

# NEWS RELEASE

## Lots to celebrate this Earth Day, as Canada remains world leader in environmental performance

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For Immediate Release

**VANCOUVER**—Canada’s environmental record outperforms a majority of comparable high-income countries worldwide, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan, Canadian public policy think-tank.

“As Earth Day approaches, Canadians should know that their country remains one of the cleanest on the planet,” said Elmira Aliakbari, director of natural resource studies at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Environmental Ranking for Canada and the OECD: Third Edition*.

The study ranks 34 high-income countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on a wide range of environmental indicators including air quality, water quality, greenhouse gases and waste management.

Canada ranks 14<sup>th</sup> overall with a score of 69.9 out of 100—above the OECD average (65.5). Notably, many of the top ranked countries are clustered closely together. For example, Canada and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Ireland (which scored 75.2) are roughly five points apart. Sweden ranks 1<sup>st</sup> with a score of 81.5.

Canada ranks particularly high on several measures including 6<sup>th</sup> on the portion of the population exposed to unsafe air pollutants (with 98.2 per cent of Canadians exposed to levels of fine particulate matter that comply with the World Health Organization’s air quality standard). And 8<sup>th</sup> on exposure to harmful fine particulate matter (smoke, fumes, etc.).

These results are especially impressive considering that, compared to many other OECD countries, Canada is much larger and colder (which means more fuel consumption and emissions) and has a large natural resources industry.

“Despite our country’s massive size and cold climate, Canada fares well when compared to the best environmental performers in the world,” Aliakbari said.

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