2-1 **Creative Partnerships: Innovative Approaches to Financing Adaptation**

Despite the strong economic case for adaptation, getting the funds needed to bring long-term and large-scale projects to life can be a challenge for any single organization. This session explores creative ways to fund big projects through innovative yet practical solutions. It encourages participants to seek out opportunities in unexpected places, using real-world examples of cross-sectoral partnerships, governance innovations, financial and policy instruments, and more to support the financing and scaling of large-scale adaptation initiatives.

Session 2-2 **Solutions Beyond Municipal Borders: Advancing Adaptation through Regional Collaboration**

Climate hazards affect communities across local boundaries, impacting municipalities, First Nations, and other regional actors in distinct yet overlapping ways. Recognizing that climate impacts do not stop at these borders, why should our approach to designing and implementing solutions? This session emphasizes the importance of regional collaboration for climate adaptation, providing a tactical overview of how collaboratives are formed, who is involved, and the factors contributing to their success. It will delve into real-world case studies of regional climate collaboration, offering valuable insights and inspiration for practitioners, decisionmakers, and funders looking foster resilience at the regional scale.

Session 2-3 **From Voluntary Standards to Actionable Policies: Standards, Policies, and Regulatory Frameworks for Adaptation**

While adopting voluntary standards has helped to move the needle on climate change, fostering a whole-of-society approach to adaptation requires policies and frameworks that embed climate resilience into every aspect of decision-making. In this session, hear from different levels of government, organizations, and industries who are supporting the creation and implementation of policies that prioritize adaptation, helping to normalize resilient practices and reduce risk across planning, the economy, asset management, and more.

Session 2-4 **The Future of Canadian Forests: Balancing Conservation, Wildfire Resilience, and the Forestry Sector**

Hotter and drier weather, increased lightning activity, and other related climate impacts are contributing to a growth in wildfire frequency and severity. Simultaneously, increased impacts from pests and pathogens and changes in water quality and quantity within forest ecosystems threaten the future of Canadian forests, including the biodiversity and socio-economic values they provide. This session looks at modern forest management through a whole-of-society approach that considers the future of Canadian forests in a changing climate. It brings together voices from across local governments, First Nations, the forestry sector, and more to explore proactive, collaborative solutions to the challenges now and ahead.



Session 2-5 Progress in Canada's Mining Sector: Integrating Adaptation into Sustainable Mining Practices

The mining sector is a major contributor to Canada's economy, generating billions of dollars annually and employing thousands of people in communities across the country. At the same time, mining operations can also have undesirable impacts on surrounding environments and communities and these can be exacerbated by increasing effects of climate change. Can adaptation present new opportunities for incorporating sustainable practices into the mining industry that simultaneously contribute to sector resilience? How can diverse, cross-sector involvement help to foster these necessary shifts? In this session, learn about changes taking place across the industry to adapt to current and future climates, featuring examples that centre sustainable practices strengthening sector resilience.

Session 2-6 Feeding the Future: Cultivating Climate Resilient Food Systems

The production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food are dependent upon many interlocking systems that cross geographic and economic boundaries. As a result, disruptions at any point along this chain threaten to upset the health, safety, and livelihoods of communities, especially when it comes to accessing affordable and nutritious foods. This session looks at how communities and organizations are preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change on food systems, considering solutions at the local, regional, and national scale to overcome present and future challenges.

Session 2-7 Working Together in the Face of Dual Crises: Biodiversity Loss and Ecosystem Resilience in a Changing Climate

Climate change and ecosystem collapse are interconnected crises that threaten to have catastrophic impacts on food security, cultural systems, the built environment, and so much more. Developing adaptation strategies that prioritize ecosystem resilience and centre partnerships with the natural world and each other is essential for addressing these crises in tandem, offering a path forward through multiple ways of knowing and being. This session brings in diverse perspectives and real-world examples of actions that aim to address the dual climate and biodiversity crises, providing insights and actionable takeaways for participants that help to overcome these interconnected challenges through collaborative solutions.

Session 2-8 Weaving Knowledge to Assess Risk: Integrating Western Climate Science and Indigenous Knowledge into Climate Change Risk Assessments

Addressing the complex, systemic nature of climate risk requires a shift in how climate change risk assessments are approached; this means moving beyond conventional practices to embrace multiple ways of knowing that inform adaptation in nuanced, culturally and contextually relevant ways. In this interactive session combining both presentations and group discussions, participants will learn from case studies where Indigenous knowledge, local lived experience, and conventional science have been thoughtfully incorporated and applied in urban, rural, and Indigenous communities. Participants will consider the ripple effects of this shift, reflecting on how risk assessments inform policy change, program design, and cross-sectoral collaboration. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 2-9 Partnerships for a Purpose: Building Bridges with Unlikely Allies

In today's polarized landscape, climate change conversations often hit walls—especially with sectors or communities that are skeptical, opposed, or indifferent to climate messaging. This interactive session explores how strategic partnerships with unlikely allies can open new pathways for climate adaptation, bypassing ideological barriers by prioritizing shared values like stewardship, place, and economic benefit. It provides examples of collaborations with industries and groups that are not usually recognized for their climate initiatives and invites participants to brainstorm strategies for identifying and engaging unconventional partners to co-create initiatives that advance resilience in ways everyone can support. **[WORKSHOP]**



DESIGNING SOLUTIONS: ADAPTATION IN PRACTICE



Session 3-1 **Built to Last: Mainstreaming Resilience across Housing & Infrastructure Projects in Canada**

Embedding climate resilience into housing and infrastructure delivery across Canada requires the mobilization of climate science in conjunction with policy, codes, standards, and many other practical tools. This session will explore pathways for mainstreaming housing and infrastructure resilience across sectors and jurisdictions through practical examples and insights that showcase lessons learned, ongoing challenges, and opportunities to refine and scale best practices.

Session 3-2 **Who Benefits, Who Pays? Leveraging Private Capital for Climate Adaptation**

As Canada faces escalating climate risks, the need for urgent action grows. With limited public funds available to scale adaptation action at the rate necessary to meet ambitious targets, what role should private capital play in financing the path to resilience? This session highlights a range of perspectives and approaches for scaling up adaptation projects through private investment and financing. Speakers will share insights for both investors and practitioners that consider who benefits from investment in climate adaptation infrastructure, and how this logic can inform financial frameworks.

Session 3-3 **Small Communities, Big Impact: Strengthening Rural Communities in a Changing Climate**

From remote northern villages to agricultural towns, rural communities across Canada are facing climate-related risks—and finding innovative ways to adapt. These communities are often navigating adaptation with constrained capacity, jurisdictional complexity, and the challenges of advancing resilience within resource-dependent economies. This session brings together voices from diverse geographies and sectors to share how they are building climate resilience while strengthening the social, economic, and environmental fabric of rural communities.

Session 3-4 **Working with Nature: Implementing Nature-Based Solutions from Coast-to-Coast**

Nature-based solutions can provide critical adaptation services like water filtration, flood control, and temperature regulation while delivering profound health and wellbeing benefits. This session showcases examples of how nature-based solutions are being implemented in communities across Canada, highlighting challenges, opportunities, and important considerations for incorporating them as key adaptation solutions.

Session 3-5 **Leveraging Asset Management for Climate Challenges: Towards a Strategy for Sustainable Resilience**

Asset management plays a pivotal role in safeguarding communities by managing the performance, value, and longevity of both public and private infrastructure. This session will highlight the evolving need to align asset management strategies with climate resilience objectives, and then implement these strategies through tangible actions that build infrastructure resilience. Participants will learn about applicable methods of assessment alongside de-risking solutions, highlighting the role of cross-department and sector coordination in bringing plans to life.



Session 3-6 From Coast to Coast: Coastal Resilience in Action

Coastal communities from the East and West Coasts to the Great Lakes are on the frontlines of climate change. At the same time, these communities are at the forefront of adaptation action, designing solutions that meet current challenges while preparing for the future. This session showcases real-world examples of coastal adaptation strategies and solutions being put into action, looking at both the unique challenges that inform coastal realities, while considering how to overcome them. Participants will walk away with practical insights and inspiration for accelerating their own efforts and strengthening climate resilience from coast to coast.

Session 3-7 Navigating Supply Chain Challenges: Adaptation Strategies Across Sectors

Supply chains are especially vulnerable to climate change due to multiple intersecting elements such as resource availability, production, and the transport of goods that must flow together to meet demand. Disruptions to supply chains that lead to delays or even limit availability can thus have profound and cascading effects on economies, sectors, and society as a whole. This session explores how communities, industries, and governments are addressing climate-related supply chain challenges, highlighting solutions that prioritizes creativity, resourcefulness, and strategic collaboration.

Session 3-8 (Re)Building for Good: Equitable, Evidenced-Based Approaches to Climate-Resilient Housing

When climate events strike, housing is at the frontline of how people are affected, especially for households with limited financial resources or insurance coverage to rebuild, repair, or even retrofit. This workshop enables participants to consider situations where homes are damaged or even lost, and how we can build back better in ways that factor resilience and financial equity in from the start. It explores successful measures and methods for building climate resilient, equitable housing, while simultaneously strengthening our current stock. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 3-9 Perspective is Everything: Overcoming Real and Perceived Barriers to Action

How can we reframe, rework, or remove what we see as barriers to action, increasing our collective involvement and capacity for furthering adaptation? Limitations in one context may be leveraged as opportunities in another. By questioning the obvious, investigating the layers behind common reasons for inaction, and examining 'the way things are done', this creative and collaborative session aims to shift perspectives to help overcome real and perceived barriers to adapting. **[INTERACTIVE]**



EQUITY AT THE CENTRE: JUST AND INCLUSIVE ADAPTATION



Session 4-1 **Addressing Root Causes of Vulnerability: Moving Towards Climate Resilience for All**

Current climate adaptation frameworks prioritize asset and population vulnerability as roadmaps for action. While these approaches can get at what and who is impacted by hazards, they may fail to ask how or why certain populations are made more vulnerable in the first place. Without considering how structural systems shape the different ways that climate impacts are experienced, can community-wide climate resilience truly be achieved? This session applies an equity-based, systems-level approach to climate resilience that encourages participants to consider how transformative action can be embedded into their work to facilitate structural shifts that address root causes of vulnerability and achieve climate resilience for all.

Session 4-2 **Not Just Dollars and Cents: Understanding the Human Costs of Climate Change**

The loss of family homes, sense of place, and cultural continuity are just some of the realities faced by individuals and communities in the wake of climate disasters. While often left out of the adaptation conversation, these non-market losses have lasting impacts on identity, belonging, wellbeing, and mental health. This session looks at the non-financial costs of climate change, moving away from big numbers to explore how intangible losses are experienced across Canada. Speakers will discuss ripple effects related to the rupturing of social infrastructure, increased demand on health services, losses faced by individuals and communities, and more.

Session 4-3 **No One Left Behind: Prioritizing Disability Justice in Adaptation**

People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change, and yet adaptation efforts often exclude the perspectives of community members living with disabilities and fail to address factors that increase their vulnerability to climate impacts. This session takes a “nothing about us without us” approach to climate resilience that centres leadership and collaboration with community members and advocates who can help to transform how adaptation is planned and implemented. As a result, participants will walk away with greater understanding of challenges and opportunities for embedding disability justice into adaptation, increasing climate resilience for everyone.

Session 4-4 **A Solution for Some: Challenges at the Intersection of Equity and Nature-Based Solutions**

While nature-based solutions and their myriad benefits can seem like ideal interventions for building climate resilience, without careful consideration of how these benefits are experienced, by whom, and at what cost, they can end up reinforcing pre-existing inequities (or even creating new ones). This session aims to explore how nature-based solutions can intersect with structures of power and privilege, highlighting specific challenges through real-world examples while offering strategies and tools for approaching the equitable implementation of nature-based solutions.



Session 4-5 Equity at the Forefront: Integrating Equity into Infrastructure Projects

For practitioners and decision-makers advancing infrastructure resilience, the connection between built systems and social systems may seem unclear, especially when it comes to recognizing equity overlaps in their work. This session looks at examples of adaptation projects from across Canada that have embedded equity into their design and implementation, recognizing the inherent connection between built infrastructure and community wellbeing. Participants will walk away with greater understanding of how the inequitable distribution of climate vulnerability and risk is reflected in infrastructure assessments, upgrades, and new projects, with considerations for moving forward in a more just and resilient way.

Session 4-6 Ties that Bind and Build: Strengthening Resilience through Cultural and Social Infrastructure

Cultural and social infrastructure play an essential role in shaping the fabric of communities. They include the physical spaces where people share, learn, and connect; the networks and traditions that bring people together; the ways knowledge is generated and passed on; and the supports that help overcome loneliness. At their core, these systems put relationships at the centre of resilience. This session explores how cultural and social infrastructure ground community adaptation, giving participants the opportunity to shift their thinking about how society functions and apply this knowledge to their work. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 4-7 No One-Size-Fits-All Solutions: Advancing Equitable Climate Adaptation

Climate impacts will not be experienced in the same way by everyone. In fact, climate change acts as a vector that amplifies social and structural inequities, disproportionately impacting certain individuals and communities more than others. Adaptation can help to address these inequities, reducing existing disparities and ensuring positive outcomes for all; alternatively, when equity is not considered in planning and adaptation, maladaptation can result in unintended consequences that make things worse. This interactive session aims to equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to foster equitable climate outcomes, centering examples that highlight community engagement, collaboration, and co-designed solutions as key tactics. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 4-8 What Matters? Approaching Climate Adaptation through a Values-based Lens

How do personal, social, and institutional understandings of what matter most present opportunities for action? How can individual and collective valuation of what's important be a catalyst for making change? This workshop takes a deep dive into the role that values play in moving people and institutions to act in response to climate change. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in creative reflection alongside group explorations of values-based approaches that can be applied to their efforts and that foster community involvement across the adaptation spectrum. **[WORKSHOP]**



ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP: SYSTEMS FOR CHANGE



Session 5-1 **Building a Resilient North: Northern Leadership in the Face of Climate Change**

Living, working, and adapting in the North brings unique risks, challenges, and solutions. Communities are navigating the rapid and severe impacts of climate change, such as permafrost thaw and coastal erosion, while working with constrained capacity and complex jurisdictional landscapes. This session will highlight the resilience, creativity, and leadership of Northern communities taking action on climate change, with a focus on fostering cross-regional learning and dialogue. Participants will walk away with greater understanding of how adaptation efforts in Northern Canada are shaped by cultural, social, and ecological realities, and strengthened by innovation born of necessity.

Session 5-2 **Stories of Leadership: Indigenous Adaptation Across Turtle Island**

Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by climate change and are often on the front lines of the most severe impacts. Travel over snow and ice is becoming increasingly dangerous, thawing permafrost is affecting the stability of Northern infrastructure, the winter road season is shortening, and the availability of traditional food sources is changing, among other impacts. In the face of these challenges, Indigenous communities are charting a resilient path forward through innovative, community-led initiatives that draw on traditional knowledge systems for navigating and adapting to climate change. This session will highlight first-hand examples of how Indigenous peoples and communities are leading the way on climate adaptation, centering self-determination alongside different ways of knowing and being.

Session 5-3 **Meaningful Metrics for Resilience: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning**

Intentional measurement helps us understand whether adaptation efforts are effective, efficient, and aligned with community priorities. By tracking meaningful qualitative and quantitative indicators, we can document change, assess impact, and identify where to focus future work. Progress reports and evaluation frameworks not only guide planning and funding decisions but also serve as powerful tools for learning, accountability, and building buy-in. This session will showcase success stories, lessons learned, and demonstrate tools for measuring resilience outcomes across sectors.

Session 5-4 **Failing Forward: Learning from Missteps and Mistakes**

No matter how well we plan, climate change can be unpredictable—and so can the human element in responding to it. While failure can be painful, it also offers critical lessons and opportunities for growth. Fear of failure, on the other hand, can lead to inaction, widening inequities and allowing risks to deepen. This session will explore a spectrum of failures, from system breakdowns to everyday missteps, and, most importantly, the insights gained from them. By sharing lessons learned and fostering safe spaces to experiment, fail, and adapt, this session aims to spark innovation in unlikely places.



Session 5-5 **Building a Climate-Ready Workforce: Strengthening Adaptation Skills Across Sectors**

Canadian workforces face a growing need to equip professionals across sectors and seniorities with the skills, knowledge, and behaviours required to anticipate, respond to, and manage climate change. From infrastructure and finance to planning and healthcare, adaptation competencies are essential. This session will explore how workforce development and capacity building are evolving to develop strong sectors prepared to build a resilient future. Through practical examples, participants will learn about how adaptation skills have been embedded across teams, methods for capacity development, and what gaps remain to accelerate the transition to a climate-ready workforce.

Session 5-6 **Due Diligence: Factoring Legal & Regulatory Frameworks into Adaptation**

Legal and regulatory frameworks shape how we adapt to climate change, sometimes driving progress, other times creating barriers. This session will explore how questions of responsibility, liability, and regulation influence decisions across jurisdictions, with a focus on the interplay between federal, provincial, and territorial systems. Drawing on examples such as Indigenous legal frameworks and the recent International Court of Justice ruling on climate change, participants will consider strategies for navigating legal challenges while rethinking how responsibility is defined in the context of resilience.

Session 5-7 **Coming Together: A Sharing Space for Adaptation Specialists**

Being immersed in the work of climate change risks and impacts can take a personal toll. To alleviate some of the overwhelm that comes with the territory, this interactive session provides a space to pause, take a breath, reset, remember the importance of supporting each other, and celebrate our wins so we can continue on. Sustaining the well-being of those working on climate action is essential for sustaining the work itself, and sometimes a change of perspective, a view with a tree or two, or a room full of peers can help to recharge and come back with renewed energy. **[INTERACTIVE]**

Session 5-8 **Breaking Down Silos: Advancing Integrated Adaptation Action**

Climate change adaptation requires both depth of expertise and breadth of perspective. While specialized knowledge is vital, collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and governance levels can spark innovation and uncover new solutions. This session will create space to explore the challenges of adaptation governance within and across sectors and departments, as well as successful models of integrated planning that draw on data sharing, funding alignment, interdepartmental coordination, and Indigenous knowledge and governance. Participants will connect with peers outside their usual circles, exchange diverse perspectives, and identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration and policy alignment helping to expand your network, break down silos, and burst some bubbles! **[WORKSHOP]**



OUTSIDE THE BOX: INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE APPROACHES



Session 6-1 **AdapTech: Innovating for Resilience**

How can we leverage technological innovation to build climate-ready communities? What challenges, opportunities, and unknowns lie on the road ahead? This panel explores how cutting-edge technologies and innovation-driven strategies are transforming our approach to climate adaptation. Participants will consider the benefits, burdens, and barriers to advancing human-led resilience work through technological integration, while learning about trailblazing AdapTech solutions helping to redefine adaptation and scale its impact.

Session 6-2 **The Future of Farming: Innovative Approaches to Agricultural Resilience**

Agriculture sits at the heart of many interconnected systems, from supply chains to food systems, local economies, and more. This means that climate change impacts such as extreme weather and invasive species that reduce crop survival rates threaten many of the systems essential for our survival. Under these conditions, how can the agricultural sector adapt at the rate necessary to maintain its function and even thrive in future climates? This session explores innovative approaches for advancing agricultural adaptation across Canada. Presenters will share real-world examples of technology-enabled and collaboratively designed solutions that promote positive agricultural outcomes in the face of a changing climate.

Session 6-3 **Preparing for the Worst: Rethinking Disaster Recovery in Canada**

For too many Canadian communities, recovery from the effects of climate-related disasters is slow, uncertain, and inequitable. Without rethinking our approach to disaster response, these challenges threaten to compound impacts and make an already-bad situation worse. This session confronts the realities of post-disaster recovery, using case studies from across Canada to reflect on what went wrong, what went right, and what needs to change to deliver faster and more sustainable disaster response that meets everyone's needs. From procedural to financial pathways, this session will apply a 'lessons learned' approach to consider opportunities for systematically incorporating adaptation into recovery from climate-related disasters.

Session 6-4 **Promises and Pitfalls: Exploring the Role of AI in Adaptation**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly used to enhance climate risk modelling, infrastructure planning, early warning systems, and community engagement. As more and more communities turn to these innovative, AI-based approaches to enable, enhance, and accelerate community resilience efforts, what promises and pitfalls must be taken into consideration? This session examines how AI tools are being deployed in Canadian contexts, using real-world demonstrations and expert dialogue that reflect on how to ensure equitable, transparent, and locally relevant solutions. Participants will gain insight into emerging applications and learn how to critically assess and integrate AI into their adaptation work.

Session 6-5 **A Tale of Two Hazards: How to Prepare for Compounding Crises**

Climate hazards not only have their own direct impacts, but are increasingly likely to interact with each other as they grow in frequency and severity. As a result, communities across Canada face exacerbated risk from compounding events, such as when wildfires followed by extreme rainfall lead to increased flooding. In the face of these combined threats, how can communities be proactive in preparing for multiple, compounding crises? This session explores synergies in adapting to multiple and overlapping hazards, looking at the potential for maladaptation, trade-offs, and pathways for integrating multi-risk climate preparedness into land use policy and disaster-recovery planning.



Session 6-6 **Indigenous Innovation at the Forefront of Adaptation**

Through innovative approaches that draw on Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous communities are leading the development and adoption of climate solutions that shift how adaptation is thought about and acted upon. This session centres Indigenous innovation systems, offering insights into how Indigenous knowledge coupled with contemporary technologies and community-driven strategies are creating a more sustainable and resilient path forward. Participants will hear from those leading the way, highlighting the questions, collaborations, and considerations that must be centred to move action forward.

Session 6-7 **Retreating to Move Forward: Learning from Stories of Managed Retreat**

Managed retreat is an approach to flood risk management that, while promising, faces many barriers from practical to political. As the likelihood of severe flooding increases, especially for those living in floodplains or other high-risk areas, how can this solution that is both necessary and hard to implement be turned into a real possibility? In this session, presenters will share about their own experiences with managed retreat, looking at what worked well, what didn't, and how barriers from policy to community pushback were overcome. Participants are invited to bring their questions for sharing with both speakers and each other. [

Session 6-8 **How We Tell the Story: Communicating Across Experience**

Storytelling can help to educate, build bridges, and break down barriers between people, experiences, and geographies. It can also be a pathway for conveying important lessons and values, fostering cultural continuity, and cultivating greater awareness of climate change in different contexts. In this session, participants will consider the power of stories for building climate resilience, highlighting different approaches such as Indigenous Storytelling, digital storytelling, and storytelling as a tool for conveying youth perspectives. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 6-9 **Designing Belonging: Social Resilience, Health Equity, and the Built Environment**

Climate hazards intersect with existing inequities in the built environment to create uneven impacts related to physical and mental health, access to services, community connection, and more. At the same time, climate-resilient design that centres health equity, social connection, and interaction with the natural world can help improve health outcomes and wellbeing, even in the face of climate change. This interactive session uses case studies from across Canada in conjunction with hands-on codesign to explore built environment interventions that integrate climate adaptation, health equity and social resilience into planning processes and implementation. **[WORKSHOP]**

Session 6-10 **Arts for Adaptation: Climate Resilience through Creative Interventions**

Artists have a way of getting us to see and feel in new and deeper ways. Seeing, experiencing, and creating art is an engaging and useful way to encourage individuals across diverse communities to understand and act. Art can emotionally touch people, deepening their understanding and experience beyond appealing to the logical. Art can also be a tool for aiding in decision-making, not just building awareness. In this interactive session, bring your curiosity and put on your creative hat to hear about, experience, and test innovative ways for building resilience through creative interventions. **[WORKSHOP]**





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