

Agenda



**ClimateWest Forum:
The benefits of early
adaptation action**

May 3-4, 2023 / Winnipeg

Wednesday, May 3



8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elder Mary Courchene• Kerra Chomlak, Executive Director, ClimateWest• Elaine Fox, Board Chair, ClimateWest• Heather Morrison, Canadian Centre for Climate Services
9:45 AM	Projected Changes in the Climate in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba: Danny Blair
10:15 AM	Indigenous and Western Ways of Knowing: The Art of Translating and Weaving: Brett Huson
10:45 AM	Break
11:15 AM	The Costs of Climate Change in Canada: Chris Rol
11:45 AM	Networking Lunch
1:00 PM	How Do We Use Costs of Climate Change Impacts to Spur Action? Ryan Ness Richard Boyd Amber Bennett
2:00 PM	Break
2:30 PM	Exploring the National Adaptation Strategy & Considerations for the Prairies: Laniel Bateman
3:00 PM	Adapting Together in the Prairies: Hybrid Roundtable
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks - Day 1

Thursday, May 4



8:00 AM	Networking Hot Breakfast
9:00 AM	Ensuring that Investments in Adaptation are Equitable: Karina Cardona Claros Marlene Doyle Jack Johnson & Bob Austman
10:00 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Making the Case for Nature-Based Solutions: Joanna Eyquem Paige Englot Dimple Roy
11:30 AM	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kerra ChomlakElder Mary Courchene

Please note, all listed times are Central Daylight Time.

[ClimateWest Forum Goals](#)

This forum will provide attendees with the opportunity to:

1. Learn about the current state of knowledges around climate science, adaptation, climate data, and information.
2. Gain a better understanding of the projected costs of climate change to the region and beyond, as well as the benefits of proactive adaptation.
3. Hear the experiences of those throughout the region that are actively working to understand their climate risks, limit their vulnerabilities to climate change, and prepare for our changing future.
4. Network, share, and learn from adaptation actors from across the Prairies.



Sessions | Day 1



9:45 AM

Projected Changes in the Climate in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba **Danny Blair, Prairie Climate Centre**

This presentation will offer a prairie-specific perspective on the current state of knowledge on climate impacts. Advancements in climate data will also be shared.

10:15 AM

Indigenous and Western Ways of Knowing: The Art of Translating and Weaving **Brett Huson, Prairie Climate Centre**

This session will explore Indigenous and Western knowledges on climate change and examples of how to take a two-eyed seeing approach to adaptation planning.

11:15 AM

The Costs of Climate Change in Canada **Chris Rol, Insurance Bureau of Canada**

How have the costs of climate change and extreme weather changed over time? This presentation will cover recent and historical examples of events, as well as their associated costs.

1:00 PM

How Do We Use Costs of Climate Change Impacts to Spur Action? **Ryan Ness, Canadian Climate Institute | Richard Boyd, All One Sky Foundation** **Amber Bennett, Re.Climate**

For this panel, speakers will draw on their experience in environmental management, economics, and climate communications. They will discuss how climate projections can be used to predict the future costs of climate change, which cost information is available for the Prairies, and how we can use this cost information to spur action.

2:30 PM

Exploring the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) & Considerations for the Prairies **Laniel Bateman, Environment and Climate Change Canada**

How will the NAS support and guide adaptation planning for those in the Prairies? This session will explore the NAS, the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan and its new funding opportunities, and provide forum attendees a better understanding of the commitments and objectives of the NAS.



9:00 AM

Ensuring that Investments in Adaptation are Equitable

- **Karina Cardona Claros, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment**
- **Marlene Doyle, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada**
- **Jack Johnson and Bob Austman, Black River First Nation**

How do we address equity in climate adaptation? Karina will discuss how people living with disabilities are working to have their voices heard in adaptation. Marlene will share more about the federal climate adaptation programs and initiatives, which aim to build capacity and provide a hub for Indigenous communities to address climate resilience. Jack and Bob will talk about their project, "Black River First Nation: A decade of climate change monitoring."

10:30 AM

Making the Case for Nature-Based Solutions as a Cost-Effective Adaptation Measure

- **Joanna Eyquem, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation**
- **Paige Englot, ALUS**
- **Dimple Roy, International Institute for Sustainable Development**

Nature-based solutions can help bridge Canada's growing infrastructure gap and strengthen regional resilience to climate change. There is growing evidence of the economic value of investing in natural infrastructure, which typically brings greater co-benefits compared with grey infrastructure solutions. This session will discuss how natural infrastructure is increasingly being considered as "infrastructure" in Canada, and the role it can play in meeting our service needs in a changing climate.

We gratefully acknowledge our platinum event sponsor for helping us achieve our forum goals. All of our sponsors can be found on our [website](#).



Speakers



**Elaine Fox, Board Chair,
ClimateWest**

Elaine is the Manager of Adaptation and Resiliency, Climate & Green Plan Implementation Office in the Department of Environment and Climate with the Province of Manitoba. Elaine draws on a broad range of knowledge and skills to provide leadership and expertise to government, stakeholders, municipalities, Indigenous organizations, business, advocates, and academia. Her applied experience in inclusiveness and collaboration work enhances an integrated legislative, regulatory and policy framework that guides actions required in a changing climate future. Elaine's practical knowledge of water, sustainable development, nature-based solutions, municipal relations, and climate change provide a multifaceted perspective to adaptation.



**Heather Morrison, Executive Director,
Canadian Centre for Climate Services**

Dr. Morrison has spent her career at the interface between science and decision-making. She has worked as a research scientist in the field of ecotoxicology, a senior science advisor and research manager in the field of air quality, and as director of the climate research division. These positions have provided Dr. Morrison with the opportunity to work closely with decision-makers to deliver relevant and credible science to support policy and regulatory development. Dr. Morrison received her BSc in Biological Sciences from Queen's University and a PhD in Ecotoxicology from the University of Windsor.



**Danny Blair, Director of Science,
Prairie Climate Centre**

Danny Blair is a climatologist and professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg, where he has been teaching courses related to climate and weather since 1987. He is also a co-founder and Co-Director of the university's Prairie Climate Centre research centre where he leads the team that provides users of the online Climate Atlas of Canada with high quality data and visualizations of climate projections for all parts of Canada.

He received his PhD from the University of Manitoba, and his MSc and BSc degrees from the University of Regina.

Speakers



**Brett Huson, Research Associate,
Prairie Climate Centre**

Hetxw'ms Gyetxw, also known as Brett D. Huson (he/him/his), is from the Gitksan Nation of the Northwest Interior of British Columbia, Canada. Growing up in this strong matrilineal society, Brett developed a passion for the culture, land, and politics of his people, and a desire to share their knowledge and stories. Brett has worked in the film and television industry, is an award-winning author, and is also a volunteer board member for such organizations as Ka Ni Kanichihk and sakihiwe Festival. As Brett continues creating new art and working on new books, he is also working with the Prairie Climate Centre at the University of Winnipeg. With the support of his wife Jeri and their children Warren and Ruby, Brett endeavours to continue sharing stories with his writing, artwork and photography.



**Chris Rol, Manager and Senior Advisor, Climate Adaptation & Flood Policy,
Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)**

Chris has over 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors. She has worked at IBC since 2011; currently as part of the policy department's Catastrophic Risk and Climate Policy team. Chris is a subject matter expert on climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, flood mapping, and flood insurance. She currently serves on several advisory groups and standard development committees integrating climate resilience into codes and standards, and as a member of the Advisory Council for Harmonized Construction Codes, and Environment and Climate Change Canada's External Advisory Panel for Climate Services.



**Ryan Ness, Director of Adaptation,
Canadian Climate Institute**

Ryan has 20 years of experience in climate adaptation, environmental management and strategy development, and was previously the lead for climate adaptation programs and corporate strategy at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, including heading the secretariat of the Ontario Climate Consortium. He is a professional engineer, holding Bachelors and Master's degrees in Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Guelph, and is completing a Ph.D. in Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo.

Speakers



**Richard Boyd, Director, Research and Economics,
All One Sky Foundation**

Richard is a recognized expert on the economics of climate change, with 30 years' experience evaluating the costs of inaction, as well as the costs, benefits and distributional impacts of adaptation and mitigation strategies to inform decision-making at all levels of government. Richard recently completed studies of the economic risks of climate change for both Calgary and Edmonton and served as lead author for the "Costs and Benefits of Climate Impacts and Adaptation" chapter of Canada's national climate change knowledge assessment. Over his career, Richard has led economic analyses of climate change impacts and adaptation for infrastructure and the built environment, human health, water resources and quality, agriculture, and ecosystem services, both within Canada and internationally.



**Amber Bennett, Deputy Director
Re.Climate**

Amber is one of Canada's top climate communication strategists and capacity builders. Over the past five years, she has worked to bring groups and leaders across the country together to build a diverse network of more than 1,900 climate communicators. As manager of the Alberta Narratives Project, she worked to bring together more than 75 individuals and organizations to engage 500 Albertans in climate-energy conversations – making it one of the largest public engagements of its kind. Over the past 20 years her work has delivered new research, critical capacity and skills, partnerships, and campaigns. She has earned multiple awards and regularly speaks on the topic of climate communications. She holds a bachelor of Public Relations and a Masters of Arts in environmental education and communication.



**Laniel Bateman, Director for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Policy,
Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Laniel joined Environment Canada in 2003 and has worked on a broad range of files, primarily related to climate change and nature.

Prior to joining the Government of Canada, she worked for an environmental non-government organization and in the private sector in wetland remediation. Laniel holds an Environmental Science degree from the University of Guelph.

Speakers



**Karina Cardona Claros, Donor Relations Manager
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment**

Karina has been engaged with matters of environment and health for over 20 years, and has lived with a spinal cord injury since age 13. Combining academic pursuits with personal experience, her research has focused on mobility and health equity for seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities in urban and rural communities. She has managed the Children’s Health and Environment Partnership of Manitoba, and completed projects with the Centre for Environmental Health Equity, Knowledge Leaders in Children’s Environmental Health, and the Institute of Urban Studies.



**Marlene Doyle,
Manager, Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program,
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada**

Marlene's academic and professional background has focused on advancing collaborative approaches to environmental monitoring and assessment with a focus on community-based monitoring and citizen science. Marlene has worked with the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network, NatureWatch, and has contributed toward the development and implementation of the Arctic Council’s Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan.



Jack Johnson, Black River First Nation

Jack was born and raised in Dauphin, Manitoba. He resides in Lorette, Manitoba where he and his wife have raised three fantastic children. Jack also has 8 marvellous grandchildren.

He has been employed in a variety of jobs making him an authentic “Jack of all Trades.” One of his favourite jobs was working with the Black River First Nation where he did proposal and report writing, as well as managing a number of other programs and projects.

Jack retired in March of 2015 but is still involved in projects for Black River First Nation.

Speakers



Bob Austman, Black River First Nation

Bob is a former Science Teacher with over 25 years experience working with youth. Bob worked for the Manitoba Model Forest for 15 years as Education Coordinator, conducting research into sustainable forest management, and educating the public about ecological goods and services from the forest. He then taught adult education in Black River First Nation, and transitioned into environmental work for the community where he has spent the last 5 years on a climate change monitoring program.

Bob is also working part time for Tree Canada as a quality control inspector for large planting projects. He sits on the Board of the Woodlot Association of Manitoba, and he represents Manitoba on the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners, which belongs to the International Family Forest Alliance.



Joanna Eyquem, Managing Director of Climate-Resilient Infrastructure, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation

Joanna is an internationally-recognised expert on Climate Adaptation, Flood and Erosion Management and Nature-based Solutions, with over 20 years experience in Canada, the UK, the USA, and Western Africa. Her focus areas at the Intact Centre are: the role and value of natural and nature-based solutions in managing natural hazards; flood and erosion resilience from the home to the watershed-scale; measures to reduce risks from extreme heat; and addressing physical climate risk and natural capital in the finance sector.

Joanna sits on over 20 advisory committees including Canada's National Adaptation Strategy Advisory Table on Resilient Natural and Built Infrastructure and is a Board Member of the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative.



Paige Englot, Senior Hub Manager, Prairies, and National Manager of Community Grants, ALUS

Paige liaises with our community coordinators and serves as a management resource for local ALUS projects throughout Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She has been involved with ALUS since 2012 when she came on board as the Program Coordinator for the first ALUS pilot program launched in Saskatchewan, and has also worked with a number of not-for-profit watershed organizations. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) from the University of Saskatchewan with a minor in Soil Science. Paige is located near Balgonie, Saskatchewan.

Speakers








Dimple Roy, Director, Water Management, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Dimple leads IISD's work on water-related policy analysis focused on integrated management of water and related resources in Manitoba, in Canada and globally. She also directs IISD's Natural Infrastructure for Water Solutions (NIWS) initiative in Canada.

Dimple has over 20 years of experience in addressing public policy systems in the water sector, including on sustainable agriculture, natural infrastructure, and watershed-based climate adaptation. In these efforts, she has focused her efforts on ways to improve evidence-based decision-making incorporating economic, social and environmental considerations into water sector issues.



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