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RE: Release by C-CIARN of *Adapting to Climate Change: An Introduction for Canadian Municipalities*

Dear Ms. Mehdi (editor),

According to Environment Canada, temperatures during the winter of 2005/06 were 3.9 degrees above normal. In the area where Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories converge, temperatures there were close to eight degrees warmer than normal.

Rising temperatures and increased climate variability are already having an effect on Canada's municipalities, as evidenced by increased severity and frequency of extreme weather events, and the increased prevalence of severe droughts, floods, forest fires and pest infestations.

Climate change is a growing challenge for all orders of government, but with responsibilities related to water, sewage, waste collection, public transit, land use planning, emergency services and economic development, municipal governments are on the front lines when it comes to combating the effects of climate change.

Municipal assets that are particularly vulnerable to climate change include roads and bridges, water and wastewater systems, transportation systems, and coastal infrastructure. In Canada's north, climate change impacts will also have a significant impact on the system of ice roads, seriously limiting the transportation of goods, and delaying economic development.

Risk to these assets can be minimized by investing in emergency preparedness and response systems, incorporating loss prevention and adaptation into long-term sustainability plans, and by investing in strong, resilient infrastructure. Some municipalities, including participants in FCM's Partners for Climate Protection program, are already taking action to adapt to climate change, and are demonstrating how climate change initiatives can contribute to economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits.

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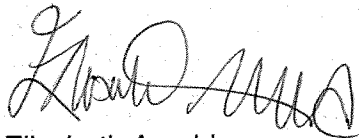
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The information included in *Adapting to Climate Change: An Introduction for Canadian Municipalities* will assist elected officials and senior decision-makers from municipal government in identifying key vulnerabilities, assessing and managing climate risks, and enhancing adaptive capacity. The case studies included in this report offer concrete examples of how municipal governments from across the country can develop and implement adaptation strategies that will minimize damage to municipal assets, support long-term sustainability, and maintain quality of life.

We thank the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network for undertaking research on this important matter, and look forward to seeing the results of additional research initiatives in the future.



Elisabeth Arnold
Director
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