

CIFFC Fire Weather Workshop

Date: Feb 25 - 27



Fire Weather Workshop

This event brings together fire weather meteorologists, researchers, fire management professionals, and partners to explore challenges, share knowledge, and enhance collaboration. Below are key details to help you prepare for the workshop.

Workshop Goals

- Collaboration: Share expertise and experiences to address operational challenges in fire weather forecasting.
- Joint Learning & Innovation: Explore ensemble modelling, decision support tools, AI developments, drought analysis, and the CFFDRS update.
- Consistency: Work towards shared practices, including a standardized spot forecast template and a glossary of fire weather/meteorology terms.
- Support: Strengthen career development, health, and well-being while fostering a supportive professional network.

What to Expect

This three-day workshop features presentations, interactive discussions, and facilitated group sessions. Each day focuses on priorities identified by the CIFFC Meteorology Working Group. Participants will contribute to:

- Strategies to tackle operational challenges, improve tools, and enhance wellbeing.
- Identification of fire weather meteorology needs and best practices.
- A draft spot forecast template and glossary of fire weather/meteorology terms.
- A final report summarizing insights and next steps. A draft will be shared for participant review before finalization.

What to Bring

- Your expertise & insights - Be ready to share experiences and challenges.
- Relevant examples or tools - Any materials that support discussions.
- Questions & topics - Issues you'd like to explore in group discussions.
- Laptop computer/phone for Teams Chat, headphone/microphone for panelists

Location

In-person: York University, Toronto

The lower level of the Seymour Schulich Building (Building 42) see attached map

Note: Some on-site accommodations are available, in the same building. To reserve your hotel room, call the front desk at 416-650-8300 or email reservations@schulich.yorku.ca. Block ID 822729 or Block Name: Fire Meteorology Working Group

Online: Microsoft Teams - Calendar link to be provided to registered attendees. Hybrid sessions are scheduled to start a 10:45 am local time (Eastern). Expect 15 minutes of scheduling variation.

National Conversation Webinar Session: Boost <https://eu.events.boostlingo.com/event/umr9fn/ql>

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Schedule Overview:

Members of the CIFFC Meteorology Working Group and CIFFC member agency staff will act as session leads and subject matter experts. Workshop facilitation and MC by Heather Simpson (CIFFC) and Eric Kennedy (York)

Disclaimer: The schedule should be considered a draft final and is subject to change with attendee input. Feedback is welcome! We will make efforts to engage online participants, but some in-person discussions may not be fully interactive. We encourage virtual attendees to participate via chat and the raise-hand function.

Day 1: Foundations and CFFDRS Update

Time	Session	Session Lead
8:30-9:15 AM	Introduction, Housekeeping, and Icebreaker	Heather Simpson, CIFFC
9:15-10:15 AM	Terminology & Communications: Common List of Terms	Aleicia Yaworski, SK Pallawi Paudel, SK
10:15-10:45 AM	☕ Break	Open online/hybrid
10:45-12:00 PM	Drought: Overwintering FWI Values (Chelene Hanes) & Canadian Drought Monitor (Trevor Hadwen)	Richard Carr, CFS
12:00-1:00 PM	🍽 Working Lunch - Kisters Presentation	Steve Elgie
1:00-2:30 PM	Canadian Forest Service Update on CFFDRS	Gabrielle Ayres, CFS Chelene Hanes, CFS Natasha Jurko, CFS
2:30-3:00 PM	☕ Break	
3:00-4:00 PM	Canadian Forest Service Update on CFFDRS (Continued)	Gabrielle Ayres, CFS Chelene Hanes, CFS Natasha Jurko, CFS
4:15-4:30 PM	Wrap-Up & Report Notes	Heather and Eric

Day 2: Collaboration and Tools

Time	Session	Session Lead
8:30-8:45 AM	Recap & Opening Day 2	Heather Simpson, CIFFC Eric Kennedy, York
8:45-10:15 AM	Data Sharing & Stronger Partnerships	Group Discussion
10:15-10:45 AM	☕ Break	
10:45-12:00 PM	Decision Support Tools & AI Discussion	Jerry Shields, ON
12:00-1:00 PM	🍽 Working Lunch - Campbell Scientific	Laura Blazejewski
1:00-2:00 PM	National Conversation: Fire Weather Forecasting Presentation: Brett Soderhold, BC Panel: Brett and Alice Ou, AB - Aleicia Yaworski, SK Jerry Shields, ON - Olivier Lundqvist, QC	Heather Simpson, CIFFC (moderator)
2:00-2:45 PM	Ensemble Forecasting	Mike Smith, YK
2:45-3:15 PM	☕ Break	
3:15-4:00 PM	Opportunities for Consistency - Spot Forecasts	Olivier Lundqvist, QC
4:00-4:30 PM	Wrap-Up & Report Notes	Heather and Eric

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Day 3: Skills and Consistency

Time	Session	
8:30-8:45 AM	Recap & Opening Day 3	Heather / Eric Kennedy
8:45-9:30 AM	Health & Wellbeing Discussion	Heather / Eric Kennedy
9:30-10:15 AM	Operational Skill Sets & Career Progression	Alice Ou, AB Heather Simpson
10:15-10:45 AM	☕ Break	
10:45-12:00 PM	Interpretation Expertise - Case Study	Alice Ou, AB
12:00-1:00 PM	🍽 Working Lunch - Technosylva (TBC)	Scott Purdy (TBC)
1:00-2:00 PM	Impacts of Climate Presentation (Hai Lin, ECCC) and Discussion	Richard Carr, CFS
2:00-2:30 PM	☕ Break	
2:30-3:30 PM	Fire Weather Alerts & Warnings	Alice Ou
3:30-4:30 PM	Final Wrap-Up, Report Notes, Closing Remarks	Heather and Eric

Attachments

York University Maps