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Climate change threatens Canada's water

CNW (Canada): Federal, provincial and municipal governments should implement coordinated national and regional water conservation guidelines to address the detrimental impact climate change is having on Canada's water system, according to a new report from ACT, Simon Fraser University's Adaptation to Climate Change Team.

"The days when Canadians take an endless abundance of fresh water for granted are numbered," warns Bob Sandford, lead author of ACT's Climate Change Adaptation and Water Governance report. "Increasing average temperatures, climate change impacts on weather patterns and extensive changes in land use are seriously affecting the way water moves through the hydrological cycle in many parts of Canada, which is seriously impacting water quantity and quality."

"If Canada doesn't become a water conservation society, water security in many parts of this country will be compromised." The report calls for a dramatic reform of water governance structures in Canada by all levels of government to meet the new challenges posed by a changing climate, and sets out twelve broad-based recommendations to help protect Canada's fragile water supply.



Climate change is causing increased weather instability, leading to more frequent, deeper and persistent droughts as well as more intense rainfall and flooding across Canada resulting in greater property damage, higher insurance costs and a greater infrastructure maintenance and replacement deficit nationally. Today, half of every dollar paid out by insurance companies is for water damage related to extreme weather events, which will continue to increase unless government and planners undertake the deep reforms necessary to manage water differently....

A water tower in Oxbow, Saskatchewan, shot by [Adam sk](#), Wikimedia Commons, under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#) license

Posted by Brian Thomas at [6:59 AM](#)

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Carbon Based in the news

June 2010 – I served as a consulting editor to a the New York City Panel on Climate Change final report, published as [Climate Change Adaptation in New York City: Building a Risk Management Response](#) through the New York Academy of Sciences. Don't wait for the movie!

June 2009 – At the studios of [Cleanskies TV](#), I was interviewed about the costs of climate change, and discussed adaptation efforts underway in the US and around the world.

May 2009 – I helped draft the scenarios for Rising Waters, a multistakeholder scenarios effort focused on climate change adaptation in the Hudson Valley. The final report is now completed and available [here](#).

November 19, 2008 – [Cut carbon emissions and still save money right away?](#) It can be done if you know where to start, as I explain in a