



④ DEFINING ROLES

② COMMON LANGUAGE

③ MOTIVATION

ETRICS

INNOVATION

DEFINE

UNDERSTANDING

PRINCIPLES

NEEDS TO

INFORMATION

INFORM

TECHNOLOGY

ADAPTATION

STRATEGIC

PLANNING

PROTECT

THE

OUTPUT

WITH

THE

ATTITUDE

DRIVING

LEGALS

digital platform

annual inquiry policy based

digital educational

- accessible to everyone

- option for people who can't use digital device / internet

YOUTH & CLIMATE JOBS ARE CRITICAL TO A COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY

RESEARCH BRIEF

www.youthclimatelab.org



Youth Climate Lab

SUMMARY

Youth Climate Lab conducted a study to assess if youth unemployment and climate action were considered in COVID-19 recovery responses. We had a hunch that they weren't and we were right! Our study revealed youth employment in climate-related sectors - i.e. key sectors critical to a just and sustainable recovery out of the pandemic-caused economic recession - were barely mentioned in Canadian and global COVID-19 economic response policies released thus far. These findings highlight the potential for countries like Canada to be leaders in paving the way for a better, brighter future for all.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT RATES IN CANADA

- The youth unemployment rate was 15.5% in December 2020; higher than pre-pandemic levels and the highest percentage amongst all age groups
- Canadian youth unemployment rates are higher than the UK (14.5%) and US (12.5%)
- It could easily take a decade before Canada's youth recover economically from COVID-19

ARE GLOBAL AND CANADIAN POLICIES ADDRESSING YOUTH AND CLIMATE GAPS?

We used the International Monetary Fund's "Policy Responses to COVID-19" tracker to assess 197 countries' consideration of youth and climate in their COVID-19 response policies.

Here's what we found:

- 10.1% of countries considered topics relating to climate change; 9.6% of countries considered various facets of youth
- Only 1.5% of countries considered both climate and youth in their economic response policies
- Canada's "build back better" plan intends to:
 - Invest >\$1 billion in youth jobs and skill development over the next 2 years
 - Eliminate the repayment of the federal portion of student loans
 - Make climate action a priority and create 1 million jobs; however, analysts have criticized the federal government's monetary allocation as being too weak and only 20% of what is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions



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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

The following recommendations have been made with respect to investing in youth and climate within economic recovery policies. We propose that all levels of governments commit to:

1. Provide funding and investment in youth education and skills training
 - a. Education funding, grants, and scholarships tied to climate and environment fields
 - b. Financing for low-interest student loans, student debt relief, and student loan forgiveness
 - c. Essential and technical skills for youth in early career stages to embark on work that bolsters a low carbon economy
2. Provide funding and investment in employment creation and employment support programs for youth within green sectors to fight climate change
 - a. Employment support programs
 - b. Career guidance and coaching
 - c. Mentorship and networking opportunities

3. Provide funding and investment dedicated to ensuring job growth in sectors related to green recovery as suggested by policy experts surveyed in this study. Including, but not limited to, job growth in:
 - a. Renewable Energy
 - b. Nature-based Climate Solutions
 - c. Public Health
 - d. Public Transportation

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM OUR STUDY?

Fostering growth in low-carbon sectors through the employment of youth will catalyze a wide range of new employment opportunities; this is a rare opportunity to "build back better." Let's support the youth of today and the future by making them pillars in this recovery response.



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WHO IS THIS STUDY RELEVANT TO?

This study is relevant to policymakers, government bodies, intergovernmental agencies, financial industry, and institutional investors that are involved in public financing for economic recovery packages. This study has taken Canadian and international perspectives into account and the recommendations can be utilized by Canadian governments of all levels and may be useful to national government agencies in other countries around the world.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE STUDY

This study was conducted by researchers from the University of Waterloo's School of Environment, Enterprise and Development, in partnership with Youth Climate Lab, and made possible by funding received from Mitacs.

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To read the full study click [here](#).