

CITIES ON THE ROAD

GLAS GOW

The Summary Report

CITIES + COP26: ATTENDING COP26

On behalf of the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and our partners, I am happy to share with you the following report on the Cities & COP26 Initiative's activities at COP26 itself.

In Glasgow, our team worked to create a space to support Canadian cities and city-focused organizations in advocating for multilevel climate action. Through our daily briefings, panel discussions, and other collaborative efforts, we engaged with Canadian and international players to help strengthen the narrative of multilevel climate action in Canada. Over the course of the conference, "four Cs" of emerged: the power of Convening, Collaboration, Communications, and Collective Impact. This report will elaborate on those, and outline our activities at the conference.



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For many of us, COP26 already feels like a distant memory. However, the conference was never an end-point in itself, but rather an important landmark on the road to more ambitious climate action in Canada. As communities around the country continue to face devastating climate disasters, we are constantly reminded not only of the critical moment we are in, but also of the central role of cities as they sit on the frontlines of this crisis.

COP is over, but cities are more important than ever. In Canada, cities still account for at least 60% of our GHG emissions, and globally they produce a 70% share of emissions. Cities remain on the frontlines of the climate crisis and its disastrous consequences, and they manage transportation, land-use planning and the built environment. They are also still the level of government that engages most closely with citizens, and they serve as effective incubators for scalable climate solutions. Finally, despite its revision ahead of COP26, Canada's NDC remains insufficient and must be strengthened in order to meet our Paris Agreement commitments and do our part to hold the global temperature increase to 1.5 C.

In this context, it is crucial that cities receive greater funding and regulatory capacity to meet the demands of the climate crisis, and that they be integrated fully into a Canadian whole-of-government approach to climate change.

I would like to thank the **Trottier Family Foundation, Simon Fraser University and the Yosef Wosk Family**Foundation for their generous support of this initiative. I would also like to thank our partners and collaborators at the Canadian Urban Institute, Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners (CUSP) Network, ICLEI Canada, C40 Cities, FCM, the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and the Tamarack Institute.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the rich and energetic community of practitioners, leaders, experts and organizations working to advance ambitious and meaningful climate action at the local level in Canada and internationally. From the beginning, the Cities + COP26 Initiative has been dedicated to supporting and amplifying the strong work of this group, which continues to push for a brighter climate future for residents and communities across Canada.

We look forward to continuing to work to support Canadian cities in advancing multilevel climate action in Canada.

Best Wishes,

SHAUNA SYLVESTER
SFU MORRIS J WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE

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THE INITIATIVE AT COP26

Daily Briefings

At COP26, our team hosted a series of daily briefings, providing insights from the action at COP and interviewing climate leaders and experts attending the conference. These sessions were aimed at sharing knowledge, building literacy and inspiring creative climate action at the local level in Canada. During each briefing, Shauna Sylvester led a 15-minute 'technical briefing' on the city-relevant initiatives at the conference. Each technical briefing was followed by a 30-minute 'fireside chat' with a climate leader, practitioner or expert present in Glasgow, led by Jude Crasta.

Briefing 1 (Nov. 1)

Technical Briefing: **Velma McColl** (National Marketplace Growth Lead, Earnscliffe Strategies) Fireside Chat: **Hon. George Heyman** (Minister, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy)

Briefing 2 (Nov. 2)

Technical Briefing: Hon. Steven Guilbeault (Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada)
Fireside Chat: Yunus Arikan (Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI)

Briefing 3 (Nov. 3)

Technical Briefing: **Elizabeth May** (MP, Green Party of Canada)

Fireside Chat: **Dr. Carly McLachlan** (Director, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research)

Briefing 4 (Nov. 4)

Technical Briefing: **Bruce Lourie** (President, Ivey Foundation)

Briefing 5 (Nov. 5)

Technical Briefing: Ana Gonzalez Guerrero (Co-Founder, Youth Climate Lab)
Fireside Chat: Tue Damso (Senior Consultant, CONCITO) & Henrik Muller (Climate Manager, Aarhus Municipality)





Briefing 6 (Nov. 8)

Technical Briefing: Hon. Shane Thompson (Minister, NT Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Lands, Municipal and Community Affairs, Youth and Seniors.

Fireside Chat: **Nadja Nickel** (Climate Director, Democratic Society)

Briefing 7 (Nov. 9)

Technical Briefing: **Kairn Mahon Carrington** (Founder, Climate Hope)
Fireside Chat: **Carole Saab** (CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities)

Briefing 8 (Nov. 10)

Technical Briefing: Marnie McGregor (Head of Strategic Communications & Advocacy, Global Covenant of Mayors)

Fireside Chat: **Patricia Fuller** (Ambassador, Environment and Climate Change Canada)

Briefing 9 (Nov. 11)

Technical Briefing: Matthew Baldwin (Deputy Director-General, European Commission) Fireside Chat: Elizabeth May (MP, Green Party of Canada)

-	Thank you so much doing this live report. It's
	totally relevant, concise, very informations
•	and educational. Congrats on this initiative
	 it's definitely one of the most useful Zoon
	webinars I've participated in. I'll be tuning in
	as much as I can for your remaining
	webinarsBruce Rozenhart
	Counterpoint Communication

LGMA Panel Discussion

In addition to our daily briefings, we were invited by ICLEI to convene a panel discussion on multilevel climate action in Canada, held at the LGMA Multilevel Action Pavilion in the COP26 Blue Zone, on Nov. 4th. The session, titled Beyond COP26 - Redefining Multilevel Climate Action in Canada, was moderated by Shauna Sylvester. Panelists included Hon. George Heyman (BC Minister of Environment), Carole Saab (CEO, FCM), and David Miller (Director of International Diplomacy, C40 Cities).





COP26 was a key moment for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and local governments to engage with federal partners on how to deepen federal-municipal collaboration on addressing climate change. The climate crisis is a defining challenge of our time, and while our participation in COP26 has given us determination to act, we know how much work remains to be done. FCM remains committed to working with its federal partners to tackle climate change and make it a pillar of our post-COVID recovery efforts, and our message to invest in local pathways to net zero emissions, adapt communities to be more resilient and build local capacity to scale up climate action is being heard in Ottawa. - Carole Saab, **CEO of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

Panel Discussion with the Global Covenant of Mayors

Shauna was invited to offer summary remarks at another panel at the LGMA Pavilion, Accelerating Local Climate Action in Medium & Small Municipalities committed to the GCoM: Looking at Good Practices Across the Americas. This dialogue, between key GCoM stakeholders in the US, Canada and Latin America, sought to identify relevant solutions to enable and accelerate local climate action in smaller municipalities.

Collaborating with International Partners to amend the draft COP26 Presidency Text

When the initial draft version of the Glasgow Climate Pact contained no mention of local governments or multilevel climate action, we worked with a global coalition of city-networks, including ICLEI and C40 Cities, to push for nations to change the document's wording. Ultimately, the final draft of the Pact was amended to include mention of municipalities.

Relationship Building and Network Development

At the conference, the Cities + COP26 team engaged in a variety of activities aimed at developing and deepening linkages with other key individuals and organizations in the cities and climate space. Using the opportunity of COP26 to build out networks of collaboration and engagement in this space, we connected with representatives from the Government of Canada, Canadian and international civil society.

Engaging the federal government and other political figures:

As well as inviting them to participate in the Daily Briefings series, the team engaged the Government of Canada through multiple meetings with ECCC staff, and by attending ministerial briefings. The team also met with Hon. George Heyman, BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and with multiple federal MPs, including Elizabeth May.

Engaging with Canadian civil society:

Our team engaged with Canadian civil society through numerous events and one-on-one meetings. This included meetings with Carole Saab of FCM, Mayor Mike Savage of Halifax and the Big City Mayors' Caucus, David Miller of C40 Cities, the Climate Caucus, Eric St. Pierre of the Trottier Family Foundation and Velma McColl of Earnscliffe Strategies, as well as attending the Nov. 8 'Pints not Panels' Canadian event hosted by the Ivey Foundation.

Engaging with international civil society:

Our team also used the opportunity of COP26 to develop global relationships through various meetings and networking events. This included attending a lunch with the International Climate Engagement Network (launched by our colleagues at SFU), the Bloomberg Green Summit, the C40 Climate Breakfast dialogue with Norman Foster and Secretary John Kerry, the New York Times Climate Hub, the Common Ground Festival, and a number of grassroots activism hubs hosted by organizations like Green New Deal Uprising and the People's Assembly. Our team also engaged directly with a number of key international organizations and individuals, including Stefan Schurig of the Foundations Platform F20, Yunus Arikan of ICLEI, Shea O'Neil of the Global Covenant of Mayors, and Matthew Baldwin of the European Commission. During some of our rare free time, we were also able to explore the COP26 Blue Zone Pavilions, engaging with and learning from nations and global organizations that had organized programming there.

CityTalks

Members of the Cities + COP26 Initiative team were also invited to participate in two CityTalk events, organized by the Canadian Urban Institute, which bookended the conference. The first, Why should cities care about COP26?, explored the ways in which cities could leverage COP26 to advance meaningful climate action across Canada. The second, Post COP26, What's next for cities?, recapped the main takeaways and developments from COP26 as they pertain to Canadian cities.

Media Engagement

On a daily basis, the team was reaching out through online and mainstream media to engage Canadian audiences to profile cities and climate. Some notable media spots included: What on Earth with Laura Lynch: Why Cities are Key to Cutting Carbon (Oct. 17)

Global News Morning BC: COP26 Gets Underway in Glasgow, Scotland (Oct. 31)



The Jas Johal Show: COP26 summit - What Role Can Cities Play in Addressing Climate Change? (Nov. 1)



Georgia Straight: COP26 Day 1—beyond pledges (Nov. 1)

NL Noon Report with Brett Mineer: Cities' Major Asks at COP26 (Nov. 2)



Early Edition with Stephen Quinn: The Role Cities Play in Fighting Climate Change (Nov. 2)



Global News Morning BC: The Role of Cities in Fighting Climate Change (Nov. 4)

Georgia Straight: COP26 Day 3—beyond fences (Nov. 4)



Georgia Straight: COP26 Day 5—looking for progress along a long and winding road (Nov. 6)

Georgia Straight: If the eyes of the world are on COP26, then who are we looking away from? (Nov. 8)

Georgia Straight: COP26 Day 9—gender moves to the forefront, but how much has really changed? (Nov. 10)

The Tyee: Youth Power and 'Youth Washing' at COP26 (Nov. 15)



Georgia Straight: Going beyond COP26, it's time for a new order—municipalities first (Nov. 19)



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Over the course of our time at COP26, a key set of takeaways emerged, describing the circumstances, approaches, and 'key ingredients' that allowed us to deepen our impact and achieve meaningful outcomes in our dialogic approach to supporting cities in pushing for multilevel climate action. These 'Four Cs' are outlined below:

Power of Convening

- International gatherings like COP26 enable a great deal of interaction and engagement between individuals and organizations that goes far beyond formal diplomatic negotiations. It's in these interactive convening spaces that real collective impact and network-building can be achieved.
- Continuing the thread of our two high-level stakeholder dialogues in May, our team sought to both create and take advantage of convening processes in order to deepen network connections and foster greater collaboration within the cities and climate space. We were able to use this event to shape our discussions in response to real time, daily developments.

Power of Collaboration

- Our activities leading up to and at COP26
 allowed our team to develop and deepen
 relationships with other key players in the cities
 and climate space. In order for cities and
 intermediary organizations to continue to push
 meaningfully for multilevel action on climate, it is
 crucial that these collaborative relationships
 continue.
- We continue to rely on this collaborative network to shape our current and future work. This network also provides us with insight into the public and private expert spaces, and the developments from these spaces that affect our work.

Power of Communications

- In the lead up to COP26, it was clear that cities often speak in siloed manners, through different intermediary organizations. It can be difficult to achieve meaningful impact if messages aren't coordinated. COP26 showed that cities are capable of developing clear and coordinated messaging that reinforces the roles that each of them can play.
- Through our media and stakeholder engagements we learned that we could keep the issues relevant to people's lives if we kept local audiences front and centre.

Power of Collective Impact

• At COP26, we were able to draw upon our efforts to build out a collaborative network to help push for tangible results from the COP26 proceedings. This included the previously mentioned effort to amend the COP26 Presidency text to include multilevel climate action in its wording. Further examples of this collective impact continue to take shape in how our partner networks are currently working with the federal government to shape the multilevel climate space moving forward.



OUR GRATITUDE

We would like to thank the Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners (CUSP) Network, Canadian Urban Institute, C40 Cities, ICLEI, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Tamarack Institute, Clean Energy Canada, and others for supporting and amplifying our work at COP26. We look forward to continuing to support the innovative and ambitious work of the diverse cities and climate community in Canada.



