

CFCAS News

March 2005

Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)



Message from the Executive Director

CFCAS is at the mid-point of its current ten-year mandate. Substantial results have emerged from funded initiatives and continue to do so. These results must be transferred to operational weather offices, policymakers, government and industrial partners and other users, to ensure full benefit from the federal investment. Within a year, the Foundation will likely have fully committed the funds provided to it. CFCAS trusts that the anticipated Federal Climate Strategy will provide new resources to sustain its mission of supporting high quality university-based research targeted to federal needs, and to meeting the environmental challenges and commitments of the future. Researchers can help by communicating the importance and applications of their work to Canadians and to decision-makers, at every opportunity.

Dawn Conway

International Polar Year (IPY) Submissions

International Polar Year (2007-2008) will be an intense, internationally-coordinated campaign of multi-disciplinary research into polar issues of regional and global importance. The Canadian Steering Committee for the IPY Program is still accepting pre-proposals. For information and application forms, go to: <http://www.ipy-api.ca/english/news.html>

Canada to host international climate change meeting

Canada will host the Eleventh Conference of the Parties (CoP 11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Montreal, November 28 to December 9, 2005. Environment Minister Stéphane Dion will chair this event. More than 10,000 delegates, media and observers are expected to attend. More information about the meeting is available at: <http://climatechange.gc.ca> For information on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, visit: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Observing the Earth

The international Group on Earth Observations (GEO) held its fifth meeting in Ottawa, November 29-30, 2004. Delegates from around the world discussed the development of a 10-year plan for better and more accurate models of earth systems, the integration of in-situ observations with those from space, and international cooperation in the area of earth observation. The group was formed following a Ministerial Summit in Washington, DC in July of 2003. For details, visit: www.cgeo-gcot.gc.ca

CFCAS responds to Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol came into force on February 16, 2005. CFCAS's position on the Protocol is on its Web site at: www.cfcas.org

Funding Guide for international S&T

Sources of funding for international science and technology can be located through the on-line resource "The Funding Guide for International Science and Technology Cooperation". Created by the Government of Canada, the Guide lists potential funding sources available to Canadian researchers. Explore the Guide at: <http://fgic-gfci.scitech.gc.ca>



The **CFCAS Annual Report 2003-2004** is available from the Foundation and on its Web site at: www.cfcas.org

Air Quality

Airborne measurements of NH₃ and CO using TDLAS—a contribution to ICARTT
(G. Harris, York University)

Stable carbon isotope ratio based studies of secondary particulate organic matter in the atmosphere
(J. Rudolph, York University)

Laboratory studies into organic contaminant fate during snowmelt (F. Wania, University of Toronto)

Source quantification by inverse Lagrangian dispersion
(J. Wilson, University of Alberta)

Climate

A new fast stratospheric ozone chemistry scheme and its application to the modeling of past and future trends
(M. Bourqui, McGill University)

Deriving open tundra snow cover information for climatological analysis from spaceborne passive microwave data
(M. English, Wilfrid Laurier University)

Quantifying changes in North Atlantic deep water formation associated with abrupt climate change
(R. Francois, University of British Columbia)

Arctic climate variability at several timescales
(Gajewski, University of Ottawa)

Improved North-Atlantic sector climate forecasts using the Type A /Type N classification (P. Kushner, University of Toronto)

Interactions across space and time scales in the climate system
(A. Monahan, University of Victoria)

Atmospheric exchange of methane and nitrous oxide in Canadian forest soils (T. Moore, McGill University)

Anthropogenic acidification of the ocean: Implications for future carbon cycling and climate change
(A. Ridgwell, University of British Columbia)

Variability of Arctic climate and sea ice over the past millennium: implication of ice cap mass balance
(M. Sharp, University of Alberta)

Climatic controls on soil organic carbon composition and potential responses to global warming
(A. Simpson, University of Toronto)

Study of heterogeneous reactions of radicals with organic material on the surfaces of atmospheric aerosols
(J. Sloan, University of Waterloo)

A systematic and extensive investigation of ENSO predictability
(Y. Tang, University of Northern British Columbia)

Cryosphere-ocean-climate interactions: past and future
(A. Weaver, University of Victoria)

The use of indices of climate extremes in climate change detection studies
(X. Zhang, York University)

Extreme Weather

Impact of observing systems and predictability on forecasting extreme weather events in the short, medium and extended range
(P. Gauthier, Université du Québec à Montréal)

Marine Environmental Prediction

Parametrization of internal solitary wave mixing in the coastal ocean for use in hydrostatic numerical models
(K. Lamb, University of Waterloo)

NETWORK

Polar Climate Stability Network
(R. Peltier, University of Toronto)

News

Social sciences on the web

The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) has a web page for IPY news and related matters. The page outlines the impact social sciences can and should have in Arctic research, especially during the lead up to IPY. www.uaf.edu/anthro/iassa

Arctic web site at NOAA

Current and historical indicators of climate change in the Arctic are now available in 'near-realttime', thanks to a new Web site created by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The site provides information about ice, land, climate, marine ecosystem and human effects in the Arctic. www.arctic.noaa.gov/detect/

Arctic climate in the spotlight

The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment was released in November 2004. The report offers an in-depth assessment of rapidly changing circumpolar climate and levels of ultraviolet radiation, as well as possible consequences to northern communities and environments as a result of these changes. The Report is an international project of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee. For highlights go to: www.acia.uaf.edu

New European icebreaker

The European Polar Board (EPB) has announced plans for a European Arctic flagship, the *Aurora Borealis*. The ship, costing approx. \$388 million CDN, is designed for year-round data collection in the Arctic. It will also function as a 'floating European university in Polar Sciences'. Visit: www.esf.org (Press area).

Appointments

On February 16, 2005, Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Pierre Pettigrew** and Environment Minister **Stéphane Dion** announced the appointment of **Karen Kraft Sloan** as Ambassador for the Environment.

In September 2004, CFCAS welcomed **Erica Wilson** to the Secretariat. Erica joined the Foundation as Program Officer, replacing Cheryl Lewis.



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