



THE NATO CLIMATE CHANGE
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THE CONFERENCE OF
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MONTRÉAL
CLIMATE SECURITY
SUMMIT

SOMMET
SUR LA SÉCURITÉ CLIMATIQUE DE
MONTRÉAL

EVA COHEN

Founder & President

[Civil Protection Youth Canada \(CPYC\)](#)

Eva is the Founder & President of Civil Protection Youth Canada (CPYC), a not-for profit organisation focused on building community resilience and disaster readiness through youth leadership. Eva was born and raised in Germany and immigrated to Canada in 2003. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Regensburg, where she studied English and Geography. Her academic background, combined with hands-on volunteer experience in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) with Germany's civil protection agency, Technisches Hilfswerk (THW), sparked a deep interest in climatology, geology, urban planning, and the societal impacts of disasters. This foundation inspired a lifelong commitment to building disaster readiness and resilience.



As an expert on citizen-based disaster response, Eva publishes, teaches, lectures, and advises extensively on the subject. She has been advocating for the creation of a Canadian federal agency for disaster response and recovery for over a decade. Hers is a proven approach, though novel to Canada. It is based on training and equipping volunteer detachments across the country in disaster response technical skills. Eva regularly briefs stakeholders on the concept of a civil protection agency, including ministers, MPs, senior officials, emergency management professionals, and first responders. Eva's expertise comes from decades of training, experience, and research. She served with the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), an all-hazards government civil protection organization based on volunteer experts, which she sees as an exemplary model to be tailored to Canadian needs. She has led various Canadian delegations on study-visits to the THW in Germany and she has initiated and hosted discussions between senior THW officials and Canadian stakeholders. The most recent expert exchange in Jan 2025 she hosted through CPYC, together with the Canadian Armed Forces Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC). It resulted in a forthcoming report describing why a



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Canadian citizen-based civil protection approach is what we need and what is required for it to be successful in Canada.