

On the Importance of Working in Solidarity & Coalition

Lauren Latour, Member Services & Movement-Building Manager



Our time together today

1. CAN-Rac 101
2. Why solidarity & coalition
3. Discussion

Tell me about yourself!

1. Name (and pronouns if you feel like it)
2. Where you're calling in from
3. First line in your bio
4. Emoji that lets us know how you're coming to the conversation today. How are you feeling?

Hi, I'm Lauren

- Employee at CAN-Rac since 2018, currently Member Services & Movement Building Manager
- Environmental Studies & Political Science at Mount Allison University
- Campus Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaigning
- New York Climate March 2014
- Canadian Youth Delegation to COP21 in Paris
- Powershift Convergences 2014, 2017, 2019
- Ecology Ottawa
- Green New Deal
- Draw The Line
- Values-Based Charter Rewrite, Political Coordination Group “reupholster”



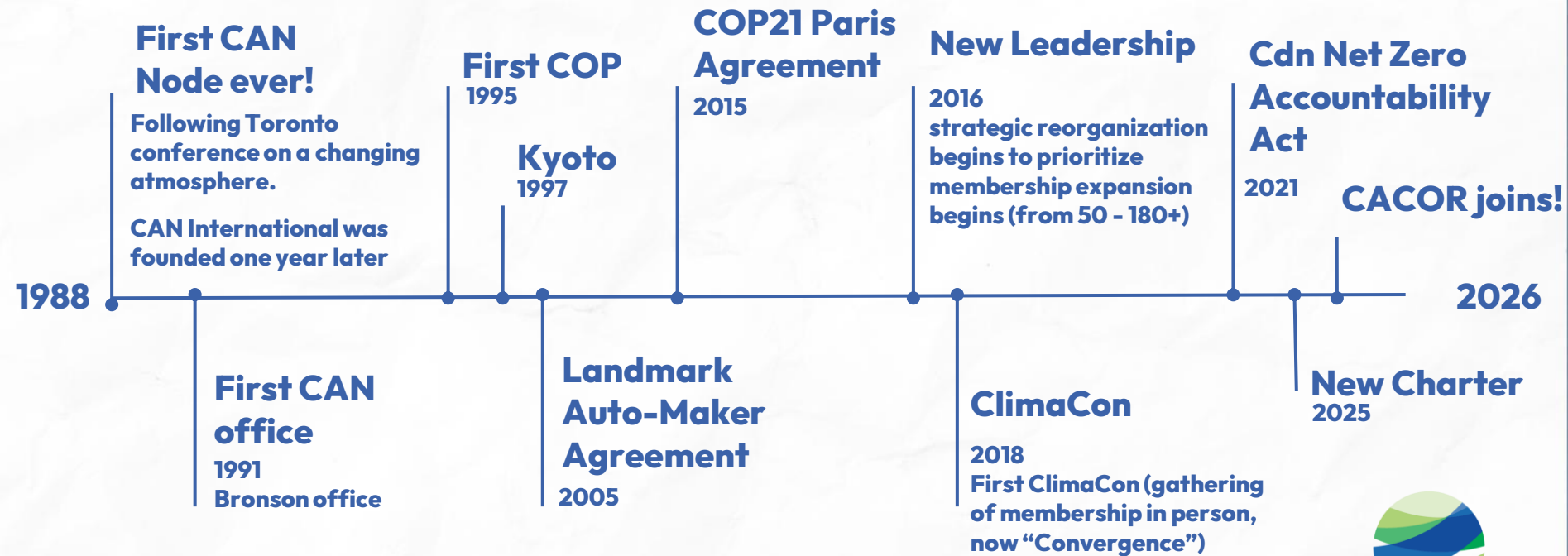
CAN-Rac 101

In Brief

Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat Canada is the **farthest-reaching network of organizations taking action on climate and energy issues** north of the 49th Parallel. A coalition of some 185 organizations operating from coast to coast to coast, our membership brings environmental groups together with trade unions, First Nations, social justice, development, health and youth organizations, faith groups and local, grassroots initiatives.

For decades now, Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada has acted as a trusted, reliable, and welcoming convenor of Canada's climate movement. Since 1989 it's been in our organizational DNA to determine the needs of the movement, and appropriately build containers in order to assist in a collective rise to the occasion - ensuring that we hold conversations and set the scene for whatever form of strategic thinking, planning, and collaborative work might be needed at a given moment.





Our Work

International Diplomacy

Supporting CSOs
in international
multilateral
spaces

Domestic Policy

Supporting
Canadian climate
policy advocacy
efforts

Member Services & Movement

Convening &
capacity-building
in service of a
strong movement

Our Mission

Our mission is to **combat climate change** by **building social consensus** for the implementation of comprehensive climate change action plans by all levels of government, based on the best available science and ethical engagement with Indigenous knowledge systems, with specific policies, targets, timetables and reporting, and to work with Canada's governments, First Nations, Inuit and Métis, private sector, labour, and civil society for the effective implementation of these plans.



What We Believe In

- **Solidarity:** Our work prioritizes solidarity, respect for Indigenous rights and sovereignty, addresses anti-Black and anti-migrant racism, and upholds equity. These values guide the Network's approach to building relationships and advocating for transformative climate solutions. The solutions we fight for must leave no one behind and explicitly prioritize communities that experience systemic violent oppression including women, children, racialized communities, 2SLGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty.
- **Respect for Indigenous Rights and Sovereignty:** We follow the leadership of Indigenous Peoples, respecting Indigenous knowledge systems and science. As a progressive movement, we recognize that Indigenous sovereignty is foundational to the world we are seeking and building. We work to undermine and dismantle settler colonialism and work in right relations with Indigenous Nations.
- **Ambition and Abundance:** We fight for ambitious and visionary climate policy that is grounded in a joyful belief of the world we can build together. CAN-Rac champions transformative solutions that center justice and equity at the scale of the crises we face. Our work is visionary and hopeful, grounded in the world that we want to build, not just what we are fighting against. The solutions we fight for are grounded in collective power, and boldness.
- **Global Responsibility:** Canada plays an outsized role in the climate crisis, which must be accounted for, and therefore international solidarity must be a guiding theme within CAN-Rac's work. Solidarity with communities, particularly in the Global South, on the frontlines of climate disaster must be a core value. As a network based in the Global North, we know that the Global South is disproportionately affected by climate change while having contributed very little to causing it. We are committed to acting in allyship, solidarity and coalition with advocates based in the Global South within the global Climate Action Network and beyond.
- **Anti-Racism:** We are a community and movement which draws strength from diversity, works to deeply understand the harms the environmental movement has historically perpetrated, and works to ensure that the advocacy we carry out is actively anti-racist and in support of Black, Brown and migrant liberation.



How We Work

- **With Flexibility, Through Learning, and Staying Accountable:** No one is dispensable in our movement, which is stronger when it is welcoming, inclusive and geared towards the learning of all, including those who have less experience in social justice and organizing spaces. Our convening spaces foster accountability, reflection and ongoing learning. There are a broad range of perspectives and approaches in The Network, and these are balanced with transparency and accountability, especially when navigating internal disagreements and differing perspectives.
- **By Utilizing Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Respect for Indigenous Knowledge:** Our policy and action recommendations are informed not only by what is considered “scientific research,” but by Indigenous knowledge, always taking into consideration the gaps in understanding begotten by strict adherence to only one epistemology.
- **Through Relationships, Partnership and Collaboration:** Centering relationships is a cornerstone of CAN-Rac, and working across social movements makes our work stronger, and ensures that we are fighting for a world where no one is left behind. We prioritize an approach that "moves at the speed of trust," reflecting deep reciprocity in all interactions. This relational approach requires patience, empathy, and the recognition of frontline leadership. When possible, we provide direct support, including the redistribution of resources to support frontline communities, ensuring they can tell their stories and lead climate action efforts as they see fit.

Our Members

185 and
growing!

Unions,
Indigenous
communities,
Social Justice,
Faith, Youth,
etc

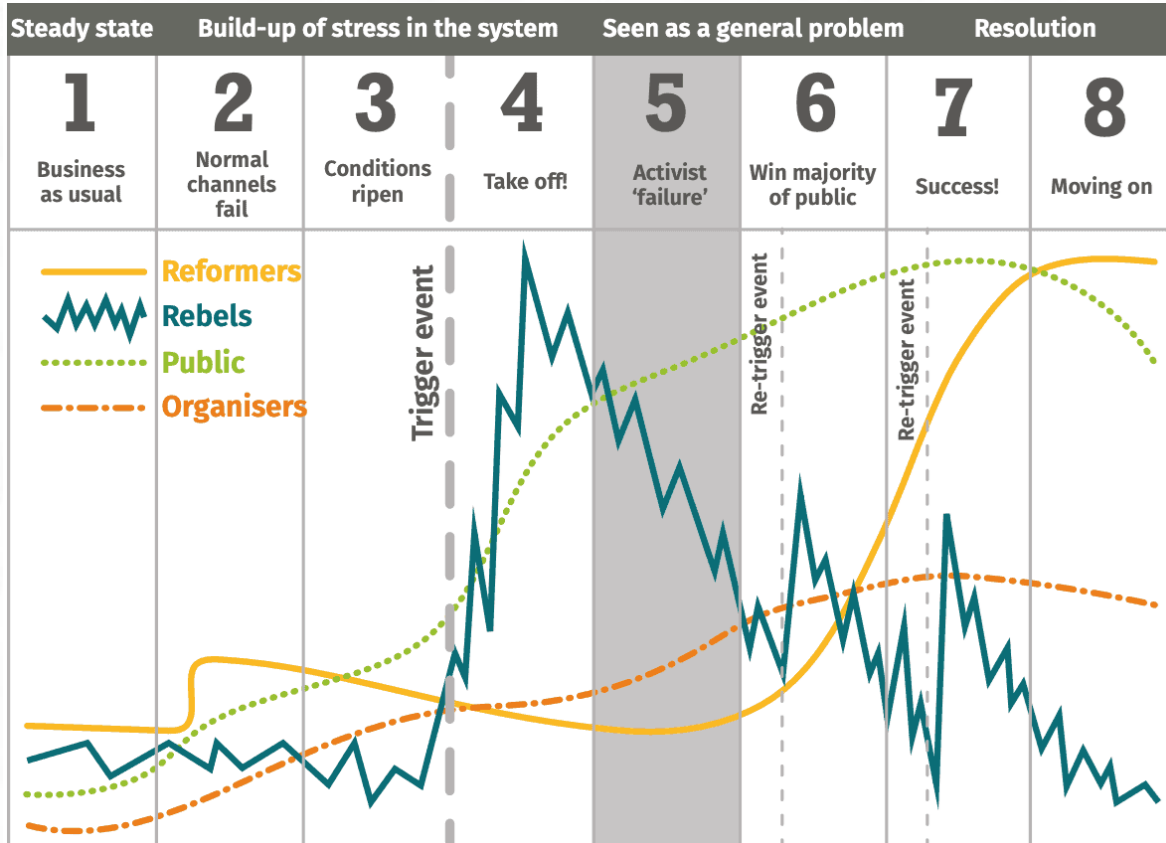
Grassroots
and
Funded

Non-profit
NGOs and
Charities
(CSOs)

Coast to
Coast to
Coast

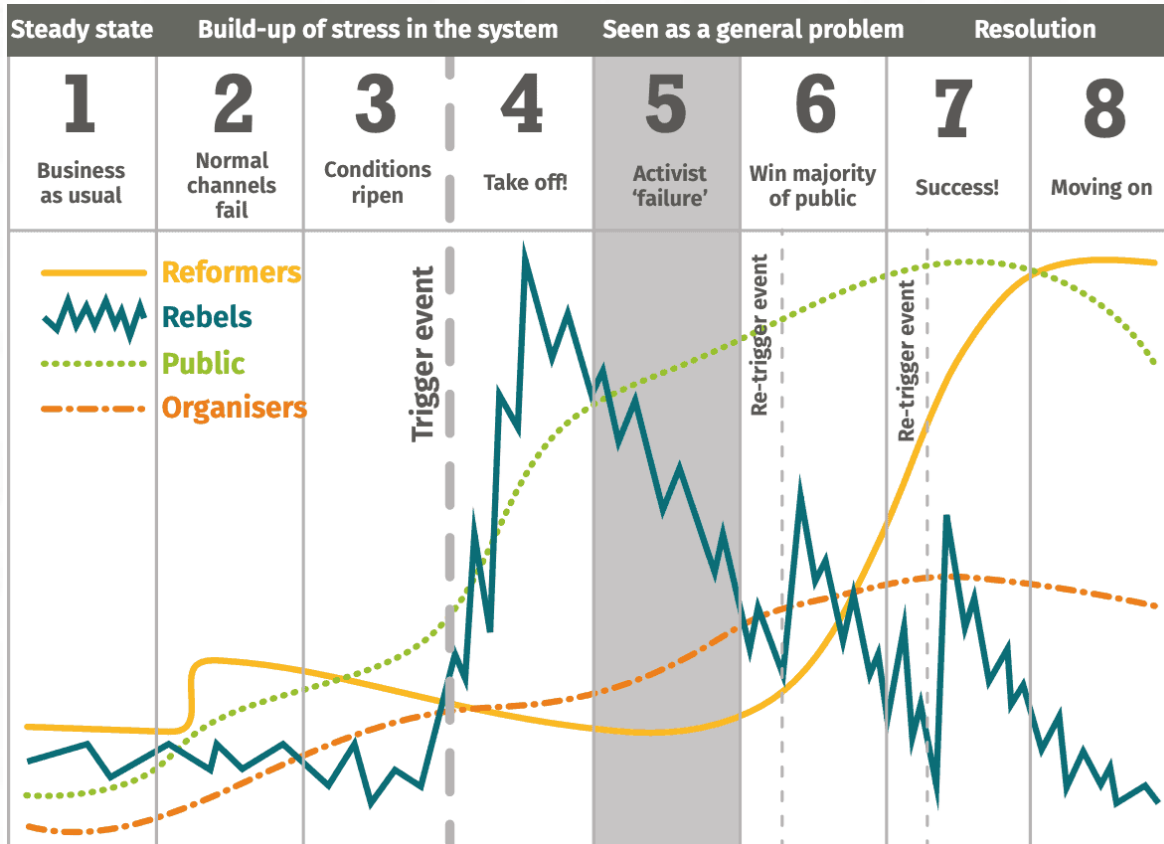
**We can't do it alone
(why coalitions,
collective action, and
solidarity is key)**

We're in a movement valley



“After a year or two, the high hopes of instant victory in the movement take-off stage inevitably turn into despair as some activists begin to believe that their movement is failing. It has not achieved its goals and, in their eyes, it has not had any ‘real’ victories.”

We're in a movement valley



- Valley is typical of progressive mvmt patterns
- Bill Moyer
- “The Commons” Social Change Library

There's a lot to care about right now!

- Polling from Re.Climate/Abacus tells us that 75% of Canadians are “somewhat” or “very” concerned about climate change
- 60% want leaders to keep promises on climate action
- 70% want Canada to be a renewable energy superpower, not an oil & gas superpower
- 70% want regulation of polluters

There's a lot to care about right now!

According to a March 2026 Abacus Data poll, the most *important* issues to Canadians are:

- **Cost of Living** (64%–66%): Consistently ranked as the top issue, with around two-thirds of Canadians including it in their top three.
- **Donald Trump & U.S. Administration** (41%–42%): Concerns regarding U.S. trade, tariffs, and politics have become a top-tier issue, ranking second or third in early 2026.
- **The Economy** (39%–41%): General economic concerns, including unemployment and inflation, remain high.
- **Healthcare** (31%–38%): Access to services and the state of the healthcare system continue to be major concerns.
- **Housing Affordability** (29%–32%): While slightly behind healthcare in some polls, it remains a critical concern for voters.

We don't have money... But we do have people... And people want the same things!

- Its about people vs. billionaires & elites, and care for one-another
- The same future that gives all of us access to quality healthcare, good work, affordable & dignified housing, liveable/walkable/welcoming communities is also a climate safe, resilient future.
- In a world marked by chaos, fear, austerity, climate is never going to be a “winning” issue if it’s viewed as an economic externality, a “nice to have”, an upper-middle class issue.

Draw the Line



Draw the Line

- 70 actions
- 20,000 people
- Over 100 organizations
- Core Demands
 - Put people over profit. Fund families and communities
 - Refuse ongoing colonialism. Uphold Indigenous Sovereignty
 - Stop blaming migrants. Demand full immigration status for all now!
 - End the war machine. Stand for justice and peace.
 - End the era of fossil fuels. Protect Mother Earth

Draw the Line

BASIS OF UNITY

This mobilization is an invitation to build lasting, inclusive, and intersectional coalitions that extend far beyond a single event. Rooted in deep relationships, shared leadership, and mutual respect, we aim to unite diverse movements— from climate and Indigenous justice to labour, anti-racism and migrant justice, economic justice and peace— through accessible, collaborative organizing. Together, we commit to learning from one another, honoring different organizing cultures, emphasizing all of the demands and sustaining our collective power to confront systemic crises with strength and solidarity.



Let's Chat!

Questions for the class

- What's coming up for you? What's resonating, or sticking with you (good or bad!)
- Are you convinced? If you still think it's better to go it alone, why? When?
- Tell us about a time when you worked in a coalition or collaborative effort - what were the lessons learned?
- Are there questions you have for me, or one another?