



Your Health and a Changing Climate

Montreal 2005 Health Events

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Montreal Welcomes the UN Climate Change Conference

Canada is hosting the 11th Conference of the Parties (CoP11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first Meeting of the Parties (MoP1) to the Kyoto Protocol. Montreal welcomes national and international visitors and delegates to these meetings from November 27 to December 9.

As host of the UN conference, Canada is helping to celebrate this important moment by supporting a program of outreach activities and parallel events to help carry the climate change story beyond the walls of the UN meeting. The conference will bring together Canadian youth, leaders from the private sector and various levels of government, as well as experts from governments, business and environmental organizations from around the world in order to share their experience and solutions to address climate change.

Public health systems are a key factor in the health and well-being of populations. Climate change will pose new challenges to these systems and we must be prepared to exploit its benefits and limit its potential adverse effects. Societies and the health sector have a wealth of experience in adapting to change. We invite you to attend the sessions on health in Montreal to gain insights on how these challenges are



Montréal 2005

being tackled by health professionals around the world.

In this special issue of Health Canada's Newsletter, we would like to highlight the many opportunities during the Montreal Climate Change Conference to learn more about the health impacts of a changing climate and exchange ideas on issues and solutions with health professionals and experts from around the world (see Schedule of Health Related Events). Health organizations and health professionals will figure prominently in the discussions and presentations during these health related events.

We look forward to seeing you at these events or come and see us at the Canada Pavilion, Complexe Guy Favreau.

Climate Change and Health Division, Health Canada

Schedule of Health Related Events

Parallel Events

Open to the General Public, Non-delegates and Official Conference Delegates

December 1, 2005

Global Health Alert: Climate Change Risks, Strategies and Solutions (Health Canada/WHO)

>> 13:15 – 18:00

Salle Mousseau, Complexe Guy Favreau

Two panel discussions on Assessment of Health Risks of Climate Change and on Managing the Health Risks (See Insert for program)

December 2, 2005

Food Security, Water Resources, Coastal Zones, and Communities/Infrastructure (Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network, Canada)

>> 10:00 – 18:00

Salle des Saules, Complexe Guy Favreau

Sharing of adaptation lessons learned in developing countries, developed countries and countries in economic transition

Parallel Events (cont'd)

December 3, 2005

Development Day (organized by International Institute for Sustainable Development)

>> 11:30 – 13:00,
Room to be determined –
Complexe Guy Favreau

Health and Climate Change (see Box 1)

Chaired by WHO Europe

>> 14:00 – 15:30
Room to be determined – Complexe
Guy Favreau

*Disaster Management and Climate Change (see
Box 2)*

Chaired by Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre

December 6, 2005

Arctic Day (organized by Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada)

>> All Day
Complexe Guy Favreau

*Celebration of traditional northern cultures and
information on threats due to climate change*

December 9, 2005

Clean Air Day (organized by Environment Canada)

>> All Day
Complexe Guy Favreau

*Highlight the benefits to air quality of reducing
greenhouse gas emissions*

Side Events

Open to Official Conference
Delegates only

November 30, 2005

Disaster Risk Reduction Tools

>> 13:00 – 15:00
Room 1, Palais des Congrès

*The secretariat of the UN International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction, the ProVenton Consortium and
the Red Cross Climate Centre will present disaster
risk reduction tools that can be useful in adapting to
climate change. (Organized by United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)*

December 2, 2005

Unikkaaqatigiit – Book launch

>> 18:00 – 19:30
Room 3, Palais des Congrès

*Release of Unikkaaqatigiit, a four year study of
climate change impacts and adaptations in the
Canadian Arctic in 16 Inuit communities and the
4 Inuit regions of Canada. Meet the elders and
contributors involved in this unique community-
based research project. (Organized by Inuit Tapiriit
Kanatami)*

December 3, 2005

Arctic and Canadian vulnerability

>> 13:00 – 15:00
Room 4, Palais des Congrès

*To show Canada's shared stewardship of the Arctic
with other circumpolar countries, outlining sectoral
impacts of other regions. Arctic Climate Impact
Assessment progress, and Canadian observation
networks & modelling are highlighted, also progress
on a Northern Strategy and the International Polar
Year. (Organized by Government of Canada)*

December 5, 2005

Adaptation to climate change in the health sector

>> 13:00 – 15:00
Room 3, Palais des Congrès

*The health sector is poorly adapted. Case studies including
cost benefit analysis and policy analysis will be showing
this. (Organized by the World Health Organization)*

Exhibits

Canada Pavilion

>> November 27 (11:30 am) – noon
December 9, 2005
Complexe Guy Favreau

*Showcase of Government of Canada climate change
initiatives for the general public including section on
Understanding the Impacts (climate change and health
publications and information available).*

Open to non-delegates, delegates, and
general public

Canada Kiosk

>> November 28 – December 9, 2005
Palais des Congrès

*Showcase of Government of Canada climate change
initiatives within the Palais de Congrès. Will include a day
devoted to climate change and health issues (climate
change and health publications and information
available).*

Open to delegates only

Human Health Theme Day

>> 10:00 – 13:00 – December 1, 2005
Canada Pavilion,
Complexe Guy Favreau

*Launch of a five minute video that outlines the health
impacts of a changing climate "Our Climate - Our
Health", and Issue #11 of Health Canada's Health Policy
Research Bulletin on Climate Change and Health.*

Open to non-delegates, delegates, and
general public

Our mission is to help the people of Canada
maintain and improve their health.

Health Canada

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cCASHh Project — The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe — Impact and Adaptation Assessment

In recognition that the health of populations in Europe is and will continue to be affected by global climate changes, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, has been conducting an impact and adaptation assessment, Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies for Human Health (cCASHh), for four climate-related health outcomes.

These health outcomes include the health effects of: heat and cold; extreme weather events; infectious diseases

transmitted by insects and ticks (e.g. tick-borne encephalitis, malaria); and infectious diseases transmitted through the water supply or food. For each of these outcomes an epidemiological assessment, an economic analysis, and a policy analysis has been performed. For some of the health outcomes, future projections will also be completed. The policy analysis aspect of the assessment has identified currently existing environmental health policies at international, European and national

levels, frameworks of implementation, and implementation barriers; and analysed win-win policies. Thus the cCASHh Project has the overall objective of assessing, and enhancing, adaptation possibilities of communities to climate change-related impacts on human health.

>>> *Delegates — Attend the WHO Side Event reporting on the cCASHh Project, Monday December 5, 2005 — 13:00 — 15:00, Room 3, Palais des Congrès*

Box 1: Development Day — December 3, 2005

Organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development

Session 2: Health and Climate Change
Time: 11:30 - 13:00

Room: To be determined, Complexe Guy Favreau

Speakers:

Kristie L. Ebi, Exponent (US)
Using Disease Surveillance and Response to Facilitate Adaptation to Climate Related Health Risks

Stephen J. Connor, International Research Institute for Climate And Society
Anticipation, adaptation and climate risk management for health

Charmaine Heslop-Thomas, University of the West Indies
Vulnerability to dengue fever in Jamaica

Rais Akhtar, University of Kashmir
Impacts of climate change on health and people's adaptation strategies in a mountain region

Yazoumé Ré, University of Heidelberg
Local Weather Conditions and Plasmodium falciparum infection among children in Savannah Regions

Box 2: Disaster Risk Reduction

International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies have established a climate centre that works to reduce loss of life and damage to livelihoods from climate change and extreme weather events. For more information visit www.climatecentre.org They published World Disasters Report 2004 which studied the resilience of communities in disaster situations. Chapter 2 of this publication is on heat waves in Europe in the summer of 2003 and the need of preparing for changing climate in coming years. For more information and to download the report, visit:

www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2004

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) secretariat has developed a cross-cutting Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, following the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Early Warning in Bonn, Germany in 2003. Supported by a grant from Germany, the platform promotes the development of more effective systems for early warning and preparedness systems, through advocacy, UN coordination, programme development, support of innovation, and information dissemination. One current project is examining early warning as an adaptation tool. For more information, visit www.unisdr-earlywarning.org

>>> *Delegates — Attend the UN/ISDR Side Event on Disaster risk reduction tools for climate change adaptation, November 30, 2005, 13:00 — 15:00, Room 1, Palais des Congrès*

>>> *The general public is invited to attend Development Day, December 3, 2005. Session 3: Disaster Management and Climate Change, 14:00 — 15:30, Complexe Guy Favreau*



GLOBAL HEALTH ALERT: CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS

ORGANIZED BY HEALTH CANADA & WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SALLE MOUSSEAU, COMPLEXE GUY FAVREAU, MONTRÉAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005, SESSION 1: 13:15 – 15:30, SESSION 2: 16:00 – 18:00

Opening Remarks: **The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health, Canada**

Paul Glover, Director General, Safe Environments Programme, Health Canada

Keynote Presentation: Jonathan Patz, University of Wisconsin, United States



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SESSION 1: ASSESSING HEALTH RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The panel will discuss some of the approaches used to assess climate change-related health risks. The speakers will highlight how approaches have been tailored to address the questions raised by policymakers and stakeholders, and how they were applied to different levels of availability of data, methods and tools, and resources.

Moderator – Kristie Ebi (Exponent Health Group, United States)

- >> Estimating climate change burden of disease – Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum (World Health Organization, Geneva)
- >> Health Impact and Adaptation Assessment in Europe – Bettina Menne (World Health Organization, Rome) and Merylyn McKenzie (United Kingdom)
- >> Health and Climate Change Survey – Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Russia)
- >> Threats of climate change to health in water-stressed regions – Hamed Bakir (Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities, WHO, Jordan)
- >> Health vulnerability and adaptation in Small Island States – Lepani Waqataki-reva (Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Health, Fiji) and Carlos Corvalan (World Health Organization, Geneva)
- >> Approach for a national assessment of health vulnerabilities to climate change in Canada – Jacinthe Séguin (Health Canada) and Pierre Gosselin (Institut national de santé publique du Québec, Canada)

SESSION 2: MANAGING RISKS AND INNOVATIVE ADAPTATION

The panel will discuss the actions needed by policy makers and stakeholders in order to minimize the expected health impacts from climate change. Lessons from around the world dealing with a range of health risks will highlight the experience of the health sector in dealing with change and the challenges that climate change brings.

Moderator – Carlos Corvalan (World Health Organization, Geneva)

- >> Adapting to Climate Change Health Risks in China – Jin Yinlong (National Institute for Environmental Health and Related Product Safety, China)
- >> Public Health Responses to Climate Change – Ainash Sharshenova (Dept. for Environment and Health Centre of Preventative Medicine, Kyrgyz Republic)
- >> Solutions for Adaptation in Mozambique – Maria Hauengue (Ministry of Health, Mozambique)
- >> Community Participation in Dengue and Diarrhoea Control in Central America – Ricardo Lujan (Instituto de Nutrición de Centro América y Panamá, Guatemala)
- >> Developing Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change: Lessons from Canadian Inuit Communities – Chris Furgal (Laval University, Canada)
- >> Psycho-social Effects of Disasters and Community Resiliency – Anie Kalayjian (Association for Disaster and Mass Trauma Studies, United States)
- >> Lessons learned from public health on the process of adaptation – Kristie Ebi (Exponent Health Group, United States)