

CCCR 2026 HEADLINE STATEMENTS

Canada's Changing Climate Report (CCCR) 2026 assesses the latest scientific evidence on climate change in Canada. It summarizes observed and future changes in the atmosphere, freshwater, ocean, and on land, providing a strong evidence base to guide climate action.

These Headline Statements (HS) excerpts summarize important findings from the report and highlight major observed and projected changes in Canada's climate. Unless otherwise stated, there is high confidence or more associated with these statements.

ClimateData.ca builds on the scientific findings of CCCR 2026 by providing access to climate data, maps, and guidance for applying climate science in decision-making.

By connecting national climate science with local-scale data, ClimateData.ca helps support informed planning and adaptation.



Extremes and Hazards

Human-caused warming has already affected the frequency and intensity of extreme temperature events in Canada. Increases in hot extremes and human heat-stress, as well as decreases in cold extremes, have been observed. These changes will intensify with additional global warming (HS 8)

Droughts and flash floods will become more frequent and severe with additional warming (HS 9)

More frequent and intense extreme fire weather is projected for most regions of Canada (HS 10)



Carbon Cycle

Canada's land and oceans are currently a carbon sink, consistent with their behaviour over recent decades. Canada's oceans are expected to continue to be a sink in the future. In contrast, whether Canada's land remains a sink or becomes a carbon source is uncertain. (HS 15, Medium confidence)



Snow, Ice, and the North

Glaciers in western Canada will largely disappear by the end of this century. Warming temperatures have shortened the snow cover season and reduced sea ice cover of all types. Permafrost thaw is transforming the land in many places across northern Canada (HS 12)



Water and Freshwater Systems

Summer freshwater availability in southern Canada is threatened by changes in the water cycle. Many important water cycle processes are occurring earlier in spring, such as snowmelt, peak stream flow, and groundwater recharge, with risks to summer water availability (HS 11)



Oceans and Coasts

Extreme high sea-level events will occur more often where local sea level is rising (HS 13)

The oceans around Canada have warmed and acidified because of greenhouse gas emissions from human activity. Marine heatwaves have become more frequent and intense (HS 14)



Changing Climate Systems

Annual total precipitation has increased in Canada over the past 75 years with the largest percentage increases in northern Canada (HS 3)

Warming temperatures have driven wide-ranging, interconnected, and sustained changes across Canada. The changes include more extreme heat, less extreme cold, longer growing seasons, longer fire seasons, earlier peak stream flow, shorter snow and ice cover seasons, thinning glaciers, thawing permafrost, warming oceans, and rising sea level (HS 4)

The warming and associated changes in climate in Canada are effectively irreversible (HS 7)



Warming in Canada

Canada has warmed over the past 75 years due to emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities. Over this period Canada has warmed by 2.0°C and Canada's North has warmed by 2.6°C (HS 1)

In the near term, annual average temperature in Canada is expected to rise by about 1°C from 2021 to 2040 (HS 5)

Warming in Canada will intensify as long as global greenhouse gas emissions continue (HS 6)



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