



Canadian Foundation for Climate
and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)
Fondation canadienne pour les sciences
du climat et de l'atmosphère (FCSCA)



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MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

New major consortium to develop a carbon monitoring and prediction system for North America

OTTAWA - March 7, 2007 - Université Laval and the **Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS)** invite the media to the launch of a Canada-wide research consortium that will provide key information on the absorption and generation of carbon in Canada's vast boreal forests and help government and industry to develop strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The Canadian Carbon Program (CCP) is led by Professor Hank Margolis of Université Laval and funded by a grant of \$4 million from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences. The network includes top researchers from 12 universities in partnership with scientists from Natural Resources Canada (Canadian Forest Service), Environment Canada and provincial research institutes.

The network will provide new and important information on the influence of climate, logging and fire on the absorption or emission of carbon dioxide in Canadian forests and peatlands. It will ultimately develop a framework for an integrated carbon monitoring and prediction system for Canada and North America. Research done by Fluxnet-Canada, the predecessor of the CCP, estimated that the Canadian land surface absorbed approximately 140 million tonnes of carbon per year between 1994 and 2003. This is close to the carbon emitted annually by Canadian fossil fuel CO₂ emissions over the same period. However, the scientific uncertainties in these estimates are very large. These uncertainties will be reduced through the scientific research conducted by the CCP.

The formal launch of the CCP will be followed by presentations by leading Canadian scientists Francis Zwiers and Werner Kurz, who will speak about recent developments in climate change science and the mitigating potential of forests under future climate change scenarios.

What: New research consortium on carbon monitoring
Where: Ballroom - Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel (Ottawa)
When: 8:50 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. on Friday March 9, 2007

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