



proposed solutions coincide with the desires of Canadians.

- (3) *Communicating sustainability solutions:* Reaching outside of the academic sphere through public outreach to become actors in the important debate on future development of Canada. Engaging with government and policy-makers, media, NGO's and the public through a variety of public events to incite action.

SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED APPROACH

The [Sustainable Canada Dialogues](#) aims to propose a range of science-based and viable policy options that could motivate change to help Canada in the necessary transition to more sustainable development. Through the mobilization of scientific expertise the initiative is founded in identifying positive solutions to overcome obstacles to sustainability.

The recognition that the well-being of the Earth's ecological systems is indispensable to human well-being has grown among scientific communities; so too has the awareness that the time to create solutions and act upon threats to these systems is short.

Canada is currently building a sustainability deficit in comparison with other countries that have been more proactive in addressing environmental issues. In light of the upcoming Federal election in October 2015 and the Paris International Climate Conference the following December, the need for Canada to accelerate its transition to sustainability is *critical*. The Sustainable Canada Dialogues is our effort to contribute to this effort.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUSTAINABLE CANADA DIALOGUES

- (1) *Mobilizing scholarly expertise:* The SCD mobilizes over 60 Canadian scholars, from engineers to sociologists, to identify sustainability solutions, taking into account biodiversity protection, freshwater quality, climate change mitigation and social justice (**Figure 1**). Elements of a Climate Action Plan for Canada will be launched in a public event hosted jointly with the [Royal Society of Canada](#) and [Americana](#) on March 18th 2015. .
- (2) *Fostering public discussion:* Using "visioning" to encourage discourse with a wide range of stakeholders in Canada, helping them to articulate their hopes for the future, and to verify that

COMMUNICATION OUTREACH

Outreach is central to the SCD. Apart from the use of traditional and social media, we are engaging outside of our universities in different ways. First, we are collaborating in public events across Canada. We are also working with [Alternatives Journal](#) on a special issue on sustainability for the late winter of 2015. Finally, we also hope to engage with decision makers at multiple scales of governance to share our proposed solutions and policy options.

PARTNERS

The Sustainable Canada Dialogues is being developed through the support of the McGill-UNESCO Chair Dialogues on Sustainability, and of the Trottier Institute for Science and Public Policy.

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