



YEAR 1 REPORT

# Canadian Philanthropic Commitment on Climate Change (CPCCC)



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Overall Progress at a glance:

1. **96%** of responding signatories report that The Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change (CPCCC) has had a significant impact on their climate awareness and action.
2. **65%** of the responding signatories report reasonable to excellent progress on the pledge during the first year.
3. Average level of climate engagement of signatories pre-signing and one year later increased from weighted average of **3.1/5 to 3.8/5**
4. The number of signatories who reported **good** climate engagement **more than doubled** after year 1 (**10% - 24%**)
5. The number of signatories who reported **very high** climate engagement increased by **25%** after year 1 of program implementation.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Summary

The Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change (CPCCC) was established in 2021 by Community Foundations of Canada, Environment Funders Canada, Philanthropic Foundations Canada, and The Circle on Philanthropy – building on the established International Commitment and the #PhilanthropyforClimate movement – with 48 foundations signing the pledge over the course of the first year.

The CPCCC Year 1 Implementation Report highlights the progress made by the philanthropic foundations that signed the pledge across seven pillars: Education, Resources, Integration, Endowment and Assets, Operations, Influence and Advocacy, and Transparency. It also highlights foundations' efforts to increase support for Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led climate action.

This report presents a candid assessment of the encouraging progress made over the course of the first year, while also highlighting the challenges that many foundations encountered. The report aims to encourage accountability and transparency, identify the opportunities to strengthen collective impact, and establish robust targets and benchmarks to drive meaningful change in the philanthropic sector and, ultimately, contribute to a sustainable future for Canada and the world.

## Methodology

At the end of the first year of implementation, each of the 48 signatories was asked to complete a 23-question reporting template ([Appendix D](#)) outlining their progress, which also offered an opportunity to contribute to the seventh pillar of the CPCCC – Transparency. 30 fully or partially completed reporting templates were received by the requested deadline, and serve as the basis for this report's findings. Of these 30 respondents, 25 (83%) list climate as one of their priority funding areas.

While efforts were made to encourage responses from all signatories, factors such as limited capacity, and being a more recent signatory and therefore not having as much to report on, were cited as reasons for being unable to contribute. However, the responses received represented a majority of the participating foundations and the insights contained offer a valuable understanding of progress made while serving as a basis for future actions within the commitment.

The reporting template was composed of 23 questions and included multiple-choice questions to rank their commitment and progress over the past year, along with open-ended questions that allowed respondents to self-evaluate and narrate their progress in greater detail. The information collected from the reporting templates was analyzed with a goal of identifying universal themes, including specific actions taken, challenges faced across the pillars, and the overall progress made. The findings in this report combine both quantitative data from the multiple-choice questions with qualitative insights from the open-ended responses.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Top Actions per Pillar:

- 1 Education** was the number two priority pillar as identified by signatories. The reports reveal that signatories have undertaken various activities to deepen climate awareness. These include providing educational resources to the Board of Directors, participating in collaborative learning networks and workshops, and undertaking specific learning on Indigenous rights.
- 2 Resources** emerged as the highest priority pillar, and emphasizes the commitment of signatories to allocate resources – both financial and other – for climate action. Directing funding to initiatives focused on climate, Indigenous-led organizations, grassroots organizations, and equity-seeking groups were frequently reported, in addition to dedicating staff resources to work with a climate mandate.
- 3 Integration** recognizes the interconnected nature of the climate crisis and the need to address its wide-ranging impacts. Respondent signatories report incorporating a climate lens across all activities and integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles within their organization, as self-defined in each report. Many also report supporting intersectional and climate-focused grantees, including Indigenous and equity-seeking groups.
- 4 Endowment & Assets** highlights the connection between climate action and positive economic outcomes. Signatories reported undertaking climate lens assessments of investment portfolios, developing impact investing portfolios, and reviewing investment strategies through an Indigenous equity lens.
- 5 Operations** emphasizes the importance of leading by example, with signatories reducing their carbon footprint at an organizational level. Efforts reported include reducing travel, benchmarking or evaluating the foundation's carbon footprint, and engaging staff in climate-related conversations to generate ideas for sustainable practices specific to each organization.
- 6 Influence & Advocacy** calls for leveraging networks and partnerships to amplify the impact of climate action. Signatories report sharing information on climate with internal and external networks including partners, staff, and through channels like social media. They also report participating in cross-sector collaborations – including economic, frontline community, philanthropic and institutional organizations – and supporting civic engagement with a climate lens.
- 7 Transparency** serves as the foundation for the CPMCC, with signatories committing to sharing progress and outcomes. Key activities include committing to transparency with fellow signatories, publishing progress on the pledge through external channels, and reporting on progress to internal stakeholders.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Actions to Support Indigenous Communities

77% of respondents report allocating funds to Indigenous-led organizations, with 27% reporting good or excellent amounts, 50% reporting some or reasonable amounts, and 23% reporting very little funding. As this was a closed rated question, signatories did not report on the reasoning for their chosen allocation of funds to Indigenous-led organizations (amounts, reasons to allocate or not to allocate, and any barriers), however in future years this may be added as an additional question to better understand funding to Indigenous-led organizations.

Actions to uplift Indigenous communities included directing funding to Indigenous-led organizations (37% of respondents), allocating a portion of their annual budget to Indigenous organizations (23%), and engaging dedicated advisors on Indigenous issues (20%).

## Challenges Identified

The main challenges identified by organizations in the first year of implementation include a lack of internal staffing capacity (33% of respondents) to fulfill the pledge and difficulty obtaining buy-in from key stakeholders (20%) who may have differing priorities. Other significant challenges included making connections between climate and other funding areas (10%), and feeling overwhelmed by the complexity of the problem (7%).

Due to the self-reflective nature of the reporting template, it is possible to infer the presence of other challenges not explicitly captured in the responses. For example, the absence of key activities laid out in the pillar descriptions in the responses may indicate that signatories faced challenges in their implementation and therefore left them out entirely.

## Recommendations

As with any new and ambitious program in its first year of implementation, this report focuses on setting benchmarks and identifying opportunities for improvement, rather than proclaiming a complete mission success.

To strengthen the program in year two and beyond, several recommendations emerged from the Implementation Reports. The challenges identified by signatories highlight the need for increased resources, such as an updated Resource Bank with tailored tools to engage board members and sample policies to guide strategic action. Peer learning opportunities were emphasized, including more networking and sharing of resources, successes, and challenges among signatories. Establishing sector-wide goals and benchmarks for the philanthropy sector to achieve by 2030 was proposed to generate momentum and collective action.

While the report acknowledges that more progress is needed, it also celebrates the significant achievements made in the first year of implementation. The feedback provided in the report will guide the program's development and inspire existing and new signatories to continue their efforts towards a [Just Transition](#) to a net zero world – defined by [Indigenous Climate Action](#) as a transition that focuses on a shift away from reliance on fossil fuels, and towards renewable energies that integrates cultural and traditional values.

The hope is that as the CPMCC continues to grow and develop, these guiding principles will help solidify Canada's philanthropic sector as a leader in an equitable and fair fight against climate change – one that leaves no one behind.

# 1. YEAR ONE CANADIAN PHILANTHROPY COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

## 1.1 Introduction and background

Climate change is the largest and most urgent threat that humanity and the natural environment have ever faced. The planet is now warming faster than at any point in recorded history – [with Canada warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world](#) – causing irreparable harm to the environment and all beings who inhabit the planet. Indigenous and other equity-seeking communities in particular are some of the most negatively and severely impacted by climate change, despite their minimal contribution to its primary drivers. Without large-scale, collaborative, and unprecedented effort to address the devastating effect of climate change, future generations will inherit a planet that is hostile and increasingly uninhabitable.

The time to act on climate change is now, and the philanthropic sector in particular has a vital role to play. The climate crisis has already produced wide-ranging and severe effects whose impacts are felt in every philanthropic focus area, for instance in health, education, social services, human rights, gender equity, etc. Even for organizations for whom climate is not a main focus, the risk that climate change poses to all beings and ecosystems makes embedding a climate lens at a foundational level an imperative for the philanthropic sector as a whole.

Through innovative collaboration, building networks for knowledge sharing, and supporting the organizations on the ground who are working to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change, the philanthropic sector has the power to be a pivotal force in tackling these urgent issues that threaten our very existence.

## 1.2 Overview of the signatoires

At the end of the first year of programming in early 2023, **48 signatory foundations** (Appendix A - Signatories) have committed to the pledge, taking the lead and making history in the Canadian philanthropic sector's efforts to fight climate change. These foundations represent a wide array of philanthropic focus areas, but all share a readiness to engage in climate action and a demonstrated leadership in the sector.

Of the 48 signatories, 34 list Climate as a primary funding focus. The remaining 14 foundations represent priority funding areas including (but not limited to): Health and Education, Indigenous Rights, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Children and Youth, Gender Equity, Poverty Alleviation, Arts and Culture, Food Sovereignty, Housing, and Racial Justice.

The signatories were asked to self-identify into one of three categories based on their current level of engagement with the climate crisis: 1) **Getting Started**, 2) **Building Momentum**, and 3) **Demonstrating Leadership** (Appendix A). Identifying with these categories allows for tailored suggestions that foundations can undertake for each pillar of the commitment, based on where they are in their climate journey.

## 1.3 The Methodology

As per Pillar 7: Transparency, signatories were asked to complete an **Implementation Report** to share the progress they have made on the pledge over the past year, identify any challenges they have encountered, and make requests or suggestions for moving forward. Of the 48 current signatories, 30 submitted full or partial Implementation Reports – from which the information in this report is drawn. Of these 30 respondents, 25 (83%) list climate as one of their priority funding areas.

While efforts were made to encourage responses from all signatories, factors such as limited capacity or signing the commitment later in the year and consequently having little to report on were cited as reasons for not being able to contribute.

The reports were collected primarily through a reporting template sent to each signatory via Survey Monkey. It was composed of 23 questions (**Appendix D**), which were a mix of multiple-choice self-evaluations and questions requiring longer, open-ended responses. The questions were all directly related to the implementation of the CPCCC, but were in some cases somewhat broad, allowing respondents to narrate their own progress in as much or as little detail as they chose. Some answers were robust and thorough, going into great detail about the activities undertaken over the last year as they related to the commitment, while others provided a more cursory or high-level overview.

This means that the information contained in this report may not represent the full and comprehensive list of activities each signatory undertook, but rather serves to provide insight into the common themes and overall progress made in year one of implementation, as will be discussed below.

Additionally, the information distilled from the reporting template responses is useful in establishing benchmarks for the first year to help guide targets, refine processes, and support resource development and peer-learning opportunities in subsequent programming years, with the aim of supporting signatories in their implementation journeys, deepening their engagement and action, and drawing in new signatories from across the country to commit to addressing the climate crisis. With increased momentum, the hope is to have impact beyond the philanthropic community and turn Canada from a climate lagger to a climate leader

This report was written by Bailey Dunyo, with participation from the CPCCC Steering Committee and Indigenous Advisory Circle, and the responding signatories.

## 2. PROGRESS OVERVIEW YEAR 1

Signatories were asked to self-identify their progress over the past year of implementation, including the impact of the pledge on their climate action and awareness, the level of progress they perceive in fulfilling the pledge, and how the pledge influenced their engagement with climate-related issues.

The responses indicate a significant increase in climate engagement among signatories, with notable improvements in awareness and action, as well as overall progress towards fulfilling the pledge. Specifically:

- 23%** Climate engagement among signatories significantly increased after the first year of program implementation, with a **23% rise** in reported climate engagement levels.
- 3.8/5** The average level of climate engagement among signatories improved from a weighted average of **3.1/5 to 3.8/5** after one year, indicating increased commitment and action towards addressing climate change.
- ▲ 24%** The number of signatories reporting good climate engagement **more than doubled**, rising from **10% to 24%** after the first year.
- ▲ 25%** Signatories with very high climate engagement increased by **25%** following the program's implementation.
- 96%** The CPCCC impacted climate awareness and action for **96%** of the signatories, demonstrating its effectiveness in driving change.
- 65%** **Nearly two-thirds (65%)** of the responding signatories reported making reasonable to excellent progress on the pledge over the past year, indicating substantial advancements on the commitment. Contributing factors to success were not reported on in this survey, however are an additional area for inquiry throughout the year and a question to potentially include in future surveys.

The commitment's **influence** on signatories' awareness and action varied,

- 54%** with **over half (54%)** reporting a modest change
- 20%** and **nearly 20%** stating a significant or tremendous impact.

The **overall progress** made over the last year as reported by signatories was **significant**,

- 41%** with a **majority (41%)** indicating reasonable progress
- 21%** and a **substantial portion (21%)** reporting good progress.

## 3. ACTIONS TO UPLIFT INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ACTIONS ON CLIMATE

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples have been living with and adapting to the devastation caused by colonialism for hundreds of years. Climate change (which is the result of ongoing colonization) and its outsized impact on Indigenous peoples and territories makes these problems even worse. Despite this, Indigenous Peoples have continued to steward and care for the lands and waters, and all the beings who inhabit it, holding deep environmental knowledge that has been passed down for generations.

This wisdom and authority is a core tenet of the CPCCC and informs the activities of each pillar. Signatories were therefore asked to give specific examples of actions undertaken over the past year to uplift Indigenous communities, and amplify Indigenous-led climate action in their respective intersections (i.e. those living with disabilities, LGBTQQIA2S people, and BIPOC).

### 3.1 Funding allocated to Indigenous-led organizations

The first section asked signatories to rate the amount of funding on a scale from “very little” to “excellent”. This assessment is not based on specific dollar amounts, but rather a self-reflection on behalf of the respondent and their own evaluation of what these categories mean to them. The results were as follows:

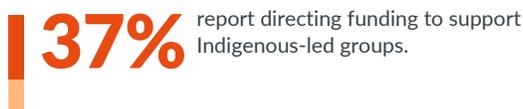
- **10 foundations report good or excellent** amounts of funding allocated to Indigenous-led organizations **(33%)**
- **13 foundations report some or reasonable** amounts of funding allocated to Indigenous-led organizations **(43%)**
- **7 report very little** funding allocated to Indigenous-led organizations **(23%)**

## 3.2 Actions to Uplift Indigenous Communities

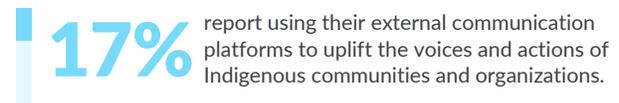
The second section asked signatories to share actions undertaken to uplift support for Indigenous communities over the past year. Respondents were encouraged to be specific in their responses, while also leaving it open for them to reflect on which actions they personally felt to be meaningful. The responses by no means represent the complete picture of the actions necessary to move towards equity, but highlight some successes along the way.

### 3.3 Among the most frequently reported activities to uplift Indigenous communities are:

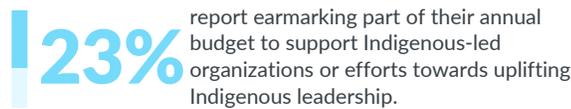
#### Directing funding to Indigenous-led organizations



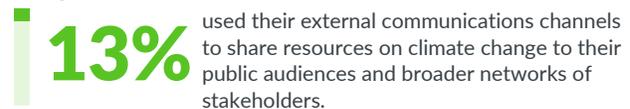
#### Amplifying Indigenous-led organizations and voices



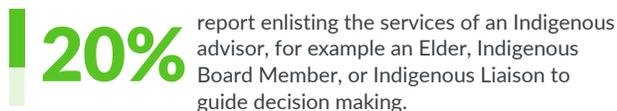
#### Allocating a percentage of annual budget to Indigenous-led organizations



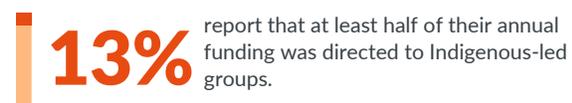
#### Amplifying educational information on climate to the public



#### Engaging a dedicated advisor on Indigenous issues



#### Directing at least 50% of funding to Indigenous organizations



### 3.4 Success Snapshots - Actions to Uplift Indigenous Communities

- **Vancity Community Foundation:** “In 2022 we disbursed \$1,312,718 in grants and impact loans to Indigenous-led organizations and First Nations. This represents 15% of total grant and impact loan disbursements in 2022. This included disbursement of a number of grants (\$460,000 combined) to three Indigenous-led organizations/First Nations as part of a multi-year funding commitment.”
- **Toronto Foundation:** “In 2022, Toronto Foundation made 158 grants to Indigenous-led organizations.”
- **Oakville Community Foundation:** “We have policies in place to require guidance and input from Indigenous leaders for grant requests and projects with Indigenous focus.”
- **REFBC:** “We have moved from 5% of the projects we fund being Indigenous led, or led by Nations, to 55% in our general grants stream.”
- **Catherine Donnelly Foundation:** “Our commitment to advocate for creative initiatives also includes funding for a pan-Canadian, Indigenous-led fund to address climate change and climate justice with a focus on healing through land-based initiatives. Started in 2017, Healing Through the Land is now granting to Indigenous communities led by an Indigenous Steering Committee and is in the process of becoming independent of CDF.”
- **McConnell Foundation:** “In 2022, we supported 48 charitable and non-qualified donees under the Reconciliation focus area for over \$6.2M in disbursements. The granting to our Reconciliation program in 2022 represented nearly 20% of our total disbursements.”
- **Definty Insurance Foundation:** “Of the 16 grants committed in 2022, 8 are Indigenous-led initiatives. 6 are in the areas of Reconciliation, promoting food sovereignty, solving social challenges, offering financial tools, and supporting community leadership. 2 are focused on strengthening the nonprofit sector.”
- **Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough:** “The Foundation's discretionary grant program focused on support for equity-seeking people. A participatory grantmaking process was used to make funding decisions and Indigenous-led organizations were included in the granting circle.”

## 4. REPORT OVERVIEW BY PILLAR

The information presented below highlights the efforts of foundations in addressing the climate crisis through the seven pillars of the CPCCC. Resources emerged as a top priority pillar, with funding directed towards climate-focused organizations, particularly Indigenous-led initiatives, and staff resources directed towards work with a climate focus.

Education also emerged as a top priority, with foundations focusing on deepening climate awareness among their boards, participating in learning networks, providing educational resources to staff and members, and undertaking learning specific to Indigenous rights. Several foundations specified in their reports that the education was Indigenous-led, and in future surveys this will be encouraged to be clarified.

While there was exciting progress across all seven pillars, signatories also identified challenges, including difficulty in securing board support for climate action, uncertainty of ways to action the integration pillar, and challenges in achieving transparency without established reporting frameworks.

Despite these obstacles, signatories showed resilience and commitment in addressing these challenges, working towards prioritizing climate action within their organizations and finding innovative solutions to advance their climate goals – including incorporating guidance from Indigenous leaders on granting processes, and increasing the amount of funding directed to Indigenous-led climate action.



## 4.1 Education

The climate crisis is an all-encompassing and complex issue. In order to act effectively and make meaningful change, foundations must ensure that they grow climate literacy both within the organization and externally among key stakeholders.

The reporting template responses identified Education as the **second highest priority** of the seven pillars for signatories' engagement with the CPCCC. **11/30 respondents** listed Education as their number one priority, and **17/30 respondents** placed it in their top three.

### 4.1.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for *Pillar 1 - Education* are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

#### Supporting the Board to deepen their climate awareness

**66%** provided their Board of Directors with resources and learning opportunities related to the urgency of the climate crisis and how it relates to the organization, regardless of mission.

#### Providing educational resources and learning opportunities for members and staff on climate

**60%** equipped staff and members with materials and opportunities to help deepen their individual understanding of the threats posed by climate change.

#### Participating in collaborative learning networks, workshops and educational events, and peer learning opportunities

**60%** engaged in learning opportunities to deepen their own understanding of the climate crisis as an organization.

#### Undertaking learning specific to Indigenous rights

**33%** participated in specific educational opportunities on the colonial history of Canada, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and how all efforts aimed at addressing the climate crisis must ultimately be informed by Indigenous authority and wisdom.

#### Amplifying educational information on climate to the public

**13%** used their external communications channels to share resources on climate change to their public audiences and broader networks of stakeholders.



## 4.1.2 Success Snapshots - Education

- **Peter Gilgan Foundation:** “We formed a Climate Change Working Group composed of Gilgan family members, Board members, and staff. The Climate Change Working Group presented at the January 2022 and April 2022 Board meetings. Key learnings about the gaps and opportunities for grantmaking and impact investing to address climate change were shared with the Board. The review process culminated in a refreshed theory of change and a new strategic direction that officially launched in the Summer of 2022.”
- **The Chamandy Foundation:** “We implemented monthly climate learning sessions which resulted in the creation of an internal Justice in Climate Funding action plan to outline, implement, and track goals.”
- **Community Foundations of Canada:** “In September 2022 we launched a cohort (Communities for Climate Resilience) with participating 22 community foundations. This program is a learning cohort intended to educate community foundations about the social impacts of climate change, and the leadership role they have in mitigating those changes. Participants in the cohort engage in quarterly online gatherings and webinars, and have access to the latest resources on climate change.”
- **McConnell Foundation:** “In 2022, we made one presentation to our Board of Trustees covering the impacts of climate change, Canada’s progress and challenges in reducing GHG emissions and opportunities for granting to advance Canada’s transition to net zero carbon. We also inform our Boards on our partners’ work when presenting grant requests five times per year. We also made one all staff presentation on climate change and invited one climate partner to present to all staff about their work. We regularly share new reports and relevant research on climate change with our staff.”



## 4.2 Resources

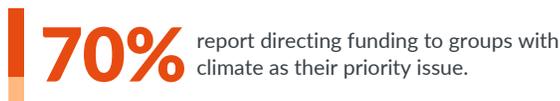
The scale and urgency of the climate crisis – and the actions required to address it – necessitate a commitment of resources on an equally large scale. This includes financial resources which can be directed to supporting action on climate change – especially by Indigenous-led organizations and other equity-seeking groups. It also covers internal resources like dedicating staff to CPMCC program implementation and other climate-related activities.

Resources was identified as the **highest priority** pillar identified in reporting template responses. **8/30 respondents** listed Resources as top priority pillar, while **22/30 respondents** listed it in their top three.

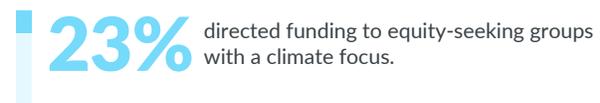
### 4.2.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for **Pillar 2 - Resources** are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

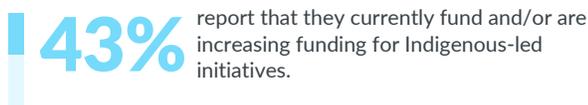
#### Granting to organizations specifically focused on climate



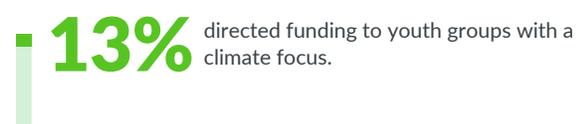
#### Funding women- and BIPOC-led groups



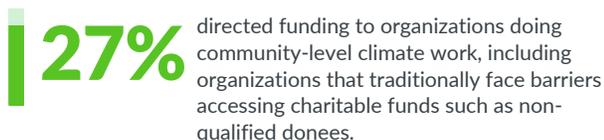
#### Directing funds to Indigenous-led organizations



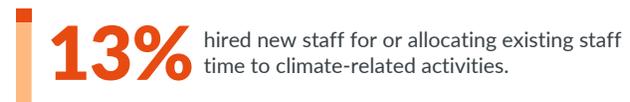
#### Funding youth organizations



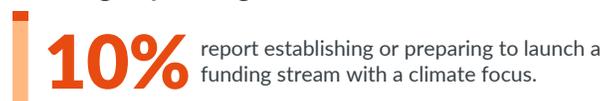
#### Directing funds to grassroots organizations and NQD's doing climate work



#### Hiring additional staff or allocating staffing resources to climate



#### Creating or planning new climate-focused funds





## 4.2.2 Success Snapshots - Resources

- **Comox Valley Community Foundation:** “The amount distributed in support of climate action and environmental protection in 2022-2023 was a 500% increase over the prior year (2021-2022 - \$10,000 vs. 2022-2023 - \$52,000)”
- **Sitka Foundation:** “We completely changed our grant application and reporting forms from longer and more time intensive, narrative questions to quick multiple choice questions. We also changed processes to put less of an emphasis on written reports. We have shifted more of the administrative work to Sitka’s staff instead of the grant applicant, which results in an easier, less time-consuming process for our partners.”
- **Community Foundation of North Okanagan:** “Our Communications Director was on loan to create and write a website for the municipal election in September 2022. This website clearly demonstrated the opinions of Mayoral & Councillor Candidates, on important local issues covering cultural, economic, environmental, social, and health.”
- **REFBC:** “Four years ago, First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations (according to the Circle’s I4DM criteria) made up under 5% of our general grantees. This year, we estimate they will make up 55% of our general grantees.”
- **Equality Fund:** “In June 2022, our Board approved our new Environmental Policy. Developing this Policy presented a number of opportunities for our staff to learn together about how gender justice (our core mandate) and environmental justice are linked, and the commitments needed to advance these agendas in tandem.”



## 4.3 Integration

Climate change is not an issue that exists in isolation. To examine its root causes and work towards solutions requires an understanding of its wide-ranging impacts. Health, education, the economy, arts and culture, Indigenous rights, women’s rights – climate change affects every aspect of our existence, and therefore requires a collaborative response to mitigate its impacts. The CPCCC invites foundations to think broadly and innovatively about the various ways climate intersects with other mission-aligned objectives, and to incorporate a climate lens across all activities.

Integration was ranked 4/7 of foundations priority pillars. This ranking highlights the challenges related to understanding and clarity of how to action the pillar, with respondents highlighting the need for concrete examples to better comprehend its objectives. Foundations also acknowledged that integrating climate considerations and Indigenous perspectives across all their work was an ongoing process that required further development, resulting in slower progress. Finally, convincing board members and stakeholders about the interconnectedness of climate with other priority areas was also recognized as a difficulty.

### 4.3.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for **Pillar 3 - Integration** are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

#### Incorporating a climate lens at a foundational level

**37%** revisited their strategic pillars to embed a climate lens at the organizational level.

#### Including criteria in grant processes to support Indigenous and equity-seeking grantees

**17%** revisited grant applications and reporting processes to include a focus on Indigenous-led action and action undertaken by other equity-seeking groups.

#### Embedding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles across the organization

**27%** reported incorporating an equity lens to guide activities and decision making.

#### Collecting data to evaluate impact investing potential

**13%** reported gathering information to determine how impact investments affected climate mitigation in order to guide future investing.

#### Prioritizing intersectional/climate-focused grantees

**17%** placed an emphasis on funding grantees with an intersectional approach that incorporates climate mitigation or adaptation activities.

#### Identifying the climate change intersections among funding streams

**13%** reported examining their priority funding areas to find the ways in which they intersect with climate action.



### 4.3.2 Success Snapshots - Integration

- **Definty Insurance Foundation:** “We designed our theory of change and identified clear strategic priorities that we will be moving forward. These include:
  - **Indigenous Led Climate Action:** Organizations and initiatives with a lens to Indigenous rights and nation to nation relationships; these models challenge current economic models and demonstrate alternatives; this strategy is about Indigenous communities sharing and creating their own solutions for resilience and how those can drive at systems-level change
  - **Environmental Advocacy:** Equipping communities to get involved in climate advocacy, in response to the current state, which is most advocacy being white-led. The goal is to support voices at the margins most affected by climate to have a stronger voice in policy and decisions that affect them
  - **Energy and Economic Transitions:** Focus is on just transitions that drive at creating local economic development opportunities.
- **Oakville Community Foundation:** “We added an Indigenous sovereignty and leadership lens as well as a climate lens question to the 2022 GIVEOakville community granting program application to encourage reflection on the intersectionality of climate and funding focus.”
- **Fondation Béati:** “We developed a partnership with New Power Labs, the first step of which is to carry out an exhaustive DEI assessment. This will allow us to have a clear picture of where we stand on DEI issues in order to make informed decisions on our priorities.”
- **Johansen Larsen Foundation:** “All of our funding supports programs for equity-seeking groups. Specifically, our two funding focus areas this year are Reconciliation and One Health. One Health is rooted in understanding the interdependence of human and natural systems, and that social determinants of health (e.g. SES, education, place of residence) play a critical role in health and well-being. The One Health model and Reconciliation are aligned with one another as Indigenous thought and One Health both acknowledge the interconnectedness of humans, animals and the environment; and consider these interconnections as central to human, animal, and environmental well-being.”



## 4.4 Endowment & Assets

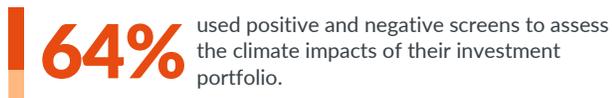
Positive economic outcomes and action to transition to a net zero world are not mutually exclusive. The development of the impact investing sector makes the connection between action to support social good and financial benefits. Additionally, there is a growing understanding of the serious risks climate change poses to the economy as a whole. In aligning investment strategies with climate mitigation and adaptation activities, signatories can simultaneously manage risks and create opportunities for positive outcomes - for the environment and the bottom line.

Endowment & Assets was ranked **3/7** of foundations' priority pillars, with six foundations listing it as their top priority. Foundations found success in the Endowment & Assets pillar by effectively undertaking climate lens assessments of their investment portfolios, developing impact investing portfolios, and aligning investment strategies with climate mitigation and adaptation activities.

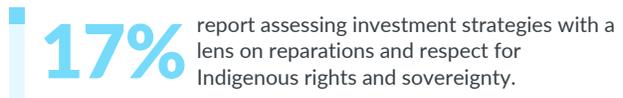
### 4.4.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for **Pillar 4 - Endowment & Assets** are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

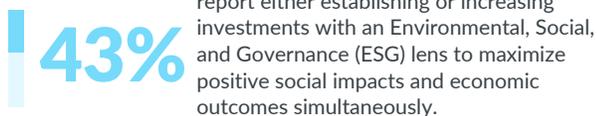
#### Undertaking climate lens assessment of investment portfolio



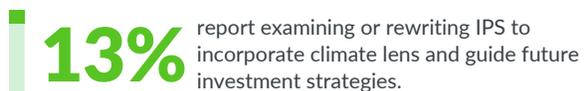
#### Reviewing investments through an Indigenous equity lens



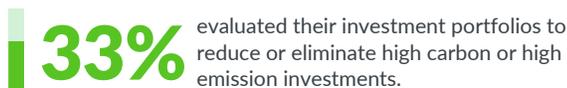
#### Developing or extending an impact investing portfolio



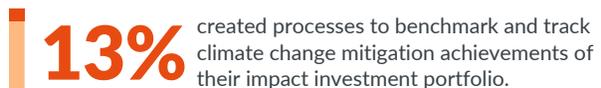
#### Reviewing and/or adjusting Investment Policy Statement (IPS)



#### Moving towards a low-carbon portfolio or divesting from high carbon investments



#### Establishing a framework to monitor the outcomes of impact investments on climate





#### 4.4.2 Success Snapshots - Endowment & Assets

- **Inspirit Foundation:** “We have made a commitment to a 100% impact investing portfolio.”
- **West Vancouver Foundation:** “We are reviewing our investments and our asset mix with a focus on ESG.”
- **Community Foundation for Lennox & Addington:** “Seed money was found to create an endowment fund: Environmental Action 180° Fund. This is the first year that the fund is paying out a grant. We continue to find new donors to this fund so that we have grants flowing for environmental projects every year.”
- **The Wright Family Foundation:** “100% of our funding is dedicated to Indigenous communities and climate change”
- **The Consecon Foundation:** “We have made significant progress in terms of aligning our endowment with climate goals. Five years ago, we began the process of divesting of any oil and gas holdings. This process is now completed. In the last year, the Consecon Foundation participated in the Great Canadian ESG Championship, allocating approximately 20 percent of its endowment to one of the winning investment advisors. The foundation continues to investigate the possibility of allocating a portion of its endowment to impact investing.”
- **McConnell Foundation:** “We have used negative screens for all companies that derive at least 10% of their revenues from the production, distribution or retailing of fossil fuel products”
- **Equality Fund:** “We exclude certain industries and companies from our portfolio (negative screen), while including others whose ESG performance exceeds that of its industry peers (positive screen)”



## 4.5 Operations

In any effort undertaken toward meaningful change, it is important to lead by example. In the signatories' work to reduce their carbon footprint at an organizational level, they demonstrate their own commitment to accountability. This signals to staff, fundholders, grantees, and other key stakeholders that the foundation is willing to walk the walk when it comes to climate action, better positioning them to encourage others to do the same.

Operations ranked **6/7** of foundations' priority pillars. Challenges included lack of capacity to make organization-wide changes, as well as not having established frameworks and targets to reduce overall carbon footprint. As a result, progress made in the Operations pillar was relatively modest compared to some other pillars, but was nevertheless meaningful. Information gained and benchmarks set in this first year of implementation are the foundation upon which more robust changes can be built going forward.

### 4.5.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for **Pillar 5 - Operations** are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

#### Reducing or avoiding unnecessary travel

**57%** managed the travel expectations of their organization – for example adopting hybrid or remote work options, and making board meetings remote. For some, this was originally necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but was carried forward in an intentional way to reduce emissions.

#### Evaluating organizational carbon footprint

**43%** report assessing emissions across their operations to help establish carbon benchmarks and guide carbon reduction targets moving forward.

#### Engaging staff in topics related to climate change

**13%** invited staff to share in conversations and decision making around climate mitigation strategies and practices for the organization.

#### Encouraging or incentivizing sustainable travel practices

**27%** supported staff to reduce travel emissions, for example by subsidizing staff members' public transit passes, or encouraging walking, biking, or using electric vehicles to get to work.

#### Evaluated the effects of colonial systems within the organization

**10%** report assessing the areas within their organization that are rooted in colonial practices, with an aim of moving towards greater transparency and equity-driven systems.

#### Reducing or eliminating paper use

**23%** made efforts to reduce paper use, or adopt a paperless office.

#### Embedding a climate lens across operations

**10%** evaluated their operations to include a climate lens at a foundational level.



## 4.5.2 Success Snapshots - Operations

- **Dragonfly Ventures:** “We don't have a typical office, we are all remote and take into consideration how much and how we travel and the amount of times per year for in person meetings. Everything we do is virtual and online where and when appropriate. We always prioritize supporting our partners, grantees who are in line with our mission, vision and values when purchasing gifts or goods, catering, etc”
- **Toronto Foundation:** “In 2022 we hosted an organization-wide brainstorm to identify opportunities – both quick wins and the more ambitious targets - to reduce our organizational carbon-footprint. We then assigned a cross-departmental working group to review and action on the dozens of opportunities identified. Ideas that were identified include:
  - a. Reducing paper usage of mailing via digital receipting and thank you letters
  - b. New travel guidelines (CFC guidelines can serve as a template)
  - c. Moving towards 100% digital for research reports/briefings
  - d. Developing a list of preferred sustainable caterers for events
  - e. Developing a climate policy for our suppliers”
- **MakeWay Foundation:** “MakeWay recognizes that climate action starts from within and has made a commitment to reducing our carbon footprint. Some of the ways we do this include:
  - Reimbursement of monthly transit expenses for all employees. Included in this policy is public transit, car shares and bicycle rentals.
  - Supporting remote and hybrid work arrangements.
  - In May 2022, MakeWay held an all staff retreat for the first time. Here is how we worked to offset the environmental impact of our time together: <https://makeway.org/climate-and-energy/makeway-staff-retreat-how-are-we-offsetting-our-environmental-impact/>”



## 4.6 Influence & Advocacy

Foundations consist of broad networks of key stakeholders, partners, and audiences who represent diverse sectors and geographical areas. Signatories are encouraged to leverage their influence with these networks to expand and strengthen the impact of their work on climate, and continue to get people beyond the philanthropic sector to participate in the fight for a net zero future.

In addition to influence, direct civic engagement is a key component of tackling the climate crisis and requires “all hands on deck”. Signatories are encouraged to participate in or support advocacy efforts that further the goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and reduce barriers to success for grassroots and equity-seeking groups doing this work.

Influence & Advocacy ranked 5/7 of foundations’ top priority pillars, with six foundations listing it as their lowest priority. The reasons reported for this lower ranking included a need to build confidence and identify channels to create meaningful impact in this area. Rather than identifying challenges, foundations report seeing this pillar as an area where progress will need to be built up slowly over time.

### 4.6.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for Pillar 6 - Influence & Advocacy are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

#### Sharing information related to climate change

**27%** report disseminating educational resources or information to their networks through external communications channels – for example social media, websites, blogs, and published reports.

#### Directing funding towards climate advocacy efforts

**17%** report directly funding advocacy aimed at enabling a transition to a net zero world, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

#### Creating or participating in cross-sector collaboration and partnerships

**23%** contributed to collaborative efforts with partners from a wide variety of sectors, including economic, frontline community, philanthropic and institutional organizations, with a goal of enriching or expanding each other’s climate action activities.

#### Sharing climate learnings

**17%** shared what they have learned about climate change with partners, funders, local government, and community members.

#### Encouraging civic engagement on climate

**23%** report engaging in or encouraging civic participation efforts to tackle climate change – for example supporting climate champions running for local offices, or advancing public policy on NQDs.

#### Amplifying voices of equity-seeking groups

**17%** used their platform to uplift the work of equity-seeking groups tackling climate change and its intersections.

#### Supporting, amplifying, funding Indigenous-led action on climate

**23%** report leveraging their influence and networks to uplift the climate actions of Indigenous-led organizations.

#### Building relationships with local climate action groups

**13%** established or deepening relationships with local groups who take action on climate change, with an aim to extend their networks or amplify their work.



## 4.6.2 Success Snapshots - Influence & Advocacy

- **Fondation Dufresne & Gauthier:** “FDG advocated with the Collectif des Fondations Québécoises so that the interpretation of the law on charitable organizations takes into account the desire of foundations to support grassroots movements, for example student or environmental movements, which do not do not qualify for a charity number.”
- **Catherine Donnelly Foundation:** “One of the pillars of our 2023-2028 strategic goals is to contribute to dialogues to improve policy and practice in the philanthropic and non-profit sector and we participate actively in collaborative spaces on aspects of philanthropy, including impact and mission-related investing by foundations, Philanthropic Foundations of Canada and other collaborations, trust based philanthropy and The Circle on Philanthropy as well as lending CDF’s voice to collective advocacy on non-profit sector policies where possible; cultivating relationships with key players in the wider sector.”
- **Trottier Family Foundation:** “Creating cross sector collaborations is one of our key strategies for catalysing positive change. One example: we were one of the co-founders of the Montreal Climate Partnership, an initiative which brings together economic, community, philanthropic and institutional organizations with the goal of helping the City reduce its GHG emissions by 55% by 2030 and put the City on the path to carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2022, the Partnership held its first Summit, in which many large actors announced exciting climate commitments. 2023’s Summit in May plans to be just as significant, and we will be actively participating through a talk on the health & climate intersection.”
- **Climate Impact Fund:** “We supported climate champions running for local office and protested against development in the Greenbelt.”
- **Whistler Community Foundation:** “We published a Whistler’s Vital Signs report centred around three themes, ‘Do we have a sustainable future, is our community livable, and is everyone thriving’. Local data is shared around these themes and this will be the basis for discussion with other funders, local government, and community members about working together to make change.”



## 4.7 Transparency

Key to the sustainability and integrity of the CPCCC is the seventh and final pillar of transparency. In reporting back on their progress over the last year of program implementation, not only are signatories helping to establish benchmarks that will guide the program going forward, but they are also encouraging both current and potential signatories to see what outcomes are possible.

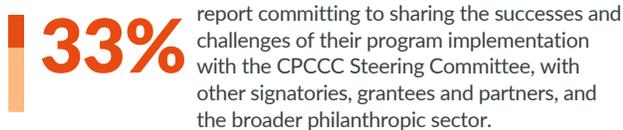
In seeing what each foundation has been able to accomplish, others – both within the philanthropic sector and outside of it – can learn from these tried and tested activities, and be inspired to play their part to move towards a net zero future. As the program moves beyond its first year of implementation, the hope is to build upon this pillar and allow it to guide and inform the continued success of the pledge.

Transparency was ranked 7/7 of foundations' top priority pillars. Challenges identified in implementing the Transparency pillar included the absence of established frameworks to report on progress, and limited organizational capacity to dedicate to reporting.

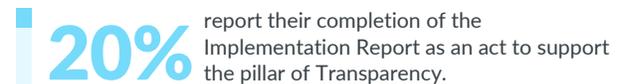
### 4.7.1 Among the most frequently reported activities for Pillar 7 - Transparency are:

All % representing percentages of respondents reporting on each activity

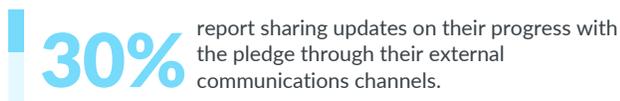
#### Committing to transparency with fellow signatories



#### Completing CPCCC Implementation Report



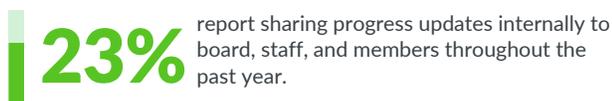
#### Publishing progress on CPCCC pledge



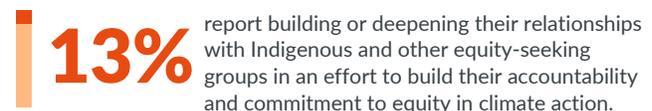
#### Including progress points in annual reporting



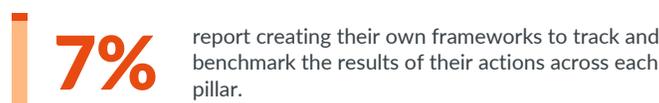
#### Reporting on climate action to internal stakeholders



#### Building relationships with Indigenous and equity-seeking groups



#### Creating an internal matrix to track progress on pledge





## 4.7.2 Success Snapshots

- **Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough:** “We attended several of CPCCC's online events in 2022, and began making connections with other signatories. This report will be published on our website to begin our public expression of the pledge to stakeholders in our community.”
- **Vancity Community Foundation:** “We commit to transparency, learning, and improvement through our active participation on CPCCC and its reporting. We also set out an intentional path to integrate the wisdom and guidance of Indigenous and other equity seeking groups into all of our actions as a Foundation. As noted, we created a senior position Senior Manager of Community Equity whose role is to seek guidance and heed wisdom from Indigenous and other equity seeking groups to ensure our actions are robust and impactful.”

## 5. TOP ACTIONS TAKEN TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN YEAR ONE

The CPMCC requested that signatories consider the previous year of programming and list the top one or two actions they took to combat climate change. The choice of what was most significant was left up to the respondents, therefore the responses don't correspond to any predetermined scale of importance. However, the responses will be useful to establish benchmarks and guide impact targets as the program progresses beyond year one. A sample of the common responses is as follows:

- Directing funding to action on climate change **(13%)**;
- Establishing or expanding an ESG/impact investment portfolio **(13%)**;
- Making a stronger connection between climate action and the rights and authority of Indigenous Peoples **(13%)**;
- Building relationships, collaborating, and peer learning to advance climate solutions **(13%)**;
- Applying a climate lens to all investments **(10%)**;
- Divesting from fossil fuels or committing to a low-carbon portfolio **(7%)**;
- Advocating for non-climate funders to get involved with the pledge **(7%)**;
- Building an understanding of the integration of climate across all funding priorities **(7%)**;
- Engaging and educating staff and board on climate issues **(7%)**;
- Benchmarking climate action across the organization to guide future targets **(7%)**;
- Dedicating staffing resources to climate action **(3%)**;
- Deepening relationships with equity-seeking grantees **(3%)**.

## 6. AREAS WHERE MORE SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Signatories were asked to identify any challenges they encountered in fulfilling the pledge over the past year to help CPCCC governance understand where more support is needed. These points will help guide the resources and opportunities that will best serve the success of the program in subsequent years.

The fact that the structure of the reporting template allowed for a narrative response opens the door to make certain inferences based on the information that is and isn't included. For instance, the absence of important actions included in the pillar descriptions across a high percentage of responses may indicate that signatories had difficulty implementing them and hence left them out. This will be considered as the structure of the reporting template is set up in Year 2.

By far the most common challenge organizations reported in the first year: **33% of respondents report a lack of internal staffing capacity** to dedicate to the fulfilment of the pledge. Additionally, **20% report encountering difficulty getting buy-in from key stakeholders** – who may have different considerations and priorities – on the importance of participating in and actioning the pledge. Other challenges reported include:

### Overall

- Focusing on climate amid competing priorities (**17%**)
- Having limited resources to dedicate to the commitment (**10%**)
- Making the connection between climate and other priority funding areas (**10%**)
- Feeling overwhelmed by the complexity of the problem (**7%**)
- Measuring carbon footprint across portfolio (**7%**)
- Finding the balance between economic outcomes and climate action (**3%**)
- Establishing benchmarks or creating tools to track progress (**3%**)

### Top Challenge Identified Per Pillar:

- **Education**
  - Needing more educational resources tailored to Board of Directors
- **Resources**
  - Not having the staffing resources needed to fulfil the pledge or focus on climate-related action
- **Integration**
  - Trouble identifying specific actions to take related to the intersection of climate and other priority areas
- **Endowment & Assets**
  - Lacking a framework or resources to benchmark carbon footprint across investment portfolio
- **Operations**
  - Lacking a framework or resources to benchmark carbon footprint across operations
- **Influence & Advocacy**
  - Not having the confidence or feeling like it is too early to move forward boldly in this area
- **Transparency**
  - Lacking benchmarks, established frameworks, and organizational capacity to fulfil this pillar

## 7. OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE PROGRAM IN YEAR TWO AND BEYOND

The final section of the Implementation Report encouraged signatories to make requests or offer ideas to increase the program's success moving forward. These suggestions can be broadly categorized as follows:

### 1. Resources

Responding signatories would like to see the [Resource Bank](#) continually updated to include more tools as they become available. Other requests include tailored tools to specifically engage board members in implementing the pillars, and the inclusion of more sample policies relevant to issues like governance, granting, and funding with a climate lens.

Additional resources – especially reporting frameworks, benchmarks and targets, and progress trackers – can also help address some of the issues related to limited staff capacity, as it would reduce the amount of time required to fulfil certain key aspects of the pillars.

### 2. Peer Learning Opportunities

Respondents identified the desire to have more opportunities to engage with fellow signatories to share resources, learnings, successes, and challenges as they relate to the pledge. Many signatories reported a sense of encouragement and excitement that came from networking with and learning from fellow foundations which helped build momentum and deepen their commitment. Additionally, seeing the progress that other signatories have made in the pledge was identified as a way to encourage new foundations to sign on.

### 3. Benchmarking Progress and Establishing Sector-Wide Goals

The Implementation Reports highlighted a desire for the signatories to feel more joined together as a sector, including specific goals that can unite philanthropy in its efforts to tackle climate change, and collective tools to track their progress towards these goals. For example, it was suggested to identify targets for the philanthropy sector to achieve by 2030 with regard to climate change and benchmark and track the steps to achieve it. Respondents believed it would be easier to generate momentum and excitement within the sector to take significant action by setting these specific targets for philanthropy to attain.

## 8. CONCLUSION

As it would be for the first year of implementation of any new and ambitious program, the focus of this report is more on highlighting lessons and opportunities for improvement than it is declaring a mission accomplished. That said, the Implementation Reports represent some real and exciting progress towards a net zero world.

The philanthropic sector possesses unique capabilities that enable it to confront the challenges of climate change across a wide range of focus areas – from education to health to racial justice and more – and this report highlights the innovative and exciting ways in which these strengths were put to use in year one.

While there is still much work to be done, the dedication and progress showcased by the signatories serve as inspiration to strive for greater action and collaboration. The CPCCC is committed to continuous improvement, leveraging the lessons learned to enhance the program's impact and effectiveness. Moving forward, the intention is to build upon the successes of year one, address the gaps, and forge a path towards a sustainable and resilient future for Canada and the world.

This report summarizes a year of historic accomplishments for which the entire country – and the 48 signatories in particular – can be proud. These foundations are paving the way, signalling to the rest of the world that Canada's philanthropic sector has taken its position on the global stage in the battle against climate change.

# Appendix A

## LIST OF SIGNATORIES AND LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

### Getting Started

[The Chamandy Foundation](#)  
[Cole Foundation](#)  
[Community Foundation of North Okanagan](#)  
[Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough](#)  
[Community Foundations of Canada Comox Valley Community Foundation](#)  
[Daymark Foundation](#)  
[Definty Insurance Foundation](#)  
Elements Fund  
[Equality Fund](#)  
ESP Fund  
[Fondation Béati](#)  
[Fondation Dufresne Gauthier](#)  
Fondation Familiale Benoit  
[Inspirit Foundation](#)  
[Oakville Community Foundation](#)  
[Olive Tree Foundation](#)  
[Peter Gilgan Foundation](#)  
[Sunshine Coast Foundation](#)  
[Sustainable Capacity Foundation](#)  
The BIRKS FAMILY FOUNDATION  
The Christopher Robin Fund  
[The Lawson Foundation](#)  
[The McLean Foundation](#)  
[West Vancouver Foundation](#)  
[The Wright Family Foundation](#)

### Building Momentum

[Climate Impact Fund](#)  
[Community Foundation for Lennox & Addington](#)  
[Durham Community Foundation](#)  
[Johansen Larsen Foundation](#)  
[Laidlaw Foundation](#)  
[Real Estate Foundation of BC](#)  
Roar Fund  
Roses Fund  
[Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia](#)  
[The Consecon Foundation](#)  
[The Houssian Foundation](#)  
[McConnell Foundation](#)  
[Toronto Foundation](#)  
[Vancity Community Foundation](#)  
[Whistler Community Foundation](#)

### Demonstrating Leadership

[Alberta Ecotrust Foundation](#)  
[Brian Bronfman Family Foundation](#)  
[Catherine Donnelly Foundation](#)  
Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation  
[Community Matters Toronto](#)  
[Dragonfly Ventures](#)  
[Fondation de Gaspé Beaubien](#)  
[Give Green Canada](#)  
[Makeway](#)  
[Metcalf Foundation](#)  
[Sitka Foundation](#)  
[The Atmospheric Fund](#)  
[Trottier Family Foundation](#)

# Appendix B

## HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT

In November of 2019, a group of 14 funders in the United Kingdom came together with the goal of mobilizing the philanthropy sector to confront the urgent threat of climate change.

Soon after, The [European Philanthropy Coalition for Climate](#) was established to lead and support this activity across Europe. By 2021 France, Italy, and Spain had joined the United Kingdom with their own national commitments.

These efforts resulted in the #PhilanthropyForClimate movement, which encompasses several national philanthropy commitments on climate change and the broader [International Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change](#), housed at WINGS. Integral to the movement was the establishment of a common framework, designed to enable all foundations to embed a climate lens across their work – regardless of their area of focus.

Signatories of the International Commitment are called to take urgent climate action by signalling their commitment to implementation across seven pillars of action:

1. **Education and learning**
2. **Commitment of resources**
3. **Integration**
4. **Endowment and assets**
5. **Operations**
6. **Influencing and advocacy**
7. **Transparency**

To date, 634 foundations world-wide have pledged to take urgent action on climate change .

# Appendix C

## STRUCTURE OF THE CANADIAN PHILANTHROPY COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CPCCC)

In 2021, [Community Foundations of Canada](#), [Environment Funders Canada](#), [Philanthropic Foundations Canada](#), and [The Circle on Philanthropy](#) collaborated to create [The Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change](#) (CPCCC). Building on the international commitment, the Canadian commitment “calls on all foundations and other funders to signal their commitment to act on climate change regardless of their respective missions.”

The commitment incorporates the seven pillars of the international commitment but includes focused elements related to the rights, sovereignty, and authority of Canada’s Indigenous Peoples and Canada’s current status as the [third largest per capita emitter](#) of greenhouse gas emissions in the world. This is especially important given the disproportionate impacts that climate change has on Indigenous and other equity-seeking communities, despite their minimal contribution to its primary drivers.

On the contrary, though Indigenous Peoples represent only [5% of the global population, they are the protectors of 80% of the world’s biodiversity](#). The CPCCC therefore recognizes that uplifting the wisdom and actions of Indigenous Peoples on climate change is fundamental to the success of any climate-related work.

With respect to this understanding, The CPCCC has embedded within its structure the obligations to Indigenous Peoples, incorporating elements of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) and the 94 Calls to Action in the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). This is unique to the Canadian commitment and sets a strong example for incorporating equity and justice into the fight against climate change for others to follow.

## THE PILLARS

### Pillar 1: Education

We will ensure that our boards, investment committees, staff, volunteers and stakeholders are informed about the systemic causes, impacts and solutions of climate change, and the implications for our work. In Canada, we respect that Indigenous wisdom, knowledge, and acts of reciprocity are essential to our learning journey and climate justice.

## Pillar 2: Resources

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, we will commit resources to accelerate work that addresses the root causes of climate change or adaptation to its impacts. If our governing document or other factors make it difficult to directly fund such work, we will find other ways to contribute, or consider how such barriers might be overcome. In Canada, the system in which we operate can make it prohibitive for groups closest to the work on the ground, often non-qualified donees<sup>\*</sup>, to obtain the resources they need. We will advocate for transformative change and identify ways to overcome philanthropic and systemic barriers. We will work to flow funding abundantly now, and over generations, to Indigenous and equity-seeking groups.

## Pillar 3: Integration

Within the design and implementation of our programs, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a net zero world, and to support adaptation to climate change impacts, especially in the most affected communities. In Canada, we will work to equip grantees, applicants, Boards, and staff to consider the many ways in which climate change impacts and intersects with the priority issues and program areas in which we grant. We recognize the multifaceted climate solutions that are grounded in Indigenous wisdom, ecological science, and leadership.

## Pillar 4: Endowment and Assets

We will consider climate change in relation to the source and management of our operational and any endowed funds. We will seek to align our investment strategy and its implementation with a rapid and just transition to a net zero economy. In Canada, we will take action embedded in science and use our voice as holders of capital to help shift corporate and regulatory behaviour.

## Pillar 5: Operations

We will take ambitious action to minimize the climate impact of our own operations, which may include for example travel, buildings and procurement. In Canada, we will also encourage our grantees and peers to consider how their work impacts climate change.

## Pillar 6: Influence and Advocacy

We will seek opportunities to work with others, to amplify the voices of frontline communities, and to encourage and support more ambitious action on climate change by our key stakeholders, partners and audiences; these may include businesses, local or national governments, multilateral organizations, donors and funders, individuals or civil society movements. In Canada, we know that philanthropic actors can influence and advocate to advance priorities within the bounds of their charitable status. As allies, we will work to support and uphold Indigenous rights as outlined in UNDRIP, and Indigenous initiatives that protect all living beings, land, water, and air.

<sup>\*</sup> *Qualified donees include charities and several other types of registered organizations (amateur athletic organizations, Canadian municipalities, journalism organizations, etc.) Organizations that are not registered charities or qualified donees are referred to as non-qualified donees by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)*

## Pillar 7: Transparency

We will collect and publish information annually on the actions we have taken against the six pillars listed above to share our progress and identify areas for improvement. We will continue to develop our practice, to collaborate, and to learn from each other. In Canada, we will share information on our progress annually via the Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change reporting tools so that we can be transparent and held accountable by our peers, our partners and ultimately the public. We will aim to increase our ambition year-over-year with support from the Commitment team. We will seek guidance and heed wisdom from Indigenous and other equity seeking groups to ensure our actions are robust and impactful.

## GOVERNANCE:

In the creation of the CPCCC, The Circle on Philanthropy, Community Foundations of Canada, Environment Funders Canada, and Philanthropic Foundations Canada formed a Steering Committee – along with four other important committees – whose members guided the first year of activities for signatory foundations. The Steering Committee established a goal of enabling the success and integrity of the CPCCC through the thoughtful design of annual orientations, activities and programs, and resources to bolster the implementation of the program in its first year.

The Steering Committee also oversaw the creation of a **Communications working group** to manage the communications needs of both the CPCCC and signatories, and build the credibility of the initiative; an **Indigenous Advisory Circle** to guide all aspects of the pledge and centre the authority and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples in the undertaking of any actions related to climate; and a **Recruitment working group** whose goal was to engage more signatories to join the commitment.

## YEAR ONE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORTS:

Upon signing the pledge, each signatory was provided with a variety of implementation supports to guide their participation. This included a detailed [Implementation Guide](#) explaining and outlining concrete examples of actions for each of the seven pillars of the commitment, and a [Resource Bank](#) containing further information and resources per pillar.

All signatories were also added to a listserv providing them with updated resources as they became available and directing them to webinars and events hosted by key players in the intersection of climate and philanthropy.

Signatories were also invited to participate in **quarterly group sharing and learning sessions** with other foundations, and **peer mentorship opportunities** that paired signatories who have established leadership positions in certain areas to help guide other funders. This led to a **peer mentorship matchmaking** effort pairing seven leaders with seven mentees based on various compatibility criteria. It is the hope of the Steering Committee to build upon this area of the program in the coming years.

# Appendix D

## REPORTING TEMPLATE QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of your organization?
2. Who is filling out this report? Please provide your full name.
3. What is your email?
4. Who was involved in filling out this report? Check all that apply.
  - a. Board
  - b. Investment Committee
  - c. Executive Director
  - d. Other Staff
  - e. Other (please specify)
5. Please rate your level of climate engagement before becoming a climate pledge signatory. When thinking about your climate engagement, think about how often, and in which spaces, climate action is at the forefront of what you do.
  - a. No climate engagement
  - b. A little climate engagement
  - c. Reasonable climate engagement
  - d. Good climate engagement
  - e. Very high climate engagement
6. Please rate your level of climate engagement now that you are a climate pledge signatory. When thinking about your climate engagement, think about how often, and in which spaces, climate action is at the forefront of what you do.
  - a. No climate engagement
  - b. A little climate engagement
  - c. Reasonable climate engagement
  - d. Good climate engagement
  - e. Very high climate engagement
7. Please rate the degree to which signing the Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change has impacted your foundation and your awareness and action on climate change.
  - a. Not at all
  - b. A little
  - c. Modestly
  - d. Quite a lot
  - e. Tremendously
8. Please rate the overall progress you feel you have made in the past year in implementing the Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change.
  - a. Very little
  - b. Some
  - c. Reasonable
  - d. Good
  - e. Excellent

## REPORTING TEMPLATE QUESTIONS

9. Please rank each pillar in order of priority for your foundation in implementing the climate pledge.

- a. Education
- b. Resources
- c. Integration
- d. Endowment & Assets
- e. Operations
- f. Influence and Advocacy
- g. Transparency

10. Pillar 1: Education - We will ensure that our boards, investment committees, staff, volunteers and stakeholders are informed about the systemic causes, impacts and solutions of climate change, and the implications for our work. In Canada, we respect that Indigenous wisdom, knowledge, and acts of reciprocity are essential to our learning journey and climate justice.

11. Pillar 2: Resources - Recognizing the urgency of the situation, we will commit resources to accelerate work that addresses the root causes of climate change or adaptation to its impacts. If our governing document or other factors make it difficult to directly fund such work, we will find other ways to contribute, or consider how such barriers might be overcome. In Canada, the system in which we operate can make it prohibitive for groups closest to the work on the ground, often non-qualified donees, to obtain the resources they need. We will advocate for transformative change and identify ways to overcome philanthropic and systemic barriers. We will work to flow funding abundantly now, and over generations, to Indigenous and equity-seeking groups.

12. Pillar 3: Integration - Within the design and implementation of our programs, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a net zero world, and to support adaptation to climate change impacts, especially in the most affected communities. In Canada, we will work to equip grantees, applicants, Boards, and staff to consider the many ways in which climate change impacts and intersects with the priority issues and program areas in which we grant. We recognize the multifaceted climate solutions that are grounded in Indigenous wisdom, ecological science, and leadership.

13. Pillar 4: Endowment and Assets - We will consider climate change in relation to the source and management of our operational and any endowed funds. We will seek to align our investment strategy and its implementation with a rapid and just transition to a net zero economy. In Canada, we will take action embedded in science and use our voice as holders of capital to help shift corporate and regulatory behavior.

14. Pillar 5: Operations - We will take ambitious action to minimize the climate impact of our own operations, which may include for example travel, buildings and procurement. In Canada, we will also encourage our grantees and peers to consider how their work impacts climate change

## REPORTING TEMPLATE QUESTIONS

15. Pillar 6: Influence and Advocacy - We will seek opportunities to work with others, to amplify the voices of frontline communities, and to encourage and support more ambitious action on climate change by our key stakeholders, partners and audiences; these may include businesses, local or national governments, multilateral organizations, donors and funders, individuals or civil society movements. In Canada, we know that philanthropic actors can influence and advocate to advance priorities within the bounds of their charitable status. As allies, we will work to support and uphold Indigenous rights as outlined in UNDRIP, and Indigenous initiatives that protect all living beings, land, water, and air.

16. Pillar 7: Transparency - We will collect and publish information annually on the actions we have taken against the six pillars listed above to share our progress and identify areas for improvement. We will continue to develop our practice, to collaborate, and to learn from each other. In Canada, we will share information on our progress annually via the Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change reporting tools so that we can be transparent and held accountable by our peers, our partners and ultimately the public. We will aim to increase our ambition year-over-year with support from the Commitment team. We will seek guidance and heed wisdom from Indigenous and other equity seeking groups to ensure our actions are robust and impactful.

17. Please rate the amount of funding you have allocated to Indigenous-led organizations this past year (see The Circle's I4DM for a definition of Indigenous-led).

- a. Very little
- b. Some
- c. Reasonable
- d. Good
- e. Excellent

18. Please describe what actions have you taken to uplift support for Indigenous communities?

19. Reflecting on the actions you've outlined above, are there one or two that you feel have been particularly important for your organization and engagement in addressing climate change. Please describe.

20. Describe some challenges that you faced as you began to take climate action?

21. Can we follow up with you to learn more and possibly feature your example in a case study or story?

22. Please provide any additional comments you might have regarding your experience with implementing the Canadian Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change thus far.

23. Is there anything else the Climate Commitment Steering Committee could support you with?



Canadian Philanthropy  
Commitment on Climate Change

[philanthropyforclimate.ca](http://philanthropyforclimate.ca)

