

How media portrays climate change.

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# How media portrays climate change

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## **Introduction**

Climate change is an issue that is starting to get attention from communities around the world because it is disrupting their way of life and impacting their survival. Although adapting to and mitigating its consequences seem to often be associated with a political spectrum, it is not. Climate change does not care if people are conservative or liberal. It will affect them the same. Society is slowly learning about how to adapt and mitigate, but often the actions regarding this issue do not seem popular. This could be linked to the fact that the media impacts public opinion on the issue. Depending on what media sources an individual is getting their news from could have an impact on their ability to acknowledge, adapt, and mitigate to the climate crisis. This media review covers news articles on four different climate change disasters: floods, coastal erosion, heatwaves, and hurricanes. Overall, some articles are referring to climate change in the media while others are not recognizing the connection between the increasing severity of disasters and climate change.

## **Definitions of Climate Change and Global Warming**

Before looking in detail at how different types of media discuss climate change regarding floods, coastal erosion, heat waves, and hurricanes, it is important to understand the difference between the terms climate change and global warming. According to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, climate change is part of the global warming process, and its consequences are associated with the burning of fossil fuels (Global warming vs, 2023). The term global warming is representative of the long-term warming of the earth. It can be observed through data obtained since the 1970s and observed all the way back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Global warming vs, 2023). More complete definitions regarding climate change and global warming can be found in Figure 1.

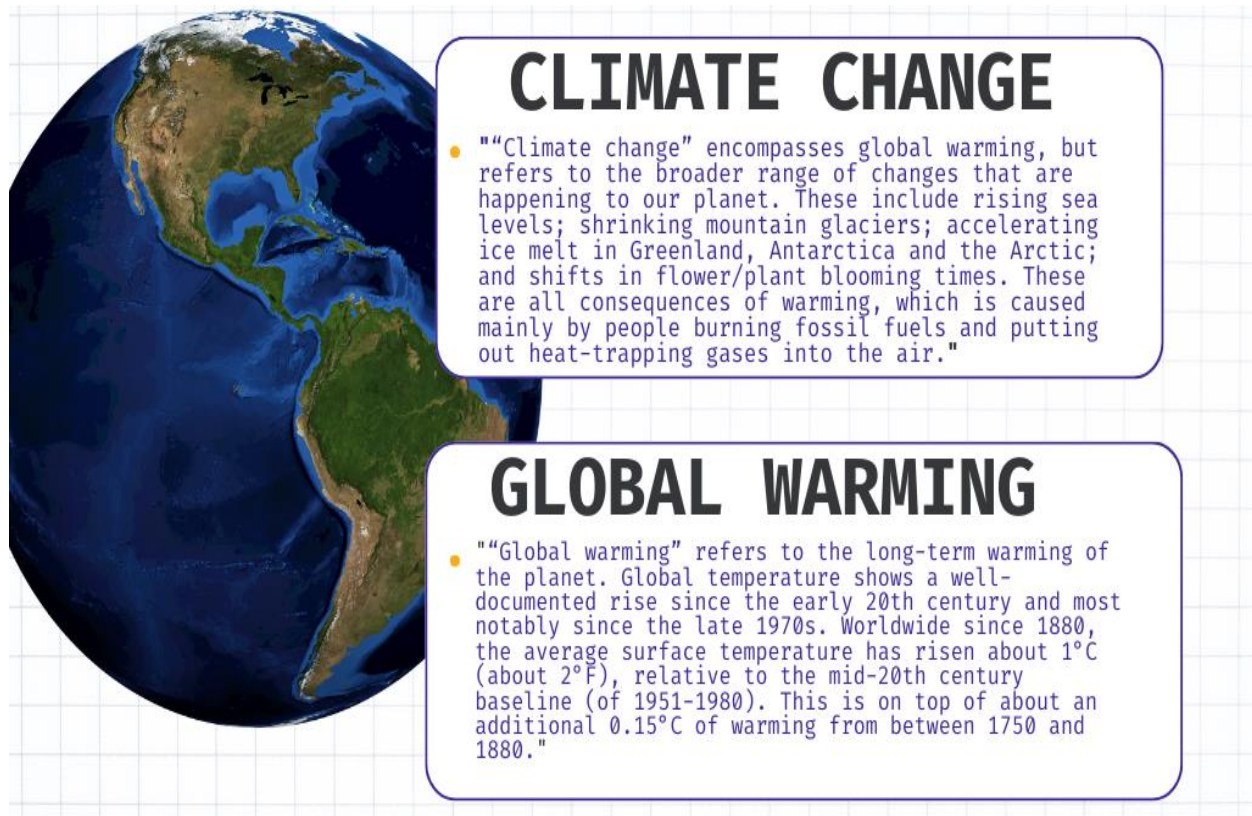


Figure 1: Climate change vs. global warming (Global warming vs, 2023).

## **Methodology**

To complete this report, research was completed to place the different media articles in the right political spectrum (either conservative or liberal) that they are associated with. An article titled “Orientations politiques des journaux français et étrangers” was used to help determine where a media company would fall on the political spectrum (Orientations politiques des, 2022). This methodology, along with a graphic from the Association for Media Literacy (AML) was applied to Canadian media outlets (Figure 2).

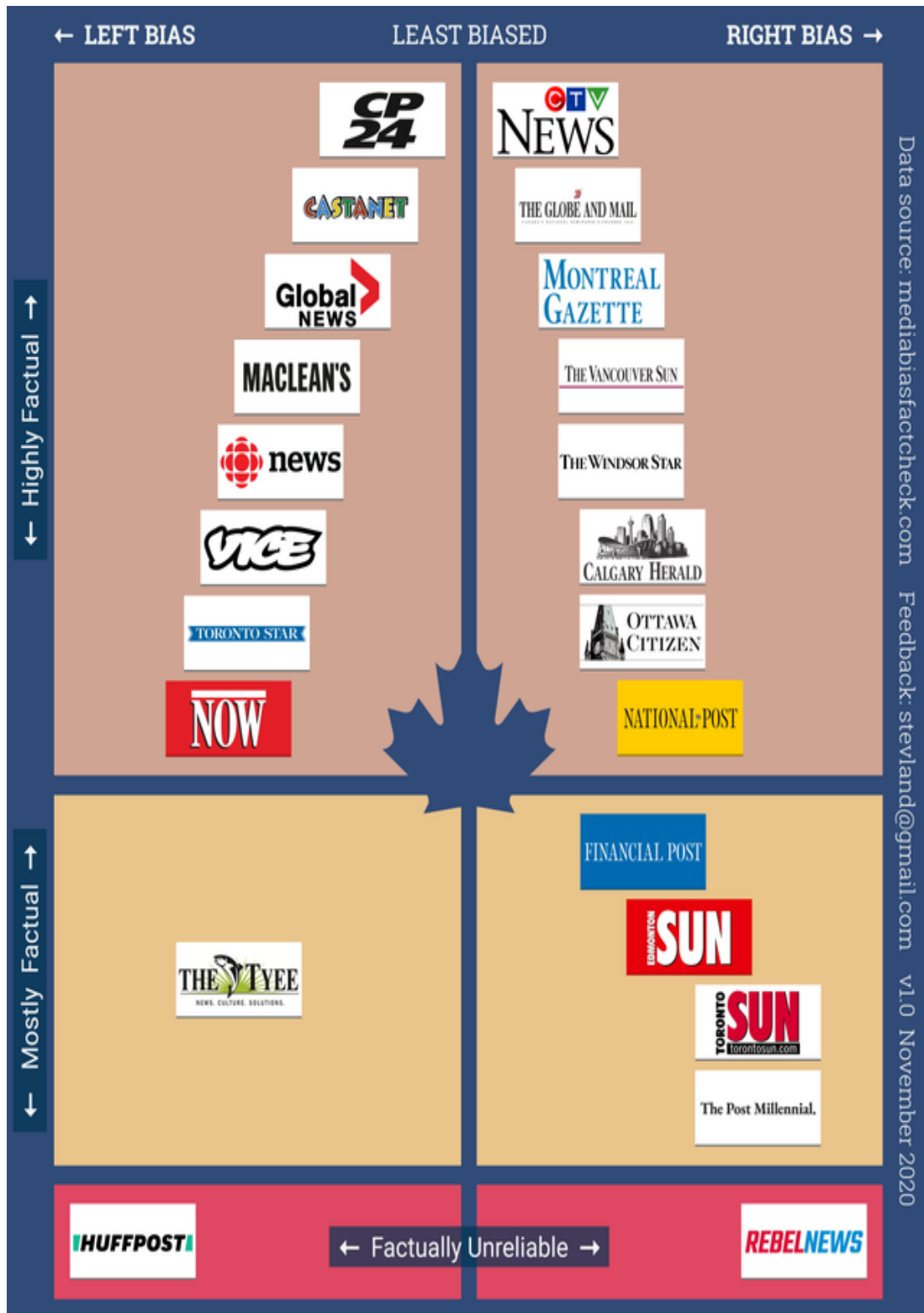


Figure 2: Political standings of Canadian media (Maliszewski, 2023).

## Climate Change in the Media

At a point in time when climate change is an issue that should be receiving more attention, climate change related information can vary depending on whether it comes from a liberal or conservative source. Figure 3 shows the main news sources that have been chosen for this research and where they land in the political spectrum.











Liberal	Conservative
   	     

Figure 3.: Political standings of the media mentioned in this research.

To understand how climate change information changes depending on the political affiliation of the different media sources that exist, this paper will be divided into four different sections: flooding, coastal erosion, heat waves, and hurricanes.



## **Flooding**

When reviewing how some conservative news media link flooding to climate change, a few of the conservative media sources do not mention climate change when they talk about the consequences of flooding in developing countries such as Pakistan (Pakistan out of, 2022). One such media is FOX NEWS. The reader can really see FOX NEWS' omission of climate change in the article titled "Pakistan out of money for flood recovery, urges aid from UN" (Pakistan out of, 2022). Instead of linking the flooding in Pakistan to climate change, FOX NEWS focuses all its energy on the human impact of the flooding and how it is making the Pakistani government look bad. Although the Pakistan flooding was published in an American news source, a similar article was also published in the Toronto SUN which is a Canadian news source (Ahmed, 2022 (1)). When comparing the two articles, FOX NEWS seems to focus most of its attention on the financial problems that Pakistan has inherited from the floods, the TORONTO SUN focuses more on the health impacts of Pakistan's floods and what is being done to help.

Compared to the Fox NEWS article, the articles from the TORONTO SUN and the OTTAWA SUN do mention climate change and talk about how to protect our homes against it (Ahmed, 2022 (A)). The OTTAWA SUN published the same article on the same date in which the reader can see similarities (Ahmed, 2022 (B)). Both articles are, in a way, encouraging people to adapt to climate change.

The two newspapers mentioned above are not the only Canadian conservative news sources that mention climate change while covering floods. Another conservative Canadian source is CTV NEWS in their article titled: "Sajjan says climate change disasters could mean Canadian troop hikes" (Bissett, 2019). The article looks at the role that the Canadian military played in New Brunswick during the major floods in 2019. It explains the increasingly important role that our military plays in the face of climate change and the increasing security risks that it is causing (for example: major floods) (Bissett, 2019).

Through the articles reviewed, a major division between the main conservative news sources in Canada and the U.S. can be seen. In Canada, conservative media tend to talk more about

climate change facts. In the U.S., the main conservative source (FOX NEWS) does not seem to address climate change as a factor in recent flooding.

Contrary to North American conservative media sources, it seems that Western-European conservative media sources are accepting climate change more as a fact, and they do link floods to it. In the United Kingdom (UK), one such media would be EXPRESS with its articles titled: “UK flooding in pictures: How British landmarks will look after sea levels rise” (Pittock, 2022) and “UK area at risk of going ‘underwater’ outlined in terrifying climate forecast map” (Watling, 2022). In these articles, climate change is mentioned as a cause of flooding. EXPRESS even goes as far as using terms such as “terrifying” (Watling, 2022). In their article from February 13, EXPRESS are using dramatic images from Climate Central (a non-profit composed of scientists and communicators that strive to educate how climate change is and will affect our lives) to show how climate change would exacerbate floods in London, United Kingdom (Watling, 2022).

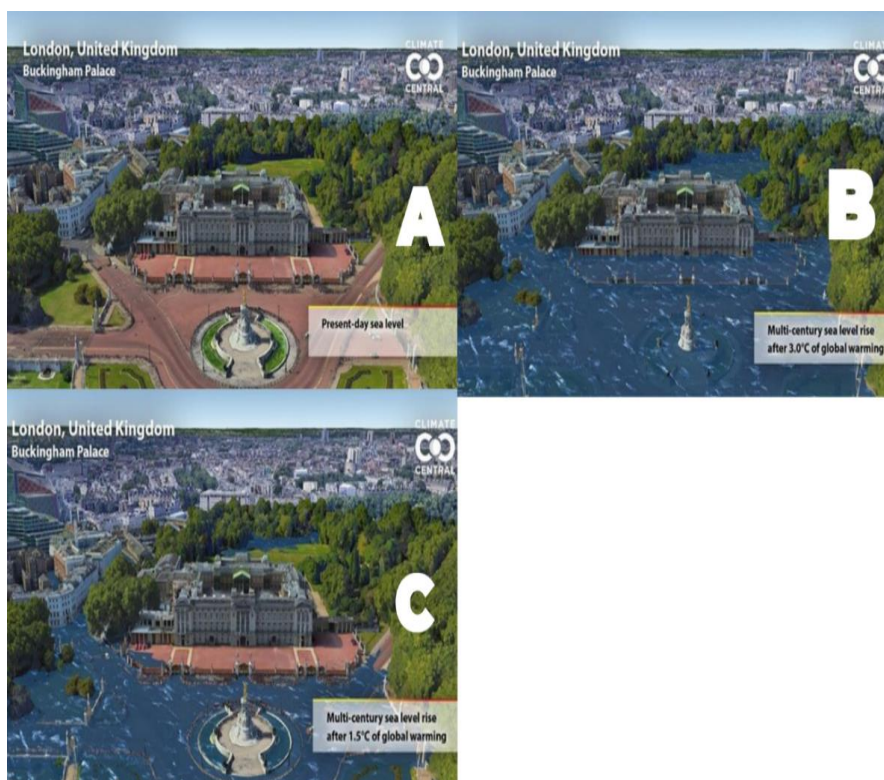


Figure 4: Flooding examples on famous landmarks. A) Buckingham Palace at present day sea level. B) Buckingham Palace after 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming. C) Buckingham Palace after 3 degrees Celsius of global warming (Climate Central via Express on February 13, 2022).

When looking at how some conservative media sources link floods to climate change, we can see that most of the ones chosen for this paper do make the link between the two. The only media that does not do the link is FOX NEWS.

Media news sources that are more liberal leaning do make the link between floods and climate change. A good example would be the article from CNN titled “The next extreme floods could be even worse, a new study shows. But there’s a way to prevent that” (Ramirez, 2022 (A)). The link between climate change and floods in this article starts with floods that happened in the city of St. Louis (Missouri) and in the state of Kentucky during the final week of July 2022 (Ramirez, 2022 (A)). CNN then links these floods to new research that explains that we need to build smarter if we want to adapt to floods or mitigate their consequences. This would be especially true in the U.S. where the infrastructure is getting older and poorer communities are forced to move into floodplains where housing is affordable (Ramirez, 2022 (A)). In the article, the reader learns to not only look at the past to adapt our communities to climate change or to mitigate its impacts; but we should also look at what the future might have in store for us (Ramirez, 2022 (A)). The article mentions that it is better to make radical, equitable, and proactive changes instead of reacting without a holistic approach in the aftermath of a disaster that could be for example a major flood (Ramirez, 2022 (A)).

In the Canadian liberal spectrum, the media CBC News is reviewed. An article titled “Is climate change causing the recent floods along the St. John River?” (Poitras, 2019) is about flooding in Saint John, New Brunswick. The focus of this article is how climate change is linked to the floods that impacted the communities along the Wolastoq (St. John River) in the spring of 2019. While the article acknowledges that it is hard to link specific one-time floods to climate change, it also acknowledges that there is a good chance that it can be a result of climate change (Poitras, 2019). The article concludes by explaining why it's important that New Brunswick starts adapting itself to major floods now before its infrastructure suffers too much in the future (Poitras, 2019). In contrast, during the 2018 floods, Canadian liberal media such as Global NEWS, with their article titled “Scientist says record floods show that New Brunswick must adapt to changing world” (Tutton, 2018), are already linking the floods to climate change. They also explain what the province should do better to adapt.

Liberal news media are not only present in North America. They can also be found in the UK (for example, BBC News). BBC NEWS published two articles on this topic, “Climate change: Flooding is ‘the new reality’ in Wales” (Climate Change: Flooding, 2022) and “Extreme Weather: What causes flash flooding?” (Extreme Weather: What, 2021).

The article “Climate change: Flooding is ‘the new reality’ in Wales” (Climate Change: Flooding, 2022) focuses on the impact that climate change is having on the floods in the Rhondda Ward, which is in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Wales. Reading this article, the reader can feel the distress that the community members were feeling after storms swept in the area in 2020. Since that time, there is a feeling in that community that the different levels of government are not doing enough to adapt to or mitigate climate change. The community members are becoming more vocal that we are at a point in time where we need to adapt to and mitigate climate change as fast as the climate is changing (Climate Change: Flooding, 2022).

The article “Extreme Weather: What causes flash flooding?” (Extreme Weather: What, 2021), on the other hand, focuses more on the scientific aspects of floods (in this case, flash flooding) caused by climate change. In the article, the reader can see the main definition of what a flash flood is. The article also explains why they can happen in cities as well as in towns (Extreme Weather: What, 2021). It also answers the question: “Is flash flooding becoming more frequent?” (Extreme Weather: What, 2021). The answer the article provides is basically yes, with a short explanation. This article also explains what can be done as a society to mitigate flash floods so that populations do not suffer too much from their consequences. Finally, it explains what can be done at a personal level to protect yourself and your home from flash floods by answering the two following questions: “How can I protect my home?” and “What else should I do?” (Extreme Weather: What, 2021).

In this section, we can see that floods are a big part of the conversation around climate change for many news sources. On one side, conservative news agencies are starting to link floods more to climate change without showing the emergency behind the issue and supporting it. In some cases, they do not even want to acknowledge the link between floods and climate change, and they prefer to talk about the financial impacts. In the liberal spectrum, articles

present an urgency to act because they focus on the science behind the issue and what it means for our communities.

## **Coastal Erosion**

This section explores media articles about coastal erosion. Some of these articles link the challenges of erosion to climate change while some do not, even though they mention adaptation. An example where the connection between climate change and erosion is unidentified is the FOX NEWS article: “Oyster colonies can help stabilize eroding shorelines” (Oyster colonies can, 2022). In this article, FOX NEWS addresses that rising sea levels are a problem that coastal communities need to adapt to but does not make a clear connection to climate change (Oyster colonies can, 2022). Instead, it only focuses on the human and infrastructure consequences and how oysters can help fight coastal erosion when used as a barrier.

In conservative Canadian news sources, some of them do not mention erosion on their websites, for example the Toronto Sun and the Ottawa Sun. The NATIONAL POST however has an article titled “Climate Changed: Rising oceans, storm surges 'disaster in slow motion' for coasts” (Alam, 2022) that provides an understanding of how climate change and coastal erosion are related. In the article, the NATIONAL POST explains how coastal erosion is affecting communities across Canada from British Columbia to Eastern Canada, and how we can adapt to the consequences (Alam, 2022). Finally, the article discusses that the main cause of coastal erosion in Canada is not a consequence of sea level rise, but rather an issue with the imbalance of sediments (Alam, 2022).

In Saint John, New Brunswick a conservative news outlet article on this topic is titled “New coastal erosion adds to worries in Saint John” ( Moore, 2023) by CTV NEWS ATLANTIC. This article addresses the main issues regarding coastal erosion in the city which can be seen in the Red Head Road community. Although the article explains how coastal erosion has been worsened by the storm that hit the area before Christmas 2022, it does not mention the role of climate change. However, the article does give a sense of urgency about the issue (Nick Moore, 2023).

The conservative UK news media EXPRESS accepts the fact that coastal erosion can be linked to climate change in the article titled: “Climate change warning as vital English Heritage sites risk 'collapsing' into the sea” (Ashkenaz, 2022 (A)). The article talks about how climate change impacts coastal erosion which in turn impacts vital English Heritage sites (Ashkenaz, 2022 (A)). Another article from “EXPRESS” titled, “Popular beach goes from sanctuary to 'over-hyped' danger spot” explains how humans are having a big impact on coastal erosion (Trehwela & Hains, 2022). Although it does not discuss climate change specifically, it does look at how humans impact our environment and often directly cause the issues that we are trying to stop. This is especially true at Pedn Vounder (UK), a beach that is very popular with social media users in the West Cornwall area. The article explains that residents near the beach are becoming frustrated with how the environment is being damaged by the beachgoers and how it is becoming dangerous due to human-caused erosion. Regarding these issues and other ones, EXPRESS explains that the residents have become vocal since they want the beach to be clean and safe (Trehwela & Hains, 2022).

When reviewing CNN, articles recognize that coastal erosion is linked to climate change, sea level rise and storms (such as hurricanes) (Ramirez, 2022 (B)). In the article, “Homes are collapsing into the ocean in Florida. Here’s what’s behind the dangerous situation,” CNN explains that Volusia County in Florida is increasingly suffering from the consequences of climate change. One of the reasons the county is suffering is that “the ocean has risen more than a foot in the last 100 years” (Ramirez, 2022 (B)). According to CNN, this rising of the ocean has caused, and is still causing many problems. These problems include stress on sea walls due because they are getting older, and the destruction of homes and infrastructure (Ramirez, 2022 (B)).

In the Canadian liberal media, erosion is often linked to climate change and is identified as an urgent issue that we need to adapt to. This can be seen in the CBC News article: “Gaspé couple fights to save ancestral home from coastal erosion” (Dougherty, 2018). The article is about a couple in New Richmond on the Gaspé Peninsula who are running against the clock to protect their ancestral home from coastal erosion. According to CBC NEWS, the couple decided that it was time to protect their home from climate change after they were informed in 2016 by

officials from their town that they would be losing 10 centimeters of their property every year (Dougherty, 2018). After realizing the seriousness of the issue, they decided to “employ a technique known as “rocking,” bringing in 650 tonnes of rocks from a Gaspé quarry to build a barrier to try to protect a 100-metre stretch of land” (Dougherty, 2018). The couple also decided to use plants to keep the soil from eroding. The article looks at how climate change is affecting coastal erosion and how coastal erosion is affecting the province of Quebec as a whole.

Another article from CBC NEWS that focuses on the link between coastal erosion and climate change as well as looking at how communities are being impacted by it, is titled: “Holding back the waves on the Acadian Peninsula” (Poitras, 2020). This article explains that coastal erosion has been a major issue on the peninsula for the past several years. It provides education about the impact of coastal erosion on community members through the eyes of Valorès, a sustainable development research institute in Shippagan (Poitras, 2020). The article suggests that the impacts of coastal erosion are causing the residents a great deal of stress because they do not want to lose their homes, history, and culture (Poitras, 2020). The video report in the article mentions that the stress caused by coastal erosion has a toll on the mental health of some residents by causing eco-anxiety (Poitras, 2020).

In Saint John, the Global News article titled “Coastal erosion leaves Saint John, N.B. residents on the brink” (Lothian, 2023) and the article by CTV NEWS ATLANTIC titled “New coastal erosion adds to worries in Saint John” (Moore, 2023) cover the same story about coastal erosion and the link to climate change. The Global News article provides more information regarding the impact that coastal erosion is having on the Red Head Road area. The Global News article also explains what is being done in the area to help residents in regard to coastal erosion and climate change (Lothian, 2023).

In the liberal media BBC NEWS, there are two articles relevant for this research: “Community rock piles to tackle coastal erosion in Norfolk and Suffolk” (Community Rock Piles, 2022), and “Erosion fears could see coastal path moved” (Erosion fears could, 2022). The first article explores how coastal communities in England (mainly in Norfolk and Suffolk) are adapting to

the consequences of coastal erosion (Community Rock Piles, 2022). The article shows the willingness of the community to adapt to coastal erosion through a toolkit that makes it easier for residents to access the right resources to protect their homes. The East Suffolk Council wants to increase the number of options that its residents would have when it comes to deciding how to adapt to the impacts of erosion (Community Rock Piles, 2022). The second article creates a certain sense of urgency because of issue of public safety and the need to keep people safe when they walk on the Whitburn Coastal Path (Erosion fears could, 2022). The urgency is felt by the South Tyneside Council who wants to move a section of the coastal path inland because they say that it is in danger of being impacted by climate change and coastal erosion (Erosion fears could, 2022).

In this section, most of the media articles analyzed did connect climate change and coastal erosion. In articles that did not present coastal erosion as being a consequence of climate change, the issues were identified as a problem linked to living near the ocean.

## **Heat waves**

This section explores conservative and liberal media articles about heat waves. In US conservative news the link between heat waves and climate change is not always being made. In the FOX NEWS article: “Heat waves explained: Why some heat waves are worse than others,” FOX NEWS seems to be explaining what the consequences of heat waves can be and how we can adapt (Heat waves explained, 2022). Generally, the article focuses more on the human aspect of heat waves without connecting the issue to climate change.

In a review of Canadian conservative media, the articles do mention climate change with discussing heat waves. An example of this is the Toronto Sun article: “Canada will face 'lethal heat' in a few decades, study says” (Braun, 2022). In the article, the term climate change is used at least once to present one of the causes of heat waves.

The National Post’s article “Climate change and extreme heat are making us more anxious” (Card, 2022), focuses on the link between heat waves and climate change and mentions the impact on mental health (eco-anxiety). The article looks at what causes ecoanxiety and what



individuals can do on a personal and community level to help cope with the mental damage that climate change is doing (Card, 2022). The articles provide useful information and presents a sense of hope regarding the issue.

In the Ottawa Sun, they do not make links to climate change when they discuss the issues surrounding heat waves. In the article: “Spain swelters in hottest pre-summer heatwave for 20 years” (Valladolid & Del Pozo, 2022), the impacts of the major heatwave that touched Spain back in 2022 are explored. The impacts mentioned were often related to the weather and temperature (Valladolid & Del Pozo, 2022). The article does not mention the impact that the heat waves are having on the people or what its implications were regarding climate change, though in the title, it is presented as the hottest one in twenty years (Valladolid, & Del Pozo, 2022).

In Saint John, a conservative news outlet that mentions the impacts of heat waves on the city is CTV NEWS ATLANTIC’s article “Thousands of New Brunswickers lose power Wednesday as weather system moved through” (Lyll, 2021). The article looks at how the heatwave of June 2021 affected the city. There is no mention of the heatwave being caused by climate change. Instead, the article presents the heatwave as being a weather system that was passing over the city. The article does mention that heat waves are uncommon in the city (Lyll, 2021).

In the UK conservative media EXPRESS, they mention the link between climate change and heat waves. The article “Earth's 'distress signal' laid bare as the planet is breaking dangerous heat levels each year”, discusses the COP 27 Summit in Egypt in 2022. The article explores how, according to the COP 27, our society is greatly off track when it comes to limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 °C (Ashkenaz, 2022 (B)). To emphasize the need to act now, the article uses the term “climate crisis” at least twice. In the EXPRESS article “Europe warming at twice the rate of the rest of Earth, climate report warns”, it explains that Europe has been warming at twice the speed of the rest of the world in the past thirty years and how this warming is linked to other issues (floods and storms) (Randall, 2022). The article focuses on some positive information coming out of the climate crisis such as Europe becoming “[...] one of the most advanced regions in cross-border cooperation in climate change adaptation, in

particular across transnational river basins” and that it is “[...] one of the world leaders in providing effective early warning systems, with about 75 percent of people protected” (Randall, 2022).

Liberal articles make the link between heat waves and climate change more often than conservative media who present the issue as being part of normal weather patterns.

An example where US liberal media is making the link between heat waves and climate change is CNN their article: “Europe has warmed faster than any other region in the past 30 years” (Gray, 2022). The article reviews the different consequences of climate change when it comes to the increase in temperature that Europe and the rest of the world have been experiencing. It suggests that society needs to act now and that there is more work to be done. This is especially true in Europe where communities are starting to commonly see the consequences of climate change even though they are doing a lot to reduce their GHG emissions (Gray, 2022).

In Canadian liberal media such as CBC NEWS, they do make the link between heat waves and climate change. This can be seen in their article titled “Nothing can stop N.B. from getting hotter over next three decades: report” (Nothing can stop N.B. from getting hotter over next three decades: report, 2022). In this article, CBC NEWS explains that according to a report by the Centre on Climate Adaptation of the University of Waterloo titled *Irreversible Extreme Heat: Protecting Canadians and Communities from a Lethal Future* (Nothing can stop N.B. from getting hotter over next three decades: report, 2022), it is no longer possible to stop or slow down the increase in temperature that will occur in New Brunswick in the next 30 years. The article also explains different ways that communities can adapt to this increase in temperatures that will have major repercussions on the province. A good example of this would be in Saint John where the number of hot summer days above 30°C will go from two days (2005-2010) to 11 days by the time we get to the year 2050 (Nothing can stop N.B. from getting hotter over next three decades: report, 2022). To help our communities deal with this increase in temperature, tools will have to be put in place to prevent negative health impacts.

Another CBC NEWS article that would be worth mentioning when looking at how heat waves impact communities would be an article titled: “Heat waves are increasing across Canada —

and hotter nights are also dangerous” (Mortillaro, 2021). In this article, CBC NEWS looks at how temperatures have been increasing during the night compared to during the day and what that means for residents of major cities such as Charlottetown, Montreal, and Toronto. The article also looks at how the increase in heat waves is affecting nature (Mortillaro, 2021).

The BBC NEWS article titled “Climate change: Summer 2022 smashed dozens of UK records” (Stylianou et al, 2022) looks at how the data from different weather stations were used to calculate the highest temperatures in the country and see how they are different from the previous years (Stylianou et al, 2022). In another article titled “*UK's 40C heatwave 'basically impossible' without climate change*” (Rannard, 2022), BBC NEWS explains that there is a good chance that the record-breaking temperatures that hit the UK (40 °C) on July 19, 2022, might not have happened if it was not for human-caused climate change (Rannard, 2022). The article also explains that without human-caused climate change, the temperatures hit would have been 2 to 4°C cooler (Rannard, 2022). Finally, the article explains that the UK is not adequately adapted to the increase in temperatures that it is seeing now and that they need to do more in terms of adaptation and mitigation (Rannard, 2022).

In this section, A sense of emergency was shared by the liberal media when they would link climate change to heat waves. The focus of the articles was on the catastrophic meaning heat waves have for the future of humanity. Conservative media also did cover heat waves this way. Although, in some cases, instead of associating heat waves to climate change, they would present them as being normal weather occurrences.

## **Hurricanes**

This section will be looking at how media articles link hurricanes to climate change. In the U.S., a few conservative articles do not make the link. Instead, they would mix up the very different meanings of the terms climate change and global warming. This can be seen in the FOX News article titled “‘No doubt' Hurricane Ian fed by 'global warming,' MSNBC hosts argue” (Kornick, 2022). In the article, Fox NEWS is making it seem as if the idea that climate change has an impact on hurricanes is an unfounded argument. Also, the second the liberal media go after

one of their political allies because he disregards climate change, FOX NEWS starts saying that these journalists are attacking their allies when they are just saying the facts (Kornick, 2022).

Another article that would be worth mentioning regarding how FOX NEWS links climate change to hurricanes would be the one titled: “Hurricanes growing stronger, more intense; climate change may be a factor, federal study says” (Fedschun, 2020). In this article, FOX NEWS is presenting the research that was done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as well as the University of Wisconsin-Madison Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies. Although Fox News is presenting the research using the term climate change, the reader should be cautious about how the article is being interpreted.

Regarding Canadian conservative media, some of them are more inclined to make the link between hurricanes and climate change. A good example would be the TORONTO SUN’s article titled: “Hurricane Ian floods leave mess, insurance questions behind” (Santana & Phillis, 2022). Through the article, the TORONTO SUN looks at how flood insurance is important following hurricanes such as Hurricane Ian that devastated North Port, Florida in 2022 (Santana & Phillis, 2022). The article also explains that the importance of flood insurance is increasing “[...] at a time when climate change is making strong hurricanes even stronger and making storms in general wetter, slower and more prone to intensifying rapidly” (Santana & Phillis, 2022).

In the NATIONAL POST’s article titled “Hurricane Ida shows the increasing impact of climate change since Katrina” (Hurricane Ida shows, 2021), the focus is mostly on how Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ida ended up being different and what could be learned from the disastrous prevention and recovery efforts that were implemented before and right after Hurricane Katrina. The article also looks at how climate change is transforming Hurricanes and how infrastructures should be upgraded to be able to hold up through them (Hurricane Ida shows, 2021).

In the conservative UK media EXPRESS, in their article titled “Florida braced for Storm Nicole landfall as shell-shocked residents recover from hurricane” (Jempson, 2022) there are no links being made between hurricanes and climate change. The term climate change is not mentioned once in the article. Instead, the article looks at the consequences of Hurricane Ian on some of

Florida's communities and how Storm Nicole would evolve before reaching them shortly after the hurricane (Jempson, 2022). Another EXPRESS article that would be worth looking at although it does not mention climate change once is titled: "Met Office warns US Storm Nicole will bring 'volatile' gales and rain to the UK" (Chessum, 2022). The article mostly looks at how Storm Nicole impacted the UK weather in 2022.

Regarding American liberal media, a good example of an outlet that links climate change and hurricanes would be CNN with their article titled: "How the climate crisis is changing hurricanes" (Ramirez, 2021). In the article, CNN looks at the main ways climate change might be affecting hurricanes today although they do mention that the link between the two is not quite clear yet and scientists are still working on trying to understand it (Ramirez, 2021).

Regarding Canadian liberal media such as CBC NEWS, they do make links between hurricanes and climate change. These links can be seen in the article titled: "Fiona shows N.B. unprepared for changing reality, climate researcher says" (Leger, 2022). The article is an interview with Louise Comeau who is the Director of Climate Change and Energy Solutions at the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. In the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona, Dr. Comeau explains that we can no longer look in the past to adapt ourselves to the consequences of hurricanes in the future. She also explains that living on the coastlines might become a thing of the past because the provincial government and the municipal government will need to start thinking about the need of moving homes and whole communities inland to protect the residents (Leger, 2022). Finally, Dr. Comeau explains that it is important to find a balance between reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to extreme weather events (Leger, 2022).

Another CBC NEWS article that would be worth mentioning regarding the links between climate change and hurricanes would be the one titled: "Fiona demonstrated wild hurricane future and need to adapt to climate change" (Tutton, 2022). The article looks at how fossil fuel emissions are making hurricanes and storm events worse. It also looks at how our communities need to adapt if they do not want more related damages (Tutton, 2022).

A UK video report that would be useful to help understand the link between climate change and hurricanes is titled: "Hurricanes: Are they getting more violent?" (Lear, 2022). The video

looks at how hurricanes are formed and if climate change has an impact on them. Though, in the video, they mix up the terms climate change and global warming.

Another article from BBC NEWS that would be worth mentioning is titled: “Climate change: Hurricanes get stronger on land as world warms” (McGrath, 2020). This explains how hurricanes are becoming more powerful and result in more destruction on land. The article also looks at what causes this increase in power. The article uses the terms climate change and global warming simultaneously as if they meant the same thing.

In this section, we can see that most conservative and liberal media covered the role that climate change plays in hurricanes. FOX NEWS had an article regarding research on this topic. Though, several articles in this chapter were mixing up climate change and global warming several times.

## **Conclusion**

Through this report, you can see that news stories are starting to discuss climate change and its impact on the environment. This can especially be seen within the conservative media that are slowly starting to realize the importance of covering the issue although there are still many conservative news agencies that do not realize how climate change is an important conversation. Another important issue uncovered during the development of this report was that a lot of media still mix up the terms climate change and global warming. This mix-up is one of the main reasons why so many people still do not want to accept that humans are having a negative impact on the environment and that we need to change our way of life.

This report showed that although most mainstream media are quite reputable, it does not mean that they are without polarized views. These polarized views are what separate liberal and conservative news articles. This is an issue for environmental news articles because science in general does not account for political views but rather, science guides policy for making decisions that will impact our lives.

When feeling uncertain about the reputation of the media source, individuals may want to go back to the scientific journal covered by the media article. If the scientific journal is not

mentioned, further research can be completed by searching the subject online and seeing if there are scientific journals on the topic.

Finally, news articles can often be biased by the individual writers. Readers can check the background of the writer to verify who they are and the quality of the information. Overall, readers can be cautious when reviewing online news sources and can complete additional research as needed. This will help to ensure that accurate information is being translated to the public on climate change issues and solutions.

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