



Canadian Foundation for Climate
and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)

Fondation canadienne pour les sciences
du climat et de l'atmosphère (FCSCA)

news release

The Polar Climate Stability Network



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Researchers Examine Arctic Climate Change

Major research consortium participates in international effort to determine implications of climate change, including rising sea levels

Vancouver, May 1st, 2007 - Researchers in the Polar Climate Stability Network revealed findings from their work in Canada's polar regions, including an international project that examines the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and mountain glaciers. The north is already feeling the effects of a warming climate, and the research projects being discussed will help decision-makers across the country to understand the changes and to design strategies and policies to adapt.

The Network focuses on: 1) rapid climate change occurring in both the oceans and on land; 2) the vulnerability of glaciers and sea ice in Northern Canada to global warming; 3) investigating climate changes in Canadian ocean waters and on the Canadian land mass that have occurred in the past; and 4) the connections between changes in Arctic climate and lower latitudes, both past and future.

"Canada's polar regions are the proverbial canary in the mine shaft," said Professor Richard Peltier, lead researcher with the network and professor at the University of Toronto. "It's the perfect spot for us to look at how climate has changed in the past and what that can tell us about the future. The network involves a number of projects that could help develop tools for coping with climate change."

In February 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) revealed that glaciers and ice sheets will likely thin as the climate change process goes on, changing the natural ecosystems and having potentially devastating effects on many birds and animals that depend on them.

.../2

Although Arctic human communities are adapting, climate change presents a formidable challenge by affecting infrastructure and traditional ways of life. Research shows that substantial investments are needed to adapt or even to re-locate physical structures and communities.

The Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences has invested \$5 million in this work. 2007-08 marks International Polar Year.

For more information, please contact:

Dawn Conway
Executive Director
CFCAS
Email: conway@cfcas.org
Cell: 613-878-0955

or

Professor Richard Peltier
University of Toronto
Email: peltier@atmosph.physics.utoronto.ca
Tel: 647-405-0829