

JAMES STUEWE

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We will start with James Stuewe, who is a Manager for the Canadian Public Sector and a returning member of the World Policy Conference. He will give his personal perspective on why it is difficult to change. James, go ahead.

James STUEWE

Merci, Patrick. Thank you everyone here today. My name is James Stuewe, I am from Ottawa, Canada and I am a dad of three kids aged five, three and one. I will reinforce the fact that I am speaking on my personal opinions today, not speaking on behalf of the government of Canada. *Je ferai la présentation en anglais aujourd'hui, je suis bien capable de prendre des questions en français plus tard si vous voulez. Une nouvelle fois j'exprime ici mon opinion, pas celle du gouvernement canadien.* I am going to very quickly take a look at two things. One is to look at the climate change and climate adaptation in Canada to set the scene, but also then to really look at the problematic, why is it that we feel so unable to address this issue?

In Canada we have roughly 10 million square kilometres, we have a fair bit of climate, so we are seeing a fair bit of that climate changing. It is a fact, we know that the north of Canada is warming at twice the rate as the south of Canada. We see more extreme heat and less extreme cold. We see more drought and melting permafrost. There has been a marked shift away from snowfall to rainfall. I grew up on the east coast of Canada, a tough, rugged beautiful part of the country tucked in next to the North Atlantic. When I was young, we had snow on the ground for months and months. This past year, friends and families who are still there told me that it snowed a handful of times and a good buddy of mine said he shovelled three times. The city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is adapting by planting palm trees; palm trees in Canada. We have moved beyond the conversation of climate change to that of climate adaptation. What I think has been really very positive from the dialogue over the last few days, as Patrick just mentioned, it feels collectively like we have come to a consensus. We have moved past this idea of doubting climate change to the fact we need to do something. Policymakers, governments, businesses are all seeing these impacts. Businesses are seeing that ultimately their costs are increasing due to regulatory costs or perhaps they are seeing their built infrastructure is now at climate risk. This is the problematic.

We have come to this place today, we have seen governments try to do things, and we are going to have a discussion about the situation in France in a few moments, but there is resistance. We ask ourselves in this room and other rooms similar to this, "what is wrong? Can people not see? Climate change is a fact, what is wrong and why is there that resistance?" It reminds me about our 2015- 2016 conversations about Trump. In rooms like this all over the world we had come to a consensus, "the man cannot win. He is a reality TV show star. Just wait and see if they think he can win they just do not get it".

The fact of the matter is that I think today it is just another case where we do not get it. We do not understand the lived realities of 99% of the population. We forget that 99% of the population are not in this room today. They are not actively thinking about climate change or how it is going to impact them, impact food chains, or food security. The single mum who works two jobs does not come home at the end of the day and think about rising sea temperatures. She comes home and she thinks about having made it through another day and that she is okay, and her kids are okay. She works her butt off, but she feels like she is not getting ahead, and arguably she is not, and never has been. She worries about her safety and the safety of her children, beyond that, not much else matters.

It comes down to this, the people being asked, or being told, to adjust their behaviours because of climate change or climate adaptation, are the same people who felt that the rules of the game have been dictated to them for their whole



lives. Most people know that climate change is real. You may find some people who still do not believe it, but ultimately if you are worried about making it through the day, you are less worried about tomorrow, never mind what your country's greenhouse gas emissions will be in 2030 or 2050.

I actually do not think it is reasonable that for us to assume people will just submit to changes in taxes, higher prices, submit to their behaviours being changed because of climate change. This is the challenge; traditional policy approaches are not working as we would like them to. With all our self-reflection in this room like this and many others similar to it, we have accepted climate change, but I think our self-reflection actually harkens back to the 2015-2016 conversations about Trump. "Can they not see that it is an emergency? Why will they, the public, not change?" Frankly, I think that people can see. They can see that someone, who thinks perhaps they are smarter than them, is trying to tell them how to live their lives. Therein lies the resistance.

This is tough, it is a tough message personally for me to deliver because I know climate change is real and I know it is going to impact my life, but it is going to impact the lives of my children. I just think we need to find another way to go about the conversation and most importantly, to bring more people into it. Thank you very much.

Patrick NICOLET

Thank you, James, for highlighting in very practical terms what the challenge is we have to face.