Re: GreenCare’s Public Consultation #2 submission on the draft B.C. Climate Leadership Plan

Since 2009, GreenCare has been the energy and environmental sustainability portfolio of the Lower Mainland Health Organizations (LMHO): Fraser Health (FH), Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). The Lower Mainland Facilities Management (LMFM) department\(^1\) spearheads and shapes this portfolio, enabling the four organizations to execute their sustainability policies\(^2\) in alignment with the B.C. Ministry of Health’s (MoH) Service Plan\(^3\).

Centered on the **health and wellness of patients, staff and environment** in the Lower Mainland, GreenCare’s strategic framework expresses its holistic, collaborative and integrated approach to continuously improving energy management, reducing carbon footprints and embedding environmental sustainability in healthcare (Attachment 1).

Recognizing the inextricable relationships among healthy communities, workplaces and environment, GreenCare’s programs and initiatives - culture change, smart energy and water, active and clean transportation, zero waste and toxicity, regenerative design - are guided by credible medical evidence on health and environment outcomes and by best practices in sustainability and resilience.

GreenCare believes that **healthcare as a key sector and climate change impacts on healthcare** should be featured more prominently in and integrated more deeply into the **B.C. Climate Leadership Plan**, and resourced appropriately in the Plan’s execution. In effect, healthcare should be included in government’s sector-specific consultations before the Plan is finalized.

Moreover, GreenCare calls attention to Fraser Health (Attachment 2) and Vancouver Coastal Health (Attachment 3) submissions regarding climate change impacts on population and patients’ health and wellness. These highlight the need to recognize climate change as a public health issue\(^4\); identify the significant health co-benefits\(^5\) to mitigation and adaptation, and involve public health expertise.

**GreenCare calls for adoption of the B.C. Climate Leadership Team’s (CLT) 32 recommendations as a package.** Assembled by the provincial government and informed by five cross-government working groups, this expert multidisciplinary team is clear and unequivocal that its sector-specific recommendations are designed to be complementary and that “B.C. can maximize the benefits from these recommendations if their objectives and implementation are aligned over the next 10 years”\(^6\).

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1. LFMF’s Sustainability Policy, GreenCare’s Environmental Accountability Report (2014), [https://bcgreencare.ca/](https://bcgreencare.ca/): “The Lower Mainland Health Care Organizations will act as leaders with respect to environmental stewardship while engaging the health care community in a collaborative approach towards sustainability.”
2. FH, PHC, PHSA and VCH Sustainability Policies, [https://bcgreencare.ca/resource/sustainability-policies](https://bcgreencare.ca/resource/sustainability-policies)
5. Vancouver Coastal Health, Climate Leadership Plan Consultation, March 24, 2016
6. **B.C. Climate Leadership Team: Recommendations to Government**, pages 8 and 18
Specifically, GreenCare calls for:

1. **Differentiation of healthcare among public sector organizations**

While public sector organizations (PSO) play an important role in climate action as pilots and models, healthcare facilities and staff are distinct in terms of their “frontline” role in mitigation, adaptation and disaster response. Moreover, mitigation and adaptation strategies have clear and significant population health co-benefits that should be emphasized and prioritized in the Plan, as proposed by VCH\(^7\).

Healthcare facilities have particular requirements\(^8\) and constraints on their ability to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) targets and CLT recommendations. For example, Recommendations 20(a) and 20(c) whereby on-site renewable energy is challenged by the high energy intensity of healthcare buildings, compared to other commercial industries.

GreenCare calls for longer timeframes or additional resources that enable healthcare to meet GHG targets and CLT recommendations.

2. **Harmonization of healthcare and climate change policies**

Healthcare organizations are governed by the B.C. Ministry of Health, and climate leadership is under the aegis of the B.C. Ministry of Environment (MoE). Potential gaps and contradictions should be addressed proactively by both ministries throughout the Plan’s execution, evaluation and five-year revision process.

Recognizing that healthcare has no representation on the B.C. Climate Leadership Team or on the B.C. Cabinet Team, GreenCare supports VCH’s call for inclusion of a senior Public Health professional on the B.C. Climate Leadership Team for the creation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Plan\(^9\). Furthermore, GreenCare proposes that the B.C. Cabinet Team appoints a policy-level working group to ensure alignment between the MoH and MoE, and with federal-level climate change policy.

3. **Recommendations and targets**

The proposed language around the recommendations is not commensurate with the urgent timeline for GHG emission reductions. Moreover, emissions reduction targets are averages to be achieved by all public sector organizations, with no accountability for individual organizations. Targets are limited to PSOs, and no timeline for extending to non-PSOs is apparent.

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\(^7\) Vancouver Coastal Health, Consultation #2 submission  
\(^8\) LEED Health Care v4  
\(^9\) Vancouver Coastal Health, Consultation #2 submission
In the consultation guide, healthcare was not listed as a “key sector”. This omission does not reflect the reality of healthcare’s unique, substantial and essential role in climate mitigation, adaptation and in disaster response; nor of healthcare’s contribution to B.C.’s economy (i.e. over 40% of the provincial government expenditures each year\textsuperscript{10}).

GreenCare proposes that recommendations are rephrased to reflect the urgency of B.C.’s climate action, and that targets are sufficiently ambitious to achieve and maintain sector-specific “climate leadership” within a global context. Targets should be extended beyond PSOs with appropriate timelines and resources. An assessment and/or inclusion of healthcare as a “key sector” with sector-specific targets should be included in the Plan.

GreenCare calls for a timeline to increase - not only review - climate commitments and actions every five years, as a counterpart to the First Ministers’ commitment in March 2016 to “increase the level of ambition of environmental policies over time in order to drive greater GHG emissions reductions”\textsuperscript{11} (Attachment 4), and with Canada’s commitment to “ratcheting up” climate action as per the Paris Agreement in December 2015.

4. Scope of GHG emissions reporting

GreenCare supports Canada’s First Ministers’ commitment to “better coordinate GHG emissions reporting systems among jurisdictions to accurately and transparently assess the progress and the impact of our climate actions”. B.C.’s GHG emissions reporting scope is far from comprehensive as only emissions from public sector building operations, owned transportation and paper are included. Personal vehicles used for work purposes and anaesthetic gases are not included in carbon accounting.

Other jurisdictions with “climate leadership” carry out full cost accounting for carbon in healthcare. For instance, England’s National Health Service (NHS)\textsuperscript{12} found in 2012 that procurement comprises 72% of its carbon footprint; building/energy and transport comprised 15% and 13%, respectively. Healthcare’s substantial purchasing power is a tremendous opportunity to drastically reduce its procurement-related carbon footprint, alongside buildings and transportation.

An emerging focus area is carbon accounting for Telehealth (i.e. providing healthcare services using information and communications technology, thereby reducing GHG emissions associated with staff and patient travel).

GreenCare recommends expanding the GHG reporting scope to include procurement, anaesthetic gases and all transportation (including personal vehicles used for work purposes); and providing resources for a multi-sector effort to establish a baseline for full carbon cost accounting (including Telehealth).

\textsuperscript{10} Vancouver Coastal Health, Consultation #2 submission
\textsuperscript{11} http://www.scics.gc.ca/english/Conferences.asp?a=viewdocument&id=2401
5. **What We Value: carbon pricing, financial mechanism, climate risk management, adaptation**

GreenCare’s focus on Smart Energy & Water and Culture Change is aligned with the Plan’s priority action area about “how we consider the cost of climate change to society when making decisions”.

*Carbon pricing and general financial mechanism*

While it is commonly believed that carbon pricing in one form or another will drive B.C.’s transition to a green economy, GreenCare believes that any carbon pricing mechanism needs to reflect the full valuation of its impact on B.C.’s communities, workplaces and environment.

The opportunity costs associated with inadequate commitment and action should be explored more fully in the Plan. These include the social and environmental costs of *e.g.* a population increasingly affected by chronic illnesses linked to climate change; and of the intellectual capital, labour and skills associated with the fossil fuel industry (*i.e.* excluding transitioning to a low carbon economy).

B.C. should consider a hybrid carbon pricing mechanism to expand its market linkages and ensure its ability to maximize benefits in both national and international contexts. The World Bank is working with Chile and Mexico to shift their carbon tax policies to a hybrid carbon pricing mechanism with both cap-and-trade and base carbon taxing. California and Quebec recently announced a planned expansion to include Ontario and Manitoba among others in its cap-and-trade program.

GreenCare believes that investments in green infrastructure and industry may be more appropriate than holding revenue neutrality through industry and personal tax breaks.

*Climate risk management and adaptation*

GreenCare agrees with Canada’s First Ministers that “comprehensive adaptation efforts must complement ambitious mitigation measures” (Attachment 2: Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate). A commitment to integrate adaptation planning into public sector operations, and a pan-healthcare climate change plan that includes close collaboration with communities to develop and execute adaptation strategies (particularly coastal, northern and rural communities), are needed. Funding commitments and policy requirements are required to enable the public sector to move beyond incremental change.

6. **The Way We Live: community and the built environment**

GreenCare’s focus on Culture Change and Regenerative Design speaks to our need to go beyond “doing less harm” to both people and the environment, and “do more good” as individual citizens and communities.
Community and the Built Environment
The draft Plan highlights the “critical role of climate action in building healthy and resilient communities”. Conversely, healthcare has a critical role in mobilizing climate action at the community level in particular.

Many of the estimated 65,000 healthcare staff are “frontline workers” with direct access to local populations and patients. Based on over six years’ experience and demonstrable success (e.g. as per staff engagement surveys), GreenCare believes that hospitals and other healthcare nodes could be significant resources for community engagement on climate change impacts on health and communities. These large-scale, open access facilities are ideal for launching public campaigns linking citizens’ personal responsibility with provincial, national and international climate change agendas.

LMFM promotes regenerative design principles to the furthest extent possible in new and retrofitted buildings. Demonstrating the ability to generate net positive energy, water and materials in large-scale public sector buildings has the potential to inspire and catalyze other sectors to generate “positive regenerative impacts”\textsuperscript{13}. While the LEED Gold standard is enshrined in policy, it is not yet legislated and as such, is not strictly adhered to. More ambitious international standards and certifications point to greater possible gains (e.g. the Living Building Challenge\textsuperscript{14} and the Well Building Standard\textsuperscript{15}).

GreenCare recommends that the LEED Gold standard is appropriately legislated and organizations are held accountable. Moreover, more ambitious standards should be incorporated into policy and legislation over time (e.g. regenerative principles into design, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning specifications for healthcare’s leased and owned buildings).

7. The Way We Travel: transportation

GreenCare’s focus on providing and promoting Active & Clean Transportation options to healthcare staff is essential to achieving Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Communities and a Healthy Environment. This includes providing several shuttle services to transport staff between healthcare sites; some infrastructure to support cycling to work; and, resources and tools to encourage active and clean commuting, where possible.

Transportation
The degree of urgency around emissions reductions, and the medical evidence on the myriad adverse effects of the single occupant vehicle, warrant more ambitious and specific funding commitments to enable a quick transition to low-carbon transportation infrastructure, particularly in urban areas. Moreover, an all-government approach that integrates land use and transportation planning is essential to building healthy communities. These must be complemented by increased subsidies for public sector organizations to encourage carpooling and car sharing, public transit and adoption of electric vehicles.

\textsuperscript{13} Living Building Challenge v3, page 3
\textsuperscript{14} http://living-future.org/
\textsuperscript{15} https://www.wellcertified.com/
8. The Way We Work: industry, business and natural resources

GreenCare’s focus on Smart Energy & Water, and Zero Waste & Toxicity (including procurement), aligns most closely with the draft Plan’s action area on business, industry, products and services.

Industry, business and natural resources
B.C.’s transition to a low carbon economy should include a review of fossil fuel subsidies; a commitment to move away from liquefied natural gas towards clean energy; and support to clean energy in remote areas such as Bella Bella and Bella Coola (currently heated with propane and diesel). Climate change impacts on B.C.’s surface and groundwater resources should be considered, including emissions associated with the processing and distribution of water in this region.

GreenCare trusts that the B.C. Cabinet Working Group on Climate Leadership will review and incorporate its commentary in the final B.C. Climate Leadership Plan with the utmost consideration.

Furthermore, GreenCare is open to providing further information in support of its position; and to participating in any activities or working groups helpful to advancing the recommendations in its submission.

Sincerely,

Mauricio Acosta
Director, Energy & Environmental Sustainability
Lower Mainland Facilities Management
Attachment 1: GreenCare’s Strategic Sustainability Framework
March 23, 2016

Susanna Laaksonen-Craig  
Head, Climate Action Secretariat  
Ministry of Environment  
PO Box 9486 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9W6

Dear Ms. Laaksonen-Craig,

Re: Climate Leadership Plan – Round Two Consultation

The Population and Public Health Program at Fraser Health have reviewed the January 2016 Climate Change Leadership Plan Consultation Guide and offer the following recommendations for climate action in British Columbia.

Health

The Climate Leadership Action Plan process appears to focus on managing emission reductions while ensuring economic vitality. This is evidenced in the Climate Leadership Team’s (CLT) mandate to provide recommendations on:

- how to maintain B.C.’s climate leadership;
- updates to the current Climate Action Plan as well as new programs and policies required to achieve British Columbia’s greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets within the context of economic growth, B.C.’s LNG Strategy and the B.C. Jobs Plan;
- actions to achieve GHG reductions required across the industrial sector, transportation sector and built environment...

Absent from both the consultation guide and the CLT’s report are considerations for the health and social implications of climate change and climate change action. As stated in our previous recommendations, the Climate Leadership Plan should fundamentally recognize climate change as a public health issue. We recommend that human health be explicitly identified as a priority in the principles, and that the leadership plan include health and social priorities in all areas of analysis.
Adaptation

While the consultation guide recognizes that “in many cases, we already see the impacts of climate change and know what we need to do,” it does not provide a clear vision for climate change adaptation. In the face of the impacts we have already experienced and an uncertain future, we strongly recommend that the ministry develop and implement a climate change adaptation strategy alongside its mitigation strategies. We recommend the adoption of a whole of government approach to address climate action, such Health in All Policies (HiAP). HiAP is a policy strategy, which targets the key determinants of health through integrated policy across governmental sectors and policy areas (e.g. health, environment, education, transportation and infrastructure, social policy). A whole of government approach such as HiAP is critical to the success of government action on an issue as complex and cross-sectoral as climate change mitigation and adaptation. As government works horizontally and vertically through all sectors to address climate change, we must address the needs and vulnerabilities of individuals and communities at greatest risk of adverse impacts such as the elderly, the young, individuals with chronic diseases, low-income individuals, ethnic minorities and remote and rural communities.

Additional specific recommendations for each area of the consultation guide are provided below.

What We Value

- Amend the Environmental Assessment Act to include the social and health cost of carbon.
- We recommend careful tracking of important climate change indicators, including emissions targets, mitigation measures such as the carbon tax, and impacts on the environment and human health. This data should be available to the public, supporting both transparency and accountability for government and the public.
- Utilize provincial/local/regional health data to inform, monitor and evaluate climate action plans and local strategies and investments.

How we live

- Prioritize investment in public and transportation infrastructure. Land-use patterns are highly dependent upon both land-use and transportation infrastructure and design. A comprehensive regional transit network and locally accessible transit options are foundational infrastructure for creating compact communities.
- Ensure access to affordable housing while encouraging compact growth, i.e. through tax levers to create tenant or sub-market housing in new compact developments.
- Adopt Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for important decisions involving land-use management and include climate impacts.
- Ensure that environmental goals and health goals are integrated and synergistic. For instance:
  - Update the Climate Action Charter to include health considerations and identify actions that have co-benefits for health and climate.
  - Encourage or mandate building design that have co-benefits for health and climate.
How We Travel

- In addition to incentives for purchasing CEVs, create incentives to help build the infrastructure needed to support the use of CEVs. For instance, expand the network of charging stations to allow longer distance travel across and reduce ‘range anxiety’ amongst CEV drivers.
- While we support efficient movement of goods and people to reduce GHG and support a healthy economy, transportation patterns also have significant health and social impacts. Transportation decisions need to take into account and optimize all of these endpoints. We recommend the adoption of Health Impact Assessments for all important transportation infrastructure decisions.
- Ensure that new transportation infrastructure projects align with the Ministry of Environment’s air quality and climate change targets.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide input on the direction of B.C.’s Climate Change Leadership Plan. We look forward to seeing the results of this consultation process, and continuing the dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Jing Mu, MD MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
Fraser Health Authority
March 24, 2016

Climate Leadership Consultation,
Ministry of Environment Climate Action Secretariat
P.O. Box 9486, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9W6
climateleadershipplan@gov.bc.ca

Dear Climate Action Secretariat:

RE: Climate Leadership Plan Consultation

Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officers respectfully submit the following comments regarding the proposed BC Climate Leadership Plan. While we strongly support the Provincial Government’s overall desire to respond to climate change, there are areas where the Climate Leadership Team Recommendations to Government report can be strengthened, particularly in linking the strategies and policies for population health improvement to those for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

1. Leverage the Co-Benefits to Population Health When Setting Climate Change Policies:

Climate change threatens the health of British Columbians in many ways, from air quality, to extreme weather events, to food security, to physical health. On the other hand, many climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies can bring benefits to people’s health and promote healthy lifestyles. In Metro Vancouver, close to 60% of the adult population do not meet the recommended daily physical activity level, and close to 75% do not consume as many fruits and vegetables daily as recommended (data source: www.myhealthmycommunity.org). The mitigation and adaptation strategies that have clear and significant population health co-benefits must be emphasized and prioritized in the provincial plan. Examples of strategies with clear health co-benefits include:

- Invest in public transit and other measures that encourage increased adoption of active transportation by our citizens, and decrease dependence on single occupant travel in private motor vehicles;
- Promote healthy natural and built environment designs and land use policies that will improve air quality, increase physical activity, increase social connection, and decrease urban heat island effects;
- Re-orient agriculture policies to support both GHG reduction from agriculture and healthy eating objectives (e.g. increased fruit and vegetable and reduced meat consumption) at the same time.
The evidence of the co-benefits to population health from appropriate climate change policies is strong. There are examples across the globe where such synergies are embraced at national, regional, and community levels.

2. **Integrate Transportation and Land Use Planning at All Levels of Governments**

We reiterate our recommendation made in September 2015 in response to the initial discussion paper on the Climate Leadership Plan:

"VCH believes that a comprehensive, all government approach is required to successfully meet the objectives established in the Climate Leadership Plan. The province can guide actions on climate change by revising its current suite of legislation to ensure that they help enable rather than limit adaptation and mitigation efforts. Local government can lead response to community resilience and transportation adaptation through zoning and official community plans."

Nowhere is this recommendation of more importance than for the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley communities, where by far the majority of BC residents live. The current public debates on transit, roads, bridges and housing reflect the current complexity with respect to land use and transportation planning under multiple levels of jurisdiction, governance, priorities and funding formulae. At the same time, wise and courageous decisions in these same areas will offer the best chance to significantly decrease GHG and carbon emissions, as well as significantly improve population health. Complete communities are walkable, mixed use, transit-oriented communities where people can find an appropriate place to live at all stages of their lives, earn a living, access the services they need, and enjoy social cultural, educational and recreational pursuits (Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy). Complete communities are also the most likely to significantly contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. As Medical Health Officers, we were on record in 2015 in stating that the TransLink Mayors’ Council vision for regional transportation in Metro Vancouver, if implemented, would have been the greatest Public Health achievement to date in the 21st century for our region. Without an all government approach that integrates land use and transportation planning to build healthy communities, more opportunities will be lost for addressing climate change and reaping the population health co-benefits that our citizens deserve.

3. **Include a senior Public Health professional on the Leadership Team for the creation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Plan**

We believe it is essential to include Public Health expertise on the Climate Leadership Team to maximize the health co-benefits in the BC Climate Leadership Plan. The goals and means for achieving healthy and resilient people and communities are the same ones that can best address the climate change challenges before us. The populations most vulnerable health-wise are the same populations who are most vulnerable to climate change.
impacts. Public Health expertise on the Climate Leadership Team will ensure evidence based strategies for simultaneously improving population health and addressing climate change are identified and prioritized. Health care costs currently account for more than 40% of the provincial government expenditures each year. Much of this cost is spent on managing the consequences of lifestyle choices-related chronic diseases. We have an incredible opportunity before us to confront together both the climate change and the population health challenges of this century.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Patricia Daly,
Vice-President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health

CC: Allan Neilson, General Manager of Planning, Policy and Environment, Metro Vancouver
    Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer
Attachment 4: Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate

Vancouver Declaration on clean growth and climate change

March 3, 2016

Canada stands at the threshold of building our clean growth economy. This transition will create a strong and diverse economy, create new jobs and improve our quality of life, as innovations in steam power, electricity and computing have done before. We will grow our economy while reducing emissions. We will capitalize on the opportunity of a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy to create good-paying and long-term jobs. We will do this in partnership with Indigenous peoples based on recognition of rights, respect and cooperation.

We will build on the leadership shown and actions taken by the provinces and territories, as exemplified by the 2015 Quebec Declaration and Canadian Energy Strategy, by working together and including federal action. We will build on the momentum of the Paris Agreement by developing a concrete plan to achieve Canada's international commitments through a pan-Canadian framework for clean growth and climate change. Together, we will leverage technology and innovation to seize the opportunity for Canada to contribute global solutions and become a leader in the global clean growth economy.

To that end, First Ministers agree to the following:

1. **Increase the Level of Ambition**

   **Recognizing** the Paris Agreement which calls for significant reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global warming to less than 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels;

   **Recognizing** that the level of ambition set by the Paris Agreement will require global emissions to approach zero by the second half of the century and that all governments, Indigenous peoples, as well as civil society, business and individual Canadians, should be mobilized in order to face this challenge, bringing their respective strengths and capabilities to enable Canada to maximize the economic growth and middle class job opportunities of a cleaner, more resilient future;

First Ministers **commit to**:

- **Implement** GHG mitigation policies in support of meeting or exceeding Canada's 2030 target of a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions, including specific provincial and territorial targets and objectives;
- **Increase** the level of ambition of environmental policies over time in order to drive greater GHG emissions reductions, consistent with the Paris Agreement;
- **Better coordinate** GHG emissions reporting systems among jurisdictions to accurately and transparently assess the progress and the impact of our climate actions towards our respective and collective targets.

2. **Promote Clean Economic Growth to Create Jobs**

**Recognizing** that the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of action with regard to GHG emissions mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change;

**Recognizing** that clean growth which supports the transition to a climate-resilient and low carbon economy by 2050 is necessary to ensure the future prosperity of Canada and Canadians;

**Recognizing** the diversity of provincial and territorial economies, and the need for fair and flexible approaches to ensure international competitiveness and a business environment that enables firms to capitalize on opportunities related to the transition to a low carbon economy in each jurisdiction;

**Recognizing** the economic importance of Canada's energy and resource sectors, and their sustainable development as Canada transitions to a low carbon economy;

**Recognizing** that growing our economy and achieving our GHG emissions targets will require an integrated, economy-wide approach that includes all sectors, creates jobs and promotes innovation;

**Recognizing** that investing in clean technology solutions, especially in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use, holds great promise for sustainable economic development and long-term job creation;

First Ministers **commit to**:

- **Ensure** deep reductions in GHG emissions and a competitive economy, provide certainty to business, and contribute global solutions to a global issue;
- **Foster and encourage** investment in clean technology solutions for Canada and the world that hold great promise for economic growth and long-term job creation;
- **Implement** measures grounded in the view that clean growth and climate change policies are of net economic, environmental and social benefit to Canadians.

3. **Deliver Mitigation Actions**

**Recognizing** that a collaborative approach between provincial, territorial and federal governments is important to reduce GHG emissions and enable sustainable economic growth;

**Recognizing** the important role all governments have in the global effort to reduce GHG emissions, and that a number of provinces and territories have already joined or are exploring entry into regional and international efforts to reduce GHG emissions;

**Recognizing** that development of new technologies and deployment of existing technologies and innovations in areas such as cleaner energy production and use, renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency and innovative financial instruments will create new and competitive economic opportunities, domestically and abroad, that can facilitate the transition to a more resilient, low carbon economy;

Recognizing that carbon pricing mechanisms are being used by governments in Canada and globally to address climate change and drive the transition to a low carbon economy;

Recognizing that provinces and territories have been early leaders in the fight against climate change and have taken proactive steps, such as adopting carbon pricing mechanisms, placing caps on emissions, involvement in international partnerships with other states and regions, closing coal plants, carbon capture and storage projects, renewable energy production (including hydroelectric developments) and targets, and investments in energy efficiency;

Recognizing that the federal government has committed to ensuring that the provinces and territories have the flexibility to design their own policies to meet emission reductions targets, including their own carbon pricing mechanisms, supported by federal investments in infrastructure, specific emission reduction opportunities and clean technologies;

First Ministers commit to:

- **Transition** to a low carbon economy by adopting a broad range of domestic measures, including carbon pricing mechanisms, adapted to each province’s and territory’s specific circumstances, in particular the realities of Canada’s Indigenous peoples and Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. The transition also requires that Canada engage internationally;

- **Foster** investments in clean technologies to reduce the GHG emissions associated with the production and consumption of energy, including renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency and storage, and other technologies which may include carbon capture and storage;

- **Encourage** the sharing of information, expertise and best practices in order to foster a business environment that favours investments in innovative clean technologies related to climate change;

- **Work together** to enhance carbon sinks, including in agriculture and forestry, taking into account international best practices and accounting standards, to recognize their contribution to mitigating GHG emissions, and toward the establishment of a pan-Canadian offset protocols framework and verified carbon credits that can be traded internationally.

4. **Increase Action on Adaptation and Climate Resilience**

Recognizing that Canada has already experienced severe impacts of climate change, including forest fires, droughts, flooding, coastal erosion, thawing permafrost, invasive species, and the spread of diseases previously foreign to Canada;

Recognizing that the health and security of populations, as well as the economy, infrastructure, cultural heritage and ecosystems are being impacted by climate change, and that climate risks and inaction have significant implications for the economic and social development prospects of provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples and Canada as a whole;

Recognizing that Canada’s northern and coastal regions are particularly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change;

Recognizing the importance of traditional ecological knowledge in regard to understanding climate impacts and adaptation measures;

Recognizing that comprehensive adaptation efforts must complement ambitious mitigation measures to address unavoidable climate change impacts;

First Ministers commit to:

- Implement strong, complementary adaptation policies within our respective jurisdictions to address climate risks facing our populations, infrastructures, economies and ecosystems, in particular in Canada’s northern regions.
- Support climate resilient and green infrastructure, including disaster mitigation;
- Strengthen the collaboration between our governments and Indigenous peoples to support local adaptation efforts.

5. Enhance Cooperation

Recognizing that in the Paris Agreement, Parties agreed that they should, when taking action to address climate change, recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples;

Recognizing that, in April 2015, Premiers concluded the Québec Summit on Climate Change with the Declaration of the Premiers of Canada by which they have agreed to act together in the fight against climate change;

Recognizing the leadership of the provinces and territories in developing the Canadian Energy Strategy, which was released in July 2015 and charts a path for shaping the sustainable development of Canada’s energy future;

Recognizing the importance of provincial and territorial actions to enable the achievement of clean growth and climate change objectives and targets;

Recognizing the commitment of the federal government to work with the provinces and territories in order to complement and support their actions without duplicating them, including by promoting innovation and enabling clean growth across all sectors;

Recognizing that Canada cooperates with the United States and Mexico on energy and the environment, including through a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and Energy Collaboration;

Recognizing the importance of public education, participation and access to information to increase climate change awareness and literacy;

First Ministers commit to:

- Strengthen the collaboration between our governments and Indigenous peoples on mitigation and adaptation actions, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership;
- Strengthen pan-Canadian intergovernmental cooperation and coordination on clean growth and climate change, including through mechanisms such as the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Ministers of Finance, Ministers of Innovation and Economic Development, and Energy Ministers, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples;

• **Implement** a collaborative, science-based approach to inform Canada’s future targets that will increase in stringency as required by the Paris Agreement;

• **Enable** the participation of provinces and territories in cooperative activities related to their jurisdictions with the United States and Mexico on energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

• **Facilitate** cooperation to strengthen public communication and participation on climate change, improve public climate literacy, promote the actions taken by governments to reduce GHG emissions, and support international engagement.

**Taking Action**

• In order to achieve these commitments, First Ministers agree to work together to develop a pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change, and implement it by early 2017. It will build on measures that the provinces and territories have taken, be supported by broad engagement with Indigenous peoples and all Canadians, and be informed by science and evidence. It will inform the development and submission of Canada's Nationally Determined Contribution and its long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy under the Paris Agreement as Canada's plan to achieve our international commitments. Specific actions include:

1. **Early actions by the Government of Canada:**
   a. Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation through investments in green infrastructure, public transit infrastructure and energy efficient social infrastructure;
   b. Investing in GHG emission reductions by working together on how best to lever federal investments in the Low Carbon Economy Fund to realize incremental reductions;
   c. Fulfilling Canada’s commitment to Mission Innovation, made in Paris in December 2015, by doubling government investment in clean energy research and development over the next five years, and spurring private sector investment in clean technology;
   d. Advancing the electrification of vehicle transportation, in collaboration with provinces and territories;
   e. Fostering dialogue and development of regional plans for clean electricity transmission; and
   f. Investing in clean energy solutions to help get Indigenous, remote and northern communities off diesel.

2. **Working together to build on provincial and territorial actions by identifying measures that governments could take to reduce emissions and grow the economy in the longer term:**
a. First Ministers direct that reports be developed by working groups to identify options for action in four areas: clean technology, innovation and jobs; carbon pricing mechanisms; specific mitigation opportunities; and adaptation and climate resilience. Each working group will assess impacts on economic and environmental outcomes. The reports will be provided to the ministerial tables charged with overseeing their work, as outlined below, by September 2016. Ministers will review these reports and provide their recommendations to First Ministers by October 2016, and make the working group reports public.

b. Working groups will be established in these four areas to prepare the reports. The working groups will be led by federal and provincial or territorial co-chairs, and will be composed of members from federal, provincial and territorial governments. Each of the groups will include Indigenous peoples in their work. The working groups will be encouraged to commission expert analysis and reports as necessary to support their work, and engage stakeholders.

c. The Working Group on Clean Technology, Innovation and Jobs will provide a report with options on how to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and drive innovation across all sectors to transition to a low-carbon economy, leveraging regional strengths. This working group will consider a range of policy tools to bring new and emerging technology and innovations to market, sustain a competitive economy, reduce GHG emissions, encourage growth and investment, and increase exports of clean technologies, services and expertise. Their work will be overseen by Ministers of Innovation and Economic Development, who will receive their report.

d. The Working Group on Carbon Pricing Mechanisms will provide a report with options on the role of carbon pricing mechanisms in meeting Canada's emissions reduction targets, including different design options taking into consideration existing and planned provincial and territorial systems. It will consider various elements of carbon pricing policy, including coverage, comparability and stringency, as well as market transactions related to mitigation technologies and international trends in carbon pricing and markets. It will consider the effectiveness of various carbon pricing mechanisms to contribute to the certainty of emission reductions and their efficiency at achieving this objective at the lowest possible cost, and take account of particular challenges, such as those facing northern and remote communities. It will also address issues that are particularly important to industry and investors, such as predictability, and approaches to address interprovincial and international competitiveness, including carbon leakage. Their work will be jointly overseen by Ministers of Finance and the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, who will both receive their report.

e. The Working Group on Specific Mitigation Opportunities will provide a report with options on how to promote clean growth and achieve a range of ambitious reductions in key sectors, including large industrial emitters, transportation, electricity generation and transmission, built environment, agriculture and forestry, and government operations as well as individual energy conservation...
actions. The working group will also look at approaches to internationally transferred mitigation outcomes, in the context of the Paris Agreement. The working group, supported by technical sub-groups, will consider various emissions reduction opportunities, taking into consideration existing and planned policies. Their work will be overseen by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, who will receive their report.

f. The Working Group on Adaptation and Climate Resilience will provide a report with options on a comprehensive approach to adapt to the impacts of climate change, support affected communities and build greater climate resilience. This working group will identify specific priorities in support of approaches to climate change adaptation, including disaster mitigation and conservation, and will consider a range of policy tools to foster research, innovation and investments in resilient infrastructure; integrate information, expertise and best practices from Indigenous peoples; and support the development of jurisdictional policies. This work will be overseen by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, who will receive their report.

3. Working together on Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Technology and Innovation:

a. Federal, provincial and territorial Energy Ministers will collaborate on specific actions being undertaken through the Canadian Energy Strategy, including energy conservation and efficiency, clean energy technology and innovation and delivering energy to people and global markets, in order to contribute to the pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change.

b. The Government of Canada will advance the harmonization of energy efficiency standards and development of innovative approaches across Canada and with North American partners.

4. Engage Indigenous peoples in the development of the pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change

a. The working group process will be complemented by a broader engagement process with Indigenous peoples.

5. Engage the public in the development of the pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change

a. The public, including youth, will be engaged using online tools in particular to solicit input and to increase climate change awareness and literacy.

6. First Ministers will meet in fall 2016 to finalize the pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change, and review progress on the Canadian Energy Strategy.