

Climate Across Generations Toolkit: Key Terms

Ageism: The ways we think, feel, and act towards others based on age [1]. In the context of climate change, ageism can mean ignoring older adults' needs during extreme weather, or overlooking young people's ideas for taking action [2,3].

Climate change: Long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns, mainly caused today by human activities, like burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas [4].

Climate action: Involves doing things to fight climate change and deal with its effects [5]. Some actions reduce the cause of climate change, like using an electric car instead of a gas car. Other actions help us adapt to it, like planting trees to cool our neighbourhoods and prevent flooding. Some actions can do both at the same time.

Conversation café: A way for people to come together and talk about their ideas, feelings, and experiences about a particular topic in an open way [6]. By listening to each other and sharing different perspectives, people can understand each other better, learn new things, and come up with ideas that could lead to positive change in their community.

Facilitator: An individual who helps guide a group's conversation without taking sides or giving answers [7]. In a conversation café, they make sure everyone has a chance to speak, feels heard, and can share their ideas.

Generation: A group of people who are born around the same time and share similar life experiences because of the time period they grew up in [8]. For example, the Baby Boomer generation includes people born between 1946 and 1964, during a time when many more babies were being born than usual after World War II.

Intergenerational: The connections and relationships between people of different ages, like older adults and children, teens, or young adults [9]. These relationships can happen in families, communities, or society. People in intergenerational relationships can share knowledge, skills, and support.

Older adults: People who are in their later stages of life, often around age 55 or older.

Social justice: Making sure people have fair access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power [2]. It also means recognizing that some groups face more challenges or barriers than others. In the context of climate change, social justice means understanding that people are affected differently and making sure solutions consider these differences, so everyone is supported fairly.

Younger people: People who are in earlier stages of life, such as children, teens, and young adults.

These key terms can have varying definitions. The way these terms are described here reflect how we use these them throughout this toolkit series.

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Winnipeg, MB

Funding for this project has been made possible through contributions from:



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The Prairie Climate Centre (PCC) is an internal research centre at the University of Winnipeg committed to making climate change meaningful and relevant to Canadians of all walks of life. We bring an evidence-based perspective to communicating the science, impacts, and risks of climate change through maps, documentary video, research reports, and plain-language training, writing, and outreach.

Our goal is to inspire citizen participation, to support communities in making meaningful and effective adaptation and mitigation decisions for current and future generations, and to help Canadian society move from risk to resilience.



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