



Canada's road to zero carbon emissions is full of dangerous distractions

BY MARC LEE

“Net zero” is increasingly used regarding emissions reduction targets. But what does it really mean? With the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (Bill C-12) Canada is joining many nations in setting a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Unfortunately, this conversation promises to be a dangerous distraction for Canadian policymakers who already have a terrible track record at meeting emission reduction targets.

While reducing GHG emissions to zero is a clear concept, net zero muddies the waters in that some unspecified amount of emissions would be permitted as long as they are balanced by “carbon removals.” Net zero has two objectives: reducing fossil fuel emissions and increasing carbon removals, and proposes they can be traded off against each other.

To date, the federal government has not stated how much it is betting on carbon removals for meeting 2050 net zero targets. There are three net zero loopholes of concern: forests and other “nature-based solutions,” engineered removals (such as carbon capture and storage) and purchasing credits from outside the country.

Canada is already cooking the books by claiming its managed forests are a carbon sink →

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(meaning they absorb more CO₂ than they release annually). In fact, Canada's forests have been a massive source of carbon dioxide emissions over the past few decades due to insect infestations and wildfires, but these lands have been scrubbed from the official numbers.

Whether source or sink, conflating forest carbon with fossil fuel carbon is a mistake. Trees could burn down, be killed by insects or logged for wood. In any event, to get CO₂ levels down to a habitable level we need forests in addition to reducing fossil fuel emissions to near zero.

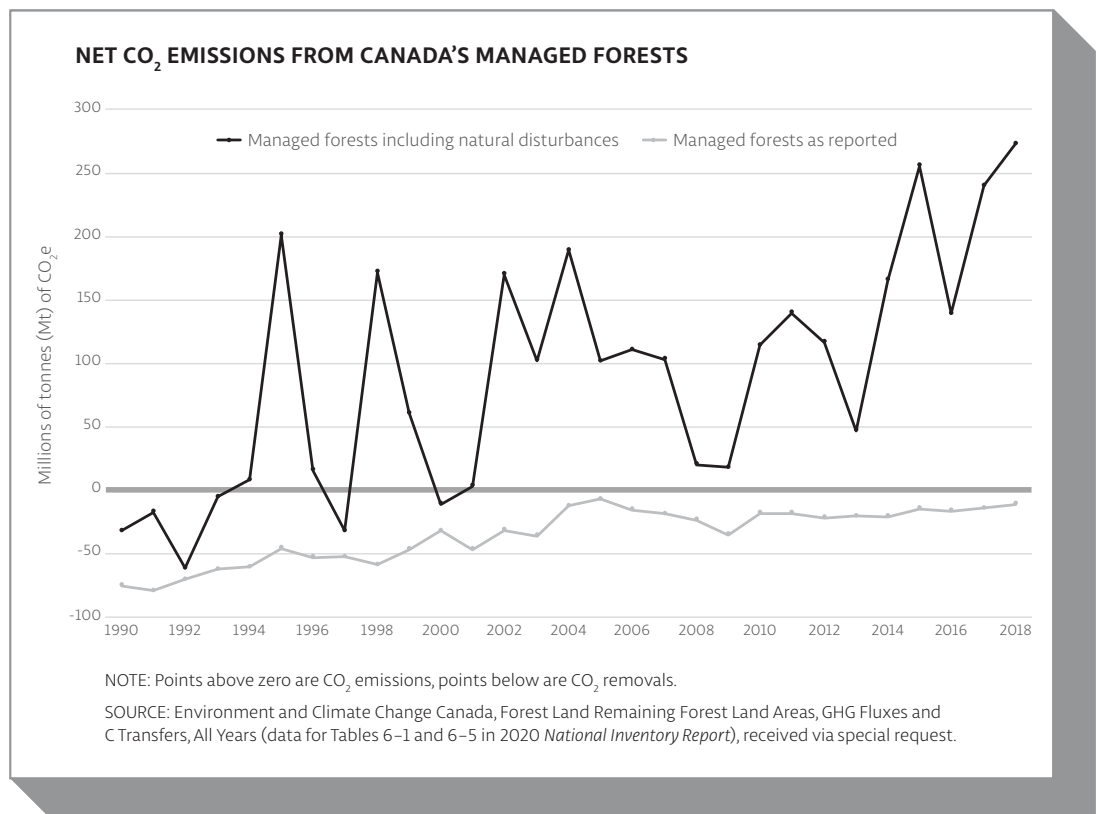
Nature-based solutions are another diversion. A recent study pointed to the important need to avoid further deforestation and conversion of grasslands into agriculture, but doing so cannot substitute for real emission reductions because they do not draw down CO₂ from the atmosphere.

It's impossible to know what carbon removal technologies of the future could achieve but scaling up these ideas is likely to be very expensive and impractical. For now, they risk diverting resources away from bona fide solutions. Public funds would be much better invested directly into renewables and green technologies.

Canada is already cooking the books by claiming its managed forests are a carbon sink. In fact, Canada's forests have been a massive source of carbon dioxide emissions over the past few decades due to insect infestations and wildfires.

If we take all of the above and turn it into a global market for buying and selling carbon credits, we can find a final escape hatch for federal and provincial governments from the real work of reducing emissions from production and burning of fossil fuels. While Canada has not confirmed that it will purchase credits generated outside our borders, past climate plans have banked on this.

Global and domestic experience with carbon offset markets shows many complicated accounting methodologies that give a false sense that emissions are being reduced elsewhere. Yes,



Canada should fund forest conservation and natural carbon sequestration but we should do that as a public service, not as dubious offset projects that allow polluters to continue polluting.

For many years Canada has wanted to have it both ways: modest climate action while ramping up production and export of the fossil fuels that are the primary cause of climate change. Meeting Canada's net zero target for 2050 ultimately requires absolute reductions in fossil fuel production, which today represents around one-quarter of Canada's emissions total.

In light of the recent International Energy Agency report—that says new investments in fossil fuel projects are inconsistent with keeping a lid on temperature increases—policymakers need to commit to a managed wind down of fossil fuel production in Canada and avoid diversions that perpetuate business as usual.

Marc Lee is a senior economist at the CCPA-BC and the author of Dangerous Distractions: Canada's carbon emissions and the pathway to net zero, available at policyalternatives.ca/net-zero.



This analysis is part of the Corporate Mapping Project, a research and public engagement project investigating the power of the fossil fuel industry in Western Canada, led by the University of Victoria, the CCPA's BC and Saskatchewan offices and the Parkland Institute. This research is supported by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Precedent-setting win for Blueberry River First Nations

BY BEN PARFITT

In 1914, the Fort St. John Beaver Band selected land for a reserve in what is now northeast British Columbia. The land was known in the Dane-zaa language as Suu Na chii K'chi ge, or “place where happiness dwells.”

But happiness is in short supply these days. A sprawling network of natural gas industry wells, clear-cuts and massive hydroelectric dams and reservoirs have turned the old reserve and surrounding lands into an industrial sacrifice zone where the caribou are all but gone, and moose, marten and fisher are few and far between.

Sadly, the writing was on the wall decades ago that this would happen. But provincial government ministries and agencies, which approve such developments, never paid serious attention to the issue of “cumulative effects.”

The result was that a key provision of Treaty 8, a document signed by members of the Canadian government and the region’s First Nations in June 1899, was violated. That provision was that First Nations could hunt, fish and trap as before.

Fast forward to June of this year, and the long-awaited outcome of a precedent-setting case before the BC Supreme Court, where the Blueberry River First Nations, descendants of the Fort St. John Beaver Band, sought redress from the provincial government for cumulative damages to their lands.

Justice Burke’s judgement is a landmark decision. She ruled that the province unjustifiably infringed on Blueberry River’s treaty rights to the point where few “meaningful” opportunities to hunt, fish and trap remained.

Anyone wanting a sense of just how seriously out of step provincial agencies such as the Oil and Gas Commission are when it comes to protecting treaty rights should read Madam Justice Burke’s Reasons for Judgement closely, in particular her dissection of the captured Commission’s actions.

Consider just one thing she noted — in 23 years the Commission did not once decline a fossil fuel company’s request to frack a gas well, or punch a road through the forest, or build a massive earthen dam to divert freshwater from streams or sink a cavernous hole into the earth to store millions of litres of toxic water, on the grounds that such developments could harm or



TWO MASSIVE WASTEWATER STORAGE PITS IN BLUEBERRY RIVER FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY. THE PITS ARE OWNED BY PETRONAS. PHOTO BY JAYCE HAWKINS.

destroy wildlife habitat. Not once.

Justice Burke’s judgement is a landmark decision. She ruled that the province unjustifiably infringed on Blueberry River’s treaty rights to the point where few “meaningful” opportunities to hunt, fish and trap remained. She also ordered the province to work “diligently” with the Nation to negotiate changes that would recognize and respect its treaty rights.

Lastly, she gave the government six months to conclude those negotiations, after which it would have to stop issuing any new permits that authorized industrial activities that further undermined Blueberry River’s rights.

In July, BC Attorney General David Eby did the honourable thing and said that the government would not appeal and instead negotiate.

The big question now is whether the government will do the even more honourable thing and sit down with all Treaty 8 First Nations. Because Blueberry River’s issues aren’t unique. Just ask their cousins in West Moberly First Nations about their ongoing legal battles with the province and BC Hydro over a little government-backed project called Site C.

Ben Parfitt is a resource policy analyst with the BC office of the CCPA.

From the colonial past to the racist present: The terms of union and the attempted erasure of Indigenous peoples

BY JOHN PRICE & NICHOLAS XEMFOLTW CLAXTON

Amid ongoing confirmations of unmarked graves at residential “school” sites (long known and talked about by Indigenous communities), Canada is once again faced with the undeniable reality of its colonial foundation, past and present. Here in BC, that foundation was built in significant part via the process of joining the Canadian Confederation. This history is explored in a recent book co-published by CCPA-BC, *Challenging Racist “British Columbia”: 150 Years and Counting* and in this article by two of the book’s co-authors.

Though this province joined Canada in July 1871, preparatory discussion regarding the Terms of Union began much earlier. In March 1870, 21 white, male members of the legislative council of the colony of “British Columbia” debated and drafted terms for a proposed union of the colony with Canada. The draft terms omitted any mention of First Nations, even though Indigenous people constituted nearly 80 per cent of the population at this time.

To some, such an omission is not surprising—after all, this happened over 150 years ago. To expect more might easily be construed as “presentism,” of imposing today’s values on the past.

The British colonial office appointed Arthur Musgrave as the colonial governor of “British Columbia” in the summer of 1869. His predecessor, Frederick Seymour, had been ill for some time and died suddenly in Bella Coola.

Article 13 would allow the province to go rogue, refuse to recognize any form of Aboriginal title, refuse to enter into treaty talks, and to allocate the smallest amount of land for reserves in all of Canada.

Musgrave’s instructions were to bring the colony then ruled from London into the Canadian federation, with the governor having an important role, since “the constitution of British Columbia will oblige the Governor to enter personally upon many questions—as the condition of Indian tribes and the future position of Government servants...”

Musgrave published his imperial instructions in the *Government Gazette* that fall and drew up draft terms of confederation that were submitted to the Legislative Council in early 1870.

Of the 16 clauses submitted for debate by Musgrave, a number touched on the future position of government officials,

as suggested in his instructions, but not one referred to First Nations.

This omission did not go unnoticed and in the subsequent debate in the legislature on confederation, the New Westminster representative, Henry Holbrook, challenged the erasure. From the onset, however, he was met with fierce resistance.

When Holbrook declared he was bringing forward a resolution “with reference to the Indian tribes,” the attorney general of the day, Henry Crease, tried to warn him off: “On a former occasion a very evil impression was introduced in the Indian mind on the occasion of Sir James Douglas’ retirement. I ask the Hon. gentleman to be cautious, for Indians do get information of what is going on.”

Holbrook persisted: “My motion is to ask for protection for them under the change of Government. The Indians number four to one white man, and they ought to be considered. They should receive protection.”

Crease: “These are the words that do harm. I would ask the Hon. Magisterial Member for New Westminster to consider.”

Holbrook wouldn’t let go, but the desultory discussion that ensued culminated in a vote 20 to 1 against his motion. So determined were the colony’s legislators to hide any discussion of Indigenous affairs, Holbrook’s motion was scrubbed from the official Journals of the Executive Council even though other defeated motions were reported.

Other than historian Jacqueline Gresko, few scholars have probed Holbrook’s opposition to the erasure of Indigenous peoples. Instead, some scholars have focused on this period as the beginning of representative government, compartmentalizing racism as something that affected others, while dwelling on the “liberalism” of the small white minority that was usurping power for themselves.

Shortly afterward, the colonial governor Arthur Musgrave

appointed three BC delegates to travel to Ottawa for negotiations with the Canadian government.

BC delegates Joseph Trutch, R.W.W. Carrall and J.S. Helmcken met with Ottawa cabinet ministers George Cartier (acting PM), Francis Hincks and Leonard Tilley with the goal of finalizing the Terms of Union.

Suddenly, on the last day of the talks, what became Article 13 of the Terms of Union made a dramatic appearance:

13. The charge of the Indians, and the trusteeship and management of the Lands Reserved for their use and benefit, shall be assumed by the Dominion Government, and a policy as liberal as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government, shall be continued by the Dominion Government after the Union.

Article 13 also specified that the B.C. government was obliged to hand over to the federal government land for reserves “of such an extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia government to appropriate for that purpose.

Who introduced Article 13 remains a mystery. Cartier may have suggested it since the British North American Act (1867) that governed Canada at the time specified that Indigenous affairs was a federal responsibility. But most historians point to the head of the BC delegation, Joseph Trutch, being responsible for the wording.

Unfortunately, Article 13 as a cure for erasure turned out to be worse than the disease.

In specifying that the federal government had to continue a “policy as liberal” as that of the BC government, and that the BC government only had to provide land for reservations to the extent it had in the past, Article 13 provided the BC government with a constitutional chokehold over Indigenous affairs.

It would allow the province to go rogue, refuse to recognize any form of Aboriginal title, refuse to enter into treaty talks, and to allocate the smallest amount of land for reserves in all of Canada.

First Nations have been fighting for justice ever since.

This article is adapted from the first in a three-part series originally published in the Victoria Times Colonist newspaper. The series draws on research conducted by John Price and Nicholas XEMFOLTW Claxton, who are co-authors with Denise Fong, Fran Morrison, Christine O’Bonsawin, Maryka Omatsu and Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, of Challenging Racist “British Columbia”: 150 Years and Counting. Download at <https://challengeracistbc.ca> and see box for more information.



New videos on challenging racism in BC

The *Challenging Racist “British Columbia”* project aims to educate British Columbians about recent anti-racist activism efforts and how they connect to a broader history of Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities challenging white supremacy for over 150 years—particularly since 1871 when BC joined Canada.

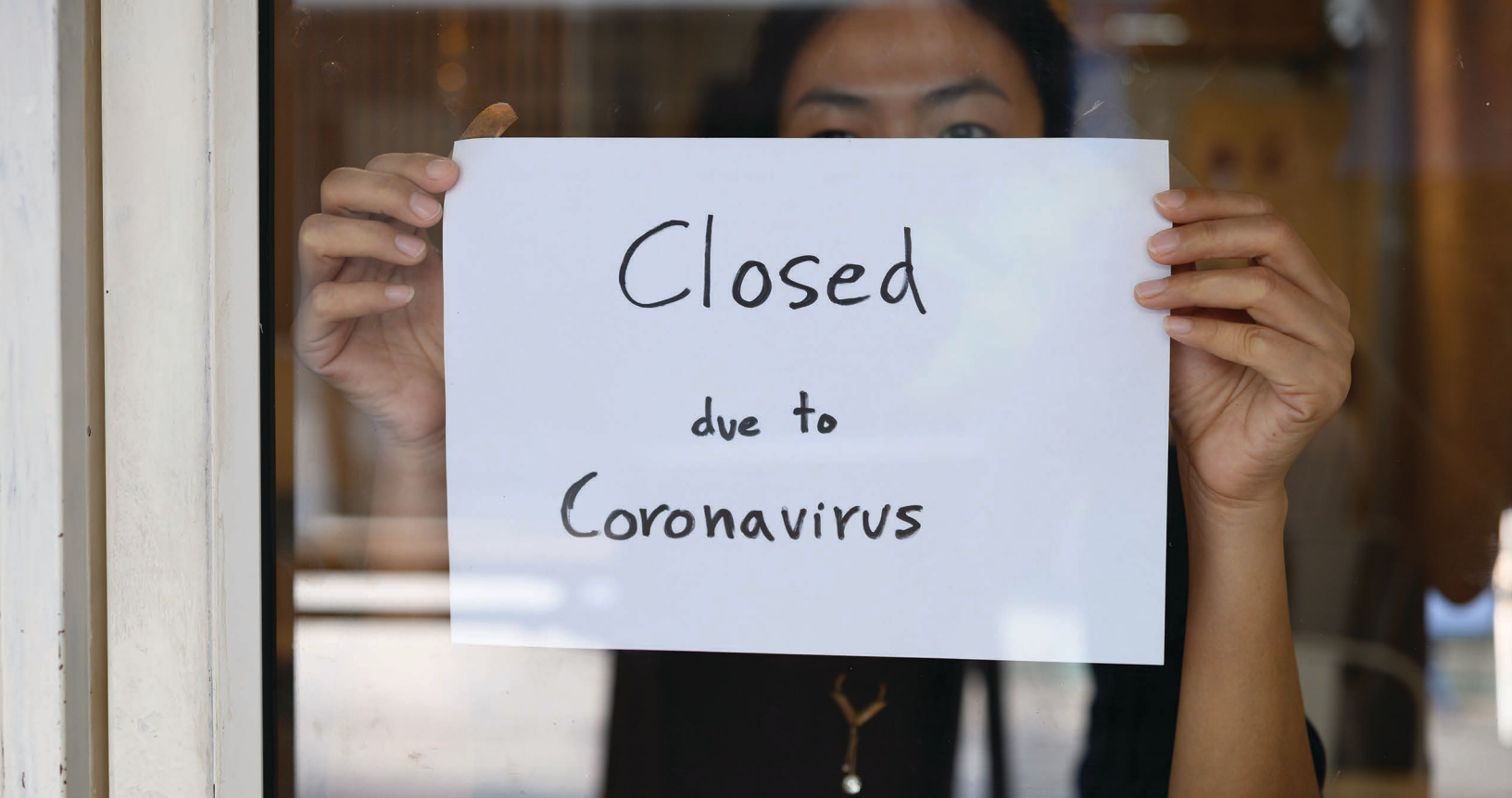
In addition to an 80-page booklet released in February 2021, the project has launched a new three-part video series designed to assist anti-racist educators, teachers, scholars and policymakers in breaking the silence that often lets racism fester in communities, corporations and governments.

Part one, *Whose land is it?*, describes the roots of racism and white supremacy in BC, including how land was stolen from Indigenous peoples and how the white, male government set out to make the province’s population a white majority by suppressing growth of non-white populations.

The second video, *150 years of resistance*, explains how the early BC government passed hundreds of racist laws against Indigenous peoples and Asian Canadians, creating a level of institutionalized white supremacy that was unprecedented in Canada. It also highlights acts of resistance by racialized peoples to the many forms of discrimination they faced.

Finally, *Victories won and continued challenges* describes the persistent efforts by Indigenous peoples, racialized activists and their anti-racist allies throughout BC’s history in the struggle against racism.

This initiative is co-produced by the UVic research project *Asian Canadians on Vancouver Island: Race, Indigeneity and the Transpacific* and the CCPA-BC. Visit challengeracistbc.ca to access the materials.



BC's reopening plans must address pandemic's employment inequalities

BY IGLIKA IVANOVA

BC's economic recovery is slightly ahead of most other provinces with relatively strong job creation numbers this summer. However, the encouraging top-level statistics hide important inequalities that will block an inclusive recovery unless explicitly addressed.

Racialized communities continue to experience higher unemployment, are more likely to work in low-wage jobs with few if any benefits and face greater financial insecurity. Recent immigrants and Indigenous workers are also seeing a much slower recovery as are workers aged 15 to 24, especially young women.

It is crucial that as life in BC returns to a semblance of normal, governments and employers lead a transition for inclusive and just prosperity. Without an economic plan prioritizing inclusion, we run the risk of cementing the pre-pandemic status quo of undervaluing and underpaying front-line caring and service work that enables the rest of our economy to function.

This summer I published a report examining ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on BC's job market over the pandemic's first full

year and recommended policies for a more inclusive economy.

My in-depth analysis of BC's job market shows that while COVID-19 created unprecedented disruption for everyone, lower-income British Columbians have been worst impacted, particularly those experiencing intersecting inequalities due to race, class and gender. Lower-paid workers in part-time, temporary, more-precarious jobs were more likely to lose jobs or the majority of their regular hours in the pandemic's early days and have seen a slower recovery. Female, Indigenous and racialized workers are more likely to have low-wage jobs than white or male peers and were more severely impacted. These workers bore the brunt of pandemic impacts in another important way—they more likely risked their health in essential jobs on the front lines.

The pandemic has highlighted how much of our economy relies on unpaid labour—mostly by women—and on undervalued jobs in female-dominated industries staffed largely by racialized workers. Caregiving continues to affect women’s ability to work—especially mothers with younger children and single parents.

Despite solid job creation numbers, long-term unemployment—defined as being unemployed for six months or more—more than tripled in BC a year into the pandemic and remains elevated. Without targeted action we risk extending long-term consequences from pandemic-induced job losses, especially for racialized and younger workers.

Building a more just, inclusive and sustainable economy in BC as we recover from the pandemic will require all hands-on deck. In addition to well-coordinated efforts from all levels of government, we’ll need business, local communities and the non-profit sector to step up and actively contribute.

As the reopening spurs new job creation, we must work together to end the undervaluing of low-wage work and make every job a good job with a living wage, good working conditions and access to basic benefits like paid sick leave.

I propose a three-pronged policy framework to BC’s government for an inclusive recovery:

1. Double down on large-scale investments in crucial public services, especially in the care economy (health care, child care and education).
2. Ensure better jobs for everyone by modernizing workplace rights and protections.
3. Overhaul income and social supports to plug the gaping holes in our social safety net exposed so clearly by the pandemic.

Prioritizing the economic security of those most impacted by COVID-19—including low-wage workers, racialized and Indigenous people, women, young workers and those experiencing poverty—is the only way to tackle long-standing income and wealth inequalities that have worsened during the pandemic.

Iglika Ivanova is a senior economist and the Public Interest Researcher at the CCPA-BC.

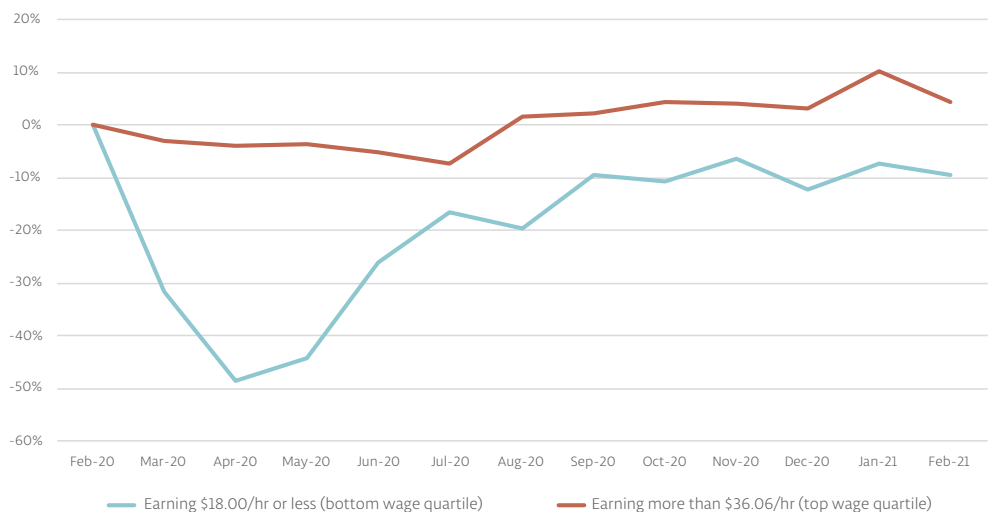
Understanding Precarity in BC: Major new project

In June we announced the launch of a major six-year initiative to study the impacts of precarious work in BC. *Understanding Precarity in BC* is jointly led by Iglia Ivanova, CCPA-BC Senior Economist and Public Interest Researcher, and Kendra Strauss, Director of SFU’s Labour Studies Program and the Morgan Centre for Labour Research. They will work closely with a team that includes 39 academic researchers, four BC universities and 26 community partners with deep connection to populations most impacted by precarity.

A centrepiece of the partnership’s research agenda is a biennial province-wide BC Precarity Survey which will paint a detailed picture of the extent and nature of precarious work across all regions of the province. The project is designed to not just understand precarious work, but also to inform the public conversation about policy solutions for a just and equitable recovery from COVID-19. The team’s ultimate goal is to reduce systemic inequalities and enhance the economic security of British Columbians.

Stay tuned as the project prepares to release its first major study in the coming months!

SHARE OF BC WORKERS IN THE TOP AND BOTTOM WAGE QUANTILES WHO LOST THEIR JOBS OR THE MAJORITY OF THEIR REGULAR HOURS RELATIVE TO FEBRUARY 2020



NOTE: Excludes the self-employed because they are not asked about their wages in the Labour Force Survey. Seasonally adjusted by removing average change in each category since February over the past three years.

SOURCE: Author’s calculations based on data from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey PUMF.

Canada's carbon conundrum and the difficult path forward

BY J. DAVID HUGHES

Since the first oil well was drilled in 1859, anthropogenic emissions have grown 116-fold and more than 13-fold per capita. Half of all greenhouse gas emissions have been emitted since 1991 and half of the fossil fuels burnt since 1850 have been burned since 1993.



The halfway point in cumulative emissions from fossil fuel burning depends on the level of development of individual countries and their rate of growth: Canada's halfway point was 1989; the US, 1981; the UK, 1950; and China, where consumption is skyrocketing, 2007.

Despite China's rapid growth, its per capita rate of emissions was just slightly over the world average in 2019, compared to three times the world average for Canada and the US (the UK was at the world average).

Climate scientists have underscored the danger of global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions and the need to eliminate emissions as soon as possible. High-emitting countries like Canada and the US clearly have the most room for cutting emissions. Despite signing the Paris Agreement, Canada's emissions have grown by 3.3 per cent since 2016, the highest of any G-7 country.

In 2019, the most recent year for which emissions data are available, oil and gas production accounted for 26 per cent of Canada's total emissions. In the Canada Energy Regulator's most conservative forecast (which assumes new policies to address climate change and improvements in emissions reduction from

the oil sands), growth in oil and gas production to 2050 would cause the oil and gas sector alone to exceed an 80 per cent emissions reduction target in 2050 by 32 per cent. Yet Canada is using taxpayer funds to build the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project to facilitate additional oil and gas production growth, which is at odds with its emissions reduction commitments.

In BC, both the federal and BC governments are subsidizing LNG exports which will require increased gas production that would exceed BC's CleanBC emissions target by 93 per cent in 2050.

Despite signing the Paris Agreement, Canada's emissions have grown by 3.3 per cent since 2016, the highest of any G-7 country.

Government enthusiasm for increasing oil and gas production must also face the realities of falling revenue from the industry. Despite increasing production, royalty revenue has declined 45 per cent since 2000. Tax revenue from the oil and gas industry has declined from more than 14 per cent of total industry taxes in 2006 to less than four per cent in 2018. Jobs, which peaked in 2014, have declined by 23 per cent due to increased automation even though production is at an all-time high.

If Canada's commitments to emissions reduction are to be more than empty promises, our government must face the fact that production will have to decline radically and that its policies to expand pipelines, production and exports are completely counterproductive to achieving its climate commitments.

David Hughes is an earth scientist whose latest Corporate Mapping Project report is Canada's Energy Sector: Status, evolution, revenue, employment, production forecasts, emissions and implications for emissions reduction, available at policyalternatives.ca.

Canada's largest public pension fund is pouring fuel on the climate fire

BY JAMES ROWE, JESSICA DEMPSEY & ZOË YUNKER

From unprecedented droughts to deadly heat waves, climate change is making the present—and all of our futures—less secure. The dream of a tranquil retirement is already being interrupted by nightmares such as the wildfires that raged across BC and Alberta this summer.

Sadly, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), which was designed to enhance our retirement security, is pouring fuel on the fire. In our recent Corporate Mapping Project report, *An Insecure Future: Canada's Biggest Pensions Are Still Banking on Fossil Fuels*, we examine the CPP's investments since Canada signed the UN Paris Agreement in 2016 and committed to limiting warming to 1.5° Celsius.

Valued at approximately half a trillion dollars, the CPP is one of Canada's biggest investors and has an outsized capacity to obstruct or facilitate the needed energy transition. We were surprised to find that instead of decreasing its public equity investments in fossil fuel companies, the fund has actually increased them.

The CPP has publicly stated its commitment to measuring the climate impacts of its investments. Despite these statements, the fund's shares in oil and gas grew by 7.7 per cent between 2016 and 2020.

Instead of decreasing its public equity investments in fossil fuel companies, the CPP has actually increased them.

To its credit, the CPP has increased its investments in renewable energy companies since 2016. But in the same way that eating an anti-cancer diet while smoking more cigarettes is not a wise way to reduce health risks, increasing fossil fuel investments is a dangerous mitigation strategy.

Increasing oil and gas investments during a climate emergency is ecologically risky and also financially imprudent. Signs of the sector's decline are apparent: fossil energy was the worst-performing sector in the 2019 and 2020 S&P 500 stock market index.

In 2020, the world's largest investment management company, BlackRock, sent a letter to its clients warning of an imminent exodus from oil and gas. "In the near future—and sooner than most anticipate—there will be a significant reallocation of capital."



PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY / FLICKR

The CPP risks incurring substantial losses on its multibillion-dollar investments in fossil fuel companies. But as the hundreds of Canadians who died in unprecedented heat waves this summer grimly portend, financial health will be immaterial if we don't have a livable future to retire into.

The global carbon budget—the total volume of greenhouse gases that can be emitted before the 1.5-degree warming threshold is reached—will be exhausted within 10 years. Fortunately, a growing majority of Canadians favour strong action on climate. And yet, despite those wishes, the CPP has increased its investments in fossil fuel companies during a crucial window for action. The CPP needs to start taking our futures seriously, which is the whole point of a pension fund in the first place.

James K. Rowe is a University of Victoria environmental studies professor. Jessica Dempsey is a University of BC Geography professor. Zoë Yunker is a University of BC Graduate School of Journalism student.



These articles are part of the Corporate Mapping Project, a research and public engagement project investigating the power of the fossil fuel industry in Western Canada, led by the University of Victoria, the CCPA's BC and Saskatchewan offices and the Parkland Institute. This research is supported by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Regime of Obstruction: How Corporate Power Blocks Energy Democracy

EDITED BY WILLIAM K. CARROLL | ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY PRESS

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND FREE ONLINE READING: [HTTPS://WWW.AUPRESS.CA/BOOKS/120293-REGIME-OF-OBSTRUCTION](https://www.aupress.ca/books/120293-regime-of-obstruction)

Regime of Obstruction features research findings from the first three years (2015–18) of the Corporate Mapping Project, a seven-year partnership co-directed by Bill Carroll (Professor of Sociology, University of Victoria) and Shannon Daub (CCPA-BC Director). The CMP is jointly led by UVic, the CCPA's BC and Saskatchewan offices and the Parkland Institute.

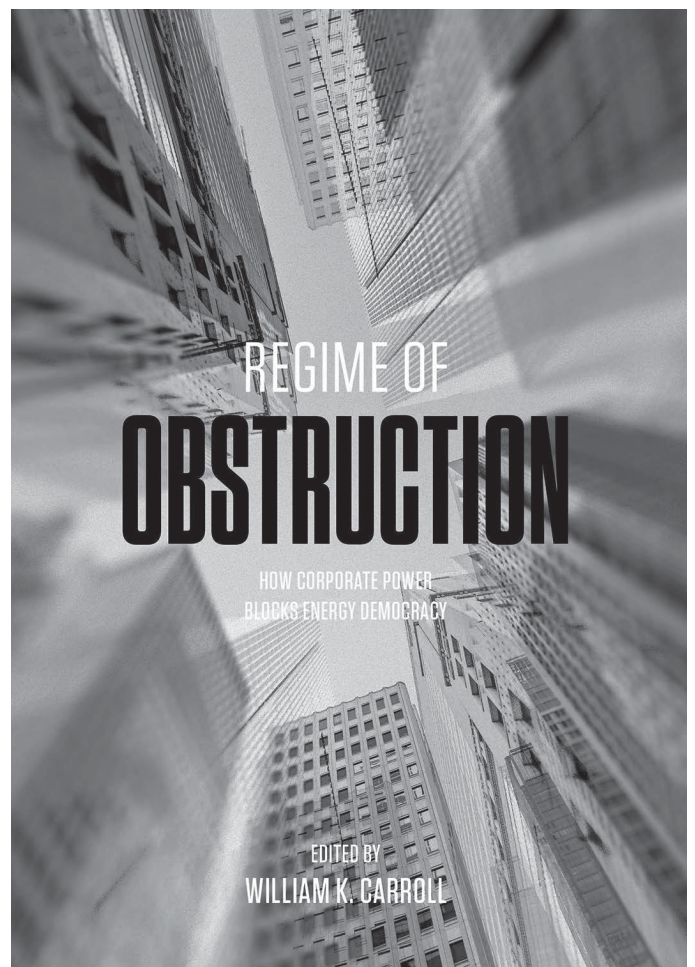
As researchers with the CMP, contributors to this volume see corporate power as a key factor in the chasm between climate science and climate action. The CMP is a case study of the forces that shape Canada's climate policy—one that partners social scientists with progressive policy researchers, journalists and social movements.

Our approach is centred on a family of techniques that map the organization of power socially, economically, politically and culturally. These include analyses of the social networks through which power and influence flow; the commodity chains along which fossil fuel extraction, transport, processing and consumption occur; and the various ways these issues are shaped in the struggle to persuade the public, governments and communities about the desirability or inevitability of fossil capitalism as a way of life. Our efforts have involved:

- Exposing and problematizing corporate power in its various modes.
- Providing research and analysis to allies in social justice, Indigenous, and ecological movements, to bolster their counter-power.
- Offering policy alternatives for a just transition from fossil capitalism.

A final aspect of corporate reach aligns corporations with the repressive arm of the state, as co-managers of dissent and surveillance. Coercive power is typically deployed when dissent becomes well-organized and potentially effective. But this form of power is also central to the colonial project at all times—it is and has always been central to the forced dispossession of Indigenous people from their lands and culture to enable extractive industries and infrastructure.

Regime of Obstruction takes up these various modes of corporate power in relation to the fossil fuel industry—but we also turn our attention to issues of resistance and transformation, which are never far below the surface of our investigations.



Indeed, the Corporate Mapping Project undertakes the work of exposing corporate power to support the struggle for a world beyond fossil capital.

The Corporate Mapping Project is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. More info at: corporatemapping.ca

Watch the Corporate Mapping Project conference online

Throughout the month of June, the Corporate Mapping Project hosted a virtual conference, titled *Regime of Obstruction: Exposing and confronting the power of the fossil fuel industry*. With the help of project partners at the University of Victoria, Parkland Institute and the CCPA's Saskatchewan office, we organized eight virtual events featuring community-based researchers, Indigenous leaders, filmmakers and activists:

- *Regime of Obstruction* book launch and conference opening
- Keynote event with Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis, in conversation with Anjali Appadurai
- Decolonizing research and climate policy panel discussion with Indigenous Climate Action
- Just transition panel discussion
- *The New Corporation: The unfortunately necessary sequel* filmmaker talk
- State of play: Fossil fuels and energy politics in Canada panel discussion
- *The Price of Oil* documentary talk
- Corporate Mapping Project investigative corporate research skills workshop

Video recordings of all eight sessions can be viewed at www.vimeo.com/ccpa

We thank the Minor Foundation for Major Challenges and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for their financial support of this conference.



MARY POINT, MUSQUEAM NATION



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BC SOLUTIONS

News and commentary from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office

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The CCPA-BC is located on unceded Coast Salish territory, including the lands belonging to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-waututh) Nations.

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