

*The Province of Manitoba is distributing this news release on behalf of
ClimateWest and its founding partner organizations.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2021

Jane Hilderman, ClimateWest
204-995-6514
jhilderman@climatewest.ca

CLIMATE RESILIENCE HAS A POWERFUL NEW ALLY IN THE PRAIRIES

*ClimateWest will be the new one-stop hub to support climate adaptation efforts
in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.*

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, January 19 2021—Launched today, ClimateWest is a new non-profit, regional hub that will deliver credible climate information, data, and adaptation guidance tailored to the Prairie region. ClimateWest will work with people, communities, businesses, and governments across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to help address both the risks and opportunities generated by climate change.

“ClimateWest comes along at a critical moment in one of Canada’s fastest warming regions,” stated Jane Hilderman, ClimateWest’s Executive Director. “Our vision is to support anyone from municipal decision-makers to watershed associations to small business who may not have the capacity or expertise on hand to interpret climate projections and use climate information to inform risk assessments and planning.”

“The Prairie provinces have already witnessed 13 of Canada’s 20 most expensive weather-related events since 1983, totalling billions of dollars of insured losses. Under a changing climate, we can anticipate even greater costs if we continue without proper planning and action,” said Dr. Dave Sauchyn, Director of the [Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative](#) (PARC) at the University of Regina. PARC is one of three founding partners of ClimateWest along with the [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) (IISD) and the [Prairie Climate Centre](#) (PCC) at the University of Winnipeg.

ClimateWest offers innovative climate services by:

- Providing climate analyses, guidance documents, training sessions, and other tools specific to the adaptation needs of different sectors.
- Hosting a Help Desk available to the public by email or phone to answer queries about climate data and information.
- Raising public awareness and knowledge of the value of climate change adaptation.

ClimateWest will help address the urgent need highlighted in the [recently released Prairies Chapter](#) of Canada’s national assessment process on climate change: “the window to take action to avoid severe climate change impacts is rapidly closing [...] current efforts to adapt are not enough to prevent the rapidly accelerating human and financial losses from current and future climate change impacts.”

ClimateWest has the combined support from the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, as well as Environment and Climate Change Canada at the federal level.

###

For more information about ClimateWest, visit [ClimateWest.ca](https://climatewest.ca) and sign up for email updates.

ClimateWest’s Help Desk can be reached via email at info@climatewest.ca or by telephone at 204-995-6514 or toll-free at 1-877-938-6650.

BACKGROUNDER

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

“We know that many people can feel overwhelmed or uncertain about where to get started when it comes to finding relevant climate data and information. ClimateWest and partners are committed to building an approachable entry point that can respond to those looking for help and guidance tailored to their needs.”

- **Jo-Ellen Parry, Director of Adaptation (Canada), IISD, a founding partner of ClimateWest**

“Climate adaptation succeeds when it is anchored in the local context. As partners rooted in the Prairies, we recognize that this region has many different realities when it comes to climate change. Core to ClimateWest’s work will be care and attention to both local challenges and local capacity.”

- **Dr. Ian Mauro, Executive Director of the PCC, a founding partner of ClimateWest**

“The government is proud to be part of this new ClimateWest collaboration. Federal-provincial governments and private sector partners are working closely together to form regional climate science hubs like this one. As our network expands, so does our ability to give decision-makers at all levels the tools they need to take climate change into account and help communities be more resilient as we adapt to climate change.”

- **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Terry Duguid**

“The creation of ClimateWest as a hub of climate services in the Prairie region represents an important step toward advancing climate resilience not only in Manitoba but across the region. Forging a strong partnership with the federal and prairie provincial governments and other sectors is essential to broadening policy discussion, sharing knowledge and leveraging critical resources to advance climate resiliency within the Prairie region.”

- **Manitoba Minister of Conservation and Climate, Sarah Guillemard**

NATIONAL NETWORK OF CLIMATE SERVICES

ClimateWest joins a growing network of regional climate service providers that works closely with Environment and Climate Change Canada through the [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) (CCCS):

- [Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium](#) (PCIC) serves BC/Yukon
- [Ouranos](#) serves Quebec
- [ClimateWest](#) serves Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba

This network provides improved access to climate data (via sites like [ClimateData.ca](#) and the [Climate Atlas of Canada](#)), as well as training and support on the use of climate information in decision-making.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Support from all four governments combined totals \$2.86M over three years to fund the establishment of ClimateWest, with an additional \$180K of in-kind support.

JANE HILDERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Find out more about our Executive Director and the Management Team behind ClimateWest on the [ClimateWest website](#) (live November 19).

LAUNCH EVENT – JANUARY 19

ClimateWest launches with a virtual public event via Zoom at 10am CST. This event showcases the collaboration behind ClimateWest, including remarks from Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Terry Duguid, IISD’s President and CEO Dr. Richard Florizone, University of Regina’s Interim President Dr. Tom Chase, University of Winnipeg’s Interim President Dr. James Currie. A moderated Q&A will follow.