

Looking Behind the Curtain: Personal and Societal Relationships with Climate

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Schedule of Topics:

1. Searching for Hope Amongst the Gloom

Amongst the abundance of heart-breaking news about climate change and its consequences, rays of hope on which we might collectively slow down and reverse climate threats are emerging. This introductory session will commence by illustrating the depth of human interference with climate systems and then present several examples of programs and actions aimed at reducing human impacts on our increasingly endangered planet.

2. The Anthropocene: Human Interactions with the Climate Systems

The Anthropocene denotes the epoch when human activities are altering major earth system processes. This session explores the natural climate system, how human activities have altered it as well as future climates. We will also discuss numerous legitimate perspectives on how climate change has been framed, such as: Climate change vs climate emergency vs climate crisis, Adaptation and mitigation, Security and conflict, and Justice and intergenerational equity.

3. Canadian Perspectives

This session will delve into the full gamut of climate-related issues faced by Canadians, including past and future climates across Canada, regional impacts and opportunities across various economic sectors, and Indigenous perspectives.

4. Food Security and Food Systems: From Farm Gates to Kitchen Tables

Food security is about having access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food in support of healthy lives. This session will unpack relationships between climate and food systems, and illustrate how food security issues extend well beyond crops that can be grown locally.

5. International Perspectives

Two perspectives will be explored. One will focus on international science and attempts to provide well-rounded assessments of the issues. The other will centre on international climate policies and track advances as well as stumbling blocks between the signing of the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change in 1994 through to the most recent UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 27) in Egypt in 2022.

6. Climate Solutions and Session Wrap Up

The past decade has been characterized by a transition from understanding of climate issues to the search for climate solutions. This session will investigate technical aspects as well as the practicality of potential decarbonization options such as geoengineering, carbon pricing and carbon trading. The session will wrap up with synthesis of topics covered during the course.