

Welcome to the
TAP-EDM Climate Action Forum

**“Canada in Action: Global and Local Solutions for
Climate Resilience”**

Showcasing Global Affairs Canada short-term technical assistance initiatives
by Alinea International in collaboration with CLIMAtlantic
Dalhousie Students Union Building, 6136 University Ave, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Climate Action Forum Part 1 - Panel Presentations

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

{Beginning of Facebook livestreaming}

- 12:30 PM **Janelle Frail**, Master of Ceremonies | CLIMAtlantic
Greetings and welcoming partners and guests
- ❖ **Joe Michael**, Mi'kmaw Elder | Land Acknowledgement and Welcome
- 12:45 PM ❖ **Carmela Prinzo**, Deputy Director, International Assistance Partnerships and Strategic Coordination, Global Affairs Canada
- ❖ **Christopher Yeomans**, Project Director | TAP-EDM, Alinea International
- 1:00 PM ❖ **Gordon Smith**, Keynote Speaker | pLAnsmith.ca, Principal
- 1:20 PM **Janelle Frail** Panel presentations & Moderation by **Wit Siemieniuk** | Alinea International
- ❖ **Sabine Dietz**, | CLIMAtlantic
Rising Sea Levels: Managing impacts from climate change in Atlantic Canada
 - ❖ **Samantha Page**, | Climate Risk Institute
Building Technical Capacity for Climate Resilient Infrastructure
 - ❖ **Simron Singh**, | University of Waterloo
Building on borrowed time: Why the “staying afloat” approach will not work for small islands.
- 1: 50 PM **Q & A Session with audience – moderated by Wit Siemieniuk**
- 2: 00 PM *Closing remarks Master of Ceremonies* | Janelle Frail, CLIMAtlantic

{End of Facebook livestreaming}

Break 2:00PM-2:15PM

Climate Action Forum Part 2 –World Café Panel Session

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

- 2:00 PM **World Café**
- ❖ **Janelle Frail** | MC - Introduce Session Facilitator
 - ❖ **Annie Desilets** | Facilitator

2:10 PM **Introduction of World Café Speakers**

International & National Climate Experts

- ❖ **Georgia Klein** | Associate Director, College of Sustainability, Dalhousie University
Close the Gap! Risk Awareness and Preparedness in Diverse Stakeholder Groups: Examples from a Local Case Study.
- ❖ **Kathy Adams** | TAP-EDM Expert, Philippines
Enhancing the environmental impact assessment process for mining in climate vulnerable regions of the Philippines.
- ❖ **Anne-Marie Saulnier** | TAP-EDM Expert, Peru
Building a green future: Sustainable procurement practices in Peru.
- ❖ **Khaddouj Benkhadra** | TAP-EDM Expert, Morocco
Support for heritage and expertise of the women of the “Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve” in Morocco

3:00 PM **Q & A Session**

- ❖ **Annie Desilets** | Facilitator

3:30 PM Closing Remarks | Acknowledgements

- ❖ **Janelle Frail**, MC | **Christopher Yeomans**, TAP-EDM Project Director

Reception | Networking Opportunity

3:35 PM **Grawood Pub, Dalhousie Students Union**
Join us to meet with local, national and international climate leaders and experts.
All welcome for appetizers.

Please consult additional information below on the Forum organizing team and partners as well as panelist, speakers, and special guest biographies.

About Forum Organizers and Partners

TAP-EDM

The Technical Assistance Partnership – Expert Deployment Mechanism (TAP-EDM)

Funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by [Alinea International](#), TAP-EDM is a short-term technical assistance initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of national institutions in partner countries to manage policies in a more inclusive and gender-sensitive way. In line with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, it integrates gender equality, climate action, environmental sustainability, human rights and good governance. With an investment of C\$18.75 million, this four-year project will involve more than 120 Canadian experts in 75 to 80 technical assistance initiatives designed to meet the capacity-development needs of beneficiary countries.

Alinea International

Alinea International provides technical and management expertise that helps people improve their lives, characterized by: teamwork, results-based project design, sustainability, participatory methodologies and local input and ownership. Inspired and governed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, our mission is to catalyze opportunity as partners in international development, providing our best people and expertise to contribute to sustainable economic, social and environmental development. We work with governments, investors, companies and communities to create verifiable and sustainable change. Over the past 35 years, we have successfully delivered more than 515 projects worldwide.

CLIMAtlantic

CLIMAtlantic facilitates access to regionally relevant climate information and supports its effective use in planning and decision making for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. We are user-driven, focusing on the needs of Indigenous communities, academia, provincial governments, municipalities, local service districts, non-profits, industry, and landowners. CLIMAtlantic works with all regional and local groups to ensure there is a strong network of collaboration, and data and tools are easily accessible. CLIMAtlantic was created in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS), all Atlantic Canada's Provincial governments, and the support from the Ecology Action Centre, New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN), and Aster Group.

Climate Risk Institute

The Climate Risk Institute (CRI) is a non-profit, academically affiliated organization focused on advancing practice and delivering services related to climate change risk assessment, adaptation planning, policy evaluation and resiliency. We run programs and develop and coordinate projects to mobilize knowledge, improve capacity, and deliver results for climate resiliency. We work closely with many partners across Canada and internationally and leverage the knowledge and skills of a strong group of Associates. At times, the most effective way to adapt to climate change is to mainstream climate considerations into existing planning and policy processes. CRI works with all levels of government, Indigenous communities, and private sector organizations to support the consideration of climate change in various planning and management processes, including enterprise risk management, hazard identification and risk assessment, corporate planning, infrastructure renewal and official plan development.

College of Sustainability at Dalhousie University

At the **College of Sustainability at Dalhousie University**, we are inspiring a new generation of leaders, for whom sustainability is second nature. The College brings distinguished thinkers and problem-solvers together in a unique way to examine and take action on our most urgent global issues. The faculty in the **ESS - Environment, Sustainability and Society program** are drawn from across the academic spectrum—and share one unwavering goal: to develop sustainable solutions that will preserve our planet for future generations.

Featured Speaker Biographies

Dr. Joe Michael |
 Land
 Acknowledgment

Mi'kmaw Indigenous Elder

Elder Joe Michael, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Acadia in 2019, is a highly regarded inspirational and spiritual leader within the Mi'kmaw Nation, Indigenous communities across Canada, and on Acadia's campus, particularly with students interested in learning traditional knowledge. He was recently appointed to the Mi'kmaq Grand Council. Elder Joe Michael was the first Mi'kmaw member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. During his 25-year RCMP career, he earned respect from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. He combined his traditional knowledge with contemporary policing practices to increase cross-cultural awareness and develop the RCMP's Aboriginal Community Policing model that remains part of the force's cadet training program in Regina.

Gordon Smith |
 Keynote Speaker

Gordon has over 35 years of consulting and government experience, having completed over 160 planning and design projects for a variety of public and private clients throughout Canada, the United States, and Botswana, Africa. Gordon began incorporating climate change considerations into his practice over 20 years ago and for the past decade, his work has focused on the issue with specialist knowledge in coastal issues and climate change adaptation. Gordons's range of experience from site design to provincial policy development has allowed him to understand how decisions at a macro-scale can influence decisions on a site and vice versa. Gordon is particularly interested in multi-disciplinary, collaborative work and how the successful interaction of different professions and stakeholders can add value to projects by creating innovative solutions to wicked problems and opportunities on a variety of levels.

Carmela Prinzo |
 Address from Global
 Affairs Canada

Deputy Director, Canadian Partnerships, International Assistance Partnerships and Strategic Coordination Bureau, International Assistance Partnerships and Programming Branch. Ms. Carmela Prinzo is an accomplished international management professional with over 20 years of experience at the former Canadian International Development Agency and Global Affairs Canada. She has held various roles spanning communications, international development project management, operations, and foreign socio-economic and development policy. Currently serving as Deputy Director in the Canadian Partnerships Division of Global Affairs Canada, she leads the Technical Assistance Partnership and Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation Unit.

Christopher Yeomans | Address from Alinea International

TAP-EDM Project Director, Alinea International

A leader in the international development sector for more than 25 years, Christopher has experience at the helm of several long-term overseas postings guiding large teams of interdisciplinary professionals from an intercultural and inclusive perspective to achieve sustainable change. Christopher has worked in over thirty countries around the world and currently serves as Project Director and Governance & Human Rights Advisor on the TAP-EDM Project for Alinea. Previously, he was Project Director of CISAL with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – a six-year municipal strengthening capacity development project in the Americas.

Panelists' Bios

Sabine Dietz | Forum Panelist

Executive Director, climate adaptation specialist, CLIMAtlantic

Sabine supports the CLIMAtlantic team practically and strategically, at the regional and national scale, and encourages new approaches towards achieving climate resiliency in Atlantic Canada. This earned her the prestigious 2025 Canada's Clean50 Award. She has worked as program and project coordinator on biodiversity conservation & education projects, as a co-program lead of the Maritimes Important Bird Areas Program, as Executive Director of Cape Jourimain Nature Centre, for Parks Canada as an ecosystem scientist, and as climate change adaptation consultant with Aster Group Environmental Services Co-op, of which she is a co-founder. She sits on the Board of Directors of Aster Foundation and is currently chair of Nature Canada.

Samantha Page | Forum Panelist

Senior Climate Resiliency Specialist, Climate Risk Institute

Samantha Page is a climate resiliency expert with over ten years of multi-sector experience managing and implementing climate adaptation projects and policies in Canada, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. She specializes in resilient infrastructure, coastal adaptation, risk and vulnerability assessments, policy development, municipal planning, climate finance, and building community and institutional capacity to respond to climate impacts. She spent two years in the Canadian Arctic supporting Indigenous climate action, led the Canada-wide Educating Coastal Communities About Sea-level Rise project, and was instrumental in launching the Coastal Protection Act in 2018. She currently leads the international team at the Climate Risk Institute and is managing technical assistance projects in Somalia, Kenya, and São Tomé & Príncipe.

Simron Singh | Forum Panelist

Professor and University Research Chair, University of Waterloo TAP Expert

Simron J. Singh is a professor at the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. Using the analogy that islands function like living organisms, he conducts socio-metabolic research to evaluate how small island economies utilize (or metabolize) materials, energy, water, and infrastructure. He investigates why and how these consumption patterns (or island metabolism) may accumulate “socio-metabolic risk” over time that increase their susceptibility to the challenges of climate change. He further analyzes how island economies can transition to a more sustainable, circular resource-use model, thereby bolstering their overall resilience to the impact of climate change. His research partnerships span island nations in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Asia-Pacific regions.

Janelle Frail |
 Forum Master of
 Ceremonies

Public Engagement & Operations | CLIMAtlantic

With a science degree in Environmental Studies and experience in adult education, Janelle is happy to be working to promote and connect for climate adaptation. She supports the CLIMAtlantic team with internal and external engagement and human resources support. Janelle thinks about the connections between environmental justice and international human rights and focuses on community building as part of her daily life. She is a white settler who lives on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq in Sipekne'katik (East Hants, NS).

Wit Semeniuk |
 Forum Moderator

TAP | Alinea Environment & Climate Action Advisor

With a background in environmental assessment, sustainability, social safeguards and climate change, Wit has more than 30 years of experience in international project delivery. Wit has worked extensively for the UK Disaster Recovery Rapid Response Plan for Overseas Territories Project, which provides technical expertise to six overseas territories post-hurricane in the Caribbean. Recently, he has been engaged in a Mongolia extractive sector project; Ethiopia agriculture project; Ukraine economic development and reform; and World Bank-financed Kabul solid waste management plan. Wit's background includes preparing environmental management plans and serving as the environment specialist for GAC-funded projects in Ghana, Egypt and Ukraine.

World Café Speakers' Bios

Georgia Klein |
 World Café Speaker

Associate Director of the College of Sustainability, College of Sustainability, Dalhousie University

Georgia Klein came to Canada in 2007 from Germany for Post Doc studies at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. Georgia was appointed in 2014 Faculty member as Senior Instructor at the College of Sustainability. She enjoys teaching, or co-teaching, many different SUST courses, and is excited to connect students with meaningful, local research projects through their Honours thesis or through independent studies. She is serving as the College's Associate Director. Georgia loves making connections and networking with people interested in change, both inside and outside the College. Georgia's favourite part of the College is the interaction with students and her colleagues and its unique "family" community feeling.

Kathy Adams |
 World Café Speaker

International Environment and Gender Advisor, TAP Expert

Kathy Adams has over 20 years of experience in environmental and social consulting and banking, applying environmental and social safeguards, impact assessment, and international standards to projects in Asia, South America, the Middle East, and Africa. Kathy has led environmental and social due diligence and project management work with multilateral development banks and international finance institutions in various sectors, including extractives, infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, and transportation.

**Anne- Marie
 Saulnier** |
 World Café Speaker

Sustainable Procurement Specialist, TAP Expert

Anne-Marie Saulnier is a Canadian with over 15 years of experience and expertise in sustainable procurement. She has been responsible for developing and implementing sustainable procurement policies and operational tools through consultation with senior management, internal teams, Canadian and overseas suppliers and external stakeholders, for Canadian and Québec governments, several towns and municipality, and public and private organizations.

Khaddouj Benkhadra
World Café Speaker

Digital Transformation and Knowledge Management, TAP Expert

Khaddouj Benkhadra has over 19 years of expertise in digital transformation and knowledge management. Her extensive experience has enabled her to guide numerous companies, both in the public and private sectors, through their digital transformation journeys and knowledge management initiatives.

Annie Desilets |
World Café
Facilitator

Facilitator

Annie has worked extensively in the humanitarian sector for over 20 years, starting as Project Coordinator with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in various settings. In the past 10 years, Annie has focused her offering as a consultant on Human Resources services including course facilitation. She has conducted over 30 courses in project countries, mostly in Leadership and Management with MSF, IFRC and the Canadian Red Cross.

A huge thank you to **Global Affairs Canada** for their support and funding of the 2024 Climate Action Forum. Working together to showcase the incredible efforts of Canadian experts to support poverty reduction and responding to the needs of national government partners in countries around the world.

This forum is presented to you by Alinea International's TAP-EDM

TAP-EDM - sharing Canada's greatest resource with the world, its people!

Canada's Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) Expert Deployment Mechanism (EDM) brings leaders from a diversity of sectors, backgrounds, genders, cultural identities and regions across Canada to share their expertise with partner countries around the world.

Thank you to our partners for their support in organizing this event!

A warm THANK YOU to all who participated!