



## A message from the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to welcome over 600 ocean, atmosphere and climate researchers and professionals to the 51<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society.

The theme of this year's conference is aptly "*Future Earth: Weather, Oceans, Climate*". Given the rate at which each of these is changing, the need for coordinated science, research and stewardship has never been more important.



As Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, I understand the impact that changing atmospheric conditions are having on the world's oceans and weather patterns, and the threat this poses to our aquatic resources, coastal communities and marine industries. One of the key elements of my mandate is to examine the implications of climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems.

Addressing the complex issue of climate change requires extensive coordination, collaboration and cooperation both here at home and abroad. Science needs to be the foundation of all of our work. At Fisheries and Oceans Canada, scientific research, evidence, data and observations inform our decision-making, policies, regulations and enforcement measures.

That's why our government made an historic investment in aquatic science last year. This funding is allowing us to hire 135 scientists, designate more marine protected areas, foster vital partnerships and a host of other great work. Our new \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan also contains funding specific to scientific research that will be used to study our oceans and coastal areas.

Going forward, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to contribute to national and international oceanographic programs and be an active member of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. We will also work with our partners on ocean climate models including the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis, the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Science, and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Our Government firmly believes that tackling climate change is a long-term, collective effort that must be framed within the context of scientific evidence, sound data and facts. We will continue to keep climate change at the forefront of our agenda as we help Canadians transition to a low carbon economy and understand that a strong economy and a clean environment go hand-in-hand.

I want to thank each of you for your scientific contributions and wish you all a productive conference.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

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