

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST EPISODE 4.11: CANADIAN ECOPOLITICS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Additional Pedagogical Resources

Summary: *In this episode, host **Peter Andrée** revisits the roots of The Ecopolitics Podcast by examining the dynamics of Canadian environmental politics in the mid-2020s. Joined by **Dr. Rosalind Warner** (Okanagan College), **Dr. Will Greaves** (University of Victoria), and **Dr. Peter Stoett** (Ontario Tech University), the conversation explores themes from their new co-authored book, [Canadian Ecopolitics \(University of Toronto Press, 2025\)](#).*

Together, they unpack how the politics of resource extraction, federalism, and settler colonialism continue to shape Canada's environmental landscape. They also reflect on sources of hope, including the rise of civil society movements, Indigenous environmental leadership, and the growing recognition of the rights of nature. The guests offer candid insights on bridging activism and policymaking, listening across divides, and inspiring new generations to think long-term about sustainability in an era of planetary limits.

Key Takeaways:

- **Historical context matters.** Canada's environmental politics are deeply rooted in its history of expansion, extraction, and settler colonialism. These dynamics continue to influence environmental governance today.
- **Canadian federalism and multilevel governance** (federal, provincial, Indigenous, and municipal) create both challenges and opportunities for effective environmental policy.
- Engaging with **Indigenous rights, knowledge, and governance** is essential for understanding and transforming environmental politics in Canada.
- **Environmental NGOs and grassroots movements** remain central to progress, even amid political polarization and debates over "**climate realism**."
- **The Rights of Nature** is an emerging legal and cultural movement in Canada that recognizes ecosystems (rivers, forests, mountains) as subjects with rights, rather than merely resources to exploit.
- Building sustainable futures in a country as large as Canada requires **listening across differences** to citizens, to communities, and to nature itself.

Discussion Questions:

- How do Canada's extractive history and federal political structure shape today's environmental challenges?
- What does the concept of settler colonialism add to our understanding of Canadian environmental politics?



- How might the rights of nature change our legal and political relationship with the environment?
- How can we practice “active listening” as an ecopolitical skill in policy, education, and everyday life?
- What role should elected officials, activists, and educators each play in transforming Canada’s environmental future? What can students and citizens do to foster more long-term, sustainability-focused political thinking?

Learn More About our Guests:

Dr. Rosalind Warner is a College Professor of Political Science at Okanagan College. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from York University and has been teaching at Okanagan College since 2008. Her research focuses on global environmental politics, nature rights and earth system law, Canadian foreign policy, global health and human security, and disaster risk governance.

Dr. Warner serves on the editorial board of the International Journal and is an associate editor for the Canadian Journal of Development Studies. Her work bridges academic research with practical policy implications, and she speaks regularly to public audiences on a wide range of topics in international relations, environmental politics, and political science. She is also Director of the Canadian Environmental Network and a Research Fellow with the Earth Systems Governance Project.

- Sustainability Now! Podcast (2023). [How Kinship Practices Could Foster New Relations Between Humans and Nature.](#)
- Warner, R. (2022, December 27). *Post-Anthropocene*. Retrieved from <https://rozwarner.com/2022/12/27/post-anthropocene/>

Dr. Peter Stoett is Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at Ontario Tech University in Oshawa. Prior to that, he directed the Loyola Sustainability Research Centre at Concordia University in Montreal. He has worked extensively with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and other international organizations, and has published widely in environmental policy, human rights, and other global issues.

- Temby, O., & Stoett, P. (Eds.). (2018). [Towards continental environmental policy? North American transnational networks and governance.](#) SUNY Press.
- Carney Almroth B, de Miranda Grilli N, Stoett P (2025). [Including a human rights approach in the Global Plastics Treaty can ensure protection of people and the environment.](#) Cambridge Prisms: Plastics: 1-10. doi:10.1017/plc.2025.10017

Dr. Will Greaves is Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, where his primary research examines climate change, security, and Arctic politics. In 2025, Will was elected as the Member of Parliament for Victoria.

- Greaves, W., & Lackenbauer, P. W. (Eds.). (2021). [Breaking Through: Understanding Sovereignty and Security in the Circumpolar Arctic](#). University of Toronto Press.
- Lackenbauer, P. W., Nicol, H., & Greaves, W. (Eds.). (2017). [One Arctic: The Arctic Council and Circumpolar Governance](#). Canadian Arctic Resources Committee.

Resources in the Episode:

Canadian Ecopolitics:

- To learn more about everything discussed in this episode, check out the book [Canadian Ecopolitics \(2025\)](#) by Rosalind, Peter, and Will.
- In season 1, Peter and Ryan explored a wide range of topics in Canadian ecopolitics, offering a deep dive into topics including [Canadian political history, federalism, and indigenous environmental politics and treaty rights](#).
- Will Greaves introduces climate realism and Dr. Cara Daggett's Petro-masculinity as components of the debates shaping Canadian ecopolitics. Learn more [here](#).
- Episode 2 of the season the [Axe the Tax or Face the Facts](#) episode offers a valuable case study of navigating the policy for a country as large and complex as Canada.

Indigenous Environmental Leadership:

- Artelle K, M Zurba, J Bhattacharyya, DE Chan, K Brown, J Housty & F Moola. Supporting resurgent Indigenous-led governance: A nascent mechanism for just and effective conservation. *Biolog. Cons.* 240: 108284. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108284>
- Artelle, K. A., Adams, M. S., Bryan, H. M., Darimont, C. T., Housty, J., Housty, W. G., & Walkus, J. (2021). [Decolonial model of environmental management and conservation: insights from Indigenous-led Grizzly Bear Stewardship in the Great Bear Rainforest](#). *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 24(3), 283-323.
- Leonard, K. et al. (2023). [Water Back: A Review Centering Rematriation and Indigenous Water Research Sovereignty](#) 16(2). *Water Alternatives*, 374.
- Reid, J., Challies, E., Tau, T. M., & Awatere, S. (2024). Adapting to climate change through nature-based solutions and indigenous knowledge: the case for landscape-scale ecosystem regeneration in the Rokohouia Delta. *Kōtuitui. New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 20(2), 249–267. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2023.2299364>

Rights of Nature

- Rosalind Warner shares more about how environmental policy and law can borrow from human rights on [her website](#).
- Warner, R. (2020, February 13). *Should Lakes Have Rights? The Intrinsic Value of the Nonhuman World (Talk)*. Retrieved from [https://rozwarner.com/2020/02/13/should-lakes-have-rights-the-intrinsic-value-of-t
he-nonhuman-world-talk/](https://rozwarner.com/2020/02/13/should-lakes-have-rights-the-intrinsic-value-of-the-nonhuman-world-talk/)
- Dr. John Reid shares how the rights of nature have advanced in [Aotearoa in season 4 episode 10](#).