

26 Canadian Climate Champions Announced Ahead of COP26 in UK and Canada Live Event

Today the British High Commission and the Canada Climate Law Initiative announced 26 'Canadian Climate Champions'. They have been identified as exceptional individuals actively working to move Canada to net-zero emissions.

Among those chosen are current Canadian Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and former Environment Minister, The Honorable Catherine McKenna as well as renowned environmentalist David Suzuki, Co-Founder of the David Suzuki Foundation.

Today's [livestream event](#) marks six months to the UK hosted COP26 Climate Change Conference due to take place in Glasgow. The 26 Canadian Climate Champions identified are working in many different sectors and industries across the country, coming from many different generations and lived experiences, all with a common goal to lower carbon emissions and drive forward a clean energy future. They offer a snapshot of the growing number of Canadians, and people around the world, working to help protect our planet.

Canadian Climate Champion, Minister McKenna, alongside British High Commissioner, Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque, delivered the event's keynote address. Minister McKenna was chosen for her work in expanding parks and protected areas across Canada. In her former role as Canada's Environment Minister, she helped negotiate the Paris Climate Agreement, negotiated Canada's first comprehensive climate plan with a national price on pollution, and reduced plastics in our oceans. She has also been an ardent promoter of innovation and investments in the clean tech sector.

The event also featured an address from two Climate Champions on the critical need to act urgently on climate change, including David Suzuki. Dr. David Suzuki has been a lifelong environmental activist and is well known for his television series 'The Nature of Things' on CBC which has educated millions of Canadians on the importance of the natural world and conservation. He has written and co-authored 54 books (18 for children) and has received numerous awards, including a UNESCO prize for science and the Companion of the Order of Canada. David Suzuki was followed by Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Founder of Sacred Earth Solar and Just Transition Director of Indigenous Climate Action, who has been working on social, environmental and climate justice issues for the past 20 years.

Today's event is an opportunity to celebrate those leading efforts towards net-zero carbon emissions. It also highlights Canada and the UK's shared commitment and dedication to addressing climate change and holding global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees.

The UK and Canada are proud to celebrate the many exceptional individuals that work tirelessly towards achieving net-zero. Today's event recognises the critical work of these 26 Climate Champions as we all turn our attention to COP26 and the next steps in our global efforts to tackle climate change.

David Suzuki, Co-Founder, David Suzuki Foundation, and Host of CBC's The Nature of Things

Meeting the challenge of anthropogenic climate change must transcend political partisanship and economic barriers and we have very little time.

Susan Le Jeune d'Allegreshecque, British High Commissioner to Canada:

We are at a turning point for our planet and urgent change is needed now to address the existential threat of climate change. Ahead of COP26, the UK is leading by example through ambitious climate action. We are also working with partners around the world, including in our collaboration with Canada, to drive climate action forward. Because climate change won't be addressed by one country alone, but through the collective work of many. It is in this spirit that we recognise these 26 Canadian Climate Champions, who are helping to move Canada to net-zero emissions and actively working to build a clean energy future for all.

Dr. Janis Sarra, Principal Co-Investigator at the Canada Climate Law Initiative and Professor of law at the Peter A. Allard School of Law:

Canadian courts have now recognized that climate change poses an existential threat to humanity, and globally, we are now facing tipping-points that will have irreversible effects. Canada must begin to lead by example in an ambitious shift toward net-zero emissions, a circular economy, sustainable finance, and protection of biodiversity. The Canada Climate Law Initiative celebrates the Champions that are working towards meeting those goals in a fair and equitable manner, in full partnership with Indigenous Peoples, businesses, and communities across the country.

List of Canadian Climate Champions

See attached word document for more information about the Climate Champions, including a short biography and their vision for COP26 and how Canada can reach net zero.

[Climate Champion Storybook](#) (PDF, 374KB, 16 pages)

About COP26

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November, 2021. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26. To learn more visit <https://ukcop26.org/>

About the British High Commission Ottawa

The British High Commission in Ottawa, is the UK government's main diplomatic mission in Canada. Along with Consulates-General in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, we work closely with the Canadian government and partners across the country to develop and maintain a wide range of substantive partnerships of real value to both countries. These partnerships cover business, defense, climate change, science and innovation, education, and culture.

About the Canada Climate Law Initiative

The Canada Climate Law Initiative (CCLI) is a cross-disciplinary research initiative that advances the understanding of climate governance across Canada through research, dialogue and knowledge sharing. CCLI conducts rigorous legal analysis and consult with a national network of 66 Canadian Climate Governance Experts to bring up-to-date governance knowledge and tools to corporate and pension boards across Canada. CCLI is led by three principal investigators, Dr. Janis Sarra and Dr. Carol Liao from the Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, and Professor Cynthia Williams from the Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

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[UK-India deepen work on climate change on the road to successful COP26](#)

World news story

The UK and India agreed on urgent action to tackle climate change through new, shared commitments during today's leader-level call.



- UK and India agree joint roadmap including plans to combat climate change by 2030, as Prime Ministers meet virtually
- It includes new collaboration on clean energy transition and protecting forests, and joint leadership to develop resilient infrastructure in climate vulnerable countries
- The roadmap will support global efforts to limit global temperature rises and achieve an ambitious outcome at COP26

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed off on a new shared roadmap during their virtual meeting that includes measures to help limit global temperature rises and support the communities most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

They reaffirmed their personal commitment to work together for an ambitious outcome at the COP26 climate summit in November and sustained action beyond.

COP26 President-Designate Alok Sharma said:

The UK and India share a longstanding partnership and I am greatly encouraged by the steps we have taken today to bolster our joint efforts on tackling climate change.

If the world is to become net zero by the middle of the century and keep 1.5 degrees in reach, everyone must work together to make real change for a cleaner, greener planet.

I am proud of the close collaboration on this crucial issue which our two countries have forged, especially during this very difficult time for India as it battles with Covid.

The roadmap sets out an ambitious agenda for UK-India collaboration on

fighting climate change, including:

- A new partnership on clean energy transition, which will drive progress on development of renewables like offshore wind, improved energy efficiency and storage, and advances in electric mobility. Both countries also committed to collaborating on green hydrogen.
- Jointly launch a new global Green Grids Initiative at COP26 for countries to work together on interconnected grids for renewable energy, to help deliver India's vision of One Sun One World One Grid
- Joint action through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), which the UK and India co-chair. This will support Small Island Developing States to prepare for the impacts of climate change by bolstering their infrastructure.
- Positioning the UK and India as global leaders on biodiversity through strengthening collaboration to protect and restore nature, including through a new joint partnership on forests. This will strengthen how we share expertise and information and accelerate a global transition to more sustainable supply chains by bringing together producer and consumer countries of forest risk commodities to share ideas and take action.
- The two sides will explore the possibility of enhanced partnerships with major private finance leaders, including with the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative, to mobilise both public and private finance for green development.
- A new phase of collaboration on the India Energy Security Scenarios Calculator initiative, to support climate policy and planning.

India and the UK have also welcomed climate action by businesses and encouraged other companies to do the same. Businesses who have recently made Net Zero commitments through the UN's 'Race to Zero' campaign include the Neev Fund, Engineering Export Promotion Council of India, Gayam Motor Works, M/s Claro Energy Ltd, Commonwealth Inclusive Growth Services Ltd, Evolve India, Suryadesh, Rolls Royce, Diageo and Grundfos Pumps India Pvt. Ltd.

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Published 4 May 2021

[Government makes progress on Economic Crime Plan to tackle fraud and economic crime](#)

The government has today published an update on its progress in tackling economic crime and delivering on its ambition to ensure the UK remains a transparent, safe and open place for global business.

The Economic Crime Plan, launched in 2019 following approval by the Economic Crime Strategic Board (ECSB), set out an ambitious programme of work to tackle fraud and money laundering and set out how the UK's public and private sectors would work together to improve our response to economic crime.

The [statement of progress](#) today is published following a meeting of the ECSB in February. It sets out how the government has worked through the coronavirus pandemic to tackle economic criminals and disrupt hostile actors.

The statement of progress shows:

- improved understanding of the threat – including through the third publication of the UK's National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and the setting up of a "Fusion Cell" in the National Economic Crime Centre
- addressing vulnerabilities in the system – including by updating anti-money laundering requirements
- investment in law enforcement – an extra £63 million for the Home Office to drive efforts in dealing with economic crime and cracking down on fraud

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I will not tolerate criminals lining their pockets with dirty money at the expense of law-abiding citizens.

This statement shows we have made progress, but it's vital we continue to work with the private sector and law enforcement to win the fight against economic crime.

John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury said:

Our collective efforts have already made it harder for criminals to abuse the UK's global financial centre but there remains a lot to do. It is crucial that we continue to work closely with public and private sector partners to understand the threat, address vulnerabilities and crack down on illicit financial activity.

The ECSB is a government taskforce chaired by the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that works with senior figures from the UK financial, legal accountancy, insurance and property sectors to tackle economic crime, to protect the public and industry from scammers and fraudsters.

The forward delivery plan within the statement of progress includes measures to tackle illicit finance cracking down on a range of threats that underpin cash-based money laundering, such as using money mules. The plan is underpinned by seven key actions, building on the original actions within the Economic Crime Plan and further stepping up the level of ambition.

The government will continue to work closely with the private sector to ensure the UK's status as a global financial centre and the ease of doing business cannot be taken advantage of by criminals.

[Turning ambition into action for adaptation to the effects of climate change ahead of COP26](#)

Good afternoon. And thank you to everyone for joining this event, and to our German friends for co-hosting it.

It is a real pleasure to help to launch this water sector initiative today.

For too long, adaptation has been the poor cousin of mitigation.

And – I can tell you – adaptation is very much a top priority for the UK's COP26 Presidency.

That is why the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, launched the Adaption

Action Coalition earlier this year, with our friends in Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, Netherlands and St Lucia.

And I am very pleased so many members are with us at this event to share their experiences.

The AAC builds on the Call to Action I launched with partners when I was UK Secretary of State for International Development, in 2019.

It's about converting the political ambition into action.

So it is fantastic to see the AAC going strong, with this first event today. And, of course, its first international collaboration: the water tracker.

We all know that, even if we reached net zero today, the world would still need to deal with significant climate shocks and disruption.

And too often, water is a casualty.

Whether through droughts, floods, or sea level rises, extreme weather events make it harder for communities to access clean water.

This impacts health, it impacts livelihoods, food production and more. And ultimately threatens economic growth.

But the very fact that water is so fundamental to life means responsibility is split between many different areas of individual governments.

Policies can suffer from a lack of integration, and are harder to fund as a result.

The tracker the Adaptation Action Coalition is launching today seeks to tackle those problems.

And look at how water can be integrated across countries' Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and national climate plans, creating detailed, consistent plans to help attract public and private funding, and demonstrating the impact we can have when we work together.

This tracker is supported by the UK, and delivered in partnership with the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, Sanitation and Water for All, as well as the Global Water Partnership.

I very much look forward to hearing in Glasgow later this year about the progress that has been made.

And I wish you the very best for your discussion today, which is about putting the vital ambitions of the AAC into practice.

And of course helping to create a safer, more resilient world for all of us.

Thank you.

UK-India agree partnership to boost work visas for Indian nationals

- Unique agreement includes special Young Professionals scheme to allow young Indian and British professionals to work and live in each other's country for two years – the first such scheme for a visa-national country (countries which require visit visas to visit the UK).
- Milestone deal builds on previous announcement of new post-study Graduate Route (opening on 1 July 2021).
- The 'Migration and Mobility Partnership' will protect those who migrate lawfully to the UK – the vast majority of Indian nationals – by enhancing cooperation in combatting organised immigration crime and speeding up returns of visa overstayers.
- Partnership forms part of the UK Government's commitment to deliver an immigration system that attracts talented individuals from India and around the world, whilst enhancing UK-India cooperation on ensuring the system is fair and secure.

The UK and India have today signed an ambitious new migration partnership, which will see both countries benefit from a new scheme for young Indian and British professionals to live and work in one another's countries.

Home Secretary Priti Patel and Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar today (4 May) signed the 'Migration and Mobility Partnership', which aims to make it easier for British and Indian nationals to live and work in each other's countries, whilst also enhancing cooperation on combatting immigration crime and fraud.

This historic agreement is part of the UK Government's commitment to deliver an immigration system that attracts the best and brightest individuals from India and around the world. It also enhances UK-India cooperation to protect the great many Indian nationals who obey immigration rules, by stopping unfair manipulation of the system by a small minority who breach the terms of their visas or enter the UK illegally.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

The UK Government is committed to deliver an immigration system that offers clear opportunities to the brightest and best talent

from India and around the world to come to the UK to study, work and live. This ground-breaking new partnership with India is an important milestone in delivering on that commitment.

It will give greater freedom and opportunity to thousands of young people in the UK and India wanting to experience each other's cultures, whilst also ensuring that we can work together to protect the vast majority of Indian nationals who do play by the rules.

British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis, said:

This past year has shown what the UK and India can achieve to address shared challenges – from our best and brightest delivering a Covid-19 vaccine at record-breaking speed to the invaluable medical supplies we have provided each other.

The landmark Migration and Mobility Partnership announced today will create new opportunities for young Indian professionals in the UK whilst also enhancing cooperation to ensure our system supports genuine workers and students.

Indian student numbers to the UK are growing fast, and nearly half of all UK skilled work visas go to Indian professionals – contributing significantly to shared prosperity and mutual understanding. I'm confident the new the post-study Graduate Route and Young Professionals scheme will significantly increase those numbers.

The deal builds on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ambition to deliver a quantum leap in the UK's bilateral relationship with India.

The agreement will allow thousands of 18-30-year-olds to work and live in each other's country for up to two years. This professional and cultural exchange programme will work in a similar way to current Youth Mobility Schemes, with India being the first visa national country (i.e. those countries which require visas to visit the UK) to benefit from this.

It will allow up to 3,000 young Indian professionals to come to the UK through this route each year.

India is already benefitting from the UK's new points-based immigration system, which assesses applicants based on their skills and talent rather than where they are from.

According to the most recent statistics, more than 53,000 Indian students came to the UK to study last year, up 42% on the previous year. Nearly a quarter of all international students in the UK are from India. In addition, the new post-study Graduate Route – offering eligible graduates 2-3 years to stay back after studies in the UK – will open for applications on 1 July 2021, offering yet another route for talented young Indians to build careers

and experience in the UK.

The agreement will improve the process around the return of Indian nationals with no legal right to stay in the UK and vice versa, and ensure greater co-operation around organised immigration crime.

This is part of a wider joint UK-India effort to tackle organised immigration crime. The agreement commits both countries to regular dialogue between Ministers and officials in this area for the first time and will include the sharing of best practice and training on matters including document fraud and border security.

Further information

The full text of the Migration and Mobility Partnership is available on [Gov.UK](#).

A “visa national country” refers to countries which require visitor visas to enter the UK as a visitor or for any other purpose for less than six months. A full list of visa national countries can be found [here](#).

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