

IPY 2012 CONFERENCE  
MONTRÉAL, APRIL 22-27  
INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR



## First Circular

### IPY 2012 *From Knowledge to Action* Conference April 22-27, 2012 Montréal, Canada

The polar regions are vital to all life on this planet. Join us in an exciting dialogue on the highlights and synthesis of polar research and how this new knowledge can be used to advance programs, policies and actions on critical global issues, such as human and environmental health, biodiversity, resource development and marine transportation, to name a few.

This upcoming international forum in April 2012 will be a valuable opportunity to demonstrate and apply the latest findings of polar research on a broad range of topics from oceans and sea ice, to permafrost, vegetation and wildlife, to changes in Arctic communities and beyond. The *From Knowledge to Action* Conference will present the highlights of IPY 2007-2008 and the recent polar science assessments that are advancing our knowledge of the polar regions.

The Conference will draw on examples and best practices of the application of this knowledge to policies, programs and education, as well as to observation systems and networks and other actions. The *From Knowledge to Action* Conference will bring together internationally-renowned polar researchers with policy makers, analysts, community members, industry representatives, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to discuss the results of the largest-ever coordinated program of multi-disciplinary research in the earth's polar regions. The *From Knowledge to Action* Conference will examine the current state and key changes in the polar regions and identify actions that will be important in a global context.

The Conference is being organized around **4 main areas**. The Conference program will:

1) **Highlight the latest polar science findings:** The *From Knowledge to Action* Conference will be an opportunity for international researchers to present interdisciplinary research and indigenous knowledge from the polar regions, as well as highlights of IPY research. Please see attached list of the proposed integrated session topics.

2) **Synthesize knowledge and results into system-scale understandings:** The *From Knowledge to Action* Conference will draw on IPY and other polar research along with recent assessments to provide a synthesis of knowledge in areas critical to the polar environments and the well-being of circumpolar and indigenous communities at different scales.

3) **Link knowledge to action:** The *Knowledge to Action* Conference will provide an opportunity for scientists, northern communities, policy-makers, industry and other stakeholders to discuss the

application of the scientific results to issues facing the polar regions. Global change, community and ecosystem adaptation, resource development and conservation - what actions are required? The Conference will bring together those interested in the application of the latest polar science to address future actions and needs. Are different types of forecasts needed? Data requirements? How can we make better predictions? What actions need to be taken? Appropriate responses will also be examined.

**4) Advance public engagement to further action on polar issues:** Engaging various audiences on polar science through communication, outreach, capacity building, and education initiatives creates an informed citizenry with a deeper understanding of the importance of the polar regions and their role in global systems. Education, information, awareness, dialogue, advocacy and action are all part of the communication continuum. A special emphasis will be placed under this area of the Conference on communicating science to support the use and application of research results.

We invite your feedback on the four areas of the conference, including your suggestions for sessions that you would like to see as part of the conference program:

1. Are the proposed topics for the integration of the science appropriate? Do they allow for the latest polar science to be highlighted?
2. For the synthesis of the polar research findings and results into system-scale understandings, what are the session topics that you would find most useful?
3. What are your suggestions for the topics or the approach to link new knowledge on the polar regions with actions?
4. On education and outreach and communication, what topics interest you for presentations or workshops?

**Visit us online** at [www.ipy2012montreal.ca](http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca) to provide feedback on the above questions and to find out more about the Conference. We look forward to hearing from you about your suggestions for highlighting the knowledge of polar regions and the types of actions to be explored at this Conference. **An early response by November 19 would be appreciated.**

Please send us your email address for our mailing list and future IPY 2012 Conference newsletters [ipy2012montreal@nrc.gc.ca](mailto:ipy2012montreal@nrc.gc.ca).

**Conference Steering Committee** - We are honoured to be working with representatives from a number of international organizations including the World Meteorological Organization, International Council for Science, International Arctic Science Committee, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, International Arctic Social Sciences Association, US National Science Foundation, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Forum for Arctic Research Operators, and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs to plan and organize the Conference.

**Conference Format** - Keynote speakers, plenary and concurrent sessions, as well as panel discussions are planned. In addition, workshops, interactive presentations, and roundtables will provide conference participants with the opportunity to discuss the application of research findings, the policy implications and how to take polar science from knowledge to action.

**Interested in having a side meeting during the *From Knowledge to Action* Conference in Montréal?** Now is the time to book your space and let the conference organizers know about your interest in having an event before, after or in conjunction with the Conference. Contact: Pierre Lamoureux, the IPY 2012 Conference Manager at [Pierre.lamoureux@nrc.gc.ca](mailto:Pierre.lamoureux@nrc.gc.ca) with your requirements.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

Second circular: March 2011

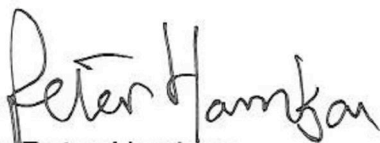
Call for Abstracts: June 2011

Deadline for Abstracts: October 2011

Open Registration: September 2011

Conference Dates: April 22-27, 2012

Your ideas are key to making the *From Knowledge to Action* Conference a productive and successful event. The Conference is an important opportunity to network and share your research findings, dialogue on key issues facing the polar regions with a diverse range of interested groups and help move the polar agenda forward. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the development of the conference program. See you in Montréal.



Dr. Peter Harrison

Chair

IPY Conference 2012

*"From Knowledge to Action"*



Dr. Karl Erb

Co-Chair

IPY Conference 2012

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