

# Real People, Real Change: Strategies for Just Energy Transitions

## Case of Canada

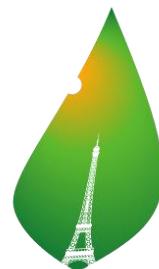
Presented by Yuliia Oharenko  
14 June 2019





# What is a just transition?

- JT is context-dependent: it is a shared, negotiated vision and process supported by a set of guiding principles
- JT mentioned as “imperatives” in the Paris Agreement
- ILO’s *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all* focus on workers in all sectors
- International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC) and other organisations stress the importance of social dialogue in the JT process
- Different groups interpret JT differently



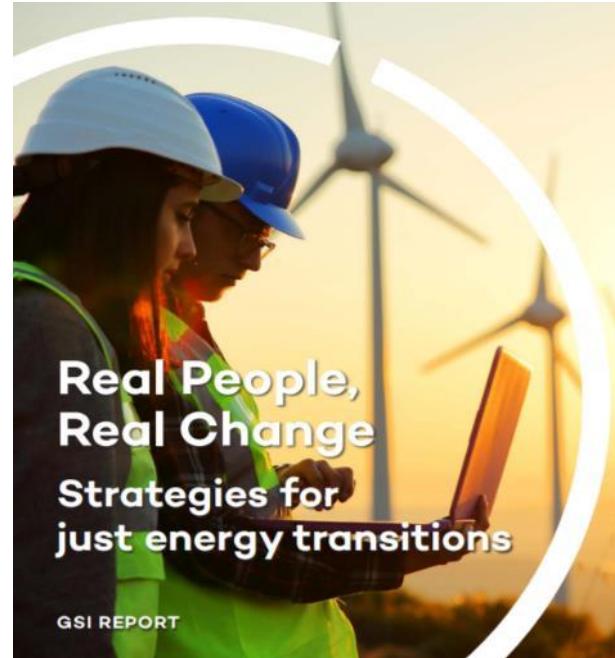
PARIS2015  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
COP21·CMP11



# What do we mean by Just Energy Transitions”?



- Energy transitions are about people who make decisions that lead to transitions and are ultimately affected by them.
- IISD’s “[Real People, Real Change: Strategic for just energy transitions](#)” stresses the commonality of approaches and lessons learned from energy transitions for protecting both fossil fuel industry workers and fossil fuel consumers.



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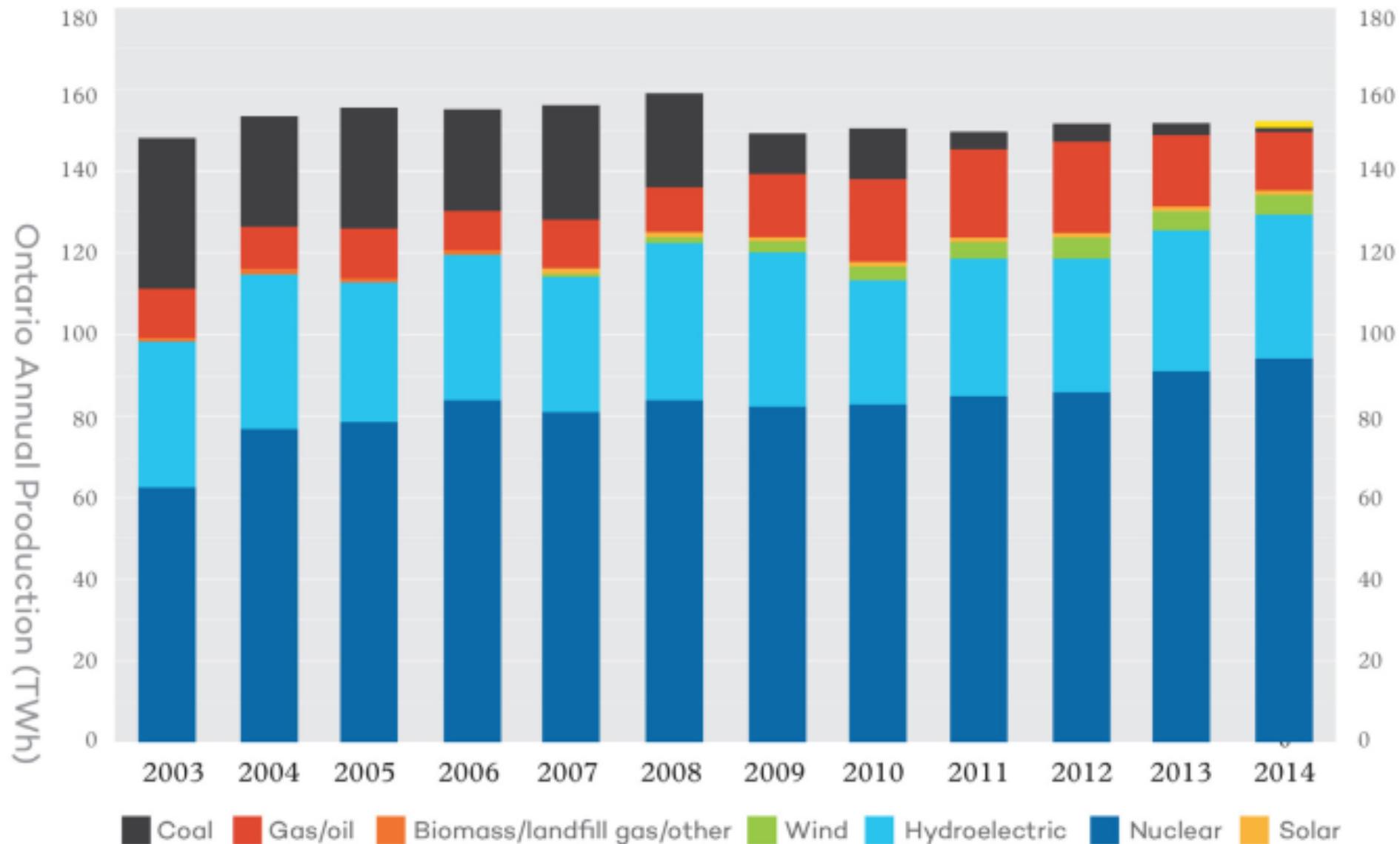
<https://www.iisd.org/library/real-people-real-change-strategies-just-energy-transitions>



# IISD's “Four Cs” Framework

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Context (e.g.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy sector structure and ownership</li><li>• Resource endowment</li><li>• Employment</li><li>• International commitments</li><li>• Beliefs and values</li></ul> | <b>Champions (e.g.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activists</li><li>• Politicians</li><li>• Trade unions</li><li>• Government officials</li><li>• Industry</li><li>• Broad-based consultations with stakeholders</li></ul>                                      |
| <b>Case for Reform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health</li><li>• Climate change</li><li>• Energy security</li><li>• Jobs</li><li>• Alternative solutions</li></ul>  | <b>Complementary and Just Transition Policies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social protection</li><li>• Retraining, early retirement and new jobs</li><li>• Targeted support to consumers</li><li>• Support to renewable energy and energy efficiency</li></ul> |

# Ontario's coal power phase-out



# Alberta's coal power phase-out



- In November 2015, the Canadian province of Alberta committed to a phase-out of coal power by 2030:  
=> retirement of over 40% of installed capacity and the de facto phase-out of local thermal coal mines.
- Coal phase-out is part of the province's wider Climate Leadership Plan. Funding for 1 and 2 comes from carbon tax revenue.
- Alberta's government relies on three pillars:
  1. CAD 1.1 billion payout to coal power companies under Off-Coal Agreements;
  2. CAD 45 million has been allocated in programming to transition coal workers and communities
  3. Launched a new electricity market design to bring in replacement power.  
=> This gained the support of organized labour organisations, power companies, public health advocates, environmental non-governmental organizations and the federal government

# Decision of the federal government on coal power phase-out by 2029



MAP OF COAL-FIRED GENERATING  
STATIONS AND THERMAL COAL  
MINES IN CANADA



## Alberta

- ① Battle River Generating Station
- ② Genesis Generating Station
- ③ H.R. Munro Generating Station
- ④ Keelefoot Generating Station
- ⑤ Sheerness Generating Station
- ⑥ Sundance Generating Station

- ⑦ Coal Valley Mine
- ⑧ Genesee Mine
- ⑨ Highlevel Mine
- ⑩ Palmworth Mine
- ⑪ Sheerness Mine

## Saskatchewan

- ⑫ Boundary Dam Power Station
- ⑬ Poplar River Power Station
- ⑭ Shand Power Station

- ⑮ Estevan Mine

- ⑯ Poplar River Mine



# Example of the Canadian Just Transition Task Force for Coal Power Workers and Communities



- Task Force was launched by Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna on April 25, 2018
- 11 member task force representing Labour, Industry, ENGOs, Academics
- Mandated to engage stakeholders and offer suggestions on: scale and impacts of coal phase out; Opportunities to transition workers and communities; leveraging funds to support transition; and gaps in policy and programs to support transition
- Visited 15 communities, met with 80 stakeholders, hosted 8 public engagement sessions across the country; toured five generating stations, two coal mines and one port.
  - Key approach in listening intently to stakeholder concerns and identifying potential responses - workers and communities must be at the heart of decision-making

# Key recommendations of the Task Force



On 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 TF released report with their findings recommends federal spending “well into the hundreds of millions of dollars” on a long list of new infrastructure, financial and jobs programs, employment training and other solutions. Examples of recommendations:

- "pension bridging program" for workers who will retire earlier than planned due to the phase-out;
- a jobs program to provide affected workers with employment insurance benefits of up to 75 per cent of income for two years, and wage top-ups of up to 90 per cent of previously-earned income for up to two years for workers that get lower-wage jobs;
- establishment of locally-run transition centres are an important resource, serving as a hub where information on re-employment and skills training can be shared, connections can be made and education and financial services offered
- Other recommendations include funding for continuing private healthcare coverage, for education and skills building and to offset the expense of travel or relocating for new employment.

# Conclusion: How to Enable Just Transitions?

- Communicating the right message to the right audience can create buy-in from the broad base of stakeholders.
- Transparency and consultation ensure decisions are not taken behind “closed doors”.
- Understanding the local context is key: there is no blueprint to a Just Transition.
- It is important to mainstream Just Transition in other economic sectors as well.





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# Thank you for your attention!

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#JustTransition #CoalTransition #FossilFuelSubsidies



# Further reading from IISD

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