

## **DECLARATION OF THE PREMIERS OF CANADA\***

### **Québec Summit on Climate Change**

**April 14, 2015**

Recognizing that there is a scientific consensus calling for significant reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global warming to less than 2°C compared to the preindustrial era;

Recognizing that the health and security of populations, as well as the economy, infrastructure, and ecosystems are already affected by climate change, and that climate risks have significant implications for the economic and social development prospects of provinces and territories;

Recognizing that the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of action with regards to GHG emissions mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change;

Recognizing that Arctic states such as Canada are particularly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, adaptation must complement ambitious mitigation measures to address the effects climate change is having on Canada's northern regions;

Recognizing that investing in the fight against climate change, especially in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and cleaner energy production, holds great promise for sustainable economic development and long-term job creation;

Recognizing that Canadian provinces and territories are well positioned to contribute towards the development of technological innovations and global solutions;

Recognizing that achieving our environmental goals, addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions will require an integrated, economy-wide approach that includes all sectors;

Recognizing that transitioning to a resilient and lower-carbon economy by 2050 is necessary to ensure the sustainable development of provinces and territories;

Recognizing that carbon pricing is an approach that is being taken by an increasing number of governments;

Recognizing that climate actions will be consistent with the international competitiveness of provincial and territorial economies and sustainable development of Canada's natural resources sectors;

Recognizing that provinces and territories hold important responsibilities in the fight against climate change by virtue of their jurisdictions and powers;

Recognizing that Federated States, such as Canada's provinces and territories, and regional governments can play an important role in contributing to the success of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change to be held in Paris in December 2015, and whose objective it is to conclude a new international climate agreement to limit global warming to 2°C;

Recognizing the will of provinces and territories to contribute to Canada's fight against climate change and strengthen the contribution made by Federated States and regional governments to the international climate effort;

Meeting at the Quebec Summit on Climate Change, the Premiers, seeking to foster a transition to a lower-carbon economy, **commit to:**

**Adopt** a long-term perspective to facilitate the achievement of near-term and long-term GHG reduction targets;

**Advance** innovation and the development and deployment of technologies needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy;

**Promote** actions that support intergovernmental and cross-sector linkages in addressing climate change and that are inclusive of all sectors of the economy;

**Implement** programs and measures to adapt to climate change and reduce GHG emissions;

**Strengthen** pan-Canadian climate change cooperation, in particular by sharing information, expertise and best practices in order to reduce GHG emissions and increase adaptation initiatives in order to build more resilient populations, infrastructures and economies in the face of climate risks;

**Make a transition** to a lower-carbon economy through appropriate initiatives, which may include carbon pricing, carbon capture and storage and other technological innovations;

**Better** coordinate GHG emissions reporting systems among jurisdictions;

**Foster** investments in the development of resilient infrastructure and energy networks to reduce the GHG emissions associated with the production and consumption of energy;

**Implement** policies to reduce GHG emissions, which may include improving climate change literacy, increasing energy efficiency and conservation, or the use of clean and renewable energy;

**Partner** with the federal government in a concerted effort to develop an ambitious contribution from Canada at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

**Promote** the actions taken by provinces and territories as well as the contribution made by Federated States and regional governments in reaching the international objectives aimed at countering global warming, notably during the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

**Disseminate** this statement to the various bodies involved in the fight against climate change, both in Canada and internationally, in order to demonstrate the leadership of the provinces and territories of Canada in this regard.

*\* The Premiers of PEI and Alberta were unable to attend due to their elections.*