

Environmental Rule of Law

How Does Canada Fare in the UN Environment Programme’s First Global Report?

The following table outlines Canada’s performance on a variety of categories assessed in the 2019 UNEP Report, [Environmental Rule of Law](#).

Please note that Canada’s “Relative Placement” in relation to other assessed countries does not indicate how ‘well’ Canada is doing on implementing the environmental rule of law. The table also does not summarize every metric mentioned in the report. Some elements of the environmental rule of law assessment did not assess individual countries, therefore Canada’s placement is unclear. Please allow some loading time for links to report pages within the table.

Categories	Canada’s Category	Relative Placement
Countries with national environmental framework laws prior to or during: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1972 2. 1992 3. 2017 	2	Good. In step with approximately 1/3 assessed countries. See the map and table .
Countries with environmental ministries, agencies, and other bodies (2017): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment Ministry 2. Independent environment agencies 3. Other relevant entities 	1	Good. In step with approximately 3/5 assessed countries. See the map .
Countries with legal restrictions on foreign funding and activities of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) (2016): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries that have adopted legal restrictions on the activities of foreign NGOs 2. Countries that have adopted legal restrictions on foreign funding flows to locally operating NGOs 3. Countries that have adopted legal restrictions on foreign funding flows to locally operating NGOs and restrictions on the activities of foreign NGOs 	2	Inconclusive. In step with approximately 1/7 assessed countries. See the map . Read West Coast’s recent blog on this topic. Other countries in this category include Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Cameroon, Jordan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Venezuela.

		Approximately 1/2 countries do not have any legal restrictions on foreign funding flows to local NGOs or on the activities of foreign NGOs.
<p>The Environmental Democracy Index (2015):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries designated “Very Good” 2. Countries designated “Good” 3. Countries designated “Fair or Limited” 4. Countries designated “Poor” 	3	<p>Fair/Limited. In step with approximately 1/7 assessed countries.</p> <p>See the map.</p>
<p>Access to information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with a constitutional right of access to information <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 2. Countries with other legal provision for access to information <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 3. Countries with a constitutional right and other legal provisions for access to information <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 	2b	<p>Fair. In step with 2/7 assessed countries at time of adoption.</p> <p>In step with 3/10 assessed countries as of 2017.</p> <p>1/2 assessed countries fall into the “3c” category.</p> <p>See the map and table.</p>
<p>Countries with pollutant release and transfer registers (2017):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with national legal instruments specifically providing for pollutant release and transfer registers 2. Countries with pollutant release and transfer registers but no specific national legal instrument 	1	<p>Good. In step with 2/3 assessed countries.</p> <p>See the map and graph.</p>

<p>Public participation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with constitutional provisions on public participation 2. Countries with provisions in national administrative framework laws broadly providing for public participation 3. Countries with provisions in national environmental framework laws broadly guaranteeing public participation 	<p>2 & 3</p>	<p>Fair. Canada, like 1/6 assessed countries, has no constitutional public participation provision.</p> <p>Canada, however, has an administrative framework law for public participation, bringing it in step with 1/3 assessed countries.</p> <p>Canada also has an environmental framework law for public participation, bringing it in step with 2/3 assessed countries.</p> <p>Like Canada, many countries have a combination of the three public participation instruments.</p> <p>See the map, table, and graph.</p>
<p>Countries participating in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (2016):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries compliant with EITI standards 2. Countries compliant with EITI standards (suspended as of early 2016) 3. Countries designated as candidates by EITI 	<p>-</p>	<p>No conclusion. Canada is not an Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative participant.</p> <p>See the map.</p>
<p>Countries disclosing contracts related to oil, gas, and mining (2016):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments disclosing all oil, gas, or mining contracts 2. Governments disclosing some oil, gas, or mining contracts 	<p>-</p>	<p>No conclusion. Either Canada does not disclose oil, gas, and mining contracts, or it was not assessed.</p> <p>See the map.</p>

<p>Environmental impact assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with standalone legal instruments for environmental impact assessments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 2. Countries with environmental impact assessment provisions in other legal instruments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 	1c	<p>Fair. Relatively late adopter. In step with approximately 2/3 assessed countries.</p> <p>See the map and table.</p>
<p>Countries with a constitutional right to a healthy environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with the constitutionally protected right to a healthy environment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 2. Countries with constitutional provisions for a healthy environment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 	-	<p>No conclusion. Canada does not have an explicit or implicit constitutional provision protecting the right to a healthy environment.</p> <p>See the map and table.</p>
<p>Countries recognizing Indigenous land tenure in national laws (2016):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries where national laws fully address Indigenous land tenure 2. Countries with national laws that make significant progress toward addressing Indigenous land tenure 3. Countries with national laws that reflect limited progress in addressing Indigenous land tenure 4. Countries where laws do not address Indigenous land tenure 	2	<p>Fair. In step with approximately 1/4 assessed countries.</p> <p>See the map.</p>

<p>Countries recognizing community land tenure in national laws (2016):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries where national laws fully address community land tenure 2. Countries with national laws that make significant progress toward addressing community land tenure 3. Countries with national laws that reflect limited progress in addressing community land tenure 4. Countries where laws do not address community land tenure 	-	<p>No conclusion. Either Canada does not recognise community land tenure, or it was not assessed.</p> <p>See the map.</p>
<p>Countries where environmental defenders have been murdered between 2000-2015:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries where over 100 environmental defenders murdered 2. Countries where between 10 and 100 environmental defenders murdered 3. Countries where between 1 and 10 environmental defenders murdered 	-	<p>No conclusion. No recorded environmental defenders murdered between 2000-2015.</p> <p>See the map, table, and graph.</p>
<p>Countries with national laws protecting whistleblowers (2017):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with dedicated national laws protecting whistleblowers 2. Countries with other national miscellaneous laws or provisions protecting whistleblowers 	1	<p>Good. In step with 1/2 assessed countries.</p> <p>See the map.</p>
<p>Protection of environmental standing (2017):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries that have constitutional provisions allowing for citizen suits 2. Countries that have provisions in their environmental framework laws allowing for citizen suits 3. Countries that have provisions allowing for citizen suits in both their constitutions and environmental framework laws 	-	<p>No conclusion. Either Canada does not allow for citizen environmental standing, or it was not assessed.</p> <p>See the map.</p>

<p>Countries with national environmental courts and tribunals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries with specialized national environmental courts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 2. Countries with specialized national environmental tribunals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 3. Countries with specialized national environmental courts and tribunals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of 1972 b. As of 1992 c. As of 2017 	-	<p>No conclusion. Canada does not have a specialised national environmental court or tribunal.</p> <p>See the map, table, and graph.</p>
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