

30 Climate COPs Later

Stories from
Canadian
Participants

Edited by
Thomas Burelli,
Alexandre Lillo,
Lauren Touchant,
Lynda Hubert Ta,
and Elie Klee



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Copy editing	Tanina Drvar
Proofreading	Robbie McCaw
Typesetting	Nord Compo
Cover design	Benoit Denault

Cover Image Pauline Stive



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List of Abbreviations

AAU:	Assigned Amount Unit
ACIA:	Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
ADNOC:	Abu Dhabi National Oil Company
AFN:	Assembly of First Nations
AGBM:	Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate
AOSIS:	Alliance of Small Island States
AR4:	Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC)
AWG-KP:	Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments
AWG-LCA:	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action
BINGO:	Business and Industry Non-Governmental Organizations
BOGA:	Beyond Oil and Gas
BRIC:	Brazil, Russia, India, and China
BRICS:	Group formed by 11 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran.
CAN:	Climate Action Network International
CAN-Rac:	Climate Action Network Canada/Réseau action climat
CBAM:	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
CCS:	Carbon Capture and Storage
CDM:	Clean Development Mechanism
CEO:	Corporate Europe Observatory
CERs:	Certified Reduction Units
CGE:	Consultative Group of Experts

CIEL: Centre for International Environmental Law
CMA: Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP: Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
COP: Conference of the Parties
CRFTQMM: FTQ Montreal Metropolitan Regional Council
CTCN: Climate Technology Centre and Network
EGTT: Expert Group on Technology Transfer
EITs: Economies in Transition
ENGO: Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations
ERUs: Emission Reduction Units
ET: Emissions Trading
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
FCM: Federation of Canadian Municipalities
FSC: Forest Stewardship Council
FTQ: Fédération des travailleurs et des travailleuses du Québec
FWG: Facilitative Working Group
G7: Group of 7 (consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States)
G20: Group of 20 (consisting of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States, along with the European Union and the African Union)
GCOS: Global Climate Observation System
GCF: Green Climate Fund
GEF: Global Environment Facility
GFANZ: Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero
GGA: Global Goal on Adaptation
GHG: Greenhouse Gas
GPG: Good Practice Guidance
GW: Global Witness
HFCs: Hydrofluorocarbons
HWP: Harvested Wood Product
IAS: Invasive Alien Species
IC3: Faculty of Environment and the Waterloo Climate Institute
ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC: Inuit Circumpolar Council

- IEA: International Energy Agency
IIPFCC: International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
IITC: International Indian Treaty Council
ILO: International Labour Organization
IMO: International Maritime Organization
INDC: Intended Nationally Determined Contributor
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPO: Indigenous Peoples organizations
IPU: International Parliamentary Union
IRP: Indigenous research paradigm
ITL: International Transaction Log
ITMO: Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes
ITUC: International Trade Union Confederation
IWGIA: International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs
JI: Joint Implementation
JISC: Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee
LCERs: Long-term Certified Emission Reductions
LCIPP: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDCs: Least Developed Countries
LDCF: Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG: Least Developed Countries Expert Group
LGMA: Local Governments and Municipal Authorities
LULUCF: Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry
MDB: Multilateral Development Bank
MDG: Millennium Development Goals
MP: Member of Parliament
MRV: Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
NAMAs: Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NCQG: New Collective Quantified Goal
NDC: Nationally Determined Contributor
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
NIO: National Indigenous Organization
ODA: Official Developmental Assistance
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAICC: Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee
PAWP: Paris Agreement Work Program
PCCB: Paris Committee on Capacity Building

PFCs: Perfluorocarbons
PNCCS: Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability
PPCA: Powering Past Coal Alliance
PSF: People's Social Forum
RINGO: Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations
SAR: Second Assessment Report (IPCCC)
SCCF: Special Climate Change Fund
SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
SBI: Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SST: Seychelles Support Team
TAR: Third Assessment Report (IPCC)
TCERs: Temporary Certified Reduction Units
TEC: Technology Executive Committee
TUNGO: Trade Union Non-Governmental Organization
UCLG: United Cities and Local Governments
UNCBD: United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID: United States Agency for International Development
WCI: Western Climate Institute
WEF: World Economic Forum
WGC: Women and Gender Constituency
WIM: Warsaw International Mechanism
WHO: World Health Organization
WSF: World Social Forum
WTO: World Trade Organization
WWF: World Wildlife Fund
YOUNGO: Youth Non-Governmental Organization

Introduction

*Thomas Burelli, Alexandre Lillo, Elie Klee,
Lynda Hubert Ta, and Lauren Touchant*

1. 30 Years On, Time to Take Stock

November 2025 marks a major milestone in the history of the fight against climate change. This is the moment when the international community will “celebrate” the 30th edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This international agreement is also blowing out its 33rd candle.

Thirty times, state delegations from over 190 countries have met in an attempt to curb climate change. *Thirty times*, the decisions taken have proved insufficient in the face of the scale and complexity imposed by climate change. *Thirty times*, major compromises have been made—often to the benefit of Western economic models dependent on fossil fuels—by the international community.

Today, scientific forecasts are ever more alarmist, and the essential drastic societal changes that could trigger hope continue to be postponed. Let us be clear: We are slowly approaching, day after day, COP after COP, an apocalyptic scenario worthy of the—worst?—Hollywood movies. This reality is already a fact for certain regions of the world that are not fortunate enough to live sufficiently above sea level or to have the financial, technological, and material resources to protect themselves.

Through a wide range of diverse and often deeply personal stories, this important work paints a vivid picture of the anger, ambition, boredom, concern, courage, disappointment, failure, success, determination and, ultimately, [...] of the hope that comprises the global climate change talks determining our collective future.

– Timothy Hodges, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

As the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conferences—or Conference of the Parties (COP)—approaches, a vital question is being raised: have climate negotiations truly delivered progress?

For over 30 years, the COPs have brought together world leaders, scientists, diplomats, and activists to shape the global climate agenda. *30 Climate COPs Later* offers a rare, insiders' view of these high-stakes gatherings through the voices of Canadian diplomats, researchers, journalists, NGO leaders, and policymakers.

With candid reflections and first-hand stories, the contributors reveal key moments of triumph, frustration, and transformation—shedding light on Canada's evolving role in climate diplomacy.

From breakthrough agreements to missed opportunities, *30 Climate COPs Later* offers an essential reading for students, professionals, and for all those concerned about the future of our climate.

Thomas Burelli, Civil Law Section, Faculty of Law, uOttawa.

Alexandre Lillo, Sciences juridiques, Université du Québec à Montréal.

Lynda Hubert Ta, Civil Law Section, Faculty of Law, uOttawa.

Lauren Touchant, Political Studies, Vancouver Island University.

Elie Klee, Ph.D. student, uOttawa and Aix Marseille Université.

Contributors: Christophe Aura, Caroline Brouillette, Miyuki Qiajunnguaq Daorana, Dane de Souza, Dalee Sambo Dorrough, Rosa Galvez, Kate Gillis, Piita Irniq, Richard Kinley, Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, Alexina Kublu, Susie-Ann Kudluk, Jean Lemire, Elizabeth May, David Miller, Sara Olsvig, Mark Purdon, Graeme Reed, Patrick Rondeau, Anne Simpson, Dominique Souris, John Stackhouse, Catherine Stewart, Berry Vrbancovic, and Sheila Watt-Cloutier.

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