

CFCAS News

May 2005

Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)



Message from the Executive Director

CFCAS recently announced its 2005 grants competition. This will be its last until new funding becomes available. The deadline for project applications is **July 8**, and for Letters of Intent, **June 7**. We encourage grantees to tell their MPs

and other decision makers how important CFCAS funding is to Canada and to research, and to take advantage of every opportunity for funding partnerships.

Polar network receives funding

CFCAS is investing \$5 M in a new research network: the **Polar Climate Stability Network (PCSN)**, headed by Richard Peltier of the University of Toronto. The PCSN will focus on climate change at high northern latitudes and will investigate four thematic areas: rapid climate change in terrestrial and oceanographic realms; the stability of the polar cryosphere involving both land ice and sea ice; oscillation patterns in climate models from a paleoclimatological perspective; and the influences of tropical systems on high latitude climate change.

Montreal in the climate spotlight

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will hold the 8th Session of Working Group III in Montreal from September 22-24, 2005, followed by the 24th Session of the IPCC on September 26-28. Montreal will also host the 11th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 1st meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, November 29 to December 9, 2005.

New website features CFCAS researchers

Canadians can find out more about what Canadian scientists are learning in the areas of global warming and climate change, at a new website: 'CBC News Indepth – Climate Change'. Researchers receiving CFCAS support are featured on the website, including the University of Victoria's Andrew Weaver and Shawn Marshall of the University of Calgary. Visit: www.cbc.ca/news/background/climatechange

Ouranos appoints new Director General

André Musy, from the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland), has been appointed Director General for the non-profit Quebec research organization, Ouranos. Dr. Musy is a hydrologist, and a consultant for various organizations including the World Meteorological Organization and UNESCO. Dr. Musy begins his appointment in September 2005.

Canada joins climate partnerships

Canada has joined two international partnerships: the **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)** and the **Methane to Markets Partnership**. The announcement came during the G8 Energy and Environment Ministerial Roundtable in March, 2005. The Group of 8 nations (G8) consider economic policy issues of mutual interest. Visit: www.ec.gc.ca/media_e.htm

Upcoming funding deadlines

The **Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE)** have launched a pilot program to support the networking activities of research groups. Funds are available for up to 4 years, for workshops, travel, etc. Interested groups should submit a letter to NCE before July 25, 2005. See www.nce-rce.gc.ca/comp/nce-ni_e.htm

The deadline for the SSHRC's **Northern Research Development Program** is July 13, 2005. This program will interest researchers whose northern work has a social sciences component, or who collaborate with social scientists. See www.sshrc.ca

Polar clouds indicate changing climate

CFCAS-funded scientist James Sloan (University of Waterloo) has made 'new and unprecedented' observations of unusual polar clouds that are important indicators of climate change. These high-altitude cloud formations, which appear in July and August, were confirmed through the use of data from the Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment (ACE) instrument on the Canadian SCISAT-1 satellite. Formation of these clouds in the mesosphere, where the temperature is around -140° C, is a sensitive indicator of climate change and global warming, Sloan says.



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