



Welcome from The Honorable Catherine McKenna Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada



I am very pleased to welcome you to the 51st Congress of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society.

The theme “Future Earth: Weather, Oceans, Climate” and additional sessions on atmosphere, air quality, and interdisciplinary science, resonate for me both professionally and personally. These are areas that are fundamental to the well-being of Canadians, and of our environment.

About one in ten Canadians earn their livings in the natural resource, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism sectors. Additionally, our environment supports recreational and healthy living activities, and sustains traditional indigenous lifestyles. This speaks to the importance of natural sciences particularly given that climate change represents one of the greatest challenges of our time.

Addressing climate change is an opportunity to transition to a strong, diverse and competitive low-carbon economy. The Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change is Canada’s plan – developed with the provinces and territories and in consultation with Indigenous peoples – to meet our emissions reduction target, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and grow the economy. The Framework recognizes the importance of building climate resilience and sets out measures to help Canadians understand, plan for, and take action to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. United, and supported by academia, NGOs, and the private sector, we will undertake these challenges and commitments together. Your contributions to the body of relevant credible science help identify risks and opportunities, supporting decisions that will define our collective future.

The CMOS Congress is well timed with World Environment Day on June 5th, which Canada has the privilege to host this year. The theme is “Connecting People to Nature – in the city and on the land, from the poles to the equator”. Having a connection to nature is something that will help all Canadians take ownership of the future of this planet.

I thank you for your valued contributions in atmospheric, ocean and earth sciences, and wish you all the best for a successful Congress.

Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada