

## **Toronto CMOS Centre 2020 Education Report**

**Prepared by:**

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On January 25, 2020 the first Canadian case of COVID-19, the diseases caused by the SARS-COV-2 coronavirus, was reported in Toronto. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. COVID-19 impacted all aspects of our lives in 2020 and the CMOS Educational Program was no exception.

### **1. Presentations**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that dominated 2020 from mid-March onwards, the CMOS educational program delivered only 11 presentations. Despite the reduction in annual presentation numbers since the educational program was revamped in 2017, the 11 presentations still exceeded the annual number given during each of the 10 years from 2007-2016 (see graphic below).

**In-person** educational presentations to students were limited to the first few months of 2020, before the pandemic completely halted this aspect of the program. Ten weather/severe weather presentations were given during this time: 8 to students and 2 to Scouts Canada groups. Presentations were delivered by Joan Klaassen (2), Rob Kuhn (4) of Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Geoff Coulson (4), retired Environment and Climate Change Canada.

In September, a Toronto Air Cadets Squadron leader requested a 3-hour **virtual** weather training presentation. Joan Klaassen prepared the speciality training presentation and in November delivered the presentation by ZOOM.

### **2. Science Fairs**

The 2020 Toronto and York Region Science and Technology Fairs were both cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These Fairs had been sponsored by the Toronto CMOS Centre during 2019. However, a new Science Fair sponsorship opportunity arose in 2020. The Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair (BASEF) (participating students from Hamilton, Halton Region, Haldimand County, Norfolk County, County of Brant and Six Nations) held a virtual Fair. The Toronto CMOS Centre awarded two cash prizes (\$75 each) to two Grade 7-12 students with the two best projects in Meteorology, Oceanography or related sciences. Dominique Brunet judged the Fair projects on behalf of the Toronto CMOS Centre.

### 3. School and Public Education Committee (SPEC)

Joan Klaassen continued to participate as a member of the National CMOS School and Public Education Committee (SPEC). The Committee held three virtual meetings during 2020. The SPEC Terms of Reference were updated. The Committee prepared a list of weather, climate/climate change and ocean educational resources, primarily aimed at K-12, and posted them on the CMOS website for use by K-12 educators.

