

Transforming Climate Action

POLICY HUB STRATEGY

Vision:

A future where Canada leads in integrated, inclusive, and evidence-based ocean-climate governance—ensuring that science, policy, and communities work together to drive bold, just, and effective climate action.

Mission:

To connect researchers, policymakers, and communities so that Transforming Climate Action (TCA) science informs real-world decisions. Through translation, convening, and collaboration, the Policy Hub mobilizes cutting-edge research into actionable policies, strengthens cross-government coordination, and embeds equity and Indigenous knowledge at the heart of Canada's ocean-climate response.

Operational Structure:

The Policy Hub Lead, based at the Ocean Frontier Institute, will enable this vision through four key areas:

Build awareness and engagement across TCA

- Ensure that TCA researchers understand the Policy Hub's role and see policy engagement as an integral part of their research impact. As well as identify policy impact needs across the Programme.

Embed TCA into Canada's ocean climate policy networks

- Build and maintain strategic relationships with federal and provincial departments, Indigenous governance organizations, and other policy actors

Expand TCA's international collaboration and policy influence

- Represent TCA in international partnerships such as Horizon Europe and global networks including the UN Ocean Decade.

Build foundations for evidence-based policy translation

- To create a sustainable system for translating TCA research into policy-relevant insights, tools, and recommendations.

The Policy Hub Lead reports to the TCA Scientific Directorate.

Delivery Model:

The Policy Hub operates as a distributed network of regional nodes of public policy expertise, connected through a shared mission to integrate ocean and climate governance across Eastern and Atlantic Canada. In alignment with TCA's multi-institutional model, Policy Hub nodes will be established at each partner university or within the regions where those universities are based. Each node of the Policy Hub anchors engagement within its local and institutional context, ensuring that policy-relevant research emerging from TCA is identified, translated, and connected to the right decision-makers.

Policy Hub funds will be used to resource collaborative activities carried out with the nodes. To maximize program-wide benefit, activities that yield the broadest cross-TCA impact will be prioritized.

Dalhousie University Node — The MacEachen Institute of Public Policy:

The MacEachen Institute serves as the inaugural node of the Policy Hub and is based at Dalhousie University, TCA's largest partner institution. As Dalhousie hosts the largest number of TCA-affiliated researchers, the MacEachen Institute plays a central role in connecting scientific inquiry to policy discourse.

Specifically, the MacEachen Institute will support:

- **Networking within TCA** to create discourse about the implications of conducting ocean-climate research in the current geo-political landscape
- **Public forums and events** to bring awareness of TCA research to public and governmental audiences
- **Cross institute publications** that act as capstone documents to the work done over the course of TCA with OFI and TCA partners

As the Policy Hub grows, the MacEachen Institute will continue to anchor national and regional engagement, ensuring that lessons learned and best practices are shared across the network.

By connecting these regional nodes of public policy expertise, the Policy Hub will enable a first-of-its-kind integrated approach to ocean-climate governance across Eastern Canada. This distributed model ensures that TCA's science is linked to decision-making at multiple scales — local, provincial, national, and international — and that the relationships and infrastructure established through the Policy Hub will endure beyond the life of the TCA program.

Ultimately, the Policy Hub aims to become a platform for ocean-climate governance in Eastern Canada, uniting researchers, policymakers, and communities in advancing just and evidence-based climate action.