

FPT Ministerial Meeting Report

Title: Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME): Council of Ministers Meeting

Department: Environment

Participants: Joe Savikataaq; Minister of Environment
Ron Elliot, Executive Assistant
David Akeeagok; Deputy Minister
Bob Carson; ADM, Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs

Meeting Outcome/Current Situation:

1 CLIMATE CHANGE

Ministers considered a *Proposed Architecture for Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, starting with the section on carbon pricing mechanisms and discussed its content. Canada circulated a document "*Pan-Canadian Approach to Pricing Carbon Pollution*" (attached) proposing a benchmark for carbon pricing and reported that the Prime Minister was announcing this approach in the House of Commons at that time.

Ministers agreed to suspend discussion on the carbon pricing mechanisms section of the *Proposed Architecture for Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* and considered the rest of the document. Ministers agreed to amendments proposed by Yukon, Québec, Canada and Alberta. The document as amended was adopted by ministers as their recommendation to First Ministers (revised version attached).

At the request of Newfoundland and Labrador ministers held an *in camera* discussion.

The President reported for the record that during the *in camera* discussion ministers unanimously directed Deputy Ministers Committee (DMC) to continue to support the development and subsequent implementation of a pan-Canadian framework. DMC was directed to examine options for:

- reporting of emissions and inventories to ensure consistency across provinces and territories to support Canada's reporting of inventories and releases to the UNFCCC; and
- a pan-Canadian offset protocols framework and verified carbon credits that can be traded domestically and internationally.

Ministers also directed DMC to, once the pan-Canadian framework is agreed to by First Ministers, discuss efforts to support implementation of collaborative

actions in mitigation and adaptation, and to report back to Ministers by June 30, 2017, to be followed by a Council of Ministers meeting to review and discuss.

Ministers agreed that the *Proposed Architecture for Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* is not to be made public and that the final reports of the working groups for which CCME is responsible will be released by the end of October 2016.

2 AIR

Ministers endorsed the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulphur Dioxide.

Nunavut Position:

Minister Savikataaq continued to express that the Carbon Pricing will negatively affect the North and Federal Minister acknowledge that and wanted to work directly with Nunavut to assist the Territories. Federal committed to have technical staff visit Nunavut to review options.

Pan Territories insisted and was approved that the following words are included in the Pan Canadian framework. " Recognition that there are a number of considerations on implementing carbon pricing that should be addressed by governments, particularly challenges to vulnerable groups (such as low income households and Northern and remote communities, including Indigenous ones), competitiveness and carbon leakage issues".

Attachment: **Communiqué and
Proposed Architecture for Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean
Growth and Climate Change**

Environment Ministers Discuss Climate Change and Clean Air

October 3, 2016

Montréal, QC – October 3, 2016 – Federal, provincial and territorial environment ministers met today in Montréal to advance the development of a pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

“We have a historic opportunity for a sustained transition to a low-carbon, clean growth and climate resilient economy. This includes substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors coupled with investments in and measures to build resilience to the impacts of climate change,” said David Heurtel, Québec’s Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, who hosted his colleagues at the annual meeting of CCME.

Last March, in the Vancouver Declaration, First Ministers agreed to develop a pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change to achieve Canada’s international commitments in the Paris Accord. They agreed to implement policies in support of meeting or exceeding Canada’s 2030 target of a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions.

First Ministers also committed to transitioning to a low carbon economy by adopting a broad range of domestic measures, including carbon-pricing mechanisms adapted to each province’s and territory’s specific circumstances, in particular the realities of the Indigenous peoples of Canada and Arctic and sub Arctic regions.

As part of this process, Ministers reviewed reports on carbon pricing mechanisms, specific mitigation opportunities, and adaptation and climate resilience prepared by three federal-provincial-territorial working groups. The reports of the working groups will be released by the end of October.

Based on the options presented by working groups, Ministers discussed collaborative actions and will provide their input to First Ministers on the pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Environment Ministers recognized that the unique circumstances of the territories, including the high cost of living, challenges with food security, and emerging economies means that a range of different policy options for reducing emissions will be considered. First Ministers will reconvene this fall to conclude the framework.

Ministers met with representatives of the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council to discuss their ideas and to share perspectives about the opportunities and challenges as Canada moves to a stronger, more resilient, low-carbon economy. Ministers thanked these national Indigenous organizations for their continuing participation in the development of a pan Canadian framework and recognized the importance of continued ongoing collaboration as we move forward.

Ministers would like to thank Canadians who contributed their thoughts and advice to the working groups, noting that the engagement of citizens in developing a pan Canadian framework is essential, as climate change touches every industry and household in Canada.

“Our discussions today demonstrate our commitment to working together and joining forces to ensure a flexible, joint and complementary approach to fighting climate change based on the leadership, actions and specific circumstances of each jurisdiction,” said Minister Heurtel. “This will allow us to make further progress on emissions reduction, resilience, and transition to a low-carbon economy, consistent with the commitments made in Paris.”

Ministers will continue to collaborate on several climate change projects through CCME, including developing:

- an approach to inventories and projections that will improve the consistency of greenhouse gas emissions tracking and reporting;
- tools to plan for changes in the frequency and intensity of droughts and floods; and
- guidance for sampling soils and groundwater at contaminated sites in permafrost.

As a part of the continuing implementation of the Air Quality Management System (AQMS), Ministers took action to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions. These emissions are linked to respiratory health problems, particularly for children and adults with asthma, and environmental impacts such as acid rain and smog.

Ministers announced new Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for sulphur dioxide, that will drive the improvement of air quality across the country. These standards were developed through a collaborative process that included industry associations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations and governments.

The AQMS is a comprehensive and harmonized approach to air quality management across Canada that considers all sources of air pollution. Québec supports the general objectives of the AQMS, but has already implemented its own regulation and is collaborating with jurisdictions on developing some elements of the system, notably air zones and airsheds.

At the conclusion of the meeting British Columbia Minister of Environment Mary Polak took over the Presidency of CCME from Minister Heurtel.

CCME is the primary minister-led intergovernmental forum for collective action on environmental issues of national and international concern. CCME is comprised of the environment ministers from the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

[Vancouver Declaration \(www.tinyurl.com/j53y4ol\)](http://www.tinyurl.com/j53y4ol)

Contact:

Michael Goeres
Executive Director
CCME Secretariat
(204) 948-2172

Émilie Simard
Press Officer
Office of the Minister of Sustainable Development, the
Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change
(418) 521-3911