

CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURES

Empowering People through
Knowledge, Tools, and Stories



ClimateWest 2025 Forum

**JUNE 17-18
2025**

**SASKATOON &
ONLINE**

AGENDA



TUESDAY, JUNE 17



11:00 AM	Registration and Informal Networking
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Opening Prayer
1:30 PM	Opening Remarks ClimateWest Government of Saskatchewan City of Saskatoon

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PEOPLE AND THE LAND

Moderated by Alexandra Bourne, Government of Manitoba

This foundational session will delve into the profound impacts climate change has on both people and the environment by exploring the interconnected physical and mental challenges faced by communities and ecosystems throughout the prairie region.

Topics

- Observed climate change impacts in the Prairie provinces and future projections
- The impacts of a changed climate on indigenous communities, and recommendations for continuing reconciliation work towards climate justice
- Practical strategies for engaging young people in conversations about climate justice & emotions, fostering empathy, and building resilience through connection, skills-building, and collective climate action.

2:00 PM	<u>Elaine Barrow</u> , Canadian Centre for Climate Services
2:30 PM	BREAK
3:00 PM	Group Activity
3:15 PM	<u>Jordyn Burnouf</u> , Land Based Practitioner and Youth Leader
3:45 PM	<u>Abhay Singh Sachal</u> , Break the Divide



4:15 PM



TOOL CORNER: Resilient Rurals Toolkit, Jill Yanch, Resilient Rurals

Attendees will learn how to create a partnership that promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building, regional advocacy, and mutual support using The Resilient Rurals Model.

4:30 PM

Closing Remarks

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

8:00 AM

Registration and Networking Breakfast

EMBRACING NATURE: BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderated by Dimple Roy, International Institute for Sustainable Development

This session will highlight the critical role that natural infrastructure plays in building resilience in both urban and rural settings. Discover how working with nature can enhance community resilience, improve water quality, and support biodiversity through examples presented by session speakers.

Topics

- Integrating natural infrastructure into asset management practices, policy development, community partnerships, and valuation of the benefits of natural infrastructure
- Multiple benefits of enhancing climate resilience through conservation and restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- The use of native plants for restoration including agricultural lands, landscaping in urban areas, and use as part of natural infrastructure

9:00 AM

Progress on Natural Infrastructure and Asset Management at the City of Saskatoon, Jessie Best, City of Saskatoon

**Conserving and Restoring Wetlands and Grasslands for Climate Resilience
Chuck Deschamps, Ducks Unlimited Canada**

**The Use of Native Plants for Restoration and Resilience,
Renny Grilz, Meewasin Valley Authority**



TOOL CORNER: [HealthyPlan.City](#), [Dany Doiron](#), Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE)

This presentation will introduce HealthyPlan.City, an interactive mapping platform that supports equity-informed decision making in urban planning, public health, and climate adaptation.

10:15 AM

10:30 AM

BREAK

STORIES OF RESILIENCE: NORTHERN, INDIGENOUS, AND RURAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Moderated by [Katherine Finn](#), [Bridge to Land Water Sky](#)

In this panel session, speakers will share the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Northern, Indigenous, and rural communities in adapting to climate change through storytelling, lived experiences, and local knowledge.

Topics:

- Regenerative farming, Indigenous kinship worldviews, heritage grains, and building climate resilience on the landscape
- Helping Mistawasis adapt to climate change through reconnecting with the land, fostering food sovereignty, and reintroducing bison
- The influence of social dimensions (e.g., gender, age, culture) on how people experience and respond to climate change, and how to build these considerations into adaptation planning processes

Alanna Carlson & Keaton Sinclair, AKreGeneration

11:00 AM

[Roger Daniels](#), Mistawasis Nêhiyawak

[Michaela Sidloski](#), University of Saskatchewan

12:00 PM

LUNCH



TOOL CORNER: [ClimateData.ca](#), [Casey Clunas](#), Canadian Centre for Climate Services

This session will explore key features and resources on ClimateData.ca, a climate data portal designed to help decision makers build a more resilient Canada.

1:00 PM

MANAGING WATER IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Moderated by [Jessica Vanstone](#), Government of Saskatchewan

This informative session will address the pressing issues of water management, flooding, and drought with a focus on the unique context of the Prairie region.

Topics:

- Key insights and lessons learned from the development of a First Nations Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment
- The importance of connecting program delivery to community engagement and knowledge transfer
- Enhancing resilient municipal infrastructure and services in the City of Saskatoon and preparing the community for climate challenges
- An overview of how the Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant Renewal Project is reducing its overall impact on the environment

**[A First Nations Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment](#),
[Scott Millar](#), [North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance](#) & [Michael Martineau](#),
[Confederacy of Treaty First Six Nations](#)**

**[Where Water, Wellness and Communities Meet](#),
[Bridget Andrews](#), Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds**

**[Advancing Water Conservation and Preparing for Climate Challenges in Saskatoon](#),
[Genevieve Russell](#), City of Saskatoon**

**[Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant Renewal: Building Sustainable, Resilient, and Efficient Water Infrastructure](#),
[Ryan Johnson](#), Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Corporation**

1:15 PM

2:30 PM

BREAK

3:00 PM



TOOL CORNER: [Climate Insight](#), [Sheri Young](#), ICLEI Canada

Attendees will be introduced to the free services and resources provided in Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's Climate Toolkit, including the Climate Help Desk, the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Service, and Climate Insight.

***Please bring a laptop or tablet to allow full participation in this session**

RESILIENT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Moderated by [Sandra Sutter](#), Farm Credit Canada

This session will explore how to create sustainable agricultural practices that support food sovereignty, community health, and ecological balance in a changed and changing climate.

Topics:

- Success and challenges of implementing an at-scale regenerative agriculture program and its relationship to food security and sovereignty
- Developing resilient local food systems and fostering sustainable practices with a focus on community engagement, food product development, and youth programs
- Observed climate impacts on beekeeping and innovative solutions to combat challenges
- As massive carbon sinks and resilient ecosystems in their own right, the prairies play an important part in climate adaptation. We'll explore what the data tells us to make the best decisions possible for both people and the land.

3:15 PM

Growing Roots with ALUS: Regenerative Agriculture and Stewardship on the Prairies, [Nicole Baldwin](#), ALUS

Resilient Local Food Systems at Flying Dust First Nation, [Jason Cardinal](#), Flying Dust Market Garden

Prairie-proven Solutions for Climate Adaptation, [Adrienne Tastad](#), Living Lab - Central Prairies

4:30 PM

Closing Remarks

4:45 PM

Closing Prayer

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Please note, all listed times are Central Standard Time.

Speakers



Elaine Barrow, Canadian Centre for Climate Services

Elaine has a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of East Anglia, UK, and over thirty years' experience working in climate change research, from the development of climate change scenarios for agricultural applications in Europe to exploring uncertainty in climate projections in the western Canadian Prairies. Elaine joined the Canadian Centre for Climate Services as a Senior Advisor in 2019 and since then has been closely involved in the development of the web portal ClimateData.ca. Elaine also helps develop and deliver training materials to support the use of climate information in decision making. She has called the Prairies home since 1999.



Jordyn Burnouf

Jordyn Burnouf is a proud Nehîyaw (Cree)/ Métis woman from the community of Île-à-la-Crosse, SK, and a member of Black Lake First Nation. She is a recognized leader in clean energy, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous youth advocacy, working to bridge traditional land-based knowledge with sustainable energy solutions. A passionate learner, Jordyn studies at the University of Saskatchewan in the Masters of Sustainability in Energy Security.

A passionate land-based practitioner, Jordyn spends her time away from work at her family's camp, Pemmican Lodge, where she guides, hunts, and harvests wild rice. Her deep connection to the land fuels her advocacy for Indigenous-led climate solutions and the need for culturally grounded approaches to sustainability.



Abhay Singh Sachal, Break the Divide

Abhay Singh Sachal is a 23-year old Canadian whose research and work resides at the intersection of climate change, ecoanxiety, mental health, and spirituality. He is the founder of Break The Divide, a non-profit organization that empowers young people with resources to understand climate emotions and connects communities to build resilience and share knowledge amidst the climate crisis. Abhay is also one of 10 advisors in the inaugural Environment and Climate Change Canada Youth Council. Outside of his activism, Abhay is currently a student at the University of Regina, completing a Masters of Education in Educational Psychology; a public speaker on environmental and climate issues; and, an avid ice hockey player and pianist.

Speakers



Jill Yanch, Resilient Rurals

As Founder and Director of Resilient Rurals with the Town of Bruderheim, Jill Yanch leads the development of a unique climate change adaptation and resilience model customized to fit small and rural communities. Her background in environmental sciences and decades of working with municipalities and Indigenous communities has empowered Jill to build meaningful regional partnerships across Canada. Driven by a deep belief in the power and potential of community, Jill is committed to being an advocate for socio-economic change at the local and national levels.



Jessie Best, City of Saskatoon

Jessie Best is a project manager who works on natural areas and green network initiatives for the City of Saskatoon. As a professional agrologist, she has a keen interest in applying conservation principles in urban environments. The favorite part of her job is engaging with and learning from the various community members and groups who are working to support nature in the city.



Chuck Deschamps, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Chuck Deschamps is a Policy Specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada, working out of the Wadena Office. He holds an Honours Degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Guelph and through his 34 year conservation career he has worked on wetlands and waterfowl conservation projects in all three prairie provinces. Chuck has helped farmers and ranchers adopt conservation farm programs such as marginal areas restoration, grazing management, and wetland restoration. He has also managed thousands of acres of upland projects and the operation of dams on several of DUC's large marsh projects. For the past 15 years he has been with DUC's Industry and Government Relations department, working with government, NGO's, landowners, and concerned citizens advocating for wetland conservation and native prairie conservation through stakeholder engagement, policy, and legislation. In the summer months he enjoys camping and spending time at the lake.



Renny Grilz, Meewasin Valley Authority

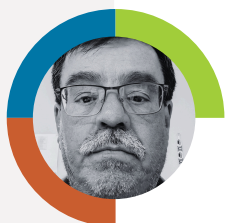
Renny W. Grilz, PAg is a seasoned professional in prairie grasslands and riparian area management with nearly three decades of experience in conservation and climate adaptation across the three prairie provinces. As Resource Management Officer for the Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon, he leads work in ecological restoration, ecosystem management, and sustainable land use in the Saskatoon Region. His approach emphasizes nature-based solutions and collaborative stewardship to strengthen climate resilience across the South Saskatchewan River Valley. Renny is involved with numerous boards and organizations including the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds and is a founding member of the Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange.

Speakers



Dany Doiron, Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE)

Dany is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at Université de Montréal and has worked as an environmental epidemiologist for over a decade. His research examines the respiratory health impacts of ambient air pollution. He is Managing Director of the Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE), which produces standardized health-relevant environmental data for all locations in Canada and provides it free of charge to Canadian researchers. Dany also co-directs HealthyPlan.City, a web-based tool that supports equity-informed urban planning, public health and advocacy by mapping neighbourhood-level environmental and sociodemographic indicators across Canadian cities.



Roger Daniels, Mistawasis Nêhiyawak

Roger started his career working in the Band Office and became Land Manager in 1989. Roger became the Specific Land Claim Coordinator in 2002. Mistawasis signed onto Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) in 2022 and Roger is the current TLE Legacy Trust Coordinator. Roger has tried many different careers and always comes back to Lands. Roger has been married for 31 years, has two daughters, two sons, and 15 grandchildren, and has lived on Mistawasis for all but three years of his life.

Speakers



Michaela Sidloski, University of Saskatchewan

Michaela Sidloski is a PhD Candidate in Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. Her work combines intersectional feminism, GIS, and participatory and transdisciplinary research methods. Her doctoral research focuses on improving climate change adaptation by working with remote, rural, and Indigenous communities in Canada to co-design place-based planning processes that are built from local knowledge and consider how social identity factors (like gender, culture, or socioeconomic status) affect how people experience and respond to climate impacts.



Casey Clunas, Canadian Centre for Climate Services

Casey Clunas has been a Policy Analyst with the Canadian Centre for Climate Services at Environment and Climate Change Canada since May 2018 where she works on Outreach and Engagement files. She holds a Master of Climate Change (MCC) degree from the University of Waterloo. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a Diploma of Environmental Assessment from the University of Waterloo.



Genevieve Russell, City of Saskatoon

Genevieve Russell works as a Sustainability Specialist for the City of Saskatoon. She is responsible for the implementation of Saskatoon's Water Conservation Strategy to reduce overall indoor and outdoor water use at the City and in the community. At the City, she has also worked on green infrastructure, triple bottom line decision making, and urban design. Genevieve is a landscape architect with 25 years of experience. Working at the City provides her with the opportunity to serve the community and help it prepare for and be more resilient to the challenges ahead.



Bridget Andrews, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds

Bridget Andrews is the Executive Director for the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) and a Professional Agrologist. She has been working in the area of watershed stewardship for the past 17 years. She has worked extensively in the agriculture stewardship areas, and in the past five years has expanded SAW's portfolio into the areas of climate variability and extremes, drought preparedness for rural communities, rural water testing, ecosystem health for species at risk and aquatic invasive species monitoring to name a few. SAW's vision is being a key provider of Saskatchewan's watershed stewardship.

Speakers



Scott Millar, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Scott currently serves as the Executive Director for the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA). He is a collaborative engagement expert with experience in natural resource management, aquatic biology, and regulatory design. Trained as an aquatic biologist, Scott has worked across Canada and the United States on projects ranging from multi-year threatened white sturgeon inventories to multi-stakeholder consensus water management projects. He is passionate about creating truly collaborative and inclusive conversations that can transform decision-making, build trust, and create meaningful solutions for complex problems.



Michael Martineau, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

In his current role as the Emergency Management Lead for the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, Michael remains deeply committed to serving Indigenous communities. He emphasizes capacity development, collaboration, inclusivity, and respect for traditional Indigenous Knowledge.

Michael holds a Master's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management. He is a certified firefighter, a hazardous materials operator, and a former ACP-certified Primary Care Paramedic, with a background in Emergency Support Services. Michael Martineau uses his expertise in emergency management to empower Indigenous communities and effectively address the challenges posed by emergencies and disasters on First Nations.



Ryan Johnson, Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Corporation

Ryan Johnson has been working in the public works sector for 30 years in various engineering, planning, and management roles. In 2013 Ryan joined the Buffalo Pound Water Administration Board as General Manager and led the transition into the non-profit Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Corporation in 2016 as the President & CEO, the role he currently holds. The Corporation is responsible for the water supply for over 270,000 people in southern Saskatchewan. Ryan currently serves as President on the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association Board and also serves as member on the American Water Works Board. Ryan is married with two children, enjoys German sports cars, and collecting Star Wars memorabilia.



Sheri Young, ICLEI Canada

In her role as Project Director, ClimateInsight.ca, Sheri brings a broad perspective of climate mitigation, adaptation, and nature-based solutions to ICLEI. Over the last 25 years, she has worked on land reclamation and restoration, air quality and climate emissions, contributed to global assessments on biodiversity and land degradation, led the first natural asset inventory and valuation project in Alberta, and advanced sustainability and climate action across sectors including municipal and provincial government, post-secondary education, and energy companies.

Speakers



Jason Cardinal, Flying Dust Market Garden

Jason Cardinal is a dynamic and results-oriented professional with a deep commitment to community development and agricultural innovation. Based in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, Jason's work at Flying Dust First Nation has allowed him to blend traditional agricultural practices with modern technology, leading to increased efficiency and sustainability. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and experience to inspire others in the field and contribute to the growth of the community. Jason manages a team of agriculture specialists at the Flying Dust Market Garden, a 170 acre farm that mainly grows potato crop and other vegetables for the local community.



Nicole Baldwin, ALUS

Nicole Baldwin is an environmental professional working in the non-profit sector to develop and manage programs that enhance the resilience of agricultural systems, producers, and communities to biodiversity loss and climate change. In her current role as Regenerative Agriculture Program Manager for ALUS, Nicole works with communities, funders, and farmers to implement projects rooted in the principles of regenerative agriculture across the prairies. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Toxicology from the University of Saskatchewan.

Moderators



Dimple Roy, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Dimple Roy 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. She has focused her efforts on ways to improve evidence-based decision-making incorporating economic, social and environmental considerations into water sector issues.



Katherine Finn, Bridge to Land Water Sky

Katherine Finn completed her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Earth Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. She is the Manager and Founder of Kinnikinnick Consulting, which supports environmental initiatives with First Nation communities in Treaty 6. She has 15+ years of experience in grant writing, community engagement, and project development, with a talent for creative thinking to overcome challenges. As the Project Manager for the Bridge to Land Water Sky project, Katherine's commitment to building community capacity, health and well-being, and improving land management strategies makes her an invaluable asset to the team.



Jessica Vanstone, Government of Saskatchewan

Jessica is a Senior Research Officer within the Adaptation and Resilience Analysis Unit, Climate Resilience Branch, Ministry of Environment. She's earned Bachelor of Science degrees in both Biology and Geography and a Master of Science degree in Geography, from the University of Regina, with specializations in climatology, hydrology, dendrochronology, climate extremes and adaptation to a changing climate. For over 18 years Jessica has studied and worked within the fields of tree-ring science, hydrology, water resources and management, environment and climate change. She currently works as a member of a dedicated team to support the preparedness and resilience of Saskatchewan and its people to the climatic, economic and policy effects of a changing climate.






Moderators



Sandra Sutter, Farm Credit Canada

Sandra Sutter is the Manager of External Indigenous Relations at Farm Credit Canada (FCC), based in Calgary. With over 15 years of experience in Indigenous engagement, she has worked across a wide range of sectors including agriculture, oil and gas, utilities, human resources, and non-profit. Sandra contributes her leadership to several Indigenous economic development, employment, and training-focused boards and committees across Canada. In addition to her professional accolades, Sandra holds the honorary title of Lieutenant Colonel with 41 Signal Regiment in the Canadian Armed Forces and is an accomplished, multi-award-winning recording artist and filmmaker. Her creative work focuses on Truth and Reconciliation and the empowerment of women. Her contributions have earned her national recognition, including being named one of WXN's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada in 2019. That same year, she received both an Esquao Award and the Aboriginal Role Model of Alberta Award.



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