

Applying and Equity Lens to Climate Action Planning and Actions

Proceedings from the Workshop
held on Oct 30, 2020



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The regional climate advisor initiative is offered through the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program, which is delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and funded by the Government of Canada. This initiative supports communities that are members of the FCM–ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take action on climate change. PCP is a partnership between FCM and ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability. For more information, visit fcm.ca/pcp.

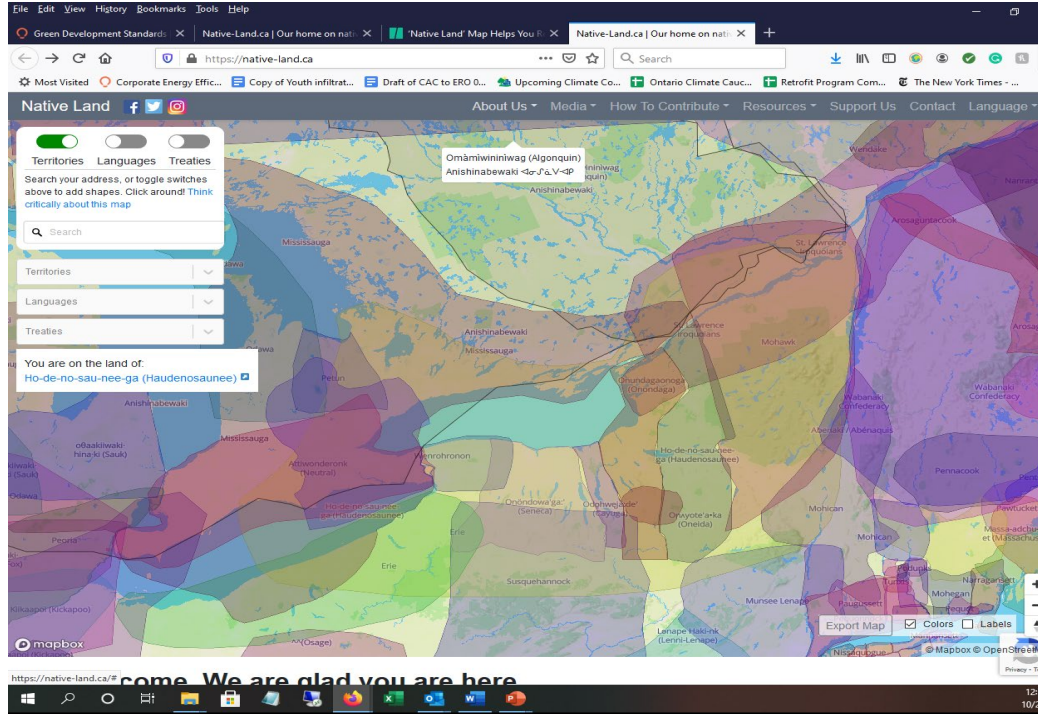
Content

1. Know the land you live on
2. Resources to support the understanding of environmental injustice, racism and inequality in our society (and in ourselves)
3. Menti Questions
 - Challenges you encountered/will encounter in incorporating equity into climate action planning
 - What are the climate action areas where equity considerations should be prioritized?
 - Challenges you encountered/would encounter in incorporating equity considerations into climate actions
 - What departments within your municipality may have more experience in incorporating equity into their planning/consultations/services?
 - What supports are needed to enable your efforts to advance equity considerations?

Land Acknowledgements

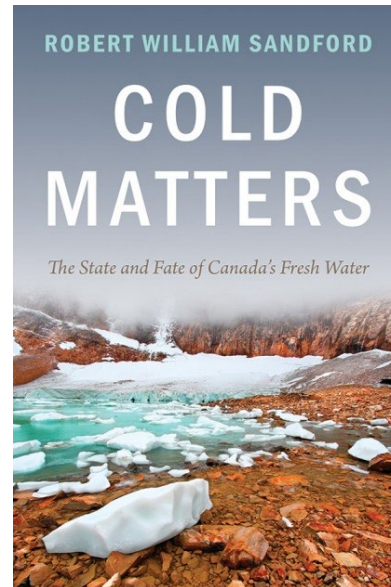
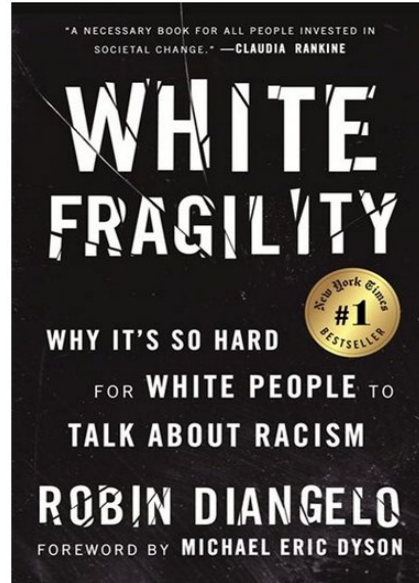
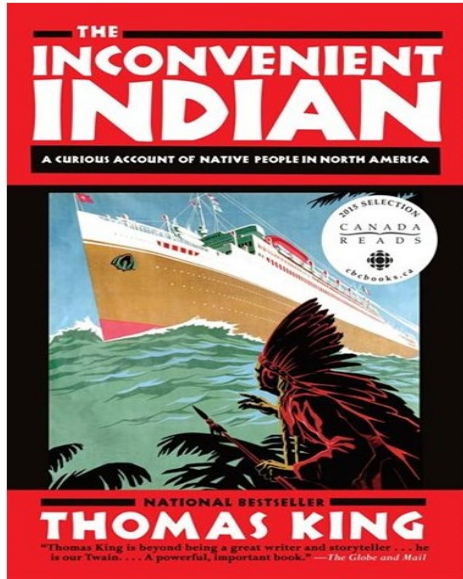
Recognizing and acknowledging that I am situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the “Dish With One Spoon” Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

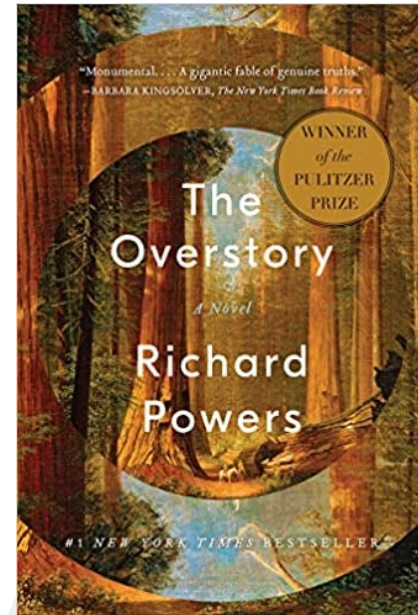
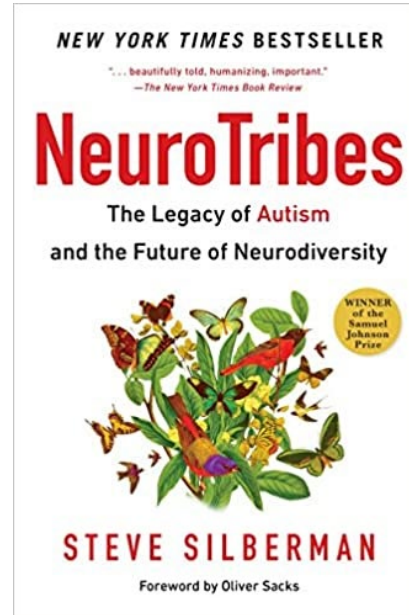
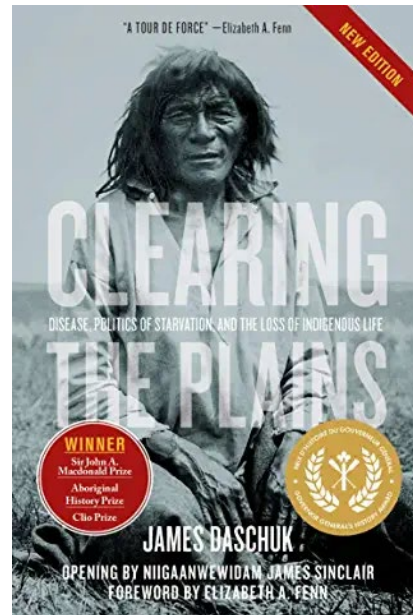
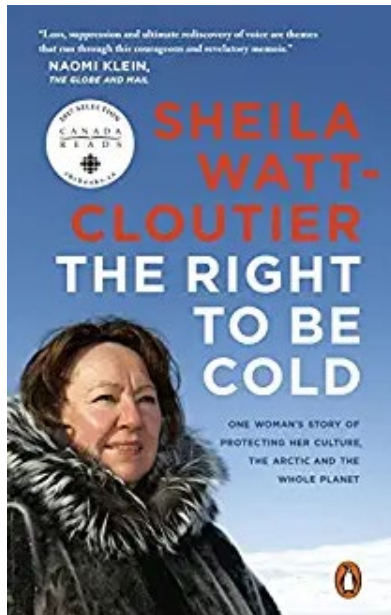
<https://native-land.ca/>

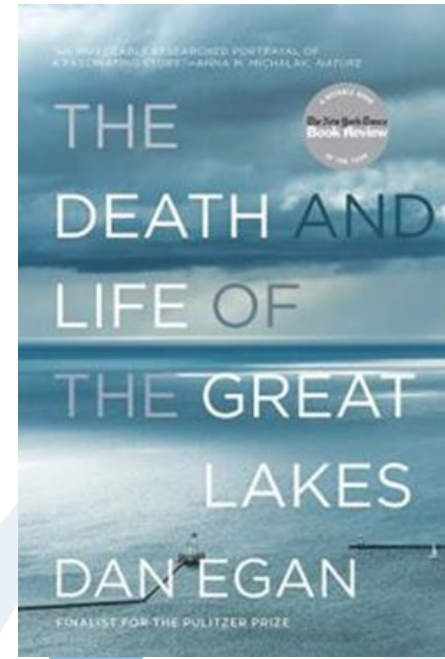
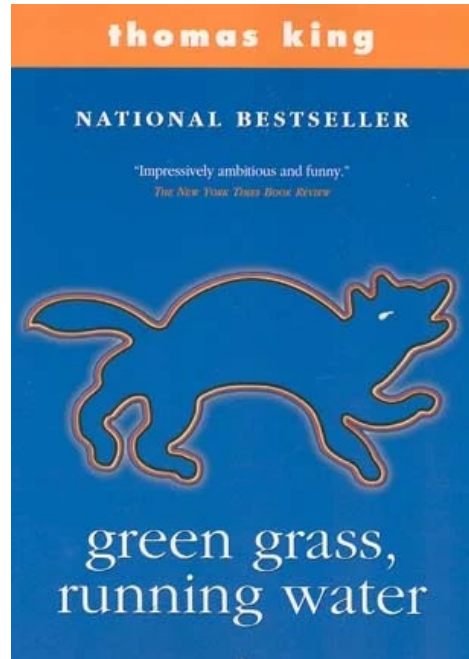
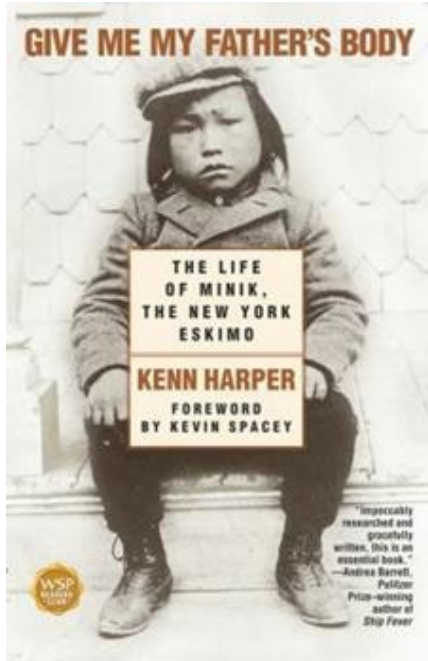


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Books







Webinars/Podcasts/Articles

- [Defund To Reallocate: A Community Teach In](#) (webinar recording shared on Facebook page) by [African Caribbean Black Network Waterloo Region](#) - A network focused on reducing social, political and economic barriers for people of African, Caribbean, and Black descent
- [THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WHITE SUPREMACY CULTURE](#) (article)
- [How to solve climate change and make life more awesome](#)(podcast) - Ezra Klein Show with Saul Griffiths
- [So you want to talk about race](#) (audiobook)- Ijeoma Oluo
- [How to be An Anti-Racist](#) (audiobook) - Ibram X Kendi
- [Winding - A River Story](#) (Israeli documentary)
- [How to Save a Planet](#) (podcast)

Others

- [2018 Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline](#)
- [Climate Change Toolkit for Health Professionals](#) - Module 7 of the Climate Change Toolkit for Health Professionals addresses the policies and programs that have been implemented by communities across the country to protect people from climate change impacts and/or to increase community resiliency. Vulnerable populations are considered throughout.
- [OPHA #MakeItBetter Campaign](#) - This project by Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) in partnership with leading health and environmental organizations is working to protect children's health.
- [Energy Poverty](#) by Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners (CUSP) - Energy poverty affects households with diverse income ranges, and individuals who live in a variety of housing types all across Canada. CUSP created Energy Poverty and Equity Explorer tool to help the understanding and addressing energy poverty, and support policymakers to progress on a number of these critical priorities and ensure we "leave no one behind" in the low-carbon transition.
- [Low Income Energy Network](#) (LIEN) - The low-income energy programs' design explicitly recognize that there cannot be upfront capital contribution requirements from the participants, and also that the programs need to be "turnkey" - the residents in these programs need to be left with fully functional results and not, for example, having to finish work such as wall finishes etc.
- [Town of Ajax map on social vulnerability in relation to heat island and tree coverage](#) - This study examined the relationship between tree stress and climate variables such as temperature and precipitation. These results provided city planners with tools needed to plan for the predicted increase in extreme heat events and mitigation of the effects on the community.

MENTI Results



Challenges you encountered/will encounter in incorporating equity into climate action planning



- Lack of or access to data
- Lack of time and funding

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- **Lack of knowledge among leadership on:**
 - equity and equality
 - equity connection to climate action
- **Poor engagement with:**
 - vulnerable communities
 - equity groups
 - indigenous communities (concerns about legislated engagement)
- **How to:**
 - put theory, data, knowledge into impactful action
 - Make and communicate the links
 - incorporate health equity in everything
 - and where to start across departments

What are the climate action areas where equity considerations should be prioritized?

- Sustainable, Affordable Housing (Energy, Retrofits/ Upgrades)
- Access to clean water & food
- Conservation of biodiversity and natural areas
- Flooding mitigation
- Access to green space, community gardens
- Bringing equity considerations into transportation planning



What are the challenges you encountered/would encounter in incorporating equity considerations into climate actions?

How to

- start
- approach racial inequity

Lack of engagement with vulnerable populations

Lack of diverse leadership with better experience and understanding of equity concerns

The idea that this is an extra or outside consideration instead of a central requirement

Understanding of two complex considerations and their connections with limited knowledge on both

Bringing racial and LGBTQ input into equity considerations, it's not only about economic inequities

What departments within your municipality may have more experience in incorporating equity into their planning/consultations/services?

- **Parks, Diversity and Culture**
- **Accessibility**
- **Recreation (seniors & youth)**



What supports are needed to enable your efforts to advance equity considerations?

- **Education and Engagement**
- **Connections**
 - Stakeholder identification
 - Relationship building across all sectors
 - Capacity building for community organizations
- **Supporting collaboration with grassroots orgs, and supporting creation of grassroots orgs where they are lacking**
- **Mapping support**
- **Data and evidence on the importance of equity for marginalized groups AND for the program/project in consideration**
- **Building relationships with equity advancing groups**
- **Who are the groups we should be reaching out to? And how should we be reaching out to them?**

Thank You!

- Thank you to all our presenters for taking the time and effort to share their expertise and experiences with us all
- Thank you to you for joining and advancing this important conversation

