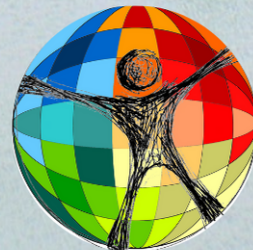


DISABILITY RIGHTS IN CANADIAN CLIMATE POLICIES

A SYSTEMATIC
ANALYSIS
NOVEMBER 2022



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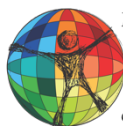
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About the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program

Based at the McGill Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism, the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program (DICARP) works with disability and climate activists and experts from around the world to generate, co-produce, share, and translate knowledge on how efforts to combat climate change can be designed and implemented in ways that respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of disabled persons.

<https://www.disabilityinclusiveclimate.org>

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1. Introduction

This report provides a systematic analysis of the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their rights in the climate policies adopted by federal, provincial, and some municipal governments in Canada. Section 2 reiterates the key obligations owed by Canada to persons with disabilities under international human rights law. Section 3 reviews whether and how persons with disabilities and their rights have been recognized in a dataset of Canadian climate mitigation and adaptation policies. Section 4 summarizes the key conclusions of our analysis and provides recommendations for enhancing disability inclusion in domestic climate policy-making in Canada.

2. A Disability Rights Approach to Climate Change under International Law

Under international human rights law, Canada has clear obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of federal, provincial, and municipal efforts to respond to climate change. The preamble to the *Paris Agreement* notably provides that “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights,” including the rights of persons with disabilities.¹ In a recent resolution on human rights and climate change, the UNHRC specifically called on States “to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of persons with disabilities both in rural and urban areas to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change.”² Similarly, a recent OHCHR study emphasizes that because persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate change impacts, countries should adopt disability-inclusive and human rights-based approaches

¹ See *Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 12 Dec 2015, TIAS No. 16-1104, preamble.

² See *Human Rights and Climate Change*, Res 41/21, UNHRC, 42nd Sess, UN Doc A/HRC/41/L.24 (2019) at 4 -5.

to policy-making that empower persons with disabilities to be “agents of change” in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.³

The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UNCRPD) is an international treaty ratified by Canada that codifies the human rights that apply specifically to persons with disabilities.⁴ The obligations set out in the UNCRPD provide the key elements of a disability rights approach to climate change. Under this approach, governments in Canada are obliged to:

- (1) assess and take into account the differential impacts of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities through an intersectional approach;
- (2) develop and implement evidence-based climate mitigation and adaptation policies to prevent and minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities;
- (3) provide accessible information on climate change to persons with disabilities, strengthen their capacity to participate in climate decision-making that concerns them, and ensure that they have access to judicial or administrative proceedings and effective remedies when they suffer harm from climate action and inaction; and
- (4) support international efforts to combat climate change and enhance the climate resilience of persons with disabilities in developing countries.

The first three obligations owed to Canadians with disabilities are also rooted in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the federal and provincial human rights codes that protect the rights to life and freedom from discrimination. Finally, insofar as the federal government is concerned, the *Accessible Canada Act* mandates that Canadian laws and policies “must take into account the disabilities of persons, the different ways that persons interact with their environments and the multiple and intersecting forms of marginalization and discrimination faced by persons.”⁵ In the context of climate change, the *Accessible Canada Act* requires Environment and Climate

³ See *Analytical Study on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Context of Climate Change*, OHCHR, 44th Sess, UN Doc A/HRC/44/30 (2020), 1 at 4 [Analytical Study].

⁴ See *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, 13 December 2006, 2515 UNTS 3 (entered into force 2 May 2008) [UNCRPD].

⁵ *An Act to ensure barrier-free Canada*, RSC 2019, c C-10, s 6(e).

Change Canada to identify and remove barriers to accessibility in existing and future climate policies and programmes; in doing so, Environment and Climate Change Canada is also required to consult persons with disabilities.⁶

3. Analysis of Disability Rights in Canadian Climate Policies

The general obligations under the UNCRPD require State parties to “take into account the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes.”⁷ This obligation is particularly relevant to the development of climate change policies, as the international community recognizes the increased vulnerability of persons with disabilities to climate-related impacts. Despite this recognition, persons with disabilities have been largely overlooked in current and past Canadian climate policies.

For the purposes of this paper, a policy scan was conducted to examine if and how persons with disabilities are included within existing Canadian climate policies. The following search words were used to find relevant policies: climate resilience, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, emergency planning, emergency preparedness, emergency response, disaster risk reduction, disaster management, disaster preparedness, disaster planning, disaster resilience, climate change. Both federal and provincial policies were selected, as well as policies from the following major Canadian cities and regions: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa-Gatineau, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge and Barrie. In total, 85 policies were collected. Once collected, the following terms were searched within the texts: disability, disable, disabled, access, accessibility, special needs, differently abled, handicap (ped), universal, impairment, impediment, illness, vulnerable, vulnerability, risk, cognitive/mental, physical, chronic. Note that in some cases, the aforementioned words were present in the documents, but not in the context of persons with disabilities.

Overall, it is clear that existing disaster preparedness, climate adaptation and climate mitigation policies in Canada do not sufficiently address the needs and rights of

⁶ *Ibid*, s 7(1)(a), 69(1), 69(4).

⁷ *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, December 13 2006, 2515 UNTS 3 (entered into force 3 May 2008) [UNCRPD].

persons with disabilities. Though some policies highlight the importance of considering “vulnerable groups,” the unique vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities are often not identified and disability-specific solutions are not offered. Indeed, broad references to “vulnerable groups” can be found in several policies. For example, the *Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan* states: “Climate change can impact our health. Extended periods of heat and cold pose dangers to the vulnerable in our society.”⁸ At the federal level, the *Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030* highlights that “different variables can intersect and contribute to the level of risk facing vulnerable groups (e.g., gender, age, disability, socioeconomic conditions)”⁹ At the municipal level, *Toronto’s First Resilience Strategy* underlines the importance of prioritizing the preparation of Toronto’s most vulnerable residents, and identifies persons with disabilities as an “equity-seeking group.”¹⁰ In the same vein, some policies broadly refer to persons with chronic diseases when acknowledging the differential health impacts that result from climate change. For instance, Quebec’s *2013–2020 Climate Change Action Plan* recognizes that heatwaves may “aggravate chronic diseases such as diabetes, respiratory failure and cardiovascular problems.”¹¹ Nova Scotia’s *Climate Change Progress Report* acknowledges that “people with chronic illnesses are most vulnerable during heatwaves.”¹² Similarly, the city of Barrie’s *Climate Change Strategy* acknowledges that “those with existing health conditions may be particularly affected” by climate change.¹³

a) Disaster Preparedness

⁸ See “Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan: Hearing from Manitobans” (2017) at 27, online (pdf): <www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/climatechange/climategreenplandiscussionpaper.pdf>.

⁹ See Public Safety Canada, “Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030” (2019) at 3, online (pdf): <www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mrgncy-mngmnt-strty/mrgncy-mngmnt-strty-en.pdf>.

¹⁰ See City of Toronto, “Toronto’s First Resilience Strategy” (2019) at 23, online (pdf): <www.toronto.ca/ext/digital_comm/pdfs/resilience-office/toronto-resilience-strategy.pdf>.

¹¹ See “2013-2020 Climate Change Action Plan” (2012) at 35, online (pdf): <www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/changements/plan_action/pacc2020-en.pdf>.

¹² See “Climate Change Progress Report” (2019) at 15, online (pdf): <climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/Climate-Change-Progress-Report-October-2019.pdf>.

¹³ See “Implementation Plan: Climate Change Adaptation Strategy” (2018) at 24, online (pdf): <<https://www.barrie.ca/sites/default/files/2022-07/Implementation%20Plan%20-%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy%202018.pdf>>.

Under article 11 of the UNCRPD, States are obliged to take “all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.” An OHCHR thematic study further specifies that States are required to adopt national emergency response plans that are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities.¹⁴ This is in line with the recommendations outlined in the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, which emphasize the need to consider and include persons with disabilities in strategies that prevent and reduce vulnerability to disasters and enhance disaster preparedness.¹⁵

Our policy scan revealed two findings pertaining to the inclusion and recognition of persons with disabilities in disaster preparedness policies. First, some provinces and cities provide guidelines aimed directly towards persons with disabilities. These guidelines were either: 1) delivered in a separate document or, 2) integrated into a larger general emergency preparedness document or web page. An example of the former is the province of British Columbia’s *PreparedBC: Resources for People with Disabilities* document, which provides specific recommendations for personal emergency planning for persons with disabilities.¹⁶ It provides guidance on how persons with disabilities can conduct personal risk assessments, plan for emergencies, and gather resources and build personal support networks.¹⁷ At the federal level, there is a similar document entitled *Emergency Preparedness Guide for Persons with Disabilities/Special Needs*,¹⁸ while the

¹⁴ See *Thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities under article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies*, 31st Sess, UN Doc A/HRC/31/30 (2015).

¹⁵ See *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030*, GA Res. 69/283 (II), (2015).

¹⁶ See “PreparedBC: Resources for People with Disabilities”, online (pdf): <www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-recovery/embc/preparedbc/preparedbc_preparedness_for_people_with_a_disability_guide_web.pdf>.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ See Public Safety Canada, “Emergency Preparedness Guide for People With Disabilities/Special Needs” (2010), online (pdf): <www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/pplwthdsblts/pplwthdsblts-eng.pdf>.

city of Calgary's *Persons with Disabilities Guide* provides an example at the municipal level.¹⁹

An example of disability-specific guidelines integrated into a larger, general document is the province of Alberta's *Emergency Preparedness* website, which provides a brief section for persons with disabilities and special health needs.²⁰ Prince Edward Island provides a similar document entitled *Your Emergency Preparedness Guide*,²¹ which includes a section specifically for individuals with limited mobility. It is important to note that documents of this nature do not always provide extensive guidance for persons with disabilities; rather, many of these documents acknowledge the vulnerability of persons with disabilities and offer limited emergency preparedness guidance.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in both general emergency preparedness plans as well as in separate targeted plans is noteworthy, as disability rights advocates recommend a "twin-track" approach to developing effective disability-inclusive policies.²² A "twin-track" approach requires both disability-inclusive mainstream policies and targeted interventions for persons with disabilities.²³ Our policy scan reveals that general policies that acknowledge persons with disabilities offer various degrees of disability-specific information. While some policies refer generally to vulnerable groups, others dedicate a few pages or sections to persons with disabilities.

The second finding pertaining to the inclusion and recognition of persons with disabilities in disaster preparedness policies is that existing guidelines tend to focus solely on individual preparedness, providing little instruction on how communities can support persons with disabilities to prepare for natural disasters and extreme weather events. One example of a guide that does provide community-level guidance is Newfoundland and Labrador's *Shared Responsibility: An Inclusive Emergency*

¹⁹ See Calgary Emergency Management Agency, "Persons with Disabilities Guide" (2015), online (pdf): <www.calgary.ca/csps/cema/prepare-for-an-emergency/preparing-for-an-emergency-with-a-disability.html>.

²⁰ See "Build an emergency kit", online: *Government of Alberta* <www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit.aspx>.

²¹ See Prince Edward Island Office of Public Safety, "Your Emergency Preparedness Guide" at 12–14, online (pdf): <www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ops-preguide.pdf>.

²² See Christian Skoog, "Leave No Child Behind", *Salud Pública de México* (2017) 349.

²³ See Smith et al, "Disability and Climate Resilience" (2017) at 37.

Preparedness Guide, A Resource for First Responders and Community Leaders.²⁴ It was published by the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities and it aims to ensure that community emergency planning also supports persons with disabilities. Notably, the document emphasizes the importance of involving persons with disabilities at all stages of emergency planning.²⁵ Similarly, the Northwest Territories' *Emergency Plan* is a document created to support collaboration between the government of the Northwest Territories and its partner organizations in responding to emergencies.²⁶ This document offers guidance on prioritizing vulnerable groups—including persons with disabilities—in evacuation planning.²⁷

b) Climate Adaptation

State parties to the UNCRPD have an obligation to adopt climate adaptation policies that can protect persons with disabilities from harm in climate-related emergencies and enhance their resilience to climate impacts. This obligation can be understood as flowing from the general obligations in the UNCRPD to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities in a context in which they are threatened by the impacts of climate change.²⁸ In particular, the OHCHR concludes that adaptation planning requires participatory data collection efforts, including disaggregated data by disability, and disability-inclusive risk and capacity assessments that can be used to guide decision-making.²⁹

Our policy scan reveals that persons with disabilities are largely neglected in Canadian climate adaptation policies. For example, while the *Federal Adaptation Policy Framework for Climate Change* acknowledges that adaptation should be prioritized where negative climate change impacts are most severe, it does not specifically mention

²⁴ See Coalition of Persons with Disabilities, "Shared Responsibility: An Inclusive Emergency Planning Guide, A Resource for First Responders and Community Leaders" (2015), online (pdf): <codnl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FINAL-Guide-to-Emergency-Planning-March-9.pdf>.

²⁵ *Ibid* at 5.

²⁶ See Government of Northwest Territories, "NTW Emergency Plan" (2018), online (pdf): <www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sites/maca/files/resources/nwt_emergency_plan.pdf>.

²⁷ *Ibid* at 14.

²⁸ See Jodoin, Lofts & Ananthamoorthy, *supra* note **Error! Bookmark not defined.** at 27–28.

²⁹ See Analytical Study, *supra* note 3 at 12–13.

persons with disabilities.³⁰ The *Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Montreal Urban Agglomeration (2015–2020)* also fails to directly address the needs of persons with disabilities. For example, while the plan acknowledges that high heat can be dangerous to the health of vulnerable groups (e.g. seniors, persons with chronic illnesses), it does not refer specifically to persons with disabilities.³¹ Similarly, the *Adapting to a Changing Climate in Nova Scotia* emphasizes the “health impacts on the elderly, frail and ill,” but makes no reference to persons with disabilities.³² Moreover, when existing Canadian adaptation policies do refer to persons with disabilities and their heightened vulnerability to climate change impacts, they offer little concrete information on how to better support persons with disabilities. For example, both British Columbia’s *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: Actions for 2022–2025* and Calgary’s *Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050* acknowledge the vulnerability of persons with disabilities, but do not propose initiatives to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities.³³ In contrast, a positive example of a disability-inclusive climate adaptation policy is Prince Edward Island’s *Building Resilience: Climate Adaptation Plan*, which provides that all information, tools and resources on climate change and emergency preparedness will be made available in accessible formats.³⁴ Ensuring that information is accessible to persons with disabilities is crucial to enhancing their resilience to climate change.³⁵

³⁰ See Government of Canada, “Federal Adaptation Policy Framework” (2011) at 4, online (pdf): <www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/migration/cc/content/2/b/2/2b2a953e-756b-4e8c-a2ba-3fbdc3324dba/4214_federal-20adaptation-20policy-20framework_en.pdf>.

³¹ *Ibid* at 181.

³² See “Adapting to a Changing Climate in Nova Scotia: Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Options, Final Report” (2005) at 40, online (pdf): <climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/Adapting_to_a_Changing_Climate_in_NS.pdf>

³³ See “Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: Actions for 2022-2025” (2022) at 31, 36, online (pdf): <<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/adaptation/cpas.pdf>>; “Calgary Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050” (2022) at 89, online: <<https://www.calgary.ca/environment/climate/climate-strategy.html#:~:text=Our%20strategy&text=Approved%20by%20Council%20July%202015,an%20accelerated%20pace%20and%20scale.>>>.

³⁴ “Building Resilience: Climate Adaptation Plan” (2022) at 25, online (pdf): <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/building_resilience_climate_adaptation_plan_oct_2022.pdf>.

³⁵ See *Analytical Study on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Context of Climate Change*, *supra* note 3.

c) Climate Mitigation

The obligations under the UNCRPD can also be interpreted as obliging State parties to adopt climate mitigation policies that can prevent and minimize the human rights impacts of climate change for persons with disabilities.³⁶ Moreover, as State parties are required to account for the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programs,³⁷ they must also ensure that policies to reduce carbon emissions do not in themselves result in infringements of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Our policy scan found that persons with disabilities are largely neglected in climate mitigation policies. For example, provincial mitigation policies such as *Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan*³⁸ and *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*,³⁹ fail to mention persons with disabilities. In contrast, a positive example of a disability-inclusive climate mitigation policy is incorporated into *Toronto's First Resilience Strategy*,⁴⁰ which identifies persons with disabilities as an "equity-seeking group" and acknowledges the risk of food insecurity faced by persons with disabilities in its plan to promote a sustainable and resilient food system.⁴¹ Though the report offers a general action plan to address vulnerabilities that could impact food access, it does not detail how the city will ensure food access specifically for persons with disabilities.

The failure to include persons with disabilities in climate mitigation policies can have adverse impacts on their rights. One example of the type of climate mitigation policy that may be inconsistent with the rights of persons with disabilities is in the domain of mass transit. Though mass transit systems are developed with the goal of reducing carbon emissions, they are often inaccessible to those with limited mobility. For example,

³⁶ See Jodoin, Lofts & Ananthamoorthy, *supra* note **Error! Bookmark not defined.** at 23.

³⁷ See UNCRPD, *supra* note 4, art 4(1)(c).

³⁸ See Province of New Brunswick, "Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan", online (pdf): <www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Climate-Climatiques/TransitioningToALowCarbonEconomy.pdf>.

³⁹ See Government of Saskatchewan, "A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy" (2017), online (pdf): <publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/88202/formats/104890/download>.

⁴⁰ See Toronto's First Resilience Strategy, *supra* note 10.

⁴¹ *Ibid* at 106.

a Toronto Star article revealed that as of March 2019, only 45 of 75 Toronto subway stations are wheelchair accessible.⁴² Similarly, as of November 2018, only 13 of 68 metro stations in Montreal had elevators.⁴³ In 2017, a Quebec disability group instituted a class action lawsuit against the City of Montreal and two public transportation agencies, arguing that the existing metro system in Montreal was not wheelchair accessible and therefore excluded persons with disabilities.⁴⁴ Another example of a similar policy that overlooks disability concerns is the Canadian federal government's plan to ban single-use plastic items, including straws.⁴⁵ While the ban would reduce plastic waste and carbon emissions, disability experts have raised concern over the implications for persons with disabilities.⁴⁶ Many of those who are not able to lift a cup or a bottle rely on straws in order to drink,⁴⁷ and reusable alternatives are not always feasible.⁴⁸ For example, metal straws can pose a safety risk when consuming hot liquids.⁴⁹ For those who are immunocompromised, reusable straws pose a risk as they are often difficult to sterilize.⁵⁰ For those who suffer from spasms and tremors, reusable straws made out of harder materials are not safe as they can cause injuries,⁵¹ while softer straws made of paper straws or biodegradable materials can be choking hazards.⁵² These examples reinforce the critical importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities are fully

⁴² See Francine Kopun, "A Look at TTC Accessibility Through the Eyes of a Rider Who Uses Two Canes", *The Star* (10 March 2019), online: <www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2019/03/10/a-look-at-ttc-accessibility-through-the-eyes-of-a-rider-who-uses-two-canes.html>.

⁴³ See Allison Haynes, "Montreal Has a Long Way to Go on Accessibility", *Montreal Gazette* (5 November 2018), online: <montrealgazette.com/opinion/columnists/allison-hanes-montreal-has-long-way-to-go-on-accessibility>.

⁴⁴ See *Regroupement des activistes pour l'inclusion au Québec (RAPLIQ) c Société de transport de Montréal (STM)* (26 May 2017), Montreal, Que CA 500-06-000739-157 (class action authorization).

⁴⁵ See Rachel Aeillo, "Canada Banning Plastic Bags, Straws, Cutlery and Other Single-Use Items By End of 2021", *CTV News* (7 October 2020), online: <www.ctvnews.ca/climate-and-environment/canada-banning-plastic-bags-straws-cutlery-and-other-single-use-items-by-the-end-of-2021-1.5135968>.

⁴⁶ See Jacquelyn LeBel, "Expert Raises Disability Concerns Over Proposed Single-Use Plastics Ban", *Global News* (12 June 2019), online: <globalnews.ca/news/5379457/disability-concerns-single-use-plastics-ban/>; Andrew B Jenks & Kelsey M Obringer, "The Poverty of Plastic Bans: Environmentalism's Win is a Loss for Disabled People" (2020) 40:1 *Critic Soc Policy* 151 at 158.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*

included in the development and implementation of policies to reduce carbon emissions in Canada.

4. Conclusions & Recommendations

Our systematic analysis reveals that persons with disabilities are largely overlooked in Canadian climate policies. Although most federal, provincial, and municipal climate policies (68.2%) reference persons with disabilities or an associated term at least once, these references are generally broad. Only a minority of policies (12.9%) are designed for persons with disabilities or include a section dedicated to them, even though the disproportionate impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities are well known. While many policies (35.2%) acknowledge that certain groups are particularly vulnerable to climate change, the unique vulnerabilities and needs of persons with disabilities are rarely identified. Moreover, few policies provide solutions that aim to reduce the disproportionate impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities and enhance their resilience to climate change—for example, only ten policies (11.7%) address issues relating to access and accessibility. Ultimately, the general neglect of persons with disabilities exposes them to disproportionate rates of harm and mortality fuelled by climate change.

In light of these shortcomings, federal, provincial, and municipal governments must take the following steps to ensure that their climate policies respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities:

Recommendation 1: Adopt and implement ambitious climate change mitigation policies to limit the impacts of the climate crisis of Canadians with disabilities

Despite its high share of GHG emissions and per capita carbon emissions, and its greater responsibility as an industrialized country, Canada has generally failed to take ambitious action to reduce its carbon emissions during the past decades and its GHG emissions have actually increased since 1990. In order to comply with their obligations to protect the rights of persons with disabilities from the impacts of climate change, federal, provincial, and municipal governments must adopt ambitious climate mitigation policies to limit the impacts of climate change on Canadians with disabilities.

Recommendation 2: Ensure the full and effective participation of Canadians with disabilities in climate policy-making and decision-making processes

Article 3 of the UNCRPD enshrines “[f]ull and effective participation and inclusion in society” as a general principle of the convention,⁵³ while article 4 requires State parties to “consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities” when developing and implementing legislation and policies that concern them.⁵⁴ There is no doubt that the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities is integral to the development of climate solutions that value their agency, address their concerns and specific needs, and build on their solutions for making Canada a more resilient and sustainable society.

However, despite forming 20% of the country’s population, Canadians with disabilities have been neglected in federal, provincial, and municipal climate policy-making and decision-making processes. To facilitate engagement, federal, provincial and municipal governments must identify and address barriers to participation, allow for persons with disabilities to represent themselves, and build capacity for disability-inclusive climate action among policy-makers, officials, and activists. Ultimately, supporting the participation of persons with disabilities will allow for the creation of climate policies that are better suited to their needs and that are accessible to a greater share of the Canadian population.

Recommendation 3: Adopt and implement disability-inclusive climate adaptation policies that enhance the climate resilience of Canadians with disabilities

Canadians with disabilities have been largely overlooked in climate adaptation policies at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels and are disproportionately affected by climate change. For instance, most of the victims of the deadly heatwaves in Montreal (2018) and Vancouver (2021) had disabilities. Governments must ensure that climate adaptation and emergency planning policies take into account and address the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities. Such policies should also reflect an intersectional perspective that recognizes the convergence of disability with other factors such as gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and age. Disability-inclusive climate

⁵³ *Ibid*, art 3.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*, art 4.

adaptation policies have the potential to enhance the climate resilience of Canadians with disabilities and reduce rates of mortality and morbidity related to climate change.

Recommendation 4: Adopt and implement disability-inclusive climate mitigation policies that ensure that Canadians with disabilities can benefit from, and contribute to, the transition to carbon neutrality

Governments have clear obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities when designing and implementing policies to reduce carbon emissions. However, many climate mitigation policies, such as the promotion of inaccessible low-carbon transportation options or bans on single-use plastics, have adversely affected Canadians with disabilities and reinforced social inequities.

When designed in a disability-inclusive manner, climate mitigation policies can reduce, rather than exacerbate, barriers for people with disabilities. For instance, programs to fund mass transit or to retrofit buildings and infrastructures can be harnessed to improve the accessibility of the built environment. In turn, disability-inclusive climate mitigation policies may not only meet the needs of Canadians with disabilities, but also enhance the share of the Canadian population that can benefit from, and contribute to, the transition to carbon neutrality.

Recommendation 5: Adopt a disability-inclusive approach to international cooperation in the field of climate change

Persons with disabilities have been systematically ignored in the decision-making of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the domestic climate policies adopted by state parties to the *Paris Agreement*. Drawing inspiration from the initiatives that have led to greater inclusion of women and Indigenous Peoples in the fight against climate change, the Canadian government could assume a leadership role to fill this void by: supporting the mainstreaming of disability in the decision-making of the UNFCCC; including a disability lens in Canadian climate-related aid and funding; fostering the development of multilateral, bilateral, and non-governmental initiatives aimed at supporting and funding the development and implementation of disability-inclusive climate action around the world; and

facilitating and supporting research, knowledge transfer, and capacity-building at the intersections of disability and climate action.

Appendix 1: Canadian Emergency Preparedness Policies

Region	Document/Website Name	Link	Key Word	Surrounding Text + Page Number
Ontario	Government of Ontario— Emergency Preparedness Guide for Persons with Disabilities (2018)	https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/sites/default/files/content/emo/docs/Disability%20Guide%20-%20english_PDFUA.pdf	Disability	Document designed for persons with disabilities.
	Emergency Management Framework for Ontario	https://files.ontario.ca/books/solgen-emo-emergency-management-framework-2021-en-2021-12-30.pdf	N/A	N/A
Quebec	Preparing for Disasters (Website)	https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/civil-protection/preparing-for-disasters.html	N/A	N/A
British Columbia	PreparedBC: Resources for Persons with Disabilities (2018)	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/preparedbc-	Disability	Document designed for persons with disabilities.

		guides/preparedbc_emergency_preparedness_for_people_w_disability_2018.pdf		
	BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS): 2022	http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Health-Environment/Provincial-Heat-Alerting-Response-System.pdf	Chronic, illness, mental, physical, access, accessibility	<p>General discussion of groups vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat throughout. See for example: "Chronic conditions that put people at higher risk include mental illnesses, substance use disorders, heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory disease." (pg. 4); "The cohorts of the population most impacted by the June 2021 heat dome in B.C. were largely adults aged 50 years and older. These individuals often shared commonalities such as social isolation or physical, psychological, or economic susceptibility." (pg. 5)</p> <p>General discussion of access and accessibility in the context of extreme heat. See for example: "Assess locations of cooling centres</p>

				<i>(for accessibility, hours, appropriate space for high-risk or susceptible populations)" (pg. 33)</i>
Nova Scotia	Emergencies and Extreme Weather Events—People with Disabilities or Medical Conditions (Website)	https://novascotia.ca/nse/environmental-health/people-with-disabilities-medical-condition.asp	Disability	Provides information targeted towards persons with disabilities.
New Brunswick	Are You Ready?	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/emo-omu/PDF/nb-emo_booklet-e.pdf	Special Needs	Section targeted at persons with special health needs.
Alberta	Emergency Preparedness (Website)	https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx	Disability, Special Needs, chronic	Provides sections targeted towards those with special needs, disabilities and chronic illnesses.
Manitoba	Manitoba Emergency Plan (2018)	https://www.gov.mb.ca/emo/pdfs/MEP.pdf	Vulnerable	<i>"[Non-governmental organizations] may also have extensive expertise and connections with vulnerable populations." (pg. 20)</i>
Saskatchewan	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention—Make a Plan (Website)	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/disaster-prevention/make-a-plan	Special needs	Provides a general "Planning for Special Needs" section.

Prince Edward Island	Your Emergency Preparedness Guide	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ops-preguide.pdf	Disability, special needs	Document provides specific guidance for persons with disabilities and special health needs. (pg. 11 – 13)
Newfoundland and Labrador	Share Responsibility: An Inclusive Emergency Planning Guide (2015)	https://codnl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FINAL-Guide-to-Emergency-Planning-March-9.pdf	Disability	Document provides specific guidance for persons with disabilities
Nunavut	Nunavut's Emergency Planning and Extreme Weather Guide (2014)	https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/rg1_emergency_planning_extreme_weather_0.pdf	N/A	N/A
Northwest Territories	NWT Emergency Plan (2018)	https://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sites/maca/files/resources/nwt_emergency_plan.pdf	Vulnerable, disability	<i>"Priority 1 evacuees are defined as vulnerable populations. This includes persons with disabilities, seniors, children, pregnant women, and those with medical conditions. Part of the vulnerable population may require medical or other supports (including medical attendants, caregivers or family) during an evacuation."</i> (pg. 14)

				General acknowledgement of vulnerable persons (pg. 13, 15, 20).
	Family Emergency Preparedness	https://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sites/maca/files/gnwt_7020_emergency_family_preparedness_brochure_wr.pdf	N/A	N/A
	Preparing for Emergencies: Floods	https://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sites/maca/files/gnwt_7020_emergency_flood_brochure_wr.pdf	N/A	N/A
Yukon	Emergency Preparedness (Website)	https://yukon.ca/en/emergency-preparedness	N/A	N/A
The North	Emergency Planning and Preparedness for People with Disabilities in Canada's North (2016)	https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49930_3365006otiemergencypreparednessengf.pdf	Disability	Document designed for persons with disabilities.
Canada	Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a	https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtg/mrgncy-mngmnt-strtg-en.pdf	Disability, vulnerable	<i>"It is important to consider that the impacts of disasters are not uniform across society, and that different variables can intersect and</i>

	Resilient 2030 (2019)			<i>contribute to the level of risk facing vulnerable populations (e.g., gender, age, disability, socioeconomic conditions)."</i> (pg. 3)
	Your Emergency Preparedness Guide	https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cntrsrcs/pblctns/yprprdnssgd/yprprdnssgd-eng.pdf	Disability	<i>"If applicable, other items such as prescription medication, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities, or food, water and medication for your pets or service animal (personalize according to your needs)."</i> (pg. 17)
	Emergency Preparedness Guide for Persons with Disabilities/Special Needs	https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cntrsrcs/pblctns/pplwthdsblts/pplwthdsblts-eng.pdf	Disability	Document designed for persons with disabilities.
Toronto	Before an Emergency (Website)	https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/emergency-preparedness/before-an-emergency/	Disability	Section targeted to persons with disabilities.
	City of Toronto Emergency Plan	https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/9593-	Accessibility	<i>"Recovery planning identifies issues, coordinates resources,</i>

		Emergency-Plan-2021-2022-01-11-FINAL.pdf		<i>ensures information is accurate and reliable, and works to restore utilities and other services in a timely manner. It provides an accountable, transparent process that ensures recovery services are accessible and applied in a consistent manner City-wide.” (pg. 9)</i>
Calgary	Persons with Disabilities Guide	https://www.calgary.ca/csps/cema/prepare-for-an-emergency/preparing-for-an-emergency-with-a-disability.html	Disability	Document designed for persons with disabilities.
Winnipeg	Time to Prepare	https://winnipeg.ca/epp/pdfs/emergency_preparedness.pdf	Disability	<i>“Check on your neighbours, especially the elderly or people with disabilities” (pg. 4).</i>
Edmonton	Emergency Preparedness	https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/emergency_preparedness/personal-preparedness.aspx	Disability	<i>“Special needs items for baby, elderly, disabled, pets”</i>
Ottawa-Gatineau	Emergency Preparedness (Website)	https://ottawa.ca/en/health-and-public-safety/emergency-preparedness	Disability	General webpage but makes brief references to persons with disabilities.

	Emergency Management Program: Municipal Emergency Plan	https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/documents/mep_2021_en.pdf	N/A	N/A
Vancouver	Earthquake Preparedness Adaptation Strategy Update (2016)	https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/earthquake-preparedness-strategy-april-2016.pdf	N/A	N/A
	Emergency Management Plan	http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/ElectoralAreaAEmergencyManagementPlan.pdf	Disability	<i>"Prepare to evacuate children, disabled, or elderly to safety." (pg. 122)</i>
Hamilton	Emergency Preparedness Guide (2016)	https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-07/emergency_emergency-preparedness-guide-2020.pdf	Disability, special needs, accessibility, chronic	<i>"Every kit will be different and based on each family's individual needs. Include supplies for infants, seniors, and individuals with disabilities or special needs if required." (pg. 22)//"Check on neighbours, especially seniors, people with disabilities and children." (pg. 26)//"The City also prepares for how information is communicated to the public in the</i>

				<p>case of an emergency. Information is shared via many channels, and in accessible formats (e.g. ASL interpreters at public information sessions).” (pg. 52)//“Everyone is affected by extreme temperatures, but some individuals are more at risk [including] people with chronic medical conditions” (pg.32)</p>
Barrie	Emergency Plan (2017)	https://www.barrie.ca/Living/Emergency%20Services/BarrieFire/Emergency%20Management/Documents/The%20City%20of%20Barrie%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf	Mental	<p>“Counseling and psychological support (assessment and referral) will be arranged for staff as well as emergency volunteers and evacuees, as required, during and after the emergency, for mental health disorders, emotional trauma and shock suffered as a result of the emergency” (pg. 22)</p>

Appendix 2: Canadian Climate Adaptation Policies

Region	Document/Website Name	Link	Key Word	Surrounding Text + Page Number
Ontario	Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan (2018)	https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2018-11/EnvironmentPlan_1.pdf	Vulnerable	<i>"We can do more to protect ourselves from the extreme weather events that have flooded houses, buildings and roads, overwhelmed aging stormwater and wastewater systems, damaged crops, and brought heavy ice and wind storms that knocked out power for hundreds of thousands of people, including those who are most vulnerable."</i> (pg. 6)
British Columbia	CleanBC: Our nature, our power, our future	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/action/cleanbc/cleanbc_2018-bc-climate-strategy.pdf	N/A	N/A *Note: The word "access" is used in a general sense throughout the document.
	Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: Actions for 2022–2025	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/adaptation/cpas.pdf	Mental, physical, disability, chronic,	<i>"The Province has used an approach known as 'gender-based analysis plus' (GBA+) to examine how considerations of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, age and mental or physical ability (among other factors) intersect to influence how</i>

			<p><i>different populations in B.C. are affected by climate change.” (pg. 13) // “As heat waves become more common due to climate change, hearing directly from those who are most affected is critical to informing equitable and effective response strategies. Following the 2021 heat dome, the Province worked with community organizations to conduct a series of ‘lived experience’ engagements with heat-sensitive populations, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and people experiencing housing insecurity, substance use and mental health challenges.” (pg. 36) // “As recent extreme weather events have shown, the impacts of climate change for health and wellness are direct and significant. Heatwaves are projected to become more frequent and severe due to climate</i></p>
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				<i>change, which in turn increases the risk of heat-related mortality and morbidity, especially for people who are elderly, chronically ill, very young and/or socially isolated.” (pg. 31)</i>
Quebec	2013–2020 Climate Change Action Plan (2012)	http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/changements/plan_action/pacc2020-en.pdf	Chronic	<i>“The same goes for heatwaves, which reduce the human body’s ability to resist the adverse effects of pollutants, increases the risk of heatstroke and aggravates chronic diseases such as diabetes, respiratory failure and cardiovascular problems.” (pg. 35)</i>
	2030 Plan for a Green Economy: Framework Policy on Electrification and the Fight Against Climate Change	https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/environnement/publications-adm/plan-economie-verte/plan-economie-verte-2030-en.pdf?1635262991	Chronic, illness, vulnerable, physical	<i>“Certain individuals and groups are more vulnerable to climate change and its impacts because of their geographic location, physical or financial limitations, or lack of social support. This is particularly true for northern and Indigenous communities. Children, seniors, and people with certain chronic illnesses are also more vulnerable.</i>

				<i>Climate change can exacerbate existing inequalities.” (pg.87)</i>
Manitoba	A Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan	https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/climatechange/climategreenplandiscussionpaper.pdf	Vulnerable	<i>“Climate change can impact our health. Extended periods of heat and cold pose dangers to the vulnerable in our society. Smoke and dust from drought and wildfires affect the air we breathe. And floods can contaminate drinking water sources. The Manitoba government is aware of the potential effects of a changing climate on human health and is open to ideas and solutions from communities and organizations on how to best address these concerns.” (pg. 27)</i>
Saskatchewan	Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/environmental-protection-and-sustainability/a-made-in-saskatchewan-climate-change-strategy/saskatchewans-climate-change-strategy	N/A	N/A *Note: The vulnerability of rural communities is discussed.

Prince Edward Island	A Climate Change Action Plan for Prince Edward Island (2018–2023)	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/climatechange2018_f8.pdf	N/A	N/A
	Progress Report: A Climate Change Action Plan for Prince Edward Island (May 2018-March 2019)	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/climate_change_action_plan_progressreport_2019.pdf	N/A	N/A
	Building Resilience: Climate Adaptation Plan	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/building_resilience_climate_adaptation_plan_oct_2022.pdf	Accessibility, vulnerable	<p><i>“The Province will [...] ensure that all information, tools, and resources are available in multiple languages and formats, including accessible formats.” (p. 25) // “The impacts of climate change are not universal and will uniquely burden vulnerable populations” (p. 8) // “The Province will [...] provide support for the dissemination of emergency supplies to vulnerable populations, including battery radios and non-perishable food.” (p. 9) // “Higher temperatures for more extended</i></p>

				<i>periods will disproportionately impact the Island's most vulnerable residents" (p. 18)</i>
Newfoundland and Labrador	The Way Forward: On Climate Change in Newfoundland and Labrador	https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/files/publications-the-way-forward-climate-change.pdf	Mental	<i>"This is limiting access to traditional hunting grounds and transportation routes to adjacent communities, which can affect travel safety, food security, as well as mental health due to increased isolation and reduced access to cultural activities." (pg. 42)</i>
Nova Scotia	Toward a Greener Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Action Plan	https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/Climate_Change_Action_Plan_2009.pdf	N/A	
	Adapting to a Changing Climate in Nova Scotia: Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Options (2015)	https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/Adapting_to_a_Changing_Climate_in_NS.pdf	Vulnerable, illness	Pages outlining the anticipated impacts of climate change on human health (pg. 39–40). Pages outlining adaptation responses (pg. 69–70).

	Climate Change Progress Report (2019)	https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/Climate-Change-Progress-Report-October-2019.pdf	Chronic, vulnerable	<i>"Helping Nova Scotians take care of their health in a changing climate is a priority. Infants, young children, older adults, and people with chronic illnesses are most vulnerable during heat waves, which will likely happen more frequently with climate change."</i> (pg. 15)
New Brunswick	Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Climate-Climatiques/TransitioningToALowCarbonEconomy.pdf	N/A	N/A
	New Brunswick's Flood Risk Adaptation Strategy (2014)	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Flooding-Inondations/NBFloodRiskReductionStrategy.pdf	N/A	N/A
	Our Pathway Towards Decarbonization and Climate Resilience: New	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Corporate/Promo/climate/climate-change-action-plan.pdf	Vulnerable	<i>"As well, temperatures are rising, creating more heat stress among the most vulnerable."</i> (pg. 6)

	Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan (2022–2027)			<p><i>"It is imperative that New Brunswick aligns its response to climate change with efforts that enable sustainable development, protect vulnerable citizens, businesses, and communities, and support an equitable, diverse, and inclusive future for all New Brunswickers."</i> (pg. 7)</p> <p>*Note: The word "access" is used in a general sense throughout the document.</p>
Yukon	Yukon "State of Play": Analysis of Climate Change impacts and Adaptation	https://yukon.ca/en/yukon-state-play-analysis-climate-change-impacts-and-adaptation	Mental	<p><i>"Flooding events affect the safety of individuals, the health of those whose drinking water quality is impacted or whose access to medical supplies or treatment is affected by flooding events, and the mental wellness of people whose property and living conditions are negatively impacted."</i> (pg. 34)</p>

	Yukon Climate Change Action Plan (2009)	https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-yukon-government-climate-change-action-plan.pdf	N/A	N/A
	YIC4 - Yukon Indigenous Community Climate Change Adaptations Project	https://www.aicbr.ca/yic4	N/A	N/A
	Community Climate Change Adaptation Project—Dawson City (2011)	https://www.yukonu.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Dawson_CAP_final_2011.pdf	Mental	<i>“Climate change exacerbates existing mental health issues such as the incidence of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) in the event of an increase in the frequency of overcast skies.” (pg. 41)</i>
	Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy, and a green economy	https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-our-clean-future.pdf	Physical, mental	<i>“Our actions will also support Yukoners to continue practicing traditional and cultural activities that are being threatened by climate change, supporting physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.” (pg. 10)</i>

				<p><i>"Climate change can negatively affect physical and mental health in many ways." (pg. 53)</i></p> <p><i>*Note: The word "access" is used in a general sense throughout the document.</i></p>
Northwest Territories	2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework	https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/128-climate_change_strategic_framework_web.pdf	Vulnerable, physical, mental	<i>"The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) will support external vulnerability assessments to evaluate the impact of climate change on the physical and mental health, and social well-being, of NWT residents." (pg. 53)</i>
	2019 - 2023 Climate Action Plan	https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/128-climate_change_ap_proof.pdf	Chronic, mental, physical	<i>"Work with partners and the public to establish the requirements for a baseline surveillance and monitoring system for health related climate change indicators, such as mental health and social wellbeing, injuries, food and water security, environmental contaminants, extreme weather events and natural disasters,</i>

				<p>zoonotic diseases, chronic diseases and infectious disease.”// “Support health vulnerability assessment(s) by external parties (e.g. consultants, researchers, etc.) to evaluate the impact of climate change on the physical and mental health and social well-being of northern communities” (pg. 45)</p>
Nunavut	Nunavut Climate Change Centre—Climate Change Adaptation	https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/en/understanding-climate-change/climate-change-adaptation	N/A	N/A
	Upagiqavut: Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Nunavut (2011)	https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/3154-315_climate_english_reduced_size_1_0.pdf	N/A	N/A
	Climate Change Adaptation Planning: A	https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/nunavut_toolkit_final_2011_0.pdf	N/A	N/A

	Nunavut Toolkit (2011)			
	Climate Change Adaptive Capacity within the Government of Nunavut	https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/report_-_climate_change_adaptive_capacity_within_the_gn.pdf	N/A	N/A
The North	Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy (2011)	https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/pan-territorial_adaptation_strategy.pdf	N/A	N/A
Canada	Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (2016)	http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/eccc/En4-294-2016-eng.pdf	N/A	N/A *Note: There are references to groups living in vulnerable regions.
	Federal Adaptation Policy Framework for Climate Change (2011)	https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/migration/cc/content/2/b/2/2b2a953e-756b-4e8c-a2ba-3fbd3324dba/4214_federal-20adaptation-20policy-20framework_en.pdf	N/A	N/A *Note: There are references to the vulnerability of the North.
	Greening Government Strategy (2017)	https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-	N/A	N/A

		secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/strategy.html		
	A Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada 2019 to 2022 (2019)	http://fsds-sfdd.ca/downloads/FSDS_2019-2022.pdf	N/A	N/A *Note: There are references to persons with disabilities but not in the context of climate mitigation/adaptation.
	National Adaptation Strategy: Health and Wellbeing Advisory Table Report	https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/Preliminary%20Advice%20from%20Advisory%20Table%20-%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing.pdf	Illness, mental, disability, chronic, risk	<i>"Without taking concerted action, climate change will continue to result in adverse health impacts, such as injury, illness, mental and spiritual health impacts, and death." (pg. 6) //// "All people living in Canada can be affected by climate change; however, some populations are at much higher risk. For example, seniors, children, individuals with chronic health conditions, individuals with disabilities and people who are pregnant can experience increased health risks associated with climate change" (pg. 8)// "In breakout rooms, Advisory Table members</i>

				<p><i>discussed candidate medium-term objectives (six in total). The objectives key themes emerging from the discussions were as follows: [...] Need to improve tracking systems for climate-related illnesses and health outcomes, incorporating race and socio-economic status data.” (pg. 17)</i></p> <p>General discussion of disproportionate impact of climate change on the health of vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses (see pg. 7, 8)</p> <p>General discussion of mental and physical health impacts of climate change throughout</p>
	<p>Advisory Table on Resilient Natural and Built Infrastructure: In</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/national-adaptation-</p>	<p>Vulnerable</p>	<p><i>“The historic extreme events in British Columbia, including extreme heat, wildfires, and flooding, as well as the climate-driven severe</i></p>

	<p>support of the development of a National Adaptation Strategy Phase 1 (Fall 2021)</p>	<p>strategy/Preliminary%20Advice%20Advisory%20Table%20-%20Resilient%20Natural%20Built%20Infrastructure.pdf</p>		<p><i>weather events in Atlantic Canada that took place this year [...]further highlighted the necessity of advancing resilience in ways that reduce social and economic impacts from climate-driven natural disasters, in particular those that directly affect the most vulnerable" (pg. 6)// "Resilient infrastructure is diverse based on local geography, community, and economic needs, and places an emphasis on the needs of vulnerable populations, with equity as a central consideration." (pg. 9)</i></p>
	<p>Canada's National Adaptation Strategy Advisory Table: Strong and Resilient Economy</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/Preliminary%20Advice%20from%20Advisory%20Table%20-%20Strong%20and%20Resilient%20Economy.pdf</p>	<p>Vulnerable</p>	<p>General discussion on including vulnerable groups. (see for example, pg. 9, 10, 15).</p>

	Disaster Resilience and Security Advisory Table: Input to National Adaptation Strategy Framework	https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/Preliminary%20Advice%20from%20Advisory%20Table%20-%20Disaster%20Resilience%20and%20Security.pdf	Physical, vulnerability, accessible	<i>"By 2040-50, Canada has taken concrete action to adapt to climate impacts in a way that maximizes overall disaster resilience, wellbeing and personal livelihoods—including taking measures that sustainably address social, physical, and financial vulnerabilities."</i> (pg. 4)// <i>"By 2030, national and regional readiness, mitigation, response and recovery plans and policies allow Canadians of all socio-economic backgrounds to overcome challenges through integrated and accessible disaster risk reduction measures"</i> (pg. 6)
Toronto	Transform TO: Climate Action for a Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Toronto	https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/92f8-TransformTO-Climate-Action-for-a-Healthy-Equitable-Prosperous-Toronto-Implementation-Update-2017-and-2018.pdf	Disability, chronic	<i>"A 2017 Mowat Centre report on Decent Work in the Green Economy found that a number of equity seeking groups—including racialized populations, Indigenous peoples, women, newcomers, and workers with disabilities—continue to face inequities in Ontario and</i>

				<p><i>experience barriers to accessing decent work.” (pg. 14)</i></p> <p><i>“Poor air quality is known to increase the risks of chronic diseases.” (pg. 35)</i></p>
	Toronto’s First Resilience Strategy (2019)	https://www.toronto.ca/ext/digital_comm/pdfs/resilience-office/toronto-resilience-strategy.pdf	Disability	<p>Persons with disabilities identified as an equity-seeking group that face an unequal distribution of resources and therefore, face greater challenges adapting to climate stressors (pg.23).</p> <p>Persons with disabilities considered in several goals and action plans (pg. 71, 107, 132).</p>
	Climate Change Master Plan—Lead Influence Transform (2020–2030) (Peel Region)	https://www.peelregion.ca/climate-energy/pdf/Climate-Change-Plan.pdf	Disability, illness	<p><i>“While the entire community of Peel will be impacted by climate change, not everyone will be impacted equally; vulnerable populations will be disproportionately affected. Socially isolated seniors, the very young,</i></p>

				<p>persons with pre-existing illnesses/poor health or disabilities, those with low income, homeless and under-housed and persons living in poor quality housing/living conditions all face increased risks from climate change due to their sensitivity and/or exposure to climate related hazards and have greatest difficulty recovering.” (pg. 28)</p>
<p>Montreal</p>	<p>Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Montreal Urban Agglomeration (2015–2020)</p>	<p>http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/port al/docs/PAGE/ENVIRO_FR/MEDIA /DOCUMENTS/2017_PACCAM_2 015-2020_MEASURES.PDF</p>	<p>Vulnerable, chronic</p>	<p>“Heat waves have major sanitary consequences. High heat can be dangerous for the health of vulnerable people (seniors, people with chronic illnesses or living alone, young children, etc.).” (pg. 181)</p>
<p>Calgary</p>	<p>Climate Resilience Strategy— Mitigation and Adaptation Plans (2018)</p>	<p>https://www.calgary.ca/UEP/ESM/ Documents/ESM- Documents/Climate_Resilience_Plan.pdf</p>	<p>Vulnerable, chronic</p>	<p>“Although all people will be affected to some degree by climate impacts, some groups are more at risk. Vulnerable populations, including seniors, youth and some</p>

				<p>people with chronic illnesses are all more at risk of health complications from climate impacts such as heat waves, air pollution, pests and diseases." (pg. 77)// "Heat increases health risks for seniors, young children, and people with chronic illnesses as well as athletes and outdoor enthusiasts... Examples such as this, point to the need for improved private and public cooling opportunities, coordinated support for vulnerable people, and updated heat management plans." (pg. 79)</p>
	<p>Calgary Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050</p>	<p>https://www.calgary.ca/environment/climate/climate-strategy.html#:~:text=Our%20strategy&text=Approved%20by%20Council%20July%205,an%20accelerated%20pace%20and%20scale.</p>	<p>Access, illness, vulnerable, disability</p>	<p>General discussion of access and accessibility throughout (see for example pg. 43, 59, 60, 67)</p> <p>Persons with disabilities are acknowledged as an equity-deserving people (pg. 89)</p>

				<p><i>“Calgary will be an inclusive, equitable, and prosperous City with support and respect for equity-deserving people who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.” (pg. 2)//“Extreme heat can lead to heat-related illnesses in vulnerable individuals, such as outdoor workers, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions.” (pg. 55)//“While every person in Calgary will be impacted by climate change, some groups are more vulnerable than others and will feel the impacts sooner and more drastically.” (pg. 59)</i></p>
Edmonton	Climate Resilient Edmonton— Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2018)	https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/Climate_Resilient_Edmonton.pdf	Vulnerable	<p><i>“Edmonton is only resilient when its residents are also resilient. This requires an inclusive approach that considers the unique needs of different communities, including vulnerable populations.” (pg. 27)</i></p>

<p>Ottawa-Gatineau</p>	<p>New Official Plan—Climate Adaptation and Resilience (2019)</p>	<p>https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/op_discuss_paper_climate_en.pdf</p>	<p>Vulnerable, chronic, impaired</p>	<p><i>“What provisions are needed to protect vulnerable populations like the elderly, the young, the health-impaired, the isolated and those with low incomes?” (pg. 9)//</i> <i>“Climate change impacts our health and well-being, economy and environment. Heat waves, flooding and storms put communities at risk. Heat related illnesses and deaths increase with rising temperatures, especially among older adults, young children, people with chronic illnesses and those without air conditioning.” (pg. 3)//</i> “Vulnerable populations including the elderly, the young, those with health conditions, or those living without air conditioning are particularly at risk.” (pg. 7)// <i>“Heat mitigation measures are particularly important or vulnerable populations, such as</i></p>
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				<i>the old and young, those living with chronic conditions, and low-income residents.” (pg. 14)</i>
	Climate Change Master Plan	https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/climate_change_mplan_en.pdf	Illness, vulnerable	<p><i>“And while climate change will impact everyone, our individual abilities to deal with those impacts will vary and disproportionately affect our more vulnerable populations.” (pg. 13) // “The City and various service providers continue to support vulnerable populations and to reduce illness and deaths associated with extreme heat and cold, while helping people recover from other extreme climate events.” (pg. 14)</i></p> <p>General discussion of the risks posed by climate change (see for example pg. 5, 13, 14, 17, 18).</p>
Winnipeg	Winnipeg’s Climate Action Plan (2018)	https://winnipeg.ca/sustainability/PublicEngagement/ClimateActionPlan/pdfs/WinnipegsClimateActionPlan.pdf	Disability, mobility	<i>“The physical design and layout of a community plays a critical role in achieving sustainable transportation. Convenient access</i>

				to public transit encourages equity by enhancing mobility among people with barriers to transportation, including older adults, people with low incomes, and those living with disabilities ." (pg. 24)
Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge	Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan	https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/resources/Community-Climate-Adaptation-Plan---Full.pdf	Chronic	"In Waterloo Region, people who are vulnerable to climate change impacts can include seniors, children and infants, socially and economically disadvantaged people, those with chronic illnesses, and residents living in isolated areas." (pg. 35)
	A Climate Change Action Plan for Waterloo Region: Living Smarter in 2020 (2013)	http://www.climateactionwr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ClimateActionPlanWaterlooRegion_Full_Nov2013.pdf	N/A	N/A
Vancouver	Climate Change Adaption Strategy: 2018 Update and Action Plan	https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/climate-change-adaptation-strategy.pdf	Disability, special needs, accessibility, illness, vulnerable	"Emergency planning for people with disabilities and special needs —Emergencies can present additional challenges for seniors

				<p><i>and people with special needs. By planning ahead, you can be more confident about protecting yourself in any emergency." (pg. 15)//" Frontline communities and those that have been affected by systemic vulnerabilities and inequities (including racialized communities/people of colour, lower income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people with disabilities and older adults) are often at greater risk from the impacts of climate change and often have the fewest resources to respond." (pg. 33)//" Design robust built form to do well in a range of climates while providing co-benefits such as seismic resilience, energy efficiency, accessibility, and supporting health and well-being." (pg. 38)//" All Vancouverites will benefit from prepared and</i></p>
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				<p>connected communities. Isolated seniors, young children, those already affected by illness or those with lower means to recover from a severe event are more vulnerable.” (pg. 42)</p>
<p>Hamilton</p>	<p>Corporate Climate Change Task Force</p>	<p>https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-05-04/staff-report-cmo19008-hsc19073-appendixa.pdf</p>	<p>Vulnerable, chronic</p>	<p>“An equitable and diversity lens on climate change actions will help to prevent unjust impacts to our most vulnerable populations.” (pg. 24)// “Ensuring an equity lens is included will also help to improve vulnerable populations standard of living and overall well-being.” (pg. 27)// “Reduction of GHG emissions through single use vehicles and improving active and sustainable forms of transportation helps to improve air quality, decreases chronic health diseases.” (pg. 27)</p>
<p>Barrie</p>	<p>Climate Adaptation Strategy—City of Barrie (2017)</p>	<p>https://www.barrie.ca/Living/Environment/Conservation/Documents/Barrie-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy.pdf</p>	<p>Vulnerable</p>	<p>General discussions of vulnerable populations throughout. See for example: “Everyone will be affected by climate change, but</p>

				<i>vulnerable communities in Barrie including children, the elderly, and homeless, those with special existing health conditions may be particularly affected.” (pg. 40)</i>
	Implementation Plan: Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	https://www.barrie.ca/sites/default/files/2022-07/Implementation%20Plan%20-%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy%202018.pdf	Vulnerable	<i>“Everyone will be affected by climate change, but vulnerable communities in Barrie including children, the elderly, the homeless, and those with existing health conditions may be particularly affected” (pg. 24)//“Improving education, allowing citizens to grow their own food, and working to address vulnerable and low-income populations will all serve to improve food security throughout the Barrie community.” (pg. 35)//“ Extreme heat can pose a health risk to residents in the City of Barrie, especially vulnerable populations.” (pg. 124)</i>

