Community Climate Capacity Program – Expression of Interest
Glossary of Terms

Adaptation
According to the IPCC, adaptation is defined, in human systems, as the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects in order to moderate harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate this.

Asset Management
Asset management is described in a Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the National Research Council document as a systematic process of maintaining, upgrading and operating physical assets cost-effectively. It combines engineering principles with sound business practices and economic theory, and it provides tools to facilitate a more organized, logical approach to decision-making. Asset management provides a framework for handling both short- and long-range planning.

Capacity building & education
The United Nations define capacity-building as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt and thrive in a fast-changing world.

Coastal impacts
Coastal impacts of climate change in Nova Scotia include but are not limited to sea level rise, more frequent and intense storms, flooding, loss of wetlands and forests, damage to infrastructure and saltwater intrusion of wells and aquifers.

Community clean energy
According to CleanWatts, Renewable Energy Community (REC) brings together local residents and organizations to generate, share and consume clean energy together. RECs enable communities to transition to clean, renewable energy while enjoying lower energy costs.

Community building efficiency
Retrofitting community buildings to be more energy efficient through a variety of upgrades so they can use less energy to maintain the same conditions.

Clean transportation
Clean Energy Ministerial describes clean transport as the development of alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies and the expansion of traditional public sector transportation services that results in lower emissions, greater efficiency of transportation per unit of energy or a more accessible and usable transportation system.

Drought
According to the IPCC, drought is a period of abnormally dry weather long enough to cause a serious hydrological imbalance. Drought is a relative term, therefore any discussion in terms of precipitation deficit must refer to the particular precipitation-related activity that is under discussion.

For example, shortage of precipitation during the growing season impinges on crop production or ecosystem function in general (due to soil moisture drought, also termed agricultural drought), and during the runoff and percolation season primarily affects water supplies (hydrological drought). Storage changes in soil moisture and groundwater are also affected by increases in actual evapotranspiration in addition to reductions in precipitation. A period with an abnormal precipitation deficit is defined as a meteorological drought.

Energy security
The IEA defines energy security as the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price. Energy security has many aspects, which include long-term energy security mainly dealing with timely investments to supply energy in line with economic developments and environmental needs. On the other hand, short-term energy security focuses on the ability of the energy system to react promptly to sudden changes in the supply-demand balance.

Erosion
The transport of material from wind, water and wave action.

Extreme heat
According to the IPCC, an extreme weather event is an event that is rare at a particular place and time of year. Definitions of rare vary, but an extreme weather event would normally be as rare as or rarer than the 10th or 90th percentile of a probability density function estimated from observations. The characteristics of what is called extreme weather may vary from place to place in an absolute sense. When a pattern of extreme weather persists for some time, such as a season, it may be classed as an extreme climate event, especially if it yields an average or total that is itself extreme (e.g., drought or heavy rainfall over a season). In terms of Extreme heat, a period of abnormally hot weather.

Extreme wind
High wind gusts and sustained winds are often associated with storm systems. Their impacts include, but are not limited to, downed trees, widespread damage to forests, damage to infrastructure and homes, increased wave height and frequency and exacerbated erosion.

Flood
The IPCC defines flooding as the overflowing of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water over areas that are not normally submerged. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, pluvial floods, sewer floods, coastal floods and glacial lake outburst floods.

Food security
According to the IPCC, food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. 'All people at all times' implies the need for equitable and stable food distribution, but it is increasingly recognized that it also covers the need for inter-generational equity. Therefore, 'sustainability' in food production is crucial. Climate change is projected to negatively impact the four pillars of food security – availability, access, utilization and stability – and their interactions.

Green economy
A green economy is defined in United Nations documents as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Green Infrastructure
According to the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative green infrastructure is a broad category that includes natural assets, designed and engineered elements that have been created to mimic natural functions and processes in the service of human interests.

Home energy efficiency
Retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient through a variety of upgrades, allowing them to use less energy to maintain the same conditions.

Home flood resilience
Retrofitting homes to be more flood resilient through a variety of upgrades to better protect a home from flooding during periods of floods and extreme precipitation.

Municipal Natural Assets
According to the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative, municipal natural assets are the stock of natural resources or ecosystems that are relied upon, managed, or could be managed by a municipality, regional district, or other form of local government for the sustainable provision of one or more municipal services.

Natural Assets
According to the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative, natural assets are the stock of natural resources and ecosystems that yield a flow of benefits to people.

Sustainability
The IPCC defines sustainability as a dynamic process that guarantees the persistence of natural and human systems in an equitable manner.

Sustainable development (SD)
The IPCC defines sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and balances social, economic and environmental concerns.

Sustainable jobs
In the context of this Sustainable Jobs Plan, the Government of Canada understands a 'sustainable job' to mean any job that is compatible with Canada's path to a net-zero emissions and climate resilient future. The term 'sustainable jobs' also reflects the concept of decent, well-paying, high-quality jobs that can support workers and their families over time and includes such elements as fair income, job security, social protection and social dialogue.

Vector borne diseases
The World Health Organization defines vectors as living organisms that can transmit infectious pathogens between humans, or from animals to humans. Vector-borne diseases are human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria that are transmitted by vectors.

The Canadian Public Health Association notes that insects, the vectors for many illnesses, are dependent on a consistent climate for survival, reproduction and development. Changes in temperature, precipitation and humidity can alter their distribution, potentially increasing the risk of disease transmission.