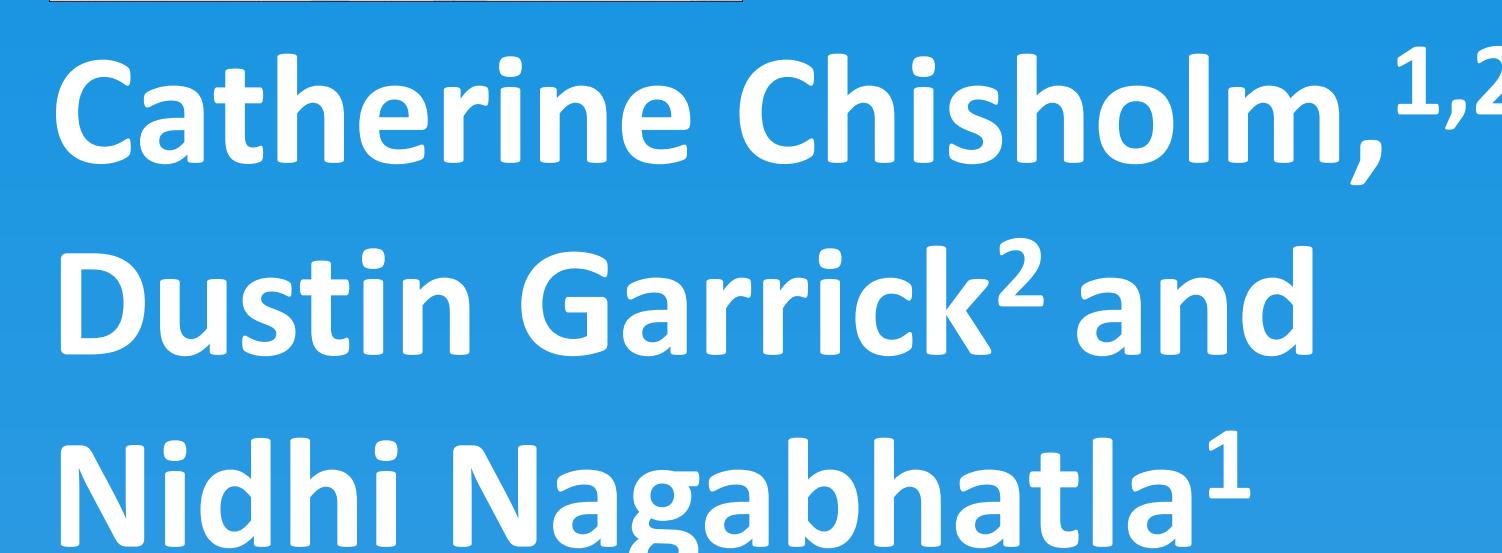


# Cities and Climate Adaptation in Comparative Context: Canada, the US and Mexico



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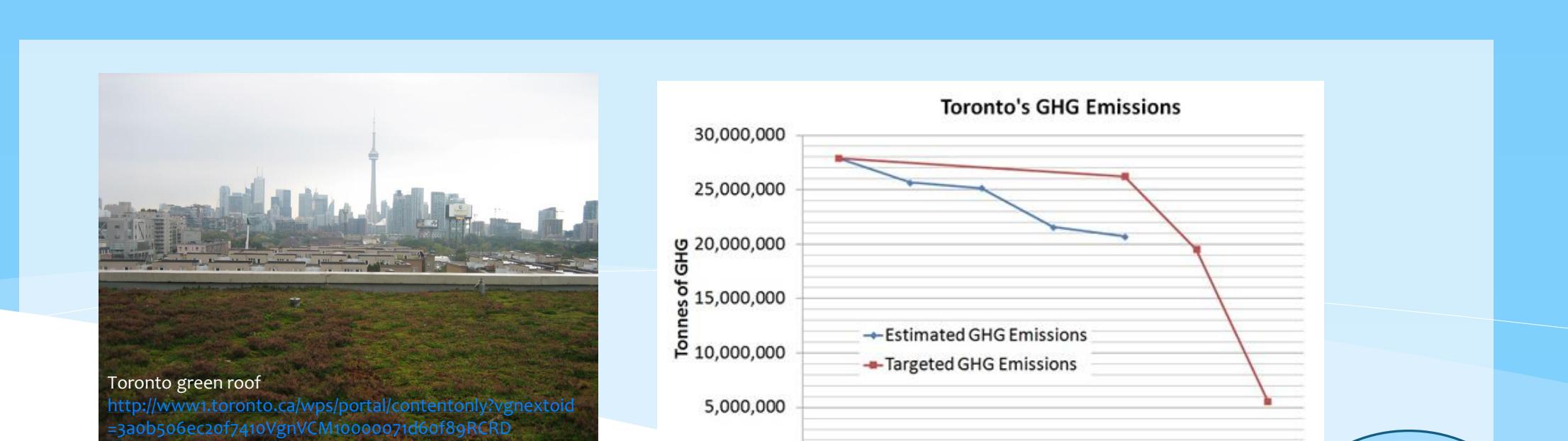
# Context:

	Toronto	San Francisco	Mexico City
<b>Population</b>	2.8 million	865,000	9 million
<b>City GDP</b>	\$276 billion USD	\$331 billion USD	\$404 billion USD
<b>City budget</b>	\$9.84 billion CAD (2015)	\$8.56 billion USD (2015)	\$8.15 billion USD (2014)
<b>Legal context: Cities in the constitution</b>	-In constitution, cities are 'creatures of the province': -Toronto has special powers in Ontario law	-In US, cities are 'creatures of the state' -Mixed city/county/special district system. -SF is a city and county	-Capital city has special recognition in constitution; will receive a new city constitution in 2017
<b>Federalism in practice</b>	-1990s devolution in Ontario resulted in city budget shortages -Limited federal-provincial coordination on climate action -Major provincial debt	-Prop. 13 and 2008 recession led to municipal budget crises, bankruptcies -Limited federal government climate action in US -Major state debt	-Political leadership on climate change (national law passed, 2012) but limited cooperation between levels of government -Special district, no state
<b>Economic context</b>	-Toronto better placed than others due to population growth and role as an economic hub	-Dense concentration of high-income residents but also high poverty rates	-Medium-high income, manufacturing has largely moved out of Mexico City since 1994 (NAFTA)
<b>Top climate change concerns</b>	-Storm damage, heat-related public health issues	-Sea level rise, flooding, storm damage	-Air pollution and smog, heatwaves, drought
<b>Main mitigation laws and programs</b>	-Ontario mandates GHG reporting; Toronto goes beyond minimum -City is leading in GHG emissions reduction; coordination of City's different sectors	-California a 'super-regulator' state -City 'greening' and climate change network between City authorities	-Air quality: drastic improvements since 1992 through regulation, expansion of public transit -Mayor: commitment to invest 10% of city budget in 'resilience'
<b>Main adaptation programs</b>	-Resilience strategies adopted 2013, 2014 -City 'greening', creating heat sinks, increasing stormwater system capacity	-City 'greening' to absorb stormwater -Integration of flooding concerns into planning -Resilience strategy to be announced Apr 2016	-Some integration with urban planning (smog-absorbing surfaces) -Continuing regulation of car use

# Toronto

- Early leader in the Canadian context
  - Strong institutionalization of climate plans: gains made under successive administrations, even when climate was not a political priority
  - Resources and technical capacity are strong – other Canadian cities do not have same resource level. Opportunities for sharing tools in the province and beyond

# Achievements: Drivers and Barriers



# Introduction

All three North American countries have federal political systems where some responsibilities are devolved to subnational and local governments. How does this affect climate change mitigation and adaptation? We analyze how federalism affects urban responses to climate change in three different political systems, using three major cities with similar budgets as case studies.

# Methods

# Comparing three cities in federal context: analysis of constitutional and legal texts and federalism in practice; data review of fiscal documents and databases; review of climate change strategies.

- # Mexico City

  - Early city-level and national leadership on climate
  - Major gains (although traffic, air pollution remain high)
  - Promising future but greater intergovernmental cooperation, public transit promotion is needed



# San Francisco

- Leadership at state level
  - Partnerships, networks created between City government departments and other authorities
  - Greening of city – but not fully linked between sectors
  - Legal complexity, social equity issues with layering of special district governments

# Lessons:

