

## 1. Background and Context

1.1 In early 2015, a diverse cross-section of organizations came together to create a strong and unified voice to support carbon pricing and climate action in Ontario. The coalition agreed to a set of carbon pricing principles and to advocate for complementary climate policies in other key sectors of Ontario's economy. The coalition officially launched in April 2015 as the Clean Economy Alliance (CEA, or "the Alliance"). It has since grown to include nearly 90 organizations, including Ontario businesses, industry associations, health advocates, farmers' groups, labour unions and environmental organizations.

1.2 In February 2015, Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) released a Climate Change Discussion Paper, setting out that the province would be putting a price on carbon emissions and creating a climate change strategy and action plan. Recognizing that the climate change strategy would affect diverse parts of Ontario society, the CEA was first established to advocate for an effective climate strategy and build stakeholder and public support for climate action.

MOECC announced the creation of a cap-and-trade program in April 2015, released a climate change strategy in November 2015, introduced the *Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act* and cap-and-trade regulation in February 2016, and plans to release a climate change action plan in spring 2016. The Ontario government has stated the climate change strategy and action plan, in addition to meeting the province's carbon reduction targets, will also spur an economic transformation with social, health and environmental benefits. The CEA recognizes that a climate change strategy, action plan and cap-and-trade program must be supported by a broad range of interests including businesses, advocacy groups, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. The Alliance's ongoing role will be to collectively work for the development, implementation and monitoring of Ontario's cap-and-trade program and climate change strategy and action plan. As the federal government moves forward with a coordinated approach to national climate action, the CEA may choose to expand its scope of activities to federal and interprovincial climate priorities as well.

## 2. Mandate and Strategic Priorities

2.1 The mandate of the CEA is to ***support the development and implementation of an effective cap-and-trade program and climate change strategy and action plan that provides economic, social, health and environmental benefits for Ontarians.***

2.2 The CEA will accomplish this mandate by focusing on the following strategic priorities (in no particular order):

- ***Cap-and-trade.*** Cap-and-trade puts a price on carbon pollution and is the centrepiece of Ontario's climate change strategy. Ontario released its cap-and-trade legislation, Bill 172, and the accompanying draft cap-and-trade regulation in February 2016. The bill and regulation will enable the formal launch of the cap-and-trade program in January 2017.
- ***Buildings and Energy Efficiency.*** Energy retrofits are a carbon reduction tool that can immediately create jobs and generate savings for residents and businesses. Improving energy efficiency in homes and buildings is a crucial element of meeting Ontario's 2020 climate targets. In February 2016, the province announced a multi-million dollar investment in energy-saving

retrofits--\$100 million for homes, \$92 million for social housing, and \$100 million for large industries and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

- **Long-term Energy Planning.** The global shift away from fossil fuel based energy is well underway, with investment in renewables surging as costs plummet. The Ministry of Energy's review of the Long-term Energy Plan in 2016 presents an opportunity to further decarbonise Ontario's electricity sector, increase the share of renewable energy in the province's supply mix, and create business and export opportunities for the province's renewable energy industries.
- **Land-use Planning.** The way Ontario plans and permits development and protects natural heritage and agricultural land has enormous implications for carbon emissions. The coordinated review of Ontario's land use plans (the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan, and the Niagara Escarpment Plan), to be concluded in 2016, will have a profound impact on how the region grows and whether that growth is consistent with the low-carbon economy Ontario aspires to create.
- **Transportation.** The transportation sector is responsible for more than one-third of Ontario's emissions. Ontario is undertaking a massive public transit build across the province, electrifying the GO Rail network, encouraging municipalities to build active transportation infrastructure, and providing incentives to get more electric vehicles on the road. Public transit, active transportation, and electric vehicles have also been identified as areas of funding from the Green Investment Fund and cap-and-trade revenues.
- **Clean technology.** The clean tech sector is an increasingly important area for jobs and economic growth in Ontario and around the world. Ontario can provide supports and incentives to finance, test, commercialize and deploy clean tech solutions and help position Ontario firms to develop the technologies and solutions needed to tackle climate change and adapt to its impacts.
- **Climate-friendly, Climate-resilient Infrastructure.** The impacts of climate change are already being felt in Ontario. The province's aging infrastructure is underprepared for the extreme weather events that will occur more frequently with climate change. Ontario needs to plan for the future by building low-carbon, resilient infrastructure that helps our communities mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Other strategic climate change priorities as identified by the CEA and its Steering Committee.

### 3. Structure and Governance

3.1 **Coordinating Organization.** Environmental Defence is the Coordinating Organization for the CEA. The Coordinating Organization is responsible for all reporting and funder relationships pertaining to the Alliance. The Coordinating Organization will ensure regular meetings of the CEA to share information and develop plans, actions and tactics in pursuit of strategic priorities.

The Coordinating Organization will organize meetings, workshops and other events for the CEA. It will make all possible efforts to engage Alliance members and allow for timely opportunity for members to provide direction, content and comments on all CEA activities.

The Coordinating Organization will appoint members to the Steering Committee for approval by the Alliance. Ongoing approvals of the Steering Committee will be sought on an annual basis.

The Coordinating Organization will take the lead, working in collaboration with Alliance members and the Steering Committee, to set strategic priorities and objectives for the Alliance. The priorities will be reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee on an annual basis.

The Coordinating Organization will advance the Alliance's priorities by doing research, drafting press releases, reports and other materials, developing campaign plans, and executing those plans with the support of Alliance Members.

**3.2 Steering Committee.** The Steering Committee will be a body composed of a maximum of twelve and a minimum of seven individuals, appointed by the Coordinating Organization and approved by CEA members on an annual basis.

The Steering Committee will consist of representatives of organizations that are members of the Clean Economy Alliance and representative of the diverse cross-section of the Alliance's membership and economic sectors impacted by Ontario climate policy. The Steering Committee may also include representatives from organizations that are not formal members of the Alliance, but have supported Alliance activities and possess deep knowledge of climate policy and strong networks with relevant stakeholders in the province. See Appendix 1 for the proposed Steering Committee, for approval by Alliance Members.

The Steering Committee will meet regularly to create, review and monitor the progress of the CEA's priorities. Any materials requiring the endorsement of the CEA (such as press releases and reports) or Alliance members acting as spokespersons, will call for the approval of the Steering Committee before release. The Steering Committee will make decisions by consensus on all matters. In order for there to be quorum, a majority (more than half) of steering committee members must participate in any given decision.

**3.3 Alliance Members.** Alliance members can be representatives from Ontario- or Canada-based organizations or municipal governments who have requested to become members of the CEA and who support the CEA mandate.

All members will be invited to participate in meetings, workshops and other events for the CEA, which will be coordinated by the Coordinating Organization.

The Coordinating Organization and Steering Committee will make all possible efforts to solicit feedback and offer the opportunity for Alliance members to provide direction, content and comments on all reports, press releases and other materials.

Alliance members are entitled to use the resources developed through the CEA to promote and engage the public, stakeholders and the Ontario government about climate policy issues.

Alliance members can act as spokespeople for the Alliance with the approval of the Steering Committee.

Alliance members can choose not to sign on to resources developed by the CEA while continuing to retain their membership.

Alliance members are free to withdraw their membership at any time.

3.4 **Additional Members.** Additional members may be added to the CEA at any time by contacting the Coordinating Organization. All new members will receive this Terms of Reference document, including updated information on strategic priorities and current objectives.

3.5 **Funding.** The Coordinating Organization is responsible for managing any relationships with funders and for leading the activities of the CEA. Alliance members may be asked to contribute staff time, in-kind support or funding for CEA activities.

## 4. Scope of Activities

The Coordinating Organization will coordinate execution of the following Alliance activities:

4.1 **Work Planning.** The Coordinating Organization, in collaboration with the Steering Committee and Alliance Members, will develop strategic priorities, approved by the members, to guide the activities of the CEA.

4.2 **Information Sharing and Capacity Building.** Hold meetings and workshops on a regular basis and act as a forum for exchange of information and discussion among members on issues related to climate policy in Ontario or Canada. The Alliance may also recruit thought leaders to support the Alliance's mandate and activities.

4.3 **Research and Analysis.** Conduct research and analysis of issues, challenges and opportunities related to the Alliance's strategic priorities. Alliance research and analysis may be conducted in partnership with the academic community and used in CEA reports, recommendations to government, or policy submissions.

4.4 **External Communications.** Communicate to stakeholders, the media and the public the economic, social, health and environmental benefits of climate action. This may include joint op-eds, letters-to-the-editor, media statements, press releases, reports, and blogs about the Alliance and its support for climate action.

4.5 **Government Relations.** Establish CEA working groups to advise and provide recommendations to government decision-makers as needed. Arrange meetings with government decision-makers to advance the Alliance's mandate.

4.6 **Events.** Organize and invite non-member stakeholders to conferences or summits that advance the Alliance's mandate.

4.7 **Outreach and Consensus-building.** Reach out to stakeholders and communities that have diverse perspectives about climate action, such as municipalities and rural and Northern Ontarians, to identify unlikely allies, enhance education and mutual understanding, and build consensus.

## 5. Effective Date

These Terms of Reference become effective upon approval by CEA members in March 2016.

## **Appendix 1: Steering Committee**

Dave Black, Cement Association of Canada

Keith Brooks, Environmental Defence

Cara Clairman, Plug n' Drive

Aaron Freeman, Pivot Strategic

Kim Jarvi, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

Gaby Kalapos, Clean Air Partnership

Julia Langer, Toronto Atmospheric Fund

Sarah Petrean, Clean Energy Canada

Mark Rowlinson, United Steelworkers