

# Adaptation Canada 2020 PRAC Workshop Session: Sharing Knowledge, Building Networks to Address a Changing Prairie Climate

February 20, 2020

Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver

## Session Report

### Overview

On February 20, 2020, the Prairies Regional Adaptation Collaborative (PRAC) held a workshop in Vancouver as a concurrent session during [Adaptation Canada 2020](#). The workshop brought together approximately 25 people from the three Prairie provinces as well as other parts of Canada. These individuals represented different branches of the federal government, provincial governments, municipalities, Indigenous and Metis organizations, industry, academia, and non-profit organizations.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide an opportunity for adaptation practitioners to gather and discuss key climate adaptation-related topics that are challenging adaptation planning and implementation within the Prairie provinces.
- Gain input from participants regarding priorities for future inter-provincial work within the Prairies.

This report provides a summary of the key messages shared during the workshop. Presentations made during the workshop can be found on the PRAC web site: <https://www.prairiesrac.com/event/adaptation-canada-2020/>



## 1. Opening Session

The workshop was opened at 10:30 am by **Jo-Ellen Parry** from the International Institute for Sustainable Development, which serves as Secretariat for the PRAC. She welcomed participants to the session and introduced the objectives and structure of the session.

She also encouraged participants to participate in the session's Mentimeter poll to select topics for the facilitated discussions which took place later in the workshop. Participants voted on their top three topics from the following list:

1. **Stakeholder engagement:** Issues and challenges associated with engaging communities, institutions and organizations in adaptation planning processes.
2. **Training and professional development:** Identifying knowledge gaps and determining strategies to build capacity to engage in adaptation planning.
3. **Mainstreaming:** Achieving greater integration of climate risk and adaptation in routine decision-making at an institutional level.
4. **Governance:** Addressing regulatory and policy barriers to adaptive actions, within and across jurisdictions.
5. **Knowledge braiding:** Incorporating local and traditional knowledge into adaptation strategies.
6. **Asset management:** Managing municipal infrastructure assets using lifecycle analysis that incorporates climate risk.
7. **Climate services:** Improving access to the data, information and tools needed to support adaptation planning.
8. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Tracking progress when implementing adaptation plans.
9. **Water:** Pursuing water management strategies that build resilience to climate change.
10. **Financing adaptation:** Determining the potential economic implications of changing climate risks and how to finance adaptation measures.

Jo-Ellen then introduced the two session's two speakers, both of whom are members of the PRAC Steering Committee.

**Dinah Tambalo, Saskatchewan Environment** provided an overview of the PRAC and its history, examples of work by the PRAC, examples of provincial work completed under the PRAC banner, and resources available through the PRAC.

**Kendra Isaac, Alberta Environment and Parks** spoke about emerging findings from the Prairies chapter of Canada's national adaptation assessment. She described the national assessment process, identifying the lead and contributing authors to the Prairies chapter and its anticipated timeline. Kendra then provided an overview of the Prairies context before sharing key messages related to climate change impacts on ecosystems, extreme weather events, water resources, agriculture and social considerations. She concluded by summarizing the assessed state of adaptation planning on the Prairies.

**Q&A.** The audience was then invited to raise questions with the presenters.

## 2. Roundtable Discussion on Adaptation Planning

To launch the second part of the workshop, Anne Rooban, International institute for Sustainable Development, shared the results from the poll to identify the discussion topics to be covered and the table facilitators supporting the process (as presented in the table below).

During the discussion, participants were first asked to write on post-it notes responses to the question: “What are the principle challenges you see to advancing adaptation planning and action in relation to this station’s topic?” These post-its were collected and organized by topic on a flip chart by the group facilitator. Next, participants were asked to respond to the question: “What do you see as being the key actions related to your station topic that could address your challenges?” Responses were recorded for each table group on flip chart paper. Finally, participants were asked “What could an interprovincial initiative like the PRAC do to better support your adaptation efforts?”

At the end of the session, the key messages emerging from the discussions at each table were shared with the wider group by participant representatives. These messages are presented in the table below. Notes from the four round table discussions, including challenges and solutions for each topic, can be found in Annex A.

Table Topic	Facilitator/ Note taker	Key Messages
<b>1. Stakeholder engagement:</b> Issues and challenges associated with engaging communities, institutions and organizations in adaptation planning processes.	Katie Peterson, Alberta Environment and Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main challenges include finding ways to reach beyond those already engaged in climate change action, and available funding to implement comprehensive engagement plans and maintain relationships.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include allocating more resources to engagement; finding trusted messengers and partners in industry, organizations and communities; and engaging in ways that audiences can relate to.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Financing adaptation:</b> Determining the potential economic implications of changing climate risks and how to finance adaptation measures.	Dinah Tambalo, Saskatchewan Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main challenges include a lack of valuation tools, the short-term focus of political leadership, and a knowledge and communication gap related to what financing tools are available.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include creating a database for innovative funding, sharing valuation tools between jurisdictions, having a community champion, and longer time frames for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Mainstreaming:</b> Achieving greater integration of climate risk and adaptation in routine decision-making at an institutional level.	Elaine Fox, Manitoba Conservation and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main challenges include not reaching beyond the usual suspects, political framing, and lack of funding/resources/capacity to focus on adaptation.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include increasing funding and resources and getting the right information to the right people in the format and frame for them.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Training and professional development:</b> Identifying knowledge gaps and determining strategies to build capacity to engage in adaptation planning.	Kendra Isaac, Alberta Environment and Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key challenge is having sectors accept the need to integrate information on future climate into their projects.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include creating a group of professionals/procurement managers with the purpose of information sharing between peers, pursuing opportunities for interprovincial collaboration, and providing a publicly available list of who is providing training and climate solutions.</li> </ul>

## **Closing**

At the end of the session, Jo-Ellen Parry thanked all the speakers for their presentations and everyone for their active participation.

## Annex A: Facilitated discussion notes

Table 1: Stakeholder Engagement	
<b>Key Messages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main challenges include finding ways to reach beyond those already engaged in climate change action, and available funding to implement comprehensive engagement plans and maintain relationships.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include allocating more resources to engagement, finding trusted messengers and partners in industry, organizations and communities, and engaging in ways that audiences can relate to.</li> </ul>	
Challenges	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political / general identity</li> <li>• Politics = denial → unwillingness to participate</li> <li>• Reaching beyond “the converted”</li> <li>• Finding enough time to reach everyone (being inclusive)</li> <li>• Awareness of the broader dimensions of climate change (e.g. health)</li> <li>• Framing → is currently framed as an “environmental” issue. Change to: resilience/economy / quality of life</li> <li>• Acceptance of topic in general</li> <li>• Funding / resources → to develop and implement comprehensive engagement plan</li> <li>• Capacity / prioritization</li> <li>• Access to resources / internet</li> <li>• Finding out who’s doing what, when you’re not “in the system”</li> <li>• Knowledge braiding</li> <li>• Circling back to those who provided input – maintaining relationships</li> <li>• Engaging meaningfully where input can be acted upon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make info available</li> <li>• Partner with industry, organizations and communities</li> <li>• Allocating enough resources for engagement (funding, time)</li> </ul> <p>Role of the PRAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint webinar by the Adaptation Platform and the PRAC (linking the two)</li> </ul>

Table 2: Financing adaptation	
<b>Key Messages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main challenges include a lack of valuation tools, the short-term nature of political leadership, and a knowledge and communication gap related to what financing tools are available.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include creating a database for innovative funding, sharing valuation tools between jurisdictions, having a community champion, and longer time frames for funding.</li> </ul>	
Challenges	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of valuation tools for adaptation work</li> <li>• Need metric to provide \$ for investment</li> <li>• Short-term nature</li> <li>• Elected officials = need to address current [issues]</li> <li>• Funding = also short cycle</li> <li>• Knowledge gap</li> <li>• E.g. green bonds</li> <li>• Communication gap</li> <li>• Terminology</li> <li>• Bringing financial community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database for innovative funding (such as one being created for developing countries)</li> <li>• Sharing of valuation tools (E.g. Toronto, Vancouver) and working with nearby municipalities.</li> <li>• Having a champion in the community and including young people.</li> <li>• Accessibility with longer time frame for funding.</li> </ul>

<b>Table 3: Mainstreaming</b>	
<b>Key Messages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main challenges include not reaching beyond the usual suspects, political framing, and lack of funding/resources/capacity to focus on adaptation.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include increasing funding and resources and getting the right information to the right people in the format and frame for them.</li> </ul>	
<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common understanding</li> <li>• Embedded in practices by all</li> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Guidance / training / capacity</li> <li>• CC has been perceived as unique and difficult</li> <li>• Culture v. technical problems</li> <li>• Psychological barriers – “one more thing”</li> <li>• Lack of capacity of smaller communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CC is just another risk that can be addressed through existing system</li> <li>• Better understanding it as a liability</li> <li>• Start small with existing plans – adding climate lens</li> <li>• Better inform public of budgeting = life cycle costs</li> <li>• Look at good CC regional planning to enhance local decisions</li> <li>• Finding better governance structures such as administrators</li> <li>• Engage larger areas</li> <li>• Package CC inform in the manner they operate</li> <li>• Need long-term funding and infrastructure planning so needs to be embedded (or mainstreamed) rather than by project.</li> <li>• Province needs long-term consistent \$ commitment</li> </ul> <p><u>Interprovincial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate WWA officers, professional association</li> <li>• Flood and drought watershed association</li> <li>• Province look at transboundary watershed association</li> <li>• Provincial industry sectors and association groups</li> <li>• Better climate lens and templates with provincial focus</li> <li>• Supporting inclusive actions by business industry and all levels of government</li> </ul>

<b>Table 4: Training and Professional Development</b>	
<b>Key Messages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key challenge is having sectors accept the need to integrate information on future climate into their projects.</li> <li>• Potential solutions include creating a group of professionals/procurement managers with the purpose of information sharing between peers, pursuing opportunities for interprovincial collaboration, and providing a publicly available list of who is providing training and climate solutions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes were not made available from this discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>