



May 15, 2018

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### EXPERTS AVAILABLE TO SPEAK ON CLIMATE RISKS AND DISASTER PLANNING

With recent flooding taking place in the BC interior, as well as record-high floods in New Brunswick earlier this month, the following potential media availability may be of interest to your newsroom.

Leading experts in risk management, coastal infrastructure planning, public policy and other related fields are attending a two-day Expert Forum in Vancouver May 16 and 17 at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The event, titled "Addressing Climate Risks for Coastal Transportation Infrastructure," focuses on managing risks associated with extreme weather in British Columbia, including how to "build back better" after disaster strikes.

While there is no formal press conference or photo op planned, we would be happy to schedule one-on-one interviews with speakers and spokespeople on site, time permitting, if you would like comment on risk management in the context of the current flooding.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or to set up an interview. A full program is available here: [http://meopar.ca/uploads/Expert\\_Forum - Final\\_Program.pdf](http://meopar.ca/uploads/Expert_Forum_-_Final_Program.pdf).

A final report will be made available in the weeks following the event.

LOCATION: Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Vancouver BC  
DATE/TIME: May 16, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM  
May 17, 8:30 AM-11:45 AM

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#### MEOPAR

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## ABOUT THE EVENT:

MEOPAR, in partnership with the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) and WESTAC, will be holding an Expert Forum on Coastal Transportation Infrastructure at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The Forum takes place on May 16 & 17, 2018 in Vancouver, Canada.

The Forum focuses on the management of risks associated with extreme weather, natural disasters, sea level rise, and climate change as they impact the movement of people and goods in coastal communities in British Columbia. Public and private stakeholders involved in managing existing coastal infrastructure and investing in new systems are present to discuss best practices for the design and construction of new infrastructure in coastal communities; mechanisms to adapt existing infrastructure during repairs; and the opportunity to 'build back better' after disaster strikes.

## ABOUT MEOPAR:

The Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR) is a national Network of Centres of Excellence, connecting top marine researchers across the country with highly-qualified personnel, partners and communities. MEOPAR aims to train the next generation of marine research professionals, fund leading-edge research, and connect research results to real-world solutions. Visit [meopar.ca](http://meopar.ca) for more information.

## ABOUT ICLR:

The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) is a world-class centre for multidisciplinary disaster prevention research and communication. ICLR is an independent, not-for-profit research institute founded by the insurance industry and affiliated with Western University, London, Ontario. The Institute's mission is to reduce the loss of life and property caused by severe weather and earthquakes through the identification and support of sustained actions that improve society's capacity to adapt to, anticipate, mitigate, withstand and recover from natural disasters. Visit [iclr.org](http://iclr.org) for more information.

## ABOUT WESTAC:

The Western Transportation Advisory Council, WESTAC is a Council of major transportation organizations, represented by senior business, labour, and government decision-makers. The members focus on critical issues that affect Western Canada's freight transportation network to ensure that it is safe, efficient, reliable and competitive. Visit [westac.com](http://westac.com) for more information.

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