



Just Transition Platform – Policy approach:

ADAPTING CANADIAN WORK AND WORKPLACES TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE (ACW)

Canada

This document is part of a series presenting information and lessons learned on policy approaches at national, regional or local level supporting a just transition to a climate-neutral economy. The Just Transition Platform (JTP) assists EU Member States and regions to unlock the support in this transition. Visit the JTP website: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund/just-transition-platform_en

Member State:

Canada

Region:

N/A

Sector:

General workforce

Total budget (€):

No information on total budget

Financing conditions (co-financing rate):

No information on financing conditions

Sources of funding:

No EU funding

National funding:

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC);
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR);
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Regional funding:

No further information on regional funding

Duration:

2008–2022

Responsible Managing Authority/Agency:

York University, Canada

Summary

'Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change' (ACW) is an online collection of documents and materials about the implications of climate change on Canadian workers. The collection, running from 2008–2022, was led by the professor of work and labour studies at York University and was funded by Social Sciences and

Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), along with Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The work collected at the website are freely available for interested academics, citizens, etc.

Type of policy measure/activities:

The collection provides orientation for other researchers in the attempt to answer the question how Canadian employment and work need to adapt to climate change. The collection received four research grants that resulted in four main outputs: 1) Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change (ACW), 2014–2021; 2) Databases; 3) Work in a Warming World (W3), 2010–2017; 4) Work and Climate Change Report, 2011–2021. In addition, the collection presents around 200 documents that have been produced by labour unions and environmental interest groups.

Goals and approach:

The research collection was based on the publication in 2010: 'What Do We Know? What Do We Need To Know? The state of research on work, employment and climate change in Canada'. The report used a sectoral focus to assess the state of existing knowledge and addressed gaps in research that the subsequent research recorded on the website tried to fill. The report was the first to assess the implications of climate change on Canadian workers. The collection was meant to collect research that could fill the research gap on the impact of climate change on Canadian workers. The collection is publicly available and meant to provide insights and stimuli to researchers, academics, and students.

Important outputs, results or achievements:

As outlined above, the research project resulted in four main outputs. The first one, ACW 2014–2022, collected different research documents and was meant to produce practical tools for education and action (e.g. Green Collective Agreements database, Environmental Racism Workshop Companion Guide). The second output, databases, consists of four different databases: green initiatives database, bibliography on climate change, work and workers, green education database, Green Collective Agreements database. The third output, Work in a Warming World, W3, was a research programme bringing together environmental and labour market organisations, resulting in research by academics

and practitioners. Finally, the Work and Climate Change Report website, was an 'awareness service' with news/publications on the topic of workers and the workplace.

The ACW research project and its lead Professor Carla Lipsig-Mummé were awarded in 2018 with the Impact Partnership Award by the SSHRC. The award recognises the outstanding qualities of Professor Lipsig-Mummé's research, the importance and impact of her work, and her commitment to promoting the outcomes of her research.

Scalability¹ and transferability²:

The ACW approach is already directed at the national level in Canada and also incorporates international examples, research etc. that were of relevance for the Canadian setting. There is also the possibility to browse the archive by publications that are relevant for Europe.

As the ACW as such is a research approach funded with national funding, it can be transferred to any other setting where the need for research and a coordinated platform on the impact of climate change on workers/workplaces is given and funding can be transferred to such research projects.

¹ Scalability entails that a policy approach can be adapted to a bigger scale than just the local context.

² Transferability entails that a policy approach can be applicable to a similar setting and replicated.

Key success factors and lessons learnt:

It was not possible to identify key success factors or lessons learned due to limited availability of information.

Key challenges:

It was not possible to identify key challenges due to limited availability of information.



Central framework conditions³:

The start of the collection was influenced by the publication 'What Do We Know? What Do We Need To Know? The state of research on work, employment, and climate change in Canada'. The publication from 2010 recorded that, although climate change was rated by the public as a pressing concern, corresponding policy approaches were not

given, especially concerning the impact on workers and employment. The report set a research agenda that included 10 different priority areas, e.g. research on employment trends and skills requirements, identification of national and international best practices, research on shifts on geographic patterns of employment.

Outlook:

The research project ended with the year 2021. The York University Digital Library archived the websites and documents related to the project. The original websites can be accessed via the archives but are not updated anymore.

³ Framework Conditions encompass the institutional, informational and socio-economic factors that determine a given environment (contextual information), e.g. market conditions, access to finance, tax regulation, infrastructure and support.

Partners & contacts:

York University

Website:

<https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/38593>

Sources:

- Carla Lipsig-Mumme et al. (2010): What do we know? What do we need to know? The State of Research on Work, Employment and Climate Change in Canada. Online available: https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10315/39365/yuls567750_W3_2010_What-do-we-know-full-report-final.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.
- York University (2022): Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change (ACW), 2014–2021. Online available: <https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/38822>.
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- York University (2018): Professor Carla Lipsig-Mummé recognized with prestigious SSHRC Impact Award. Online available: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/2018/10/04/professor-carla-lipsig-mumme-recognized-with-prestigious-sshr-impact-award/>.
- York University (2022): Work and Climate Change Report website. Online available: <https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/38818>.

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