

An open letter from international scientists to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in support of climate science

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

There is a crisis looming for Canadian climate and atmospheric research that will be felt far beyond Canada's borders.

As international scientists working in areas related to climate and atmospheric change, we are concerned that seven important research networks supported by the Government of Canada's Climate Change and Atmospheric Research (CCAR) program are set to end in 2018^[1].

Data continuity, international collaborations and unique Arctic facilities are all at stake.

The CCAR funded projects measure, observe and model many important international environmental issues including: aerosols and their impacts; biogeochemical tracers in the Arctic Ocean; sea ice and snow cover; weather prediction and climate projection; changes to land, water, and climate; exchange of carbon dioxide, oxygen, and heat between the ocean and atmosphere; and the temperature and other properties of the atmosphere in the high Arctic^[2].

The only dedicated program funding climate and atmospheric research in Canada is disappearing.

Canada is playing a leading role in international climate policy discussions and clearly aspiring to be a world leader in climate change adaptation and mitigation. But smart action and smart positioning on climate change requires Canada's climate science to capitalize on and contribute to the latest developments in a rapidly changing field. Our climate is still changing and we need continued investment in climate research to understand the causes and impacts of those changes.

Especially in light of recent funding cuts to research in the US, we are looking to Canada to be an international leader on climate science.

We urge you to ensure that Canada continues to be a global leader in climate science by re-investing in these valuable research projects that have international significance.

1.

Network on Climate and Aerosols (NETCARE): Addressing Key Uncertainties in Remote Canadian Environments
Research Related to the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL): Probing the Atmosphere of the High Arctic
Canadian Arctic-GEOTRACES Program: Biogeochemical and Tracer Study of a Rapidly Changing Arctic Ocean
Canadian Sea Ice and Snow Evolution (CanSISE) Network
Ventilation, Interactions and Transports Across the Labrador Sea (VITALS)
Canadian Network for Regional Climate and Weather Processes
Changing Cold Regions Network (CCRN)

Note: In late 2017, the federal government announced short-term funding for PEARL that will support it until 2019.

2. <http://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.3.3689>

Signed by the following active researchers (defined here as graduate student, postdoc, professor or a researcher working for government, industry, or the non-profit sector) in the areas of climate and atmospheric change, working outside of Canada (appearing in alphabetical order):

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