



Removing Climate Change from the Environment Box

Cross-Institutional Approaches to Adaptation
Governance—A Govt. of Alberta Story

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Roadmap

- Discourse, Cognition and Perception of Climate Change.
- Government and Institutional Responses to Climate Change (The Environment Box)
- Adaptation Governance in Government--
The Alberta Policy Context.

Roadmap

- Re-branding Adaptation Governance—
Cross-Institutional Approaches in Alberta
- Challenges and Successes
- Lessons and Ways Forward

Discourse, Cognition, and Perception of CC

- Framing of global discourses on climate change (IPCC, UNFCCC, UNEP, WWF, IUCN, UNDP etc.)
- Shaped understanding and perception, informed actions at the both global and local levels
- This is the dominant perception, and has delayed collaborative responses

Institutional Responses: The Environment Box

- Governments responses through environment ministries and specialized agencies
- Legitimizing process that perpetuates perception and cognition and in some cases actions.
- Typical of government culture of silo-mechanisms, boundary definitions, and jurisdictional protectionism.

The Alberta Policy Context

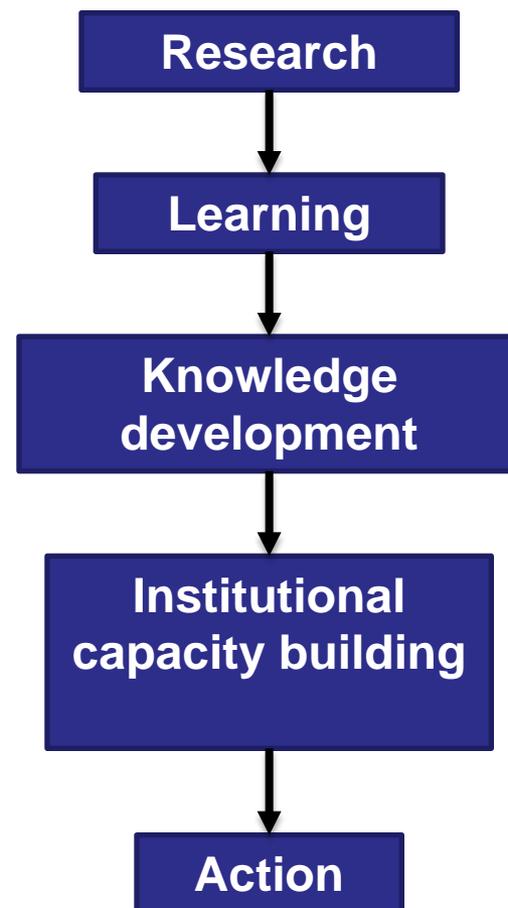
- Alberta Recognizes mitigation and adaptation as complimentary (Climate Change Secretariat)
- *2008 Climate Change Strategy (Being Renewed) spells out the need for the development of a Provincial Adaptation Strategy)*
- *The Department of Environment hosts the file and leads both adaptation and mitigation processes (Environment Box)*

The Policy Context

- “Environment Box” –silo mechanism and jurisdictional monopoly, affects both thinking and practice.
- Affected delivery and advancement of key CC programs, e.g., carbon capture and storage (CCS) and other mitigation programs..
- Recent learnings have, in part, instigated overall Strategy Renewal and to make it more cross-government collaborative process

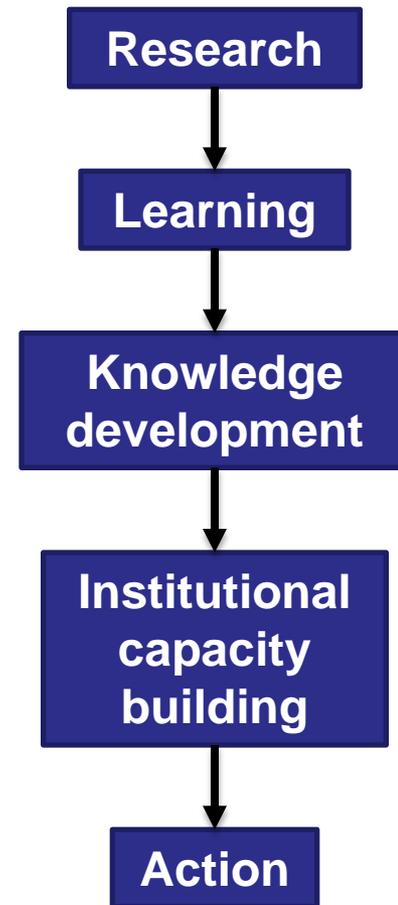
Adaptation Governance

- Established Alberta Climate Change Adaptation Team (ACCAT)
- Tasked with overseeing the development of a provincial strategy
- Identify knowledge gaps, build institutional capacity



Adaptation Governance

- Development of Climate Scenarios
- Province-wide Vulnerability Assmts.
- Departmental Climate Risk Assmts.
- AESRD managers, ACCAT involved



Multi-Sector Impacts

Group 1: Risks relating to extreme weather events and wildfire/interface fires

Department	Risk Event	Risk Level
Health	Increased storms and violent weather	Extreme
Health	Increased wildfire and interface fires	Extreme
ARD	Weather episodes for crops	High
Energy	Disruption of electricity generation due to extreme weather events and forest fires	High
Energy	Disruption of natural gas, oil and oil sands production due to extreme weather events and forest fires	High
Infrastructure	More extensive and frequent interface fires (including consideration of Swan Hills facility)	High
MA	Damage to municipalities due to more extensive and frequent interface fires	High
MA	Casualties and infrastructure damage due to severe weather events	High
TPR	Increased risk to public safety from extreme events	High
TPR	Increased damage to infrastructure from extreme events	High
TPR	Increased risk of forest/interface fires	High
ARD	Weather episodes for livestock	Moderate
Energy	Public safety issues with infrastructure failure due to extreme weather events	Moderate
Energy	Effects on aging infrastructure exacerbated by extreme weather events	Moderate
Energy	Disruption of electricity supply (transmission and distribution) due to extreme weather events and forest fires	Moderate
Infrastructure	Disruption of electricity supply due to severe weather (assuming back-up power in critical facilities)	Moderate
Transportation	Reduced visibility and traffic disruptions due to increased wildfires and smoke	Moderate

Multi-Sector Impacts

Group 3: Risks relating to flash and overland flooding and runoff events

Department	Risk Event	Risk Level
ARD	Water pollution episodes during and after runoff events	High
ARD	Overland flooding	High
ARD	Flash flooding	High
Health	Increased flooding (flash and overland)	High
MA	Flooding and increased drainage failure and basement flooding	High
MA	River and watershed flooding, including from ice jams	High
MA	Increased demand on water purification and wastewater treatment facilities from . . . runoff events with high intensity rains and snowmelts	High
Energy	Facility reclamation more difficult and costly due to flooding, erosion, etc.	Moderate
Infrastructure	Increased urban drainage failure and basement flooding	Moderate
Transportation	Road washouts and blockages from more frequent high-intensity, low duration rain events, causing landslides and overwhelmed stormwater management facilities associated with transportation infrastructure.	Moderate

Evidence-Based Governance

- Risk Assessments show cross-cutting impacts
- Provides evidence for distributional leadership and action
- Cross-department mainstreaming
- Strengthening of ACCAT

Challenges

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- The lack of understanding and real commitment to the adaptation file
 - The dominance of mitigation in a high-emission province
 - The “Environment Box”
 - Executive-Buy-in and support
 - ACCAT as a volunteer group

Successes—so far

- The ACCAT concept
- Our processes are detailed and comprehensive
- Created awareness (to an extent) and built institutional capacity
- Influential in both federal and regional adaptation programming

Lessons and Ways Forward

- Adaptation requires political buy-in and committed Champions in higher office
- Remove Climate Change from the “Environment Box”
- Effective Adaptation governance requires collaboration and partnerships
- Institutional capacity building