

Have you noticed that winters are warmer... that climate is changing? Do you want to be heard by government? Then you are invited to apply to be a part of a **Changing Climate Citizen Panel!**

# Getting ready for a Changing Climate: What should we do? ...a workshop about weathering the storm

## ► What is a Citizen Panel?

A Citizen Panel is a group of about 15 to 20 people who meet with experts to discuss a challenging topic of public interest. The goal is to make proposals to government about public policy and for action. It provides an opportunity for citizens to make informed recommendations on policies that will influence their lives.

## ► What is the purpose of this Changing Climate Citizen Panel?

Weather is changing and Ontario needs to be better prepared for the risks that are already clear. Although all three levels of government – federal, provincial and local – are involved, **the Panel will focus on evaluating “Climate Ready: Ontario’s Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan”**, released in June, 2011. What should be done first? What has been missed? What should the government be doing? We are keen to hear what people in Ottawa have to say and we want to take the recommendations of the Changing Climate Citizen Panel to all three levels of government.

## ► What does it involve?

Two weekends of your time and a reading assignment. We understand this is a big commitment, but it is also a great opportunity to have your voice heard by government and have a direct impact on future climate change policies in Ontario.

**Weekend 1** is a two-way knowledge sharing session. The Panel will not only get to listen to a number of experts speak about climate change, but they will also have the opportunity to interact with experts and each other, pose questions, and express values and interests. By the end of the weekend, the Panel will be well versed on the topic of climate change.

**Weekend 2** is an interactive workshop. The Panel will work together in smaller interest groups to evaluate the goals and actions within Ontario’s “Climate Ready” document, and create a list of recommendations to send to government. Whether it is evaluating existing policies, coming up with new policy ideas, or simply adding to the conversation, each and every recommendation will be taken into consideration.

***These recommendations will be put into a final report and presented to all three levels of government!***

## ► Who can apply?

Anyone! We are accepting applications from people of all ages with different professions, diverse backgrounds, and varying levels of climate change knowledge. **We are not looking for people who are “climate change experts”**. Our goal is to recruit people who represent a cross-section of the Ottawa community. All we ask is that you have an open and inquisitive mind, care about influencing policy, and want to have your opinions heard.

**But hurry! Space is limited.** Visit our website at [www.climateontario.ca](http://www.climateontario.ca) no later than **Friday, February 17, 2012** to fill out a short application form. You may also contact Annette Morand from OCCAR at [amorand@mirarco.org](mailto:amorand@mirarco.org) or 705-675-1151 ext. 5117 if you have any further questions. We hope to see you there!

**Weekend 1:** February 25 & February 26, 2012

**Weekend 2:** March 3 & March 4, 2012

**Venue:** Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport, 2400 Alert Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 1S1

*\*Daily from 8:30am to 4:30pm*

*\*Breakfast and lunch will be served daily as well as coffee/snacks.*