

Human Rights Watch

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/24/canada-should-match-us-climate-ambitions-0>

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Phase Out Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Support First Nations in Budget 2021

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Climate change was top of the agenda yesterday as US President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met virtually to identify priorities for collaboration. Both countries committed to working together to accelerate action on climate change but Canada has a lot of work to do to match Bidens stated climate ambition.

In a recent [opinion piece](#) Canadas environment minister, Jonathan Wilkinson, claimed that Biden would not find a more resilient and determined [climate ally] than Canada. Yet, the USs northern neighbor remains a climate policy laggard. Canada is not on track to meet its current weak [target](#) to reduce emissions by 30 percent by 2030. And while Biden has committed to pushing for a [global ban](#) on fossil fuel subsidies, Canada [ranks last](#) among G20 OECD countries in progress on ending support for fossil fuels. When Biden delivered on his promise to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline, [recognizing](#) the imperative to develop a clean energy economy, Canada [sought](#) to change his mind.

Canada, warming at up to almost [three times](#) the global rate, should need no prompting to tackle the climate crisis. As Human Rights Watch has [documented](#), climate change is already taking a growing toll on First Nations in Canada, depleting food sources and exacerbating health issues.

Yesterday, Trudeau [affirmed](#) Canadas intent to set a more ambitious 2030 emissions reduction target. This is great to hear. Biden and Trudeaus shared recognition of the importance of working with Indigenous peoples in advancing climate solutions is likewise welcome.

Canada could show its determination to move from climate laggard to leader by quickly following through on these commitments, including in the forthcoming federal budget. As Human Rights Watch outlined in a pre-budget [submission](#), ending financial incentives for fossil fuel companies would be a good start. So too would support for First Nations-led climate solutions to monitor and address climate impacts on food poverty and health.

Biden made clear, starting with Keystone, that the US plans to move ahead on climate, with or without Canada. With the Biden administration committed to reach a net-zero carbon pollution free energy sector by 2035, Canada now stands to lose a key [market](#) for oil and gas exports all the more reason to stop investing in fossil fuels and accelerate climate action at home.

The Climate Crisis and First Nations Right to Food in Canada

A Guide for First Nations Communities and Advocates

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