



# Overview

## THE BEATRICE AND ARTHUR MINDEN SYMPOSIUM • THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE • A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR CANADA?

The rapid rise of the Green New Deal (GND) onto the political agenda has provided new hope that the U.S. might develop a policy response worthy of the climate crisis. A similar question is now arising in Canada. Climate change politics are increasingly polarized as Prime Minister Trudeau seeks to implement his flagship climate policy: carbon pricing. Legal and political challenges raise questions about whether the carbon price will prove politically sustainable and environmentally effective. Critics from both sides argue that climate policies will either create undue economic hardship or fail to go far enough to address Canada's large carbon footprint.

This event will bring together academics, civil society groups, and policymakers for a day-long workshop on the politics and implementation of a GND for Canada. The goal of this event is to leverage U.S. discussions about the GND to discuss what aggressive and just climate policy would entail in Canada. It will be the second in a series of events meant to create a transnational dialogue among academics, policymakers, and other stakeholders. The first event took place in Washington, DC, in March 2019. The goal of the transnational dialogue is to provide new policy thinking to support the Paris Agreement climate goals.

The central question for the day will be, what kinds of climate policies can help achieve rapid decarbonization of the Canadian economy while addressing inequality and achieving a just transition?

We propose to look at this question from historical, economic, and political perspectives.

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# Overview (cont.)

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Historically, what historical narratives can advocates of something like a GND for Canada draw upon? What rhetorical resources can be mobilized to enrich Canadians' imaginations, while opening space for policy change? How should the legacies of environmental racism and settler colonialism shape thinking about environmental action today? What lessons can we draw from previous efforts to reduce poverty and inequality in Canada? What lessons can be learned about effective energy policy in other countries?

Economically, what labour market problems could a Canadian GND address? What benefits will deep decarbonization produce in terms of jobs and prosperity? Is the new carbon price sufficient to initiate a rapid low-carbon transition?

Politically, how can policymakers and civil society groups ensure the build support to ensure the political viability of a GND over time? Any GND will need to be in place for decades during a politically volatile time. How can we design legislation that won't be undone by partisan shifts?

Finally, what institutional form should a GND take? How can the design and sequencing of institutions maximize political sustainability and effectiveness? How can the institutions implementing GND policies deepen democracy rather than override it through technocratic management? How can the voices of indigenous and other communities be incorporated into decision-making?



# Schedule

## THE BEATRICE AND ARTHUR MINDEN SYMPOSIUM • THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE • A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR CANADA?

**October 2, 2019**

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5:00 pm Opening Remarks

**Steve Easterbrook**

Director, School of the Environment and Professor, Computer Science, University of Toronto

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5:15 pm Keynote Event: The Politics of Climate Change In Canada?

*A conversation with:*

**Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker**

Green Party Leader, Prince Edward Island

*and*

**Glen Murray**

Former MPP, Liberal Party

*Moderated by Shawn McCarthy (Sussex Strategy Group).*

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**October 3, 2019**

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8:30 Registration and Breakfast

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9:00 Opening Remarks

**Jessica Green**

Associate Professor, Political Science and School of the Environment, University of Toronto

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**Panel 1: Do we need a Green New Deal?**

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9:30 *What is the current landscape of Canadian Climate Policy? How would a GND compare to the status quo?*

**Matthew Hoffmann**

Professor, Political Science, University of Toronto

**Jahangir Bhatti**

Director, CleanTech, Development Bank of Canada

**Isabelle Turcotte**

Director, Federal Policy, Pembina Institute

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11:00 Coffee Break

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## Panel 2: Transnational Approaches: A Global Green New Deal?

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**11:30**      *What are the politics and policy of GND discussions elsewhere? What can Canada learn from climate policy in other countries?*

**Jonas Nahm**

Assistant Professor, Energy, Resources, & Environment, Johns Hopkins University

**Julian Brave Noisecat**

Director, Green New Deal Strategy, Data for Progress

**Paasha Mahdavi**

Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara

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**1:00**      **Lunch Break**

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## Panel 3: Role of activists, business, labor, civil society, and First Nations

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**1:45**      *How can we build broad political support for a GND? What policies might form the basis of a coalition for a GND?*

**Katherine Foster**

Chief Intelligence Officer, Sustainable Digital Finance Alliance

**Emmay Mah**

Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance

**Joanna Robinson**

Professor, Sociology, York University

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**3:15**      **Break**

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## Panel 4: From ideas to policy

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**3:30**      *What policies are needed to implement a Green New Deal?*

**Kate Aronoff**

The Guardian

**Christopher Wilson**

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

**Melina Laboucan-Massimo**

Campaign Director, Indigenous Climate Action

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# SPEAKERS

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## KEYNOTE EVENT: THE FUTURE OF CANADIAN CLIMATE CHANGE



Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker is the leader of the Green Party of Prince Edward Island, and a member of their Legislative Assembly.



Glen Murray is a former Liberal Party MPP for Toronto Centre, and a former mayor of Winnipeg. He has served as the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.



Shawn McCarthy is a national business correspondent for The Globe and Mail, covering global energy. He writes on various aspects of the international energy industry, from oil and gas production and refining, to the business implications of climate-change regulations.

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## PANEL 1: THE STATE OF PLAY OF CANADIAN POLICY: DO WE NEED A GREEN NEW DEAL?



Matthew Hoffmann is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto and Co-Director of the Environmental Governance Lab. His research focuses on global environmental governance.



Jahangir Bhatti is Director, Cleantech Practice, at BDC. He is responsible for the identification and execution of investment opportunities in the Canadian cleantech landscape.



Isabelle Turcotte is the director of federal policy at the Pembina Institute, Canada's leading clean energy think tank, where she supports the execution of the federal climate and energy strategy.



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## PANEL 2: TRANSNATIONAL APPROACHES: A GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL?



Jonas Nahm is an Assistant Professor of Energy, Resources, and Environment at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). His research interests focus on the intersection of economic and industrial policy, energy policy, and environmental politics.



Julian Brave NoiseCat is the Director of Green New Deal Strategy, Data for Progress, and Narrative Change Director, The Natural History Museum, as well as a writer. He has been recognized as a finalist for the Livingston Award and nominated for the Canadian National Magazine Awards twice.



Paasha Mahdavi is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests include comparative political economy, energy and environmental politics, and political methodology.

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## PANEL 3: ROLE OF ACTIVISTS, BUSINESS, LABOR, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND FIRST NATIONS



Katherine Foster is the Business Development Lead for the European Union's innovation program Climate-KIC, and a former Canadian diplomat.



Emmay Mah is the Executive Director of the Toronto Environmental Alliance and Co-Chair of the Toronto Climate Action Network. She has previously worked with programs on child rights and protection, HIV/AIDS, Indigenous health, and the environment.



Carla Lipsig-Mummé is a professor with the Department of Social Science at York University. Her research interests include: labour, environment, work and climate change, young Workers, labour relations and human rights.

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## PANEL 4: FROM IDEAS TO POLICY



Kate Aronoff is a Brooklyn-based journalist covering climate and U.S. politics, and a contributing writer at The Intercept.



Christopher Wilson is the Project Lead, 1st Vice President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) in Canada and an International Board Member.



Melina Laboucan-Massimo is the Campaign Director at Indigenous Climate Action and a fellow at the David Suzuki Foundation. Melina hosts the TV series called "Power to the People."

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## ORGANIZERS



Jessica Green is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto in Political Science and the School of the Environment. Her research focuses on the politics and policy of climate change.



Steve Easterbrook is the Director of the School of the Environment and Professor of Computer Science at U of T. His current research explores the role of computer science in bringing about a sustainable post-carbon future.



Bentley Allan is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and an affiliate of the Environment, Energy, Sustainability, and Health Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

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School of the Environment  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**