



Canadian Foundation for Climate
and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)

Fondation canadienne pour les sciences
du climat et de l'atmosphère (FCSCA)

Budget 2011 funding for weather and climate research inadequate to meet Canada's needs

OTTAWA – March 23, 2011 – The Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS) is deeply concerned by the inadequate level of support proposed for weather and climate research in the 2011 federal budget. Over the past 10 years, CFCAS has provided research grants totaling over \$118.5 million to which over \$150 million in cash and in-kind support has been added by partner organizations. Budget 2011 provides \$35-million over five years, less than half of what is needed to sustain the level of research that CFCAS has funded over the past decade and far short of what Canada needs.

Canada is one of the most weather- and climate-affected nations in the world and the performance of its economy is highly sensitive to weather and climate changes. Few sectors of the economy are unaffected: agriculture, transportation, construction, fisheries, forestry, tourism, energy and financial markets all rely heavily on accurate weather and climate predictions. Canada's social and economic growth is directly linked to its ability to predict and adapt to changing weather and climate conditions.

“Now more than ever, Canada needs robust funding for weather and climate research to help us adapt to, mitigate and benefit from the changes occurring in our atmosphere and oceans,” said Gordon McBean, Chair of the CFCAS Board of Trustees. “The increased frequency of extreme weather events like severe storms, floods and droughts, the rapid warming in the Arctic, and the growing health costs of poor air-quality in our cities, show us how much of our economy is at risk.”

CFCAS is Canada's lead agency for funding university-led research on extreme weather, air quality, climate and marine prediction. The foundation fosters partnerships in support of innovation, investment, policy, skills development and service delivery. It funds the generation of new and much needed knowledge that is essential to the competitiveness of our industries and to the health and safety of Canadians.

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