

# MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE TOOLS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PLANNING COMMUNITY

A CIP Project Funded by Natural Resources Canada,  
Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program  
March 2009 – March 2011

## ***BACKGROUND:***

Scientific research and analysis suggest that all Canadian communities will need, in various ways, to adjust to the effects of climate change and incorporate new and innovative policies and tools into their day-to-day decision-making. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), through its programs and activities, has conducted extensive research on climate change impacts and is developing tools to assist communities in adapting to climate change by collaborating with a number of professional organizations across Canada.



The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, is endeavouring to make this and other scientific research and information on climate change impacts and adaptation a major consideration in planning practice across Canada. In 2007 NRCan and CIP successfully collaborated in Phase I of this groundbreaking project and produced, among other things, a policy position for Canadian planners on climate change adaptation as well as a draft two-day module for continuous professional learning. All of the Phase I work was showcased at a multi-disciplinary symposium on the science and planning of climate change in Iqaluit, Nunavut, in July 2008.

## ***PHASE II COLLABORATION:***

The goal of the next phase of the project is to continue to build awareness and expertise on climate change within the Canadian planning profession and develop tools and resources that will assist planners in their day-to-day work. Phase II has the following components:

- Completion of the roll-out of CIP's national policy framework for climate change adaptation for use by planners across Canada<sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> CIP Climate Change Policy is available on the CIP website ([www.cip-icu.ca](http://www.cip-icu.ca))

- An assessment of existing planning tools and benchmarking and monitoring of planners' knowledge of climate change through surveys and focus groups across the country;
- Development of a "Model" Standard of Practice that can be adapted for use by CIP Affiliates;
- Climate Change planning case studies that may be helpful to the profession;
- Development and testing for three learning modules: a 2-hour primer on climate change adaptation planning, to be tested at all Affiliate conferences, for future use by Affiliates; a 2-Day climate change adaptation planning seminar to be refined at a workshop with Affiliate representatives and through a "Train-the-Trainers" workshop; and two to four lecture modules for inclusion in introductory planning courses in Canadian planning programs. Phase II of the project also has resources to begin converting various learning modules to a web format;
- Development of climate change adaptation plans in four communities in Atlantic Canada, working collaboratively with the Atlantic Planners Institute (API); based on this work, as well as adaptation plans completed in several Nunavut communities, a Rural Workbook will be created for use by communities elsewhere in Canada;
- Organizing an international climate change conference in Montreal, October 2-5, 2010 at which the NRCan/CIP partnership and other Canadian achievements will be showcased, as well as those of other scientific and planning organizations from across Canada and around the world<sup>2</sup>.

NRCan and CIP are in a unique position and are natural partners to assist Canadian communities with adaptation to climate change. NRCan possesses and continues to amass a wealth of valuable information that provides the scientific foundation.



Working with CIP, NRCan can transfer this information to professional planners across Canada, who are directly involved in decision-making and advising politicians at the community level. In the process, CIP will engage its members directly, as well as work with the seven provincial/regional Affiliates, the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP), and the Canadian Association of Planning Students (CAPS). Nor does it end there. CIP's outreach will include a wide and growing list of national and international stakeholders, including other members of the Global Planners Network.

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<sup>2</sup> For information on the Conference visit: <http://www.planningforclimatechange.ca/>