

CFCAS News

Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)



Message from the Executive Director

Over the summer, CFCAS has expanded its scope of funded initiatives to three project offices. In August, the International Project Office for SPARC (Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate) moved from France to Canada, where it is hosted by the University of Toronto. (See item on page 2). SPARC was initiated by the World Climate Research Programme in 1992. It deals with the role of stratospheric processes in the global climate of the troposphere-stratosphere system. The Foundation is also contributing to an international SOLAS (Surface Ocean-Lower Atmosphere Study) Working Group office, hosted by Dalhousie University, and to the National Secretariat for International Polar Year, at the University of Alberta. The expansion to international coordination results from changes made in 2003 to CFCAS's governing Agreement. During the summer, CFCAS also extended financial support for nine research networks, following strong endorsement of the excellence of the science in all of them by an international review group. The extensions represent an additional investment of \$10 million; future newsletters will report on some of the benefits Canadians are getting from these initiatives.

Dawn Conway

Second Call Letters of Intent (LOIs) for Major Initiatives

Deadline: Monday November 1, 2004

CFCAS invites faculty members and teams in Canadian universities to submit Letters of Intent for major initiatives: efforts which involve substantial research consortia of an interdisciplinary and intersectoral nature. Successful LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

For details visit: www.cfcas.org/secondcallLOIe.htm

Project Competition 2004

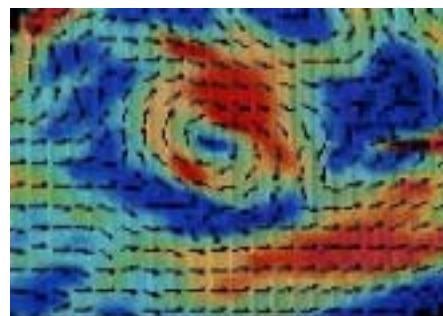
Grant Applications Under Review

Seventy applicants requested a total of \$17.9 million in the June 2004 competition for project grants. This number includes 24 first-time applicants. Results of the competition will be released in mid-December, 2004.

Theme Area	Number of Applications
Climate Change	39
Air Quality	17
Extreme Weather	4
Marine Environmental Prediction	3
Impacts and other interdisciplinary	7
Total	70

Weather and the Arts

CFCAS-funded research on Great Lakes climate conditions made its arts debut in Diane Maclean's exhibition *Lovely Weather*. David Swayne (University of Guelph), William Schertzer (National Water Research Institute) and others contributed readings from climate monitoring equipment to a large DVD projection entitled 'How Water Moves'. The visualizations were coloured to represent ranges of temperature, current velocities and other parameters (see image). The exhibition opened at the MacDonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, and is now touring Britain.



'How Water Moves', from data by William Schertzer

In the News

Canadians in print

Joint research by Canadian and Japanese scientists working in the Surface Ocean–Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) is featured in the April 1, 2004 edition of *Nature*. 'The Decline and Fate of an Iron-induced Subarctic Phytoplankton Bloom' is based on work from the *SERIES* iron enrichment experiment.

Engaging tomorrow's scientists

The Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environment Industry (CCHREI) is continuing its International Environmental Youth Corp (IEYC) wage subsidy program. For information, visit www.cchrei.ca/eyc.

Networks to get \$10 million more

CFCAS has extended the funding for nine research networks from three to five years. It has also committed supplementary funds to new elements for three of them. The new investment totals \$10 million, and brings total funding for the nine networks to \$30.4 million.

Staff Changes

CFCAS is pleased to announce the appointment of Erica Wilson as new Program Officer. Erica joined the Foundation on September 27, 2004 replacing outgoing staffer Cheryl Lewis, who has moved to the U.S.

New Board Members

The CFCAS welcomes new Board of Trustees member Peter Victor (York University).

Moves & Meetings

Stratospheric Processes And their Role in Climate (SPARC)

After 12 years in France, the international coordinating office for SPARC has moved to Canada. The **SPARC Office** can be reached at:

Department of Physics, University of Toronto
60 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A7
Tel: 416-946-7543 Fax: 416-946-0513
E-mail: sparc@atmosp.physics.utoronto.ca

International SOLAS Conference

The Surface Ocean-Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) held its first Open Science conference in Halifax, **October 13–16, 2004**, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Information: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/solas/ss04/>

Conference on the Indirect Effects of Aerosols on Climate

The International Global Atmospheric Chemistry project (IGAC), NOAA and NASA have organized this special conference in Manchester England, January 5-7, 2005. Information: www.al.noaa.gov/igac/

Gordon Research Conference On Polar Marine Science: Climate Feedbacks and Trophic Shifts in Polar Seas

This conference will be in Ventura, California, 13-18 March 2005. Information: <http://www.grc.org/>

Extreme Summer

After the deadly summer storm season in 2003, which included Tropical Storm Isabel and Hurricane Juan, Environment Canada was predicting another summer of bad weather. They weren't wrong.

On July 11, 2004, the West Edmonton Mall had to evacuate 30,000 shoppers following a severe hail and rainstorm. Elsewhere in the city, hailstones – some as big as baseballs - jammed storm drains causing them to overflow. On July 15, it was Calgary's turn: a strong storm swept the city, carrying away manhole covers and delaying events at the Calgary Stampede.

As the weather system moved east, citizens braced for the "Flood of the Century". On July 15, downtown Peterborough, Ontario, was underwater as storm drains backed up after 191 millimetres of rain in a 24-hour period. Further north, 110 millimetres of rain closed both roads into Temiscaming, Quebec, isolating the town.



Forecasting hailstorms and their severity is an on-going concern in agricultural areas such as the Canadian prairies. University of Alberta researcher Gerhard Reuter is working to improve our ability to predict hail. The HAILCAST model that he and his team have developed helps operational forecasters decide when to issue 'significant weather' warnings. Says Reuter, 'With continuing improvements in HAILCAST...model outputs, we anticipate improved summer storm warning for the Canadian prairies.' His CFCAS-funded research is also improving tornado prediction.

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