

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>

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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

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 will be held from 4 June to 8 June, 2017 at the Hilton Toronto Downtown, Toronto, Ontario. The theme of the congress is "Future Earth: Weather, Oceans, Climate". The congress will bring together over 600 scientists and other professionals from across Canada and other countries, with a focus on topics in atmospheric, ocean and earth sciences.

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.

MORE at cmos.ca and congress.cmos.ca

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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MORE at cmos.ca and congress.cmos.ca

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/>