



# CANADIAN YOUTH CLIMATE MANIFESTO



2023

# Canadian Manifesto Team

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The **Centre for Global Education (CGE)** develops and delivers virtual collaborative learning projects that engage and empower K-12 students as global citizens, through connecting them to the people, places, and topics they are learning about in their classrooms. These enriched programs use challenge and project-Based learning models to explore and empower students on critical topics, encouraging them to take action that affects their local and global communities. Since 2008, CGE has facilitated educational programming for 100,000's of students, from over 600 schools, in more than 70 countries.



[www.cgeducation.org](http://www.cgeducation.org)

**TakingITGlobal (TIG)** is a registered charity focusing on global issues by promoting awareness and engagement among global youth. TIG uses an online social network to raise awareness and discussion on a number of global issues. TIG's main offerings include the multilingual online classroom platform, which guides youth to a deeper awareness of social, economic, and environmental issues through collaborative learning activities and advocacy training. The platform fosters mutual understanding across continents and languages through discussion boards, blogs, online global art gallery, project mapping, and recording their action through the Commit2Act app.



[www.tiged.org](http://www.tiged.org)

# Waves of Change

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Waves of Change is a national bilingual project that engages youth through a continuum of educational opportunities in every province and territory, in both urban and rural communities. It blends physical events, digital engagement, and an action tracking tool to further climate action across Canada. The project provides learning opportunities to Canadian K-12 youth that make clear connections between climate change, ocean health, and daily actions that can reduce greenhouse gases, to inspire their peers and broader communities to take climate action. Waves of Change is delivered annually by the Centre for Global Education, TakingITGlobal, Ocean Wise, GreenLearning, and a number of other strategic partners, through support from the Environmental Damages Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

**“The climate change situation on Earth has reached extreme conditions, therefore we need to apply extreme measures if we want to make a beneficial difference.”**

**~Mary Washkosky**

# 2023 Youth Writing Team

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The Waves of Change National Dialogue is a school-based program led by the Centre for Global Education. Using information and communications technologies, it promotes climate education, facilitates dialogue, and equips children ages 4-18 with the skills needed to raise their voice and increase their action on climate change. Since 2021, the program has brought together students and teachers in classrooms across Canada for project-based environmental learning, storytelling, and action. From Cape Breton to Calgary, Mistawasis Nêhiyawak to Mississauga, students share their learning, ideas, and action through videos, podcasts, blog posts, discussion boards, art contests, and live, interactive video conferences. The program culminates in the co-authoring of a national manifesto, outlining their thoughts, opinions, and calls for action around climate change. The Canadian Youth Manifesto is Canada's largest child-authored synthesis of student education, opinion, and action on climate change.



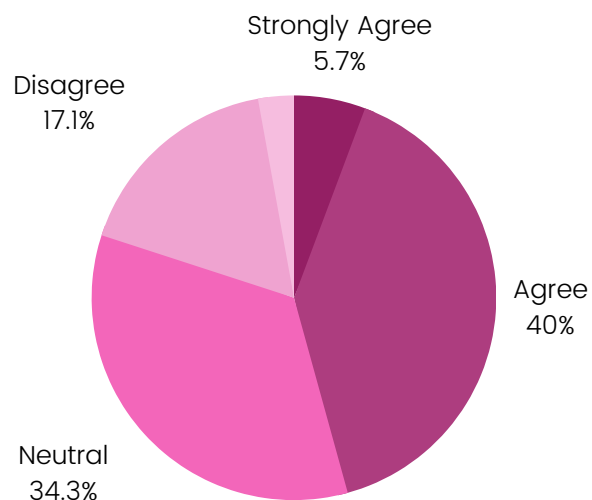
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# We, Canadian youth, demand that schools across Canada implement standardized and robust education on environmental issues.

Education is necessary to prevent current and future Canadians from remaining ignorant about the climate's condition. It helps us to understand and to take better action on climate change and to prepare for our future. The Canadian government must be held accountable for setting a standard for K-12 education through a nation-wide mandate for the inclusion of climate change topics into school curriculums. Education about climate issues, sustainable energy, and global climate change impacts is necessary now. Environmental education must be increased at all grade levels, so that we - children and young people across the country - can build on our knowledge throughout our education journeys. With proper development within our school systems, this can also help us to establish green career choices as viable future pathways to assist our communities in the transition to a renewable energy future.

## "I receive adequate climate education in my school"



## Survey Results: Education

The main issue that was brought to attention through this year's survey was the lack of climate change education in Canada's K-12 schools. Less than half of Canadian youth surveyed stated that they believed they received adequate climate education in their classrooms.

\*\*Survey data was collected through an online survey sent to children across Canada engaged in the Waves of Change program.

**"I firmly believe that it is the responsibility of the world's youth to learn, educate, and take action to nurture our planet." ~Willa Clark**

# We, Canadian youth, demand that the government research and implement sustainable energy solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

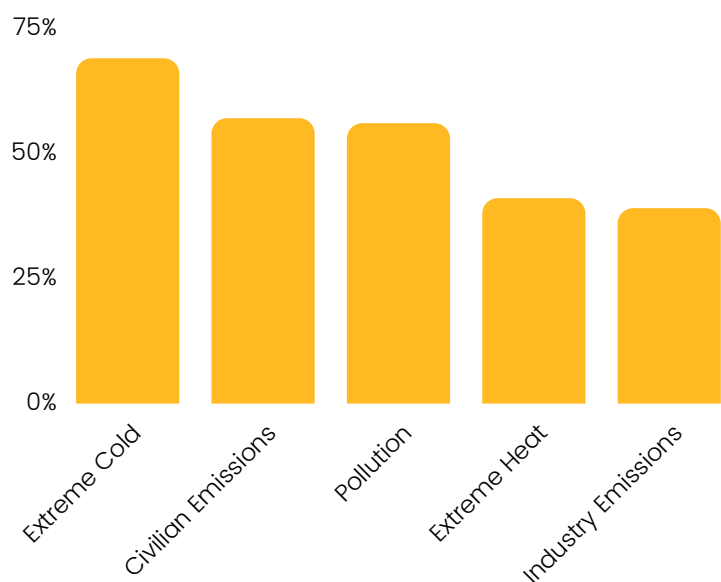
We believe that governments are most responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and play the most important role in energy transition. We demand a better future where the government invests in cleaner methods of energy generation. We demand the government provide programs to transition fossil fuel workers into the renewable energy sector, invest in cleaner nuclear power plants, and be more open to new innovation in the energy sector. In the early developmental stages of alternative energy, it can be difficult to compete with established infrastructure. Regardless, we believe the government must endorse and subsidize these endeavours. Through establishing dedicated funding streams, the government must champion new, novel, and innovative technologies to help establish the infrastructure needed for sustainable energy demands to compete with existing fossil fuel based industries.



## Survey Results: Climate Concerns

When asked about personal climate concerns, students polled expressed that civilian emissions, pollution, extreme temperatures, and industry emissions were the most critical. An immediate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is crucial to curb these damaging effects on our communities across the country.

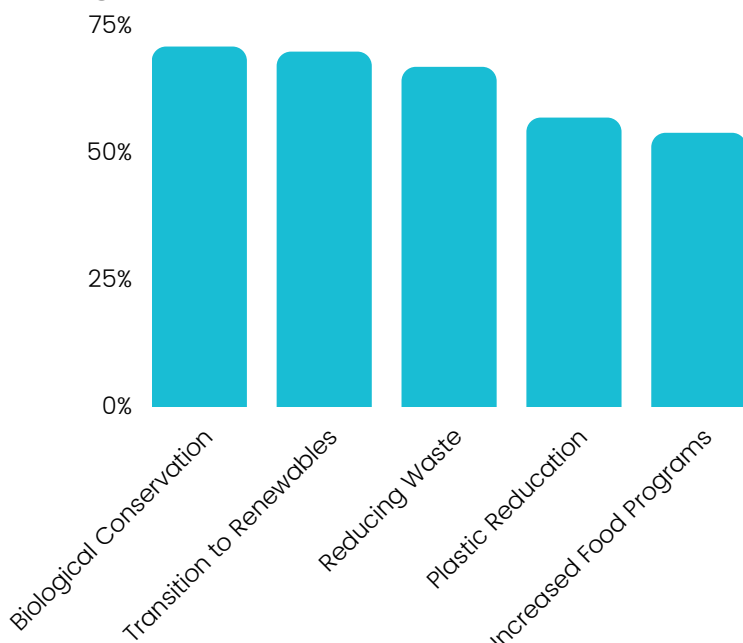
### "Which of the following climate issues is the biggest concern in your community?"



# We, Canadian youth, demand that the government take immediate action on all current climate policies that have not been delivered upon.

The Canadian government established policies to combat climate change by committing to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, we believe that they have not taken responsibility in creating a clear pathway that can be followed by the country. Canada is failing to deliver on their policies because of a lack of political willpower. Our country is focusing its financing on propping up failing fossil fuel industries. Canadian corporations are damaging our environment in catastrophic and irreversible ways, and current government regulations are not an efficient barrier to solve these issues. We demand the implementation of fines for industries that would repair the damage they have inflicted onto our environment. We demand the implement of a tax on the production of emissions, with companies that produce emissions paying this tax. Further, the government must compel corporations to implement policies that prevent further harm to the environment, such as investing in eco-friendly infrastructure for all new production.

## "Which of the following do you think should be priorities for our federal, provincial, and municipal governments?"



### Survey Results:

#### Government Action

Canadian youth believe that the government must take immediate action by prioritizing biological conservation, the transition to renewable energy sources, reducing food and plastic waste, and providing accessible food programs to schools. Implementing previously planned policies will help our country inch closer to our international climate commitments.

# We, Canadian youth, demand that children and young people be involved in environmental and climate related decisions.

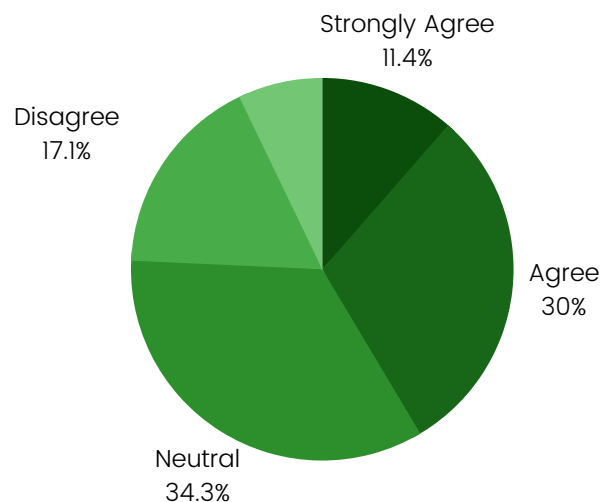
There is a fear and anxiety among Canadian youth when it comes to confronting the degradation of our environment - Not being able to see a clear path ahead to a livable future. Much of this fear is due to a lack of engagement in climate decisions by our country. We, Canadian youth, feel as though we have no influence, and fixing this requires communication between young people and adults at all levels of government. Many of us have the drive and ambition to bring forth climate solutions, but feel that we aren't going to being taken seriously. We want to take action on climate change. We must be provided the skills, training, and funding that allows us to be propelled into more climate conscious action.



## Survey Results: Climate Anxiety

Many youth across the country are fighting with Climate Anxiety. In the survey we conducted, 41% of students admitted to experiencing climate anxiety. We fear the unstable environment of the climate as a whole, and are anxious about the risks in the future moving forward.

## "I experience climate anxiety"



**“When it comes to confronting the degradation of our environment, not being able to see a clear path ahead to a sustainable, livable future incites a fearfulness in Canadian youth.” ~Tyreek Reynolds**

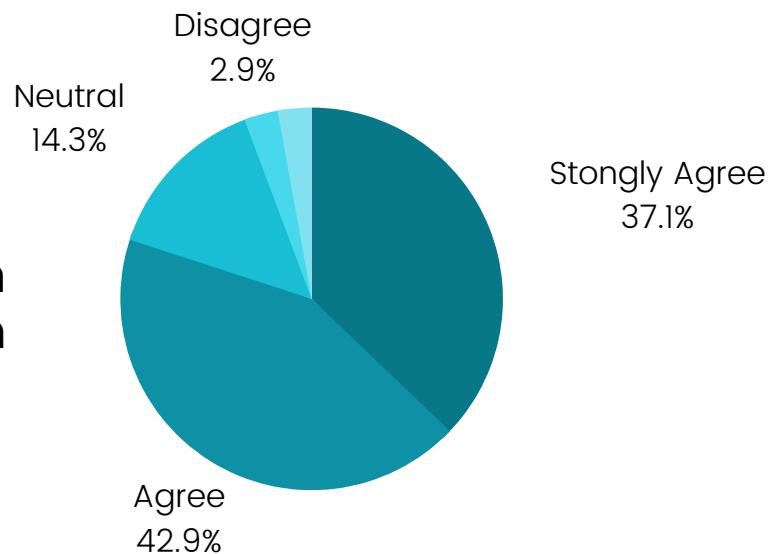


# Conclusion

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80% of Canadian youth polled believed that they can make a difference in the climate fight.

**"I believe that Canadian youth can make a difference in the climate fight"**



"I will not falter in fighting the climate endeavours that continue to face our burning world, I will not give in or give up. I love our world and am determined to fight for its safety in the same way it has cared for me and allowed me to grow into the human being I am today." ~Sarah Golding

# Partners

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## With Support From



### Awards & Recognition



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