



## Ten years of achievements in weather and climate science in Canada

*Ottawa science foundation celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

(November 22, Ottawa) The Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS) will celebrate 10 years as Canada's premier funder of university-based weather and climate research—science that is changing the way Canadians respond to droughts, storms, air pollution, climate change, and other events in one of the most weather-affected countries in the world.

A reception to honor the occasion—and to launch *The Sky's the Limit*, a book chronicling a decade of groundbreaking CFCAS-supported scientific achievements—will take place on November 24, 2010, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the National Arts Centre in downtown Ottawa.

As the Foundation's mandate winds down, the occasion is a time to reflect on 10 years of remarkable weather and climate science in Canada. It is also an opportunity to anticipate future needs.

The Foundation looks forward to seeing new research funds become available in the future to ensure weather and climate research continues to deliver the science that millions of Canadian farmers, fishermen, city-dwellers, governments, and industries depend on.

In the past 10 years, CFCAS has invested \$110 million of federal monies in weather and climate science. That funding has

- supported over 200 major scientific initiatives through research grants totalling more than \$117 million at 37 Canadian universities and more than \$150 million in cash and in-kind support from partner organizations;
- provided tools to help predict devastating Prairie droughts, such as the severe dry-spell between 1999 and 2004 – the worst years of which (2001-02) cost Canada \$3.6 billion in farm losses and left more than 41,000 people out of work;
- improved our understanding of the role of Canada's vast tracts of forest in absorbing and releasing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.
- helped British Columbia understand changes to its more than 100,000 square kilometres of mountain glaciers, whose runoff, along with melting snowpack and precipitation, is responsible for 90 percent of the province's electricity;

- created tools for meteorologists to foresee blizzards in the Arctic and help people get ready for devastating Maritime storms, such as Hurricane Igor that battered Newfoundland in September, 2010;
- helped predict how changes in the ozone layer affect air quality, weather, climate and human health;
- improved our understanding of urban air quality, heat waves and the smog that affects the lives and health of Canadians who live in cities;
- revealed how changes in the Arctic climate are affecting and being affected by changes in the rest of Canada and around the world;
- supported training for over 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students, and the work of technicians, post-doctoral fellows and research associates – the people who represent Canada’s next generation of weather and climate researchers; and
- put Canada on the world climate-science stage through its substantial contributions to the World Climate Research Programme, International Polar Year, and other international initiatives.

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