

Action Coalition 4: Feminist Action for Climate Justice

The key priorities and actions outlined in this document are based on extensive discussions within the Action Coalition 4: Feminist Action for Climate Justice Working Group of the B+25 Network. For the Beijing +25 review, there are six Action Coalitions centring on critical areas for women's rights and gender equality: Gender-Based Violence, Economic Justice and Rights, Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, and Feminist Movements and Leadership, plus the GEF Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Actions.

Overview of the Issue in Canada

- Even in high-income countries like Canada, gendered work roles, unequal access to resources, and lack of decision-making power make women disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of industrial and “natural” disasters.¹
- Despite having knowledge of climate extreme mitigation and adaptation, women—especially Indigenous women—and other marginalized groups remain underrepresented in environmental policymaking in Canada.²
- Many federal departments responsible for disaster response, including Public Safety Canada (PSC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) have applied gender-based analysis plus (GBA+), but it has been limited thus far to monitoring, policy analysis, and lip service.³

Climate extremes exacerbate structural and gender inequalities and discrimination disproportionately impacting women and girls, particularly those in Indigenous communities. Because criteria for public funding of climate change solutions do not specify a gender-responsive approach, civil society, grassroots and rural organizations proposing gender-just climate solutions are shut out of public funding. This must change.

¹ Cohen (2017), as cited in: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. (2019). *Unfinished Business: A Parallel Report on Canada's Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. <https://www.criaw-icref.ca/updates/unfinished-business/>

² Whyte (2014), as cited in *Unfinished Business* (2019)

³ Environment and Climate Change Canada (2019), as cited in *Unfinished Business* (2019)

Women and girls are underrepresented in environmental policymaking at local, provincial, national, and international levels. In addition, a culture of harassment prevents intersectional representation in leadership roles. It is imperative to create inclusive and intersectional disaster preparation and response plans. The Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership must strengthen the discourse around leadership and intergenerational equity by including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls and Two-Spirit peoples in environmental policymaking and related positions. It is also essential that people from the disability community, specifically women with disabilities, in their diversity, be included in disaster preparation and response. Listening to and supporting women, youth, and gender-diverse human rights defenders who are at the forefront of climate justice activism and land defending, often facing violence, is critical. The systemic and pervasive lack of diverse representation in leadership and decision-making for sectors focused on the transition to a green economy must be addressed.

National statistics that exclude intersectional perspectives on climate change represent a failure that must be remedied. City infrastructure planning must apply an intersectional lens that addresses safety factors related to gender, age, disability, and poverty, especially in the natural resources sector where work camps pose the potential for violence and other impacts in surrounding communities. Planning must also be re-evaluated to prioritize gendered, community, and sustainability impacts.

Key Commitments per Action Coalition Blueprint

As part of the 25-year review process of the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Action Coalition leaders have defined the following concrete set of key actions to be realized by 2026:

Action 1: By 2026, increase the **percentage of global climate finance flows**, public and private, directed towards and invested in gender-just climate solutions in particular at **grassroots and rural levels**, including through an increase to 88% in the proportion of marked climate bilateral finance targeted towards gender.

Action 2: Increase the proportion of **women and girls in decision-making and leadership positions** throughout environmental governance and sectors relevant for transitioning to an inclusive, circular and regenerative green economy by 2026.

Action 3: Enhance and leverage the capacity of millions more women and girls in all their diversity to **build resilience to climate and disaster risks, mitigate climate change, and address loss and damage**, including through **the provision of quality education, community-based cooperative models and land rights and tenure security**.

Action 4: By 2026, at least 20 countries demonstrate **increased use of gender-environment statistics for policy making** by creating an enabling environment for and increased production of gender-environment statistics.

Realizing Feminist Action for Climate Justice

Key Priorities

Funding:

- Fund the collection of disaggregated and intersectional data in collaboration with Indigenous communities, and for communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, particularly in resource-dependent areas (fisheries, farming, etc.) and in the southern regions of Canada
- Increase financing to community-based, grassroots, and rural organizations (in particular First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls and Two-Spirit groups) focused on gender-just climate solutions
- Designate a portion of public and private climate funding to grassroots urban and rural organizations providing frontline support to communities most heavily impacted by the climate crisis, including Indigenous and racialized women and girls and people with disabilities
- Invest in education, careers, and research for collection of gender-environment statistics
- Create employment opportunities for women and gender-diverse people in disaster research and preparation, renewable energy sectors, and sustainability industries
- Apply an intersectional, GBA+, disability, intergenerational, and cultural equity lens to produce plain language education materials (especially for youth)
- Support and incentivize green initiatives and development
- Invest in grants, scholarships, and training for women and gender diverse innovators and entrepreneurs working to mitigate the effects of climate change in renewable energy and sustainability sectors
- Fund feminist solutions to climate change beyond technological solutions, including socio-economic solutions that challenge capitalism and overconsumption
- Ensure funding and provide grant opportunities to support and develop leadership in the disability community

Climate Justice:

- Government
 - Apply an intersectional, GBA+, disability, intergenerational, and cultural equity lens to all environmental policies, administrative decisions, reports, work camps, and projects
 - Encourage intergovernmental communications and collaboration, especially including Indigenous governments
 - Include an environment and climate section in the new state portal for gender EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) to allow easy access and utilization of the data
 - Fully implement the [United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), including free, prior and informed consent
 - Hold transparent consultations with grassroots communities and organizations (especially Indigenous communities) and include Indigenous women's organizations in federal advisory groups
 - End all long-term drinking water advisories in Indigenous communities by prioritizing and expediting investment in water and wastewater infrastructure
 - Increase research on the effectiveness of public policies addressing food insecurity and clean drinking water in the North to inform disaster relief planning and mitigation
 - Ensure that environmental and food security baselines demonstrate cultural competence by taking traditional knowledge and histories of the land into consideration
 - Include and prioritize gendered, community, and sustainability impacts to re-evaluate and redefine beneficiaries of natural resource projects
 - Create and implement policies to end violence against First Nations, Inuit and Métis women, girls and Two-Spirit peoples in the resource extraction sector, especially human trafficking
- Advocacy
 - Include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women, girls and Two-Spirit peoples in environmental policymaking, decision-making, and leadership positions, giving priority to their perspectives and safety
 - Include feminist climate action leaders with disabilities in development of policy, programs and responses to climate action
 - Address the potential violence and infrastructure impacts in work camps and surrounding communities
 - Strengthen intergenerational relations and discourse to promote the participation of youth in the climate justice movement
 - Increase and support diverse feminist leadership, and integrate feminist intersectional analysis in research

- Create guidelines to support human rights defenders and climate justice activists, especially Indigenous land defenders who are at greater risk for violence

Corporate Accountability:

- Hold corporations to account in their approaches to business and human rights, especially corporations involved in resource extraction globally. Create robust corporate accountability frameworks that include analysis of gender-based discrimination
- Support international accountability mechanisms for damage from climate change and polluters
- Draft anti-corruption laws to prevent capture of environmental and natural resources regulators

Take Action

Government Actions <i>Holding the government to account</i>	Grassroots Actions <i>Feminist Work</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apply an intersectional GBA+ lens to all future reports from the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, centering First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women and girls, and Two-Spirit peoples ● Fully implement UNDRIP, especially Article 19 on free, prior, and informed consent for Indigenous people and groups ● Support municipalities to create more inclusive, intersectional disaster preparation and response plans that take future climate extremes into consideration ● Provide publicly accessible data to track government funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocate for the meaningful participation of Indigenous activists and community leaders in environmental policymaking ● Foster participation of youth and girls in climate justice organizing and activism ● Advocate for the re-evaluation of funding criteria and eligibility for CSO's to reimburse staff for expenses incurred related to criminal charges for climate change activism ● Create, promote, and distribute plain language materials for youth on climate action and legislation ● Push for national action and consultation with diverse climate

- Include disaggregated data in the next [Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Canada](#) report
 - Implement the five Calls for Justice specific to extractive and development industries from [Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)
 - Support provinces to develop public disaster support programs with attention to those most affected by disasters and implement services tailored to better meet the unique needs of communities including seniors and people with disabilities
- experts, especially Indigenous organizations
 - Demand the creation of guidelines that specifically incorporate a feminist response to support Indigenous land defenders in Canada who experience threats and violence
 - Advocate for the adoption and implementation of public policies that are informed by abundant scholarship on the gendered effect of food insecurity in the North, such as the National Food Policy for Canada

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