

Welcome from the Honourable Catherine McKenna Minister of Environment and Climate Change



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

The theme of your Congress on Future Earth: Weather, Oceans, Climate; and additional session themes on atmosphere, air quality, and inter-disciplinary science, resonate for me, professionally and personally. These are areas that are fundamental to our natural and cultural heritage, Canadian identity, and future well-being.

Many Canadians interact with the natural environment every day. In addition to supporting our recreational and healthy living activities, and sustaining traditional indigenous lifestyles, about one in ten Canadians earn their livings in the natural resource, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism sectors. This speaks to the importance of your natural sciences work to help address complex societal issues.

Particularly for these and other climate-sensitive sectors, Canadians rely on Government decision-makers to make sound policy and investment choices, given the potential implications of climate change. We, in turn, rely on you to generate and communicate sound science and advice that informs our consideration of risks and opportunities. Whether from Government, academia, NGOs, or the private sector, you are all fundamental to generating information that supports all aspects of Canadian society.

The Government of Canada is making tangible progress to promote and recognize scientific contributions. Notably, we have established a Chief Science Officer that is mandated to ensure your voices are heard, your analyses considered, and that fundamental research to support new discovery in critical areas is facilitated. I also want to underscore the importance of Canada's commitments in Paris and the momentum that has been generated between federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. You have a significant role in helping us to deliver on this important commitment.

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".

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

Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The word "Canada" in a serif font, with a small Canadian flag icon above the letter 'a'.