

Federal Legislation Relating to the Environment and Climate Change

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Last updated: October 6, 2023

This survey includes relevant Canadian legislation relating to the environment and climate that received Royal Assent between 2013 – 2023. It also includes relevant legislation passed prior to 2013 where that legislation continues to govern environment and climate change strategies or to impose ongoing reporting requirements relating to environmental and climate change measurement on the Federal Government, as well as the enabling legislation for key regulations adopted after 2013 dealing with the environment and climate change.

Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/441/Government/S-5/S-5_4/S-5_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, to make related amendments to the Food and Drugs Act and to repeal the Perfluorooctane Sulfonate Virtual Elimination Act**

Royal Assent: **June 13, 2023**

Amends the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) to include the following:
Recognizes that every individual in Canada has a right to a healthy environment,
Recognizes the importance of considering vulnerable populations
Recognizes the role of science and Indigenous knowledge in the process of making decisions related to the protection of the environment and human health

Building a Green Prairie Economy Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/441/Private/C-235/C-235_4/C-235_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting the building of a green economy in the Prairies**

Royal Assent: **December 15, 2022**

Summary: Requires the minister responsible for economic development in the Prairie provinces, in collaboration with the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Natural Resources, to develop a framework for local cooperation and engagement in the implementation of federal programs across various sectors to build a green economy in the Prairie provinces.

Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/432/Government/C-12/C-12_4/C-12_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting transparency and accountability in Canada's efforts to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050**

Royal Assent: **June 29, 2021**

Summary: Requires that national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada be set, with the objective of attaining net-zero emissions by 2050. The targets are to be set by the Minister of the Environment for 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2045.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/432/Government/C-15/C-15_4/C-15_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Royal Assent: **June 21, 2021**

See Article 29, section 1:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Government/C-69/C-69_4/C-69_4.PDF

Royal Assent: **June 21, 2019**

Enacts the *Impact Assessment Act* and repeals the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

Among other things, it provides for a process for assessing the environmental, health, social and economic effects of designated projects with a view to preventing certain adverse effects and fostering sustainability.

An Act to amend the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Government/C-88/C-88_4/C-88_4.PDF

Royal Assent: **June 21, 2019**

Allows for the issuance and enforcement of development certificates, including provisions for environmental assessments and environmental impact reviews of projects.

Oil Tanker Moratorium Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Government/C-48/C-48_4/C-48_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting the regulation of vessels that transport crude oil or persistent oil to or from ports or marine installations located along British Columbia's north coast**

Royal Assent: **June 21, 2019**

Prohibits oil tankers that are carrying more than 12 500 metric tons of crude oil or persistent oil as cargo from stopping, or unloading crude oil or persistent oil, at ports or marine installations located along British Columbia's north coast from the northern tip of Vancouver Island to the Alaska border. Also prohibits vessels and persons from transporting crude oil or persistent oil between oil tankers and those ports or marine installations for the purpose of aiding the oil tanker to circumvent the prohibitions on oil tankers, and establishes an administration and enforcement regime.

An Act to amend the Oceans Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Government/C-55/C-55_4/C-55_4.PDF

Royal Assent: **May 27, 2019**

Amends the *Oceans Act* to, among other provisions, empower the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to designate marine protected areas by order and prohibit certain activities in those areas; Amends the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act* to, among other provisions, empower the competent Minister to cancel an interest located in a marine protected area.

An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Government/C-57/C-57_4/C-57_4.PDF

Royal Assent: **February 28, 2019**

Summary: amends the *Federal Sustainable Development Act, 2008*, to make decision-making related to sustainable development more transparent and subject to accountability to Parliament.

Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Government/C-64/C-64_4/C-64_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting wrecks, abandoned, dilapidated or hazardous vessels and salvage operations**

Royal Assent: **February 28, 2019**

Summary: promotes the protection of the public, of the environment, including coastlines and shorelines, and of infrastructure by regulating abandoned or hazardous vessels and wrecks in Canadian waters and, in certain cases, Canada's exclusive economic zone, and by recognizing the responsibility and liability of owners for their vessels.

Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

Full text: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/G-11.55.pdf>

Full title: **Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act** (consolidated statute)

Royal Assent: **June 21, 2018**

Regulations made under this Act:

[Canadian Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations](#) (SOR/2022-111)

[Fuel Charge Regulations](#) (2018, c. 12, s. 187)

[Output-Based Pricing System Regulations](#) (SOR/2019-266)

National Strategy for Safe and Environmentally Sound Disposal of Lamps Containing Mercury Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/421/Private/C-238/C-238_4/C-238_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting the development of a national strategy for the safe and environmentally sound disposal of lamps containing mercury**

Royal Assent: **June 22, 2017**

Summary: provides for the development and implementation of a national strategy to promote the safe and environmentally sound disposal of lamps containing mercury

Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Government/S-6/S-6_4/S-6_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act and the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act**

Royal Assent: **June 18, 2015**

Amends the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* to, among other provisions, explicitly provide that the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* does not apply in Yukon; empowers the federal minister the power to issue binding policy directives to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board

Pipeline Safety Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Government/C-46/C-46_4/C-46_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the National Energy Board Act and the Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act**

Royal Assent: **June 18, 2015**

Reinforces the "polluter pays" principle; confirms that the liability of companies that operate pipelines is unlimited if an unintended or uncontrolled release of oil, gas or any other commodity from a pipeline that they operate is the result of their fault or negligence; establishes limits on liability without proof of fault or negligence

Energy Safety and Security Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Government/C-22/C-22_4/C-22_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting Canada's offshore oil and gas operations, enacting the Nuclear Liability and Compensation Act, repealing the Nuclear Liability Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts**

Royal Assent: **February 26, 2015**

Harmonizes the environmental assessment process for projects for which the National Energy Board, the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board, or the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board is the responsible authority, including by establishing timelines for carrying out environmental assessments and creating participant funding programs to facilitate public participation in environmental assessments

Agricultural Growth Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Government/C-18/C-18_4/C-18_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend certain Acts relating to agriculture and agri-food**

Royal Assent: **February 25, 2015**

Amends several Acts relating to agriculture and agri-food, including the *Feeds Act*, the *Fertilizers Act*, the *Seeds Act*, the *Health of Animals Act*, and the *Plant Protection Acts*. Among other additions, it adds the following:

To the *Fertilizers Act*:

3.1 No person shall manufacture, sell, import or export in contravention of the regulations any fertilizer or supplement that presents a risk of harm to human, animal or plant health or the environment.

To the *Feeds Act*:

(3) No person shall manufacture, sell, import or export in contravention of the regulations any feed that presents a risk of harm to human or animal health or the environment.

To the *Seeds Act*:

3.1 No person shall sell, import or export in contravention of the regulations any seed that presents a risk of harm to human, animal or plant health or the environment.

Safeguarding Canada's Seas and Skies Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Government/C-3/C-3_4/C-3_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to enact the Aviation Industry Indemnity Act, to amend the Aeronautics Act, the Canada Marine Act, the Marine Liability Act and the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts**

Royal Assent: **December 9, 2014**

Part 4 amends the *Marine Liability Act* to implement the *International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 2010*. Among other things, it gives force of law to many provisions of the Convention, clarifies the liability of the Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund with respect to the Convention and confers powers, duties and functions on the Fund's Administrator.

Offshore Health and Safety Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Government/C-5/C-5_4/C-5_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and other Acts and to provide for certain other measures**

Royal Assent: **June 19, 2014**

Establishes a new occupational health and safety regime in the offshore areas.

Northern Jobs and Growth Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/411/Government/C-47/C-47_4/C-47_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to enact the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act and the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts**

Royal Assent: **June 19, 2013**

Implements certain land claims agreements in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Clarifies responsibilities for environmental assessments and permitting of development projects and resource extraction projects.

Transboundary Waters Protection Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/411/Private/C-383/C-383_4/C-383_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act and the International River Improvements Act**

Royal Assent: **June 19, 2013**

Prohibits the redirection or bulk removal of transboundary waters from Canadian ecosystems.

Expansion and Conservation of Canada's National Parks Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/411/Government/S-15/S-15_4/S-15_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and to make consequential amendments to the Canada Shipping Act, 2001**

Royal Assent: **June 19, 2013**

Prohibits drilling for petroleum in, or within one nautical mile seaward of, Sable Island National Park Reserve.

Safer Railways Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/411/Government/S-4/S-4_4/S-4_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to amend the Railway Safety Act and to make consequential amendments to the Canada Transportation Act**

Royal Assent: **May 17, 2012**

Expands regulation-making powers in respect to environmental protection and management.

An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act and the Auditor General Act (involvement of Parliament)

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/403/Private/S-210/S-210_4/S-210_4.PDF

Royal Assent: **December 15, 2010**

Canada Consumer Product Safety Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/403/Government/C-36/C-36_4/C-36_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act respecting the safety of consumer products**

Royal Assent: **December 15, 2010**

Expands regulation-making powers in respect to environmental protection and management.

Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Act

Full text: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/E-12.5.pdf>

Full title: **Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Act** (consolidated statute)

Royal Assent: **June 18, 2009**

Regulations made under this Act:

[Canadian Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations](#) (SOR/2022-111)

[Cross-border Movement of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations](#) (SOR/2021-25)

[Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations](#) (SOR/2017-109)

[Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#) (SOR/2022-105)

[Output-Based Pricing System Regulations](#) (SOR/2019-266)

Federal Sustainable Development Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/392/Private/C-474/C-474_4/C-474_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to require the development and implementation of a Federal Sustainable Development Strategy and the development of goals and targets with respect to sustainable development in Canada, and to make consequential amendments to another Act**

Royal Assent: **June 26, 2008**

Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/391/Private/C-288/C-288_4/C-288_4.PDF

Full title: **An Act to ensure Canada meets its global climate change obligations under the Kyoto Protocol**

Royal Assent: **June 22, 2007**

Enacts measures to ensure that Canada meets its global climate change obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. It requires the Minister of the Environment to establish an annual Climate Change Plan and to make regulations respecting climate change. Also establishes requirements for regular progress reporting.

Canada Foundation for Sustainable Development Technology Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/371/Government/C-4/c-4_4/c-4_4.pdf

Full title: **An Act to establish a foundation to fund sustainable development technology**

Royal Assent: **June 14, 2001**

Summary: establishes the Canada Foundation for Sustainable Development Technology with the objects and purposes of funding projects to develop and demonstrate new technologies to promote sustainable development, including technologies to address climate change and air quality issues.

Canadian Environmental Protection Act

Full text: https://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/361/Government/C-32/C-32_4/C-32_4.pdf

Full title: **An Act respecting pollution prevention and the protection of the environment and human health in order to contribute to sustainable development**

Royal Assent: **September 14, 1999**

Note: The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* is included here due to the number of regulations under this Act fall that within the timeframe covered by this survey.

Regulations made under this Act:

[2-Butoxyethanol Regulations](#) (SOR/2006-347)

[Alberta Equivalency Order](#) (SOR/94-752)

[Asbestos Mines and Mills Release Regulations](#) (SOR/90-341)

[Benzene in Gasoline Regulations](#) (SOR/97-493)

[Boards of Review, Rules of Procedure for](#) (SOR/2003-28)

[Chromium Electroplating, Chromium Anodizing and Reverse Etching Regulations](#) (SOR/2009-162)

[Circumstances for Granting Waivers Pursuant to Section 147 of the Act, Regulations](#)

[Prescribing](#) (SOR/2010-138)

[Clean Fuel Regulations](#) (SOR/2022-140)

[Concentration of Phosphorus in Certain Cleaning Products Regulations](#) (SOR/89-501)

[Contaminated Fuel Regulations \(SOR/91-486\)](#)
[Cross-border Movement of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations \(SOR/2021-25\)](#)
[Disposal at Sea Permit Application Regulations \(SOR/2014-177\)](#)
[Disposal at Sea Regulations \(SOR/2001-275\)](#)
[Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2019 \(SOR/2019-51\)](#)
[Export of Substances on the Export Control List Regulations \(SOR/2013-88\)](#)
[Federal Halocarbon Regulations, 2022 \(SOR/2022-110\)](#)
[Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products Regulations \(SOR/2021-148\)](#)
[Fuels Information Regulations, No. 1 \(C.R.C., c. 407\)](#)
[Gasoline and Gasoline Blend Dispensing Flow Rate Regulations \(SOR/2000-43\)](#)
[Gasoline Regulations \(SOR/90-247\)](#)
[Heavy-duty Vehicle and Engine Greenhouse Gas Emission Regulations \(SOR/2013-24\)](#)
[Marine Spark-Ignition Engine, Vessel and Off-road Recreational Vehicle Emission Regulations \(SOR/2011-10\)](#)
[Masked Name Regulations \(SOR/94-261\)](#)
[Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations \(SOR/2017-111\)](#)
[Multi-Sector Air Pollutants Regulations \(SOR/2016-151\)](#)
[New Substances Fees Regulations \(SOR/2002-374\)](#)
[New Substances Notification Regulations \(Chemicals and Polymers\) \(SOR/2005-247\)](#)
[New Substances Notification Regulations \(Organisms\) \(SOR/2005-248\)](#)
[Off-road Compression-Ignition \(Mobile and Stationary\) and Large Spark-Ignition Engine Emission Regulations \(SOR/2020-258\)](#)
[Off-Road Small Spark-Ignition Engine Emission Regulations \(SOR/2003-355\)](#)
[On-Road Vehicle and Engine Emission Regulations \(SOR/2003-2\)](#)
[Order Declaring that the Provisions of the Regulations Respecting Reduction in the Release of Methane and Certain Volatile Organic Compounds \(Upstream Oil and Gas Sector\) Do Not Apply in Saskatchewan \(SOR/2020-234\)](#)
[Order Declaring that the Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Coal-fired Generation of Electricity Regulations Do Not Apply in Saskatchewan \(SOR/2019-167\)](#)
[Ozone-depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives Regulations \(SOR/2016-137\)](#)
[Passenger Automobile and Light Truck Greenhouse Gas Emission Regulations \(SOR/2010-201\)](#)
[PCB Regulations \(SOR/2008-273\)](#)
[Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations \(SOR/2000-107\)](#)
[Products Containing Mercury Regulations \(SOR/2014-254\)](#)
[Prohibition of Asbestos and Products Containing Asbestos Regulations \(SOR/2018-196\)](#)
[Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2012 \(SOR/2012-285\)](#)
[Prohibition of the Manufacture and Importation of Wheel Weights Containing Lead Regulations \(SOR/2023-15\)](#)
[Provisions of the Regulations Respecting Reduction in the Release of Methane and Certain Volatile Organic Compounds \(Upstream Oil and Gas Sector\) Do Not Apply in Alberta, Order Declaring that the \(SOR/2020-233\)](#)
[Provisions of the Regulations Respecting Reduction in the Release of Methane and Certain Volatile Organic Compounds \(Upstream Oil and Gas Sector\) Do Not Apply in British Columbia, Order Declaring that the \(SOR/2020-60\)](#)
[Pulp and Paper Mill Defoamer and Wood Chip Regulations \(SOR/92-268\)](#)
[Pulp and Paper Mill Effluent Chlorinated Dioxins and Furans Regulations \(SOR/92-267\)](#)
[Reduction in the Release of Methane and Certain Volatile Organic Compounds \(Upstream Oil and Gas Sector\), Regulations Respecting \(SOR/2018-66\)](#)
[Reduction in the Release of Volatile Organic Compounds Regulations \(Petroleum Sector\) \(SOR/2020-231\)](#)

[Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Coal-Fired Generation of Electricity Regulations](#) (SOR/2012-167)

[Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Coal-fired Generation of Electricity Regulations Do Not Apply in Nova Scotia, Order Declaring that the](#) (SOR/2014-265)

[Regulations Limiting Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Natural Gas-fired Generation of Electricity](#) (SOR/2018-261)

[Regulatory Provisions for Purposes of Enforcement \(Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999\), Regulations Designating](#) (SOR/2012-134)

[Release and Environmental Emergency Notification Regulations](#) (SOR/2011-90)

[Renewable Fuels Regulations](#) (SOR/2010-189)

[Secondary Lead Smelter Release Regulations](#) (SOR/91-155)

[Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations](#) (SOR/2022-138)

[Solvent Degreasing Regulations](#) (SOR/2003-283)

[Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations](#) (SOR/2008-197)

[Sulphur in Diesel Fuel Regulations](#) (SOR/2002-254)

[Sulphur in Gasoline Regulations](#) (SOR/99-236)

[Tetrachloroethylene \(Use in Dry Cleaning and Reporting Requirements\) Regulations](#) (SOR/2003-79)

[Tributyltetradecylphosphonium Chloride Regulations](#) (SOR/2000-66)

[Virtual Elimination List](#) (SOR/2006-298)

[Volatile Organic Compound \(VOC\) Concentration Limits for Architectural Coatings Regulations](#) (SOR/2009-264)

[Volatile Organic Compound \(VOC\) Concentration Limits for Automotive Refinishing Products Regulations](#) (SOR/2009-197)

[Volatile Organic Compound Concentration Limits for Certain Products Regulations](#) (SOR/2021-268)