



# 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**





## MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ADAPTATION



TUESDAY, MAY 12

<p>9:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Climate Ready Prairies Regional Summit</b> (by invitation only)</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>9:30 AM</p>	<p>Optional Tours: \$15 per person   Limited availability   Pre-registration required</p>
<p>11:00AM</p>	<p>Forum Registration   Informal Networking</p>
<p>11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Exhibitor Space</b>  <a href="#">Strategic Systems Engineering</a>   <a href="#">Federation of Canadian Municipalities</a>  <a href="#">Climate Insight</a>   <a href="#">Efficiency Manitoba</a>   <a href="#">Government of Manitoba</a>  <a href="#">Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources</a></p>
<p>12:00 PM</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Opening Blessing</b>  <a href="#">Gramma Shingoose</a></p>
<p>1:15 PM</p>	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual greetings from the Honourable Mike Moyes, Minister of Environment and Climate Change</li> <li>• Councillor Ross Eadie, City of Winnipeg</li> <li>• Elaine Fox, ClimateWest Board Chair</li> </ul>

**TUESDAY, MAY 12****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.

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 \(CIER\)](#)

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.

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](#)



**TUESDAY, MAY 12**

4:30 - 6:00 PM	<p><b>Networking Social   The Leaf Mezzanine</b> Drinks, hors d'oeuvres and live music</p> <p>Sponsored by Strategic Systems Engineering</p> 
----------------	---

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

8:15 AM	Registration and continental breakfast
---------	--

**COMMUNICATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION: PRAIRIE PERSPECTIVES BROUGHT INTO FOCUS**

**Moderated by: Amber Bennett, Re.Climate**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emma Bider, Re.Climate</li><li>• Asha Nelson, ClimateWest</li><li>• Derek Bruno, SevGen Consulting</li></ul>
---------	--

10:15 AM	Break
----------	-------




**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**
**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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Emilia Cameron, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">David Leibl, Wawanesa Insurance</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Duane Nicol, City of Selkirk</a></li> </ul>
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.

1:00 PM	<b>Improving Climate Resilience Considerations in Manitoba’s Approach to Development Approvals</b>   <a href="#">Roger Rempel, Government of Manitoba</a>
	<b>Building Resilience: The Role of Standards in Advancing Climate-Ready Infrastructure</b>   <a href="#">Jessica Akande, Standards Council of Canada</a>
	<b>Designing Sustainable Streets: Lessons from Implementing Green Infrastructure in Municipal Transportation Projects</b>   <a href="#">Kaili Brown, HTFC Planning &amp; Design</a>


**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

2:30 PM	Break
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.

3:00 PM	<b>From Strategy to Implementation – Progress on Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy</b>   <a href="#">Laniel Bateman</a> , Environment and Climate Change Canada
	<b>Advancing Climate Resilience Through the Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Initiative</b>   <a href="#">Kaylyn Gervais</a> , Green Municipal Fund
	<b>A Systems View to Enhancing Climate Resilience in Eight First Nation Communities</b>   <a href="#">Carolyn Smeltzer</a> and <a href="#">Jordan Cook</a> , Swampy Cree Tribal Council   <a href="#">Darren Swanson</a> , Novel Futures Corporation
4:30 PM	Closing Remarks