



## **ADAPTATION: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

### **OUTLINE**

It is abundantly clear that the climate is changing with profound impacts on our environment, economy, society and our security. The main cause is human activity, primarily as a result of two centuries of greenhouse gas emissions from the production and consumption of fossil fuels. It will take a generation or more to transition fully to a non-fossil fuel world. As a result, future impacts are inevitable and will continue until, and even after, the world achieves net-zero emissions and re-balances the carbon cycle. The inescapable conclusion is that adaptation, primarily through enhanced resilience, is imperative if we and the environment on which we depend are to survive.

The aim of this year's Policy Conference is to help enhance the national and global dialogue on the role of adaptation in addressing the threats of climate change. The conference will examine policies that will not only help to shield us from the impacts of climate change but provide ancillary benefits that will make our lives, our communities, our economies and our environment more sustainable. The conference will build on previous studies such as the

# Group of 78 Annual Policy Conference

## Virtual by Internet, Ottawa, Sept. 23 – Oct. 5, 2021



Council of Canadian Academies' Experts Panel on Climate Change Risks and Adaptation Potential, and other initiatives such as the Flagship Report of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

The conference will examine a range of potential climate change impacts in Canada, for example on food and agriculture, community infrastructure, and health. The range is large and we will be forced to make choices. Fortunately, there is a rich base of research which we will distill for the conference. We plan to have representation from municipal, provincial and federal governments as well as subject experts. We will choose three or four sectors and explore, through a series of "what if" scenarios, potential adaptation responses to mitigate the climate change impacts. For each set of responses we will explore the possible conflicts and ancillary benefits for greenhouse gas reductions.

The most devastating impacts of climate change, in terms of lives lost and property damage, will be inflicted on developing countries. Since developing countries are low emitters of greenhouse gases, they are the least responsible for climate change, yet bear its worst consequences. There is thus a moral obligation on the rich countries to support their adaptation efforts. In addition to a focus on Canada, the conference will explore a range of impacts of extreme weather on these developing countries as well as actions and resources required to build their resilience.

Participants will help generate a report with clear conclusions and recommendations to be forwarded to political leaders and to be shared widely as a contribution to public discourse of this critical issue. The Group of 78 will continue to advocate to governments on these recommendations in the years ahead.

Further information on the detailed **program** and the **process to register** as a participant will be available on the Group of 78 website (<http://group78.org/>).



## **ADAPTATION**

### ***BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY***

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER THROUGH EVENTBRITE](#)

### **PROGRAM**

***All times are EDT, UTC -4***

***Thursday, Sept. 23, 10:00 a.m.***      OPENING

Acknowledgement of the Land/Prayer with **Elder Verna McGregor**, Algonquin Nation.

Welcome to the Conference - Why Adaptation: **Roy Culpeper**, Chair, Group of 78.

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Original Statement that launched the Group of 78

***Thursday, Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m.*** KEYNOTE Address, **Jayati Ghosh**: *Global Adaptation Challenges*

Reforms to the global economic architecture are urgently needed to mobilize the necessary resources for Adaptation in the developing world.

Speaker: Jayati Ghosh, Development Economist, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA.

***Friday, Sept. 24, 1:00 p.m.***      PANEL ON INFRASTRUCTURE ADAPTATION

Regardless of climate change, governments and businesses will continue to spend significant amounts of money building new and maintaining existing physical infrastructure in order to provide services and create products. What are the ways in which this infrastructure can also shield Canadians from the now inevitable impacts of climate change?

Moderator: **John Stone**, former member IPCC.

Speaker: **Paul Kovacs**, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction/University of Western Ontario.

Speaker: **Adam Fenech**, Climate Change & Adaptation, University of Prince Edward Island.

**Monday, Sept. 27, 1:00 p.m.** PANEL ON FOOD ADAPTATION

How do we redesign current food systems, in Canada and globally, to ensure equitable production and distribution of healthy food while preserving and restoring ecosystems?

Moderator: **Bruce Currie-Alder**, Canada's International Development Research Centre, Program leader climate resilience

Speaker: **Sophia Murphy**, Executive Director, Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy.

Speaker: **Darrin Qualman**, National Farmers Union/Author.

Speaker: **Sandra Yeboah & Nii Adjei Sowah**, University of Ghana.

**Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1:00 p.m.** PANEL ON HEALTH ADAPTATION

With increase in disease, heat deaths, mental stress and physical risk because of climate change, what needs to change with health policies and systems to build resilience to meet these challenges?

Moderator: **Christopher Huggins**, Professor, International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa.

Speaker: **Janet Hatcher-Roberts**, University of Ottawa; Former Executive Director, Canadian Society for International Health.

Speaker: **Nicholas Robinson**, Environment Prof. Emeritus, Pace University, NYC; Former Legal Advisor, International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Speaker: **Didacus Namanya**, Geographer, Ministry of Health, Uganda.

**Wednesday, Sept. 29, 12:00 pm.** KEYNOTE Address, **Bob Rae: Canada's Role in the Global Context**

Speaker: **Bob Rae**, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations.

**Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1:00 p.m.** COMMUNITIES FIT FOR THE FUTURE: MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP, DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS AND ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE.

A presentation on how municipalities can take leadership in meeting the challenges of the 21st century through adopting frameworks that track environmental and social outcomes, and focus on action to tackle the greatest challenge of our time, climate change.

Moderator: **Susan Tanner**, VP Group of 78; Secretary, OREC; Chair Conference Organizing Committee.

Speaker: **Ben Geselbracht**, Councillor, City of Nanaimo.

Speaker: **Tyler Brown**, Councillor, City of Nanaimo.

**Thursday, Sept. 30, 10:00 a.m.** KEYNOTE Address: *Adaptation, food security and the challenge of financing Adaptation in Africa*

Speaker: **Rachel Bezner Kerr**, Professor of Global Development, Cornell University.

**Thursday, Sept. 30, 1:00 p.m.** FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ADAPTATION.

Financing for adaptation to global warming are grossly inadequate; developments in multilateral finance, food and agriculture are reshaping the multiple challenges involved.

Moderator: **Sara Alvarado**, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Finance (ISF)

Speaker: **Jomo Sundaram**, Jomo K. Sundaram, Senior Adviser at the Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia. Multilateral finance, food systems, and sustainable climate Adaptation.

Speaker: **Blair Feltmate**, INTACT Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo, Adaptation policy and practice in Canada.

Speaker: **Art Hunter**, Developer of a major project demonstrating how an Ottawa home has adapted to not relying on fossil fuels or grid power by using solar power and geothermal energy using private financing.

**Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1:00 p.m.** Wrap Up WEBINAR: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A final session for all full conference participants to comment on a draft set of conclusions and recommendations emerging from the conference presentations and discussions, prepared by the conference planning committee.

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