

PRESS RELEASE

Celebrating Meteorology and Oceanography Leaders in Canada

16 June 2017 - OTTAWA, ON

Canada's top weather, ocean, atmosphere and climate scientists were recognized at a prestigious awards ceremony last week to honour their significant scientific contributions to their chosen fields of study. Recipients were nominated by their peers, who then gathered at the 51st annual Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's congress (CMOS congress) in Toronto, for a 4-day event that included this celebration of scientific achievement on June 7th.

"There are hundreds of scientists in CMOS who dedicate their life's work to advancing understanding in topics that are crucial to the Canadian environment, to society, to our future." said Wayne Richardson, President of CMOS. "The awards that we hand out each year are esteemed amongst our scientific community, and the scientists that receive them are making contributions that have big impacts - in Canada, and around the world."

There are several prizes that have been awarded each year since the Society's formation in 1967, with additional prizes, medals, scholarships, and fellowships introduced over the years as the reach of the Society has extended into new areas of research and activities. Recipients from across the country come from academia, the public and private sectors. The awards recognize outstanding contributions to the application of atmospheric and oceanographic sciences in Canada, including scientific contributions that have had significant impact.

"As a researcher my goal is to support the forecasting community in their service to Canadians by providing better severe weather science, innovative techniques and tools, and a commitment for continuous improvement." said Dr. David Sills, of Environment and Climate Change Canada, winner of the Rube Hornstein Medal in Operational Meteorology, which has been awarded annually since 1975. Wayne Richardson adds, "David is following in 42 years of footsteps, and to be included with so many esteemed meteorologists that have preceded him in receiving this award is an honour."

The occasion was also the opportunity for the Society to announce the winners of its scholarships valued at \$10,000 and of the all-expenses paid two-week Teacher Summer Workshops in atmospheric science and oceanography open to all elementary and high school teachers in Canada.

The names of all the recipients can be found at www.cmos.ca/site/all_awards_2017.

The descriptions of the various awards and prizes can be found at www.cmos.ca/site/fellows, www.cmos.ca/site/awards, www.cmos.ca/site/scholarships and www.cmos.ca/site/summerworkshops.

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The Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) is the national society of individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing atmospheric and oceanic sciences and related environmental disciplines in Canada. The Society's aim is to promote meteorology and oceanography in Canada, and it is a major non-governmental organisation serving the interests of

meteorologists, climatologists, oceanographers, limnologists, hydrologists and cryospheric scientists in Canada.

The Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's 51st Congress was held from 4 June to 8 June, 2017 at the Hilton Toronto Downtown, Toronto, Ontario.

This marked the 50th year of the presentation of these awards.

MORE at cmos.ca and congress.cmos.ca

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Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS)

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 1, 2017; Ottawa (ON)

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Opening Ceremonies to Kick-Off 4-day Congress in Toronto, where Canada's Top Atmospheric, Ocean and Climate Scientists will Gather to Discuss our Future Earth

Hundreds of scientific experts from across Canada will be gathering in the first week of June, at the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's 51st Congress in Toronto. The honourable Glen Murray, Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, will show his support for the Congress alongside other esteemed scientists and government officials at the opening ceremonies on Monday June 5th.

What: Opening Ceremonies of the 51st Annual Congress of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society

Who: Hon Glen Murray, Minister for Ontario Environment and Climate Change
Ms. Bernadette Jordan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Dr. Roger Wakimoto, President, American Meteorological Society (AMS)
Mr. Martin Taillefer, President, Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society (CMOS)

When: Monday, June 5th, 7:50 – 9:00 am. Congress runs from June 5th to June 8th, with icebreaker reception on Sunday June 4th.

Where: Hilton Toronto Downtown, 145 Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ontario

Why: The mounting scientific evidence is irrefutable - the climate is changing and human behaviour is largely responsible. The work of CMOS scientists is crucial for Canadian society, as we look to monitor changes, understand the impacts, make environmental predictions, and develop adaptation strategies for living on our future earth. The CMOS congress is an important and strategic gathering, with relevance for every Canadian.

Media Release, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS)

29 May 2017, Ottawa

Canada's Top Atmospheric, Ocean and Climate Scientists to gather in Toronto

Hundreds of experts from across Canada will gather for the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's 51st Congress (CMOS Congress), from June 4th to 8th, at the Downtown Hilton Toronto, Ontario. The theme of the congress is "Future Earth: Weather, Oceans, Climate".

With extreme weather events on the increase, and global warming setting new records – April 2017 was the second warmest on record, beaten only by April 2016 – the science being discussed at this congress is essential for the health of the earth and its inhabitants. The significance of this scientific gathering is being noted by top figures in science and government, including the Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, who will speak at the opening ceremonies.

"Our environment is changing, and what scientific studies across the world are making increasingly apparent is that many of these changes are accelerating. The Paris agreement of 2015 set out an action plan to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We are already at 1.1 degrees, and it is looking increasingly likely that we will hit, and exceed, that 2 degree threshold," said Martin Taillefer, CMOS President. "Now, more than ever, the research of our scientists in CMOS and our collaborators across the world is crucial, as we work to predict what is in store, what the impacts will be, and how we can adapt."

CMOS sees their annual congress as central to ensuring a strongly impactful environmental research programme in Canada, which translates into positive actions in all areas of society and policy. Members of the public are also urged to participate. As part of the public programme a full-day event on June 6th has been organized just for teachers, followed by a free public lecture that evening. The lecture, chaired by Prof. Gordon McBean who was recently awarded the 62nd International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize, is by acclaimed climate scientist and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contributor, Dr. Francis Zwiers. His talk, titled "Changing weather extremes: why it isn't an alternative fact", is expected to be one of the highlights of the CMOS Congress.

For more information on the scientific sessions and workshops, the Teacher's Day event, and the free public lecture, visit congress.cmos.ca.

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WHAT: Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's 51st Annual Congress

WHEN: Sunday June 4th to Thursday June 8th

WHERE: Hilton Toronto Downtown, Toronto, ON

HOW: To attend the scientific sessions or Teacher's Day event, registration is required through the congress website <http://congress.cmos.ca>. Registration for the free public lecture is through Eventbrite. <http://bit.ly/2q1G1TM>

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NOTES:**About CMOS and CMOS Congress:**

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With over 40 scientific sessions covering a range of highly relevant topics – many of which are essential research areas for the health of the planet and its inhabitants – the CMOS Congress is a crucial gathering for some of Canada's top environmental scientists.

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Media Release, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS)

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CALLING ALL EDUCATORS – WEATHER, CLIMATE AND OCEAN EXPERTS GATHER TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES AT ANNUAL TEACHER’S DAY EVENT

May 16 2017 – Ottawa (Ontario)

Canada’s top meteorologists, climatologists, and ocean scientists are inviting teachers to join them for a special one-day event where they will share their expertise and teaching resources for use in the classroom. The annual “Teacher’s Day” event of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) is happening on Tuesday June 6th, at the Hilton Toronto Downtown, as part of the Society’s 51st annual congress.

Organizers of this event worked with teachers to find out what weather, climate and ocean topics are fast becoming a part of their everyday classroom conversations. Together they came up with a Teacher’s Day program focused on sharing resources and knowledge, while aiming to both support the curriculum and meet the practical needs of teachers. The event brings together a broad range of experts including former on-air meteorologist Claire Martin, Geoff Coulson of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Katrin Knickmeier and Katrin Kruse, who are travelling all the way from Kiel University in Denmark to participate, and others. The day’s program will end with a free public lecture by leading climate scientist Dr. Francis Zwiers titled “Changing Weather Extremes – why it isn’t an alternative fact”.

“The Teacher’s Day program at the CMOS congress will address topics like extreme weather, buildings of the future, ocean pollution, and more. Topics that are becoming a high societal priority, but are still often only addressed on a superficial level in schools.” said organizer and atmospheric scientist, Dr. Jim Young “We will be looking at a whole variety of questions. How is the Arctic Ocean changing and what does that mean for indigenous communities? From the clothes that we wear to the buildings that we design, how is weather involved in our day-to-day lives? What is fake weather news, how can you spot the cheaters? Teachers will go away not only with a clearer understanding of these topics, but also with ideas on how to teach them in a classroom setting.”

The content of the program is aimed at middle school (grades 4-9) teachers, but with a focus on the ability to scale the level up, or down, depending on the audience. All teachers are welcome, but pre-registration is required through the CMOS Congress website – congress.cmos.ca. There is a nominal charge of \$10 for this full-day event.

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WHAT: Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society’s Teacher’s Day Event

WHEN: Tuesday June 6th, 8 am to 5:30 pm

WHERE: Hilton Toronto Downtown, Toronto, ON

HOW: Cost is \$10, registration required, <http://congress.cmos.ca>

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About Teacher's Day Event

This is an annual event, run as part of CMOS' annual congress in late May/early June. Full program of speakers for this year's event can be found on the educator's page of the congress website (<http://congress.cmos.ca>)

Media Release, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS)

CLIMATE EXPERT TO GIVE PUBLIC TALK ON EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

May 2, 2017 – Ottawa (Ontario)

An internationally recognized expert on climate variability and change will hold a public talk on June 6th, as part of the 51st annual congress of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS). Dr. Francis Zwiers, a coordinating lead author of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Director of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) at the University of Victoria, will speak on “Changing weather extremes - why it isn’t an alternative fact”. This talk, to be held at the Toronto Downtown Hilton on Tuesday June 6th at 6 pm, is expected to be one of the highlights of the CMOS Congress. This annual scientific congress brings together more than 600 of Canada’s top ocean, atmosphere and climate researchers and professionals.

“Climate change is happening. Nevertheless, at a localized level, the effects of climate change can be hard to detect, leading to possible discrepancies between our own personal experience of climate change and the findings of climate science,” said Martin Taillefer, CMOS President. “In this new era of an alarming use of “alternative facts”, it would be a fallacy to rely solely on personal experience, to reject the findings of the climate science community and consequently to fail to prepare for the climatic changes ahead.”

Stories about extreme weather and climate events around the world often make media front-page headlines, alongside the recent upswing in “alternative facts”, or fake, news. These stories about extremes draw our attention because of their immediacy and the devastating impacts, which often include deaths and up to billions of dollars in damage. Two Canadian examples include the Fort McMurray wildfire of 2016 (>\$3.6B of insured damage) and the Southern Alberta Flood of 2013 (>\$1.5B of insured damage – source: Catastrophe Indices and Quantification Inc (CatIQ)). In the aftermath of such devastation, media ask whether such extreme events are now more frequent or intense than in the past, whether they are caused by human influence on the climate and if they represent a harbinger of the future.

“In most cases, climate science does find that human influence played a role, consistent with the overwhelming body of evidence indicating a human contribution to the observed changes in average climatic conditions over the past century,” said Dr. Zwiers. “In my talk I will address the changing extreme weather events that are becoming evermore a part of our daily conversations. Everyone is welcome to attend, climate change will affect us all, and it is an excellent opportunity for the public to meet and mix with the scientists who are actively engaged in this work.”

This talk is free to attend but registration is required through Eventbrite (<http://bit.ly/2q1G1TM>). For more information on the CMOS Congress visit congress.cmos.ca.

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WHAT: Public Talk “Changing Weather Extremes: Why it isn’t an Alternative Fact” by Dr. Francis Zwiers, Director of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium

WHEN: Tuesday June 6th, 6 pm

WHERE: Hilton Downtown, Toronto, ON

HOW: Free, registration required, Eventbrite (<http://bit.ly/2q1G1TM>)

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About Dr. Francis Zwiers

Dr. Francis Zwiers is director of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) at the University of Victoria. His former roles include chief of the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis and director of the Climate Research Division, both at Environment and Climate Change Canada. As a research scientist, his expertise is in the application of statistical methods to the analysis of observed and simulated climate variability and change. Dr. Zwiers is an Honorary Research Professor at the University of Victoria, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the American Meteorological Society, a recipient of the Patterson Medal and the President's Prize, has served as an IPCC Coordinating Lead Author of the Fourth Assessment Report and as an elected member of the IPCC Bureau for the Fifth Assessment Report.

MORE at <https://www.pacificclimate.org/>