



ClimateWest 2026 Forum



MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ADAPTATION Action Today For a Resilient Tomorrow

AGENDA



**THE LEAF
ASSINIBOINE PARK,
WINNIPEG, TREATY ONE
& ONLINE**

MAY 12-13, 2026





ClimateWest 2026 Forum



MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ADAPTATION



TUESDAY, MAY 12

	Climate Ready Prairies Regional Summit (by invitation only)
9:00 AM	Previous participants of the Climate Ready Prairies project will gather to learn key insights from this research study and try out tools for effective climate adaptation communication and engagement.
9:30 AM	Optional Tours (details)
11:00AM	Forum Registration Informal Networking
11:00 AM	Exhibitor Space Strategic Systems Engineering Federation of Canadian Municipalities Climate Insight Efficiency Manitoba
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Opening Blessing Grama Shingoose

ADAPTATION CHAMPION SPONSORS



Please note that the agenda is subject to change. All times are CDT.

**TUESDAY, MAY 12**

1:15 PM

Opening Remarks

- [Elaine Fox](#), ClimateWest Board Chair
- Virtual greetings from the Honourable Mike Moyes, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Councillor Ross Eadie, City of Winnipeg

REGIONAL IMPACTS OF OUR CHANGING CLIMATE & TWO-EYED SEEING**Moderated by:** [Elizabeth Shearer](#), ClimateWest

The opening session will present current climate science using both Western and Indigenous knowledge systems. It will highlight prairie-specific hazards and observed changes, while emphasizing the importance of Indigenous knowledge and Two-Eyed Seeing in understanding climate change and adapting to it.

Topics

- Past and future impacts of climate and human activities on Prairie water availability, examining key water cycle components and hydrological extremes, while highlighting water security vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities through watershed management.
- A shared foundation: the same facts, multiple ways of knowing, one goal - decisions that are practical and effective in real life.
- The practical application of Two-Eyed Seeing: using the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and Western science together to make better decisions.
- Centering our relationships with land and water through relationality, reciprocity, and respect.

1:45 PM

Climate Change and Freshwater Availability in the Canadian Prairies[Dr. Daniel Peters](#), Environment and Climate Change Canada**Two-Eyed Seeing in Partnerships for Solutions Across the Prairies**[Thomas McKay](#), Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)**RESILIENCE LEADER****PREPAREDNESS PARTNER**


TUESDAY, MAY 12

2:30 PM

Break

APPROACHING WATER HAZARDS FROM MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES
Moderated by: [Ashley Rawluk](#), International Institute for Sustainable Development

This session will examine community responses to flooding and drought from multiple perspectives. Speakers will discuss how climate change is reshaping prevention, preparedness, response, and resilience strategies, using recent events to identify successes, areas for improvement, and lessons for future actions.

Topics

- Effective flood preparedness at the household and community level, including practical homeowner actions and municipal planning, highlighting responsibilities, gaps, and measures to reduce future flood impacts.
- The development of the City of Winnipeg Flood Manual following the 1997 flood, how it is used during flood events, and how the manual supports coordinated decision-making as conditions change.
- Flooding and drought impacts on Red River Métis communities within the historic Homeland, and how the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is working to strengthen preparedness and long-term climate resilience.

3:00 PM

Preparing for Rising Flood Risk in the Prairies: Action at Home and in Communities | [Dr. Anabela Bonada](#), INTACT Centre for Climate Adaptation

Navigating the Waters: The City of Winnipeg Flood Manual
[Jeremy Greshuk](#), City of Winnipeg

Red River Métis Perspectives on Flooding and Drought: Community Impacts and Climate Resilience | [Eli Desautels](#), Manitoba Métis Federation

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Networking Social | The Leaf Mezzanine

Drinks, hors d'oeuvres and live music

 Sponsored by
 Strategic Systems Engineering


**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

8:15 AM

Registration and continental breakfast

COMMUNICATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION: PRAIRIE PERSPECTIVES BROUGHT INTO FOCUS

This session will open with an overview of the Climate Ready Prairies project and its key findings. Speakers will introduce a framework for communicating and engaging on climate adaptation and share regional examples. Together, these discussions will help attendees understand effective strategies for communicating and engaging their communities on climate adaptation.

9:00 AM

[Amber Bennett & Emma Bider, Re.Climate](#)
[Derek Bruno, SevGen Consulting](#)

10:15 AM

Break

RESOURCING RESILIENCE: ALIGNING ECONOMICS, POLICY, AND COMMUNITY ACTION**Moderated by: [Derek Earl, BizforClimate](#)**

This session explores how economic, policy, and community actors are incorporating climate risks into planning and decision-making. Speakers will highlight the roles of insurers, governments, the private sector, municipalities and homeowners, and how tools such as incentives, financing models, and bylaws are shaping resilience at household and community levels. Together, these perspectives will illustrate how financial mechanisms can accelerate practical adaptation actions and how we plan for risk in a changed and changing climate.

10:30 AM

[Emilia Cameron, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction](#)

[David Leibl, Wawanesa Insurance](#)

[Duane Nicol, City of Selkirk](#)


WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

12:00 PM

Lunch

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
Moderated by: [Sheri Young, ICLEI Canada](#)

This session will explore how planning, architecture, and design intersect with policy, regulations, and building code standards to reduce climate risk. Speakers will examine land-use planning and regulatory mechanisms that can normalize resilience-building across communities and developments. The discussion will highlight practical policy tools that embed climate resilience into everyday planning and decision-making.

Topics

- Integration of climate resilience and long-term performance into Manitoba development approvals through the Environment Act, focusing on mitigation and multi-hazard assessments.
- New guidance to improve consistency in how to assess climate resilience, helping strengthen project design and to reduce economic risks, including long-term climate-related costs.
- Key standards supporting climate resilience, practical applications, and integrating these standards into infrastructure planning and development.
- Practical examples of local municipalities that integrated green infrastructure features into transportation projects, discussing execution, challenges and lessons learned.

1:00 PM

Improving Climate Resilience Considerations in Manitoba’s Approach to Development Approvals | [Roger Rempel, Government of Manitoba, Climate Action and Energy Innovation Division](#)

Building Resilience: The Role of Standards in Advancing Climate-Ready Infrastructure | [Jessica Akande, Standards Council of Canada](#)

Designing Sustainable Streets: Lessons from Implementing Green Infrastructure in Municipal Transportation Projects | [Kaili Brown, HTFC Planning & Design](#)

2:30 PM

Break



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

2:45 PM

Activity / Energizer

INTO THE MAINSTREAM: BRINGING ADAPTATION TO LIFE

Moderated by: [Tom Ewart, Co-operators](#)

This session explores resources and practical examples of projects to showcase how adaptation is being brought to life at the national level and across the Prairies. Speakers will share insights for others seeking to advance adaptation and attendees will leave the session equipped with a wealth of practical knowledge and resources, ready to take actionable steps in their climate adaptation journey.

Topics

- Canada's National Adaptation Strategy and how Canada's vision for climate resilience is being brought to life.
- Insights into investments, partnerships, and tools that support whole-of-society efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Current supports available through the Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative.
- An overview of activities undertaken as part of a systems approach to climate action across eight First Nation communities in Manitoba.
- The importance of capacity development, participatory assessment, integrating climate science and Traditional Knowledge, and local-regional collaboration.

3:00 PM

From Strategy to Implementation – Progress on Canada's National Adaptation Strategy | [Laniel Bateman, Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

Advancing Climate Resilience Through the Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Initiative | [Kaylyn Gervais, Green Municipal Fund](#)

A Systems View to Enhancing Climate Resilience in Eight First Nation Communities | [Carolyn Smeltzer and Jordan Cook, Swampy Cree Tribal Council](#) | [Darren Swanson, Novel Futures Corporation](#)

4:30 PM

Closing Remarks

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OPTIONAL TOURS TUESDAY, MAY 12

\$15 per person | Limited availability | Pre-registration required

Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) Resilience Display Centre

9:30 AM

This tour highlights practical, cost-effective, consensus-based methods to become resilient to climate-related disasters. Using hands-on exhibits, displays, videos, interactive kiosks and other features, the Centre demonstrates resilience to insurance professionals, builders, code officials, homeowners, and others.

Location: ICLR Centre, 191 Broadway

Duration: 1.5 hrs



Institute for Catastrophic
Loss Reduction

Building resilient communities

Institut de prévention
des sinistres catastrophiques

Bâtir des communautés résilientes

Sustainability and Architecture Tour at The Leaf

9:30 AM

The design process for The Leaf kept sustainability front of mind and uses many features unlike any other in Canada. Travel through The Leaf's biomes and discover some of the architectural features that make the building so visually stunning, and learn about the many sustainable building options that highlight Assiniboine Park's commitment to the environment.

Location: The Leaf, 145 The Leaf Way

Duration: 1.5 hrs



HTFC
PLANNING & DESIGN

Bison Bus Tour at FortWhyte Alive

9:45 AM

This tour offers a thrilling and immersive journey into the heart of the prairies, where attendees will encounter the majestic bison in their natural habitat and learn about their role in climate change adaptation. As you board the vintage-style bus, you'll be guided through grasslands and wetlands, where these iconic creatures roam, embodying the wild spirit of the Canadian prairies. *Note: The bus is unable to accommodate wheelchairs; attendees must be able to board the bus independently.*

Location: FortWhyte Alive, 1961 McCreary Blvd

Duration: 1 hr



FortWhyte Alive
HUMAN. NATURE.

Speakers



Gramma Shingoose

Geraldine is an Indigenous Grassroots Grandmother and Great Grandmother from Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve, Treaty 4 Territory. Since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission closure in 2015, Geraldine has been inspired to share her story as a residential school survivor with thousands of people to raise awareness and advocate for transparency and justice. For nine years she provided Elder Support in class at the University of Manitoba. She provides spiritual guidance to the broader community. She supported the Harris Family in their effort to Search the Landfill for Morgan Harris. She is a recipient of the Queen Jubilee Award, and released a song she co-wrote and co-performed, Ogichidaa-Grassroots Grannies.



Elaine Fox, Board Chair, ClimateWest

Elaine Fox is the Manager of Climate Preparedness & Communications, Climate Actions & Energy Innovations Division, in the Department of Environment and Climate Change 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.



Elizabeth Shearer, ClimateWest

Elizabeth Shearer is the Network Coordinator at ClimateWest, where she supports regional and nationwide capacity-building for climate adaptation. With over a decade of experience in the non-profit sector, a background in Environmental Studies and an MBA, she combines strategic planning expertise with a commitment to solutions in the face of a changed and changing climate. Elizabeth has led advocacy efforts, campaigns and strategic planning across multiple sectors and programs within the environmental, post-secondary, and arts and culture sectors.

Speakers



Dr. Daniel Peters, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dr. Daniel Peters is a Research Scientist with Environment and Climate Change Canada where he has led hydrological investigations since 2004. His work examines how climate and development (e.g., flow regulation) influence the hydrology of rivers, lakes and wetlands. He is also involved in research linking hydrology to aquatic ecology and water quality, such as developing rapid assessment tools for environmental flow assessment approaches. Dr. Peters has authored more than 85 peer-reviewed publications, including chapters on freshwater availability and water cycle for the Canada's Changing Climate Reports. He is an associate editor for the Canadian Water Resources Journal.



Thomas McKay, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

Thomas McKay is based in Dauphin, Manitoba, in Treaty 2 Territory, on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and the homeland of the Métis Nation, within the Lake Winnipegosis Basin. A member of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, he has a background in land and water protection, serving as a Regional Fisheries Biologist for 13 years with the Manitoba Government.

In August 2022, he joined the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), focusing on advancing Indigenous-led climate, water, and biodiversity solutions while bridging Western science and Indigenous knowledge systems, translating community priorities into practical plans, partnerships, and on-the-ground action. His portfolio also includes climate change adaptation, knowledge mobilization, and youth engagement in collaboration with diverse partners across Canada. In this role, CIER is more than his workplace-- it is the platform that helps move Indigenous community priorities and sovereignty-based resilience work from discussion to delivery.



Dr. Anabela Bonada, INTACT Centre for Climate Adaptation

Dr. Anabela Bonada is Managing Director, Climate Science at the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo where she leads applied research that turns climate science into practical action. She leads the Centre's wildfire work and co-leads flooding initiatives, developing tools and guidance that help communities and organizations reduce risk.

She developed Canada's first standardized community wildfire risk assessment framework, which informs national wildfire preparedness scorecards. Her work supports climate adaptation policy, national standards, and risk reduction strategies across Canada. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Guelph and serves on several national advisory committees.

Speakers



Jeremy Greshuk, City of Winnipeg

Jeremy Greshuk is the branch head of the Land Drainage and Flood Protection branch within the City of Winnipeg's Water and Waste Department, with over 20 years of experience in hydrology and hydraulics. He provides expert advice for flood preparation, and supports planning and operational activities for the land drainage and flood protection systems. He liaises with the Province of Manitoba and plays a senior role in setting the flood planning scenario for various City departmental processes to protect the City in response to high water events.

Before joining the City in 2019, he worked as a consultant on various hydrotechnical projects, including hydrodynamic modelling of the Red River and Lower Pembina River, and emergency water level reduction strategies for Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin.



Eli Desautels, Manitoba Métis Federation

Eli Desautels, a Red River Métis Citizen, born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a Policy Analyst with the Manitoba Métis Federation's Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management department. He focuses on advancing Red River Métis climate priorities through policy development, program design, and strategic engagement with governments and partners. His work supports Indigenous-led climate solutions, including natural climate initiatives, community resilience, and sustainable economic development across the Red River Métis National Homeland. Eli contributes to initiatives that strengthen Métis self-determination in climate governance while ensuring that climate policies reflect the knowledge, priorities, and long-term stewardship values of Red River Métis Citizens.



Amber Bennett, Re.Climate

Amber Bennett is one of Canada's top climate communication strategists and capacity builders. Amber works with groups across the country, bridging the gap between research and practice. She led the groundbreaking Alberta Narratives Project and supported much of the foundational work to pilot and build Re.Climate. 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.



Emma Bider, Re.Climate

Emma Bider supports research, events, and communities of practice under the Resource and Training Director. She has a PhD in anthropology, with a focus on community engagement with municipal governance and local climate issues.

Speakers



Derek Bruno, SevGen Consulting

As Founder and Managing Partner of SevGen Consulting, Derek M. Bruno from the Samson Cree Nation brings his background in First Nations governance and community development to lead the SevGen team in connecting Indigenous communities with non-profits, corporations, and governments at every level for partnership development and planning for climate action.



Emilia Cameron, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction

Emilia Cameron is the Manager of Climate Resilient Communities with the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction. Based at the ICLR Resilience Display Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she engages with government authorities, insurers, and community partners to build awareness and knowledge around practical strategies that reduce the impacts of extreme weather and climate change. With a background in geography and over two years of experience at ICLR, Emilia is passionate about making communities more resilient not just through infrastructure, but through strong partnerships and informed decision-making.



David Leibl, Wawanesa Insurance

David Leibl is Vice President of Sustainability & Corporate Affairs at Wawanesa Insurance, where he oversees sustainability strategy, government relations and external affairs. David brings a pragmatic, business-focused perspective to climate risk and community resilience, informed by a career at the intersection of public policy, political strategy, consulting and sustainability. Prior to taking on his current portfolio at Wawanesa, David served as the company's Chief of Staff.



Duane Nichol, City of Selkirk

Prior to becoming the City of Selkirk's Chief Administrative Officer, Duane was a city councillor from 2002 to 2014. During that time, he was the driving force behind the establishment of Selkirk's public transit system. He has a master's degree in public administration and teaches leadership in municipal management at the University of Manitoba. He is the past president of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators, the 2025 winner of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba's award for leadership in Municipal Administration and is the board chair for Efficiency Manitoba, the crown corporation leading demand-side energy efficiency in the province. Under his leadership, Selkirk has become recognized for its environmental stewardship and progressive, award-winning approach to managing municipal infrastructure.

Speakers



Roger Rempel, Government of Manitoba

Roger Rempel is Senior Climate Engineer at Manitoba's Climate Action and Energy Innovation Division. He is one of the first six professional engineers in Canada to earn the Infrastructure Resilience Professional (IRP) designation and has developed and delivered climate-resilience training for Engineers Canada to professional engineers across Canada, the U.S., Honduras, Costa Rica, and Brazil. He previously served as Climate Group Director at Risk Sciences International (RSI) and as a climate resilience lead in the consulting engineering sector.

Recently, Roger co-developed post-professional master's courses in climate and infrastructure impacts for engineers along with former colleagues from RSI and the Northern Hail Project.



Jessica Akande, Standards Council of Canada

Jessica Akande, PhD, is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Standards to Support Resilience in Infrastructure Program at the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). Prior to joining SCC, she worked as a senior program advisor working on net-zero water and stormwater management programs for the municipal water sector. In her past roles, she has designed and delivered climate change workshops, meetings, webinars and conducted policy reviews.

She holds a PhD in Conservation Biology from the University of Alberta, as well as a master's and bachelor's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Tulane University in New Orleans.



Kaili Brown, HTFC Planning & Design

Kaili is a landscape architect whose practice focuses on urban development and revitalization, green infrastructure, active transportation, public engagement and brand identity projects for a wide range of private and public sector clients. She recently completed pioneering bioretention projects in a pair of smaller Manitoba municipalities and continues to promote nature-based solutions as a practitioner, speaker, and advocate.



Laniel Bateman, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Laniel Bateman is the Director for Climate Change Adaptation Policy at Environment and Climate Change Canada. She 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



Kaylyn Gervais, Green Municipal Fund

Kaylyn is an Outreach Advisor with the Green Municipal Fund, a \$2.4-billion program that supports municipalities and partners in implementing innovative sustainable development initiatives. She works with prospective applicants across Canada to develop strong, impactful proposals focused on climate adaptation.

With over sixteen years of experience in community development, resource planning, and corporate strategy, Kaylyn brings extensive expertise to her role. She holds an MBA, a degree in Anthropology, and has over a decade of experience as a funder working directly with municipalities to drive meaningful change. She is committed to helping communities of all sizes implement equitable, effective climate solutions.



Carolyn Smeltzer, Swampy Cree Tribal Council

Carolyn Smeltzer began her career at Manitoba Hydro in 1995, working in Information Systems and later on GIS Mapping and Engineering Applications projects. She held various roles, including Fire Warden, Union Chairperson, and on the Executive Board for IBEW Local 2034. After 25 years with Manitoba Hydro, she joined Swampy Cree Tribal Council as Technical Unit Manager, overseeing the Housing, Infrastructure, Operations and Maintenance, Fire, Safety and Emergency Management Advisory Services. Since 2021, she has been Project Manager for Climate Change, and Fire Safety, Firesmart and Emergency Management Projects; and most recently with the Clean Energy Projects at the Tribal Council.



Jordan Cook, Swampy Cree Tribal Council

Jordan Cook is the Climate Change Coordinator with the Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC), focusing on climate resilience across SCTC communities in Manitoba. His work includes event planning, community engagement, and leading climate risk assessments that inform local decision-making. In November 2024, he earned his PIEVC Protocol certification, strengthening his expertise in infrastructure vulnerability and climate risk analysis. He has contributed to the facilitation of six community climate risk assessments, collaborating with leadership and community members to identify risks and create practical solutions. Jordan is committed to advancing collaborative, locally-grounded approaches to climate action that support long-term resilience.



Darren Swanson, Novel Futures Corporation

Darren Swanson is Director of the Winnipeg-based consultancy, Novel Futures Corporation. He works with communities, businesses, international organizations, and United Nations agencies on sustainability, disaster risk reduction and resilience, strategic foresight, and integrated planning. He is co-author of the 2009 book, *Creating Adaptive Policies*, and the 2021 report, *Advancing the Climate Resilience of Canadian Infrastructure*. Darren is a Professional Engineer (P.Eng./P.E.) and a certified Infrastructure Resilience Professional (IRP) with Master's degrees in Public Administration & International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School and in Civil & Geo-environmental Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan.

Moderators



Ashley Rawluk, International Institute for Sustainable Development

In her role as Policy Advisor, Ashley Rawluk supports Prairie municipalities, watershed districts, farmers, and First Nations in advancing nature-based solutions such as wetland and native grassland restoration. She also develops practical guidance and training to help Manitoba communities assess climate risks and strengthen local resilience.



Derek Earl, BizforClimate

Derek Earl is the Founder & CEO of BizforClimate, a local organization representing a growing network of business leaders to champion climate action. Derek is an executive leader and strategist with over 20 years of industry experience in corporate strategy, economic development, policy, and climate change. He previously worked with KPMG Canada's Global Infrastructure Advisory Practice specializing in climate transition and the green economy, and spent many years as Vice-President at the World Trade Centre Winnipeg working on international trade and investment. He sits on the Expert Advisory Committee to Manitoba's Minister of Environment and Climate Change.



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.



Tom Ewart, Co-operators

Tom leads Co-operators Resilience Acceleration Lab, which is exploring how private capital might help accelerate the speed and scale at which communities are building resilience to climate change. Prior to Co-operators, Tom led the Network for Business Sustainability based at the Ivey Business School, from which he graduated as an Ivey Scholar. He was a gold medalist in the Engineering Faculty at Western University, and also holds a Master of Environment and Business from the University of Waterloo. Outside of work, Tom enjoys listening to music, actively engaging in his community, and exploring nature with his children.