



**Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America  
30<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CEC Council  
and  
Session 23-01 of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)**

**28–29 June 2023**

Fairmont Empress  
721 Government Street  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
V8W 1W5  
(Hybrid Event)

**Program of Public Events**

**Wednesday, 28 June 2023**

**JPAC Public Forum on Indigenous Approaches to Climate Adaptation**

Climate change is impacting communities across North America, giving way to increased events such as flooding, coastal erosion, drought, fires, and heat waves, to name a few. For Indigenous communities, climate change also poses serious threats to their traditional way of life, including to their food, modes of transportation, cultural ways, and sacred sites. As North American communities face the reality of increasing climate variability, reducing vulnerability and building local resilience has become a shared priority for all three countries.

This JPAC hybrid forum will serve as a platform to showcase climate adaptation stories from Indigenous communities in the three countries and discuss the critical role of Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives in shaping effective climate adaptation policies and planning efforts.

**Time Zone: Pacific Time (PT) (UTC-8)**

*Location: Crystal Ballroom, Fairmont Empress*

- 7:30–9:00**      **Registration of Public Participants** (*Palm Court, Fairmont Empress*)
- 9:00–9:45**      **Welcoming Ceremony**
- 9:45–9:50**      **Opening Remarks** by **Octaviana V. Trujillo**, JPAC Chair
- 9:50–10:00**      **Welcoming Remarks** by **Jorge Daniel Taillant**, CEC Executive Director
- 10:00–10:15**      **Keynote Presentation** by **Miles G. Richardson**, Chair, University of Victoria, National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development
- 10:15–10:30**      **Break**

*Program of Public Events*

- 10:30–12:00**    **Session 1: Climate Adaptation in North America: Learning from Indigenous Communities**
- This session will bring together Indigenous community leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States to showcase climate adaptation stories in the three countries. Invited speakers will share their experience and unique perspectives on climate change, how it is impacting their communities, and how they approach climate adaptation to build community resilience.
- **Canada: Eli Enns**, President and CEO, IISAAK OLAM Foundation
  - **Mexico: Paulina Garrido Bonilla**, Representative, the Tosepan Union of Cooperatives
  - **United States: Frankie Myers**, Vice Chairman, Yurok Tribe (*virtual*)
- Moderator: Kathy Hodgson-Smith**, TEKEG Facilitator
- 12:00–13:00**    **Lunch** [Provided] *Upper Pavilion, Conference Centre*
- 13:00–14:30**    **Session 2: Integrating TEK and Indigenous Perspectives into Climate Adaptation Policy and Planning**
- During this session, invited speakers will discuss the critical role of Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives in shaping effective climate adaptation policies and planning efforts. The session will highlight case studies where Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Indigenous perspectives were integrated into climate adaptation initiatives to enhance their effectiveness and promote greater resilience to climate change impacts.
- **Canada: Laura S. Lynes**, President, The Resilience Institute - Canada
  - **Mexico: María Lorena Soto Pinto**, Researcher, Southern Border College (ECOSUR)
  - **United States: Lorraine Eiler**, Legislative Representative, San Lucy District, Tohono O'odham Nation
- Moderator: Felicia Marcus**, JPAC member
- 14:30–14:40**    **Report from the National and Governmental Advisory Committee Representatives** by **Andy Carey**, US National Advisory Committee Chair and **Marina Brock**, US Governmental Advisory Committee Chair (*virtual*)
- 14:40–14:55**    **Overview of SEM Process** by **Paolo Solano**, Director, Legal Affairs and Submissions on Enforcement Matters Unit
- 14:55–15:00**    **Closing Remarks** by **Octaviana V. Trujillo**, JPAC Chair
- 15:00–17:00**    **Visit to the CEC Exhibition, and Networking Space** – *Palm Court, Fairmont Empress*
- 17:00–18:30**    **Break**

- 18:30-19:00**    **Travel to the Wawaditla Mungo Martin House - 475 Belleville St.,**  
*Victoria, BC V8V 2P8*  
Participants will head to the Wawaditla Mungo Martin House at 18:30.
- 19:00–19:45**    **Traditional Ceremony – Wawaditla Mungo Martin House, 475 Belleville St.,**  
*Victoria, BC V8V 2P8*
- 19:45–21:00**    **Welcoming Reception and Official Opening of the 30th Regular Session of the Council**  
*– Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville St., Victoria*

**Thursday, 29 June 2023**

**CEC Panel on Nature-Based Solutions, Environmental Justice and  
Climate Adaptation in Urban Environments**

The global consensus and current push to accelerate climate action, including transitioning to zero-carbon economies by reducing potent greenhouse gases, to protecting and conserving natural resources which act as critical carbon sinks, to introducing nature-based solutions to promote natural cooling and build community and ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change, to promoting environmental justice, and to generate the financing needed for climate action to improve resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change are largely derived and occurring at an international and national level. Yet many of the actions that are needed to thwart climate change must take place at the very local level, through actions advanced by subnational governments, including states, provinces, cities and local communities.

In North America, 80% of people live in urban areas, making urban environments the space and framework through which much of today’s climate change, and responses to it, plays out. Innovative local solutions and actions to tackle climate change are happening in our cities across North America.

This session explores North American challenges and responses to climate change in the urban environment and responds to the North American Environmental Cooperation Agreement’s (ECA) mandate to facilitate partnerships, linkages and other new channels for the development and transfer of knowledge and technologies with national and subnational governments to promote the development and exchange of best practices and environmental information.

The session will gather experts from the three countries working on climate action in urban settings, offering moderated discussion and public commentary on:

- Key issues to consider, before city officials and urban communities to align with and adopt emerging global, national and state climate policy and targets, including regulatory, financial, administrative, social and economic challenges and opportunities;
- Examples of effective policies, strategies, programs and city management approaches to promote climate adaptation and resilience;
- The use of nature-based solutions to reduce emissions, promote cooling and energy efficiency, and to build community resilience to climate impacts;
- Ecosystem restoration as a vehicle to reestablish connection and identify between urban dwellers and the natural environment;

- Priorities and actions to address environmental justice and promote social equity.

**Time Zone: Pacific Time (PT) (UTC-8)**

*Location: Crystal Ballroom, Fairmont Empress*

- 8:00–9:00**      **Registration of Public Participants** (*Palm Court, Fairmont Empress*)
- 9:00–9:15**      **Welcoming remarks and introduction of session scope and objectives** by **Jorge Daniel Taillant**, CEC Executive Director
- 9:15–9:30**      **Presentation on the current status, challenges and opportunities for climate adaptation in urban environments** by **Doug Smith**, Deputy General Manager, Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability, City of Vancouver
- 9:30–11:15**      **Panel discussion with lead responses by invited experts intermixed with questions/comments from the public** (*in-person and online*)
- **Jacqueline Patterson**, Executive Director, Chisholm Legacy Project, Washington, DC, United States
  - **Deborah Carlson**, Attorney, West Coast Environmental Law, British Columbia, Canada
  - **Javier Garduño Arredondo**, Lead, Latin America and the Caribbean, *Red Global de Ciudades Resilientes* (Resilient Cities Network)
  - **Mario Duarte**, Director, **Cultura Ambiental y Asuntos Internacionales, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Mexico City**
  - **Matt Holmes**, Co-coordinator, California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC), United States California Air Resources Board-CARB
- 11:15–11:30**      **Conclusion** by the Moderator, **Evan Lloyd**
- 11:30–12:30**      **Visit to the CEC Exhibition, and Networking Space** – *Palm Court, Fairmont Empress*
- 12:30–14:00**      **Lunch** (provided) – *Upper Pavilion, Conference Centre*

**Council Public Meeting**  
***Indigenous and Urban Approaches to Climate Adaptation***

In accordance with the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA) Article 3(4), the CEC Council shall hold public meetings in the course of all regular sessions. These public meetings have been held since 1995 and represent a unique opportunity for North American citizens to engage with senior environmental officials and learn about North American environmental collaboration in the context of free trade as well as share their views with the Council. This year’s public meeting will focus on “Indigenous and Urban Approaches to Climate Adaptation.”

*Location: Crystal Ballroom, Fairmont Empress*

- 14:00–14:03**      **Welcoming remarks** by **Jorge Daniel Taillant**, CEC Executive Director

*Program of Public Events*

- 14:03–14:10**    **Introduction and presentation of video on CEC’s accomplishments by Jorge Daniel Taillant, CEC Executive Director**
- 14:10–15:30**    **Dialogue with the Council on Indigenous and Urban Approaches to Climate Adaptation**  
During this session, Council members and invited experts will participate in a public dialogue on Indigenous and Urban Approaches to Climate Adaptation.
- This dialogue will be moderated by Lisa Helps, former two-year term Mayor of Victoria, who will facilitate the expert dialogue and questions and answers with public participants.
- The following invited experts will also participate in the dialogue with the Council: Skw’akw’as (Sunshine Lillian) (Canada), Jamie Donatuto (US), and José Inés Loria Palma (Mexico).
- 15:30–16:15**    **Youth Innovation Challenge Winners**  
The 2023 Youth Innovation Challenge invited North American youth, aged 18 to 30, to propose innovative solutions that address and respond to critical issues related to water. This 7th annual challenge, under the theme "Water Solutions for Sustainable Development," encouraged dynamic and creative young leaders to participate in actions, innovation, and transformation on issues relating to water. Winners will be announced during this session and will be invited to present their innovative solutions to the Council and the public.
- 16:15–16:40**    **Council Announcements**
- 16:40–16:55**    **Council Session Closing**