



Backgrounder

2016 Muskoka Summit on the Environment: Solutions for a Warming World, May 27-28, 2016 at the Rene Caisse Theatre in Bracebridge, Ontario

Solutions for a Warming World: From Science to Policy

2016 Muskoka Summit on the Environment

Climate Change is an important local, provincial, national, and international issue and the programs and projects we develop and implement today have economic, social, and environmental implications. In May 2016, Friends of the Muskoka Watershed, the Town of Bracebridge, the District Municipality of Muskoka, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Muskoka Watershed Council, and Nipissing University, will hold the 4th Muskoka Summit on the Environment (MSE) to examine Solutions for a Warming World.

The speakers are internationally renowned and will address a range of solutions; from the overall need for international cooperation to reduce greenhouse gases to the need for local adaptation to mitigate the changes which are already underway. The approaches range from political through economic, through engineering.

Muskoka Summit on the Environment is a biennial event that provides a national forum for the public (including youth) to explore and debate pressing environmental issues with leading thinkers in the field.

Previous summits have looked at Freshwater, Biodiversity, and the Environmental/Economic dichotomy.

Notable speakers have included Maude Barlow, Tom Lovejoy, David Schindler, Daniel Simberloff, Justina Ray, and Robert Bateman, among others. For more information on previous Summits visit our website at www.muskokasummit.org.

The future of Canada is closely tied to a strong and healthy environment. International, national and community-based action is necessary to ensure a future that reflects our shared Canadian values of respect for Indigenous rights, internationalism, human rights, diversity, and environmental stewardship. The target audience for the Summit is those people that have the potential to make the biggest difference; the public, students, academia, and professionals in both the public and private sector. The aim of MSE is to promote open national dialogue so that current scientific knowledge on environmental issues is used effectively to inform government policy, develop programs and direct management actions at the local, provincial and national

level.

Six internationally renowned speakers will address the topic from different perspectives, including environmental scientists, policy makers, technologists, entrepreneurs and people who approach the topic more artistically, such as authors, musicians and artists. There is ample time allotted for group discussions and debates. During the afternoon of the second day there will be a panel discussion involving all six speakers with time for questions from the Summit participants. Segments of the panel discussion will be broadcast on the CBC show Ideas later in the fall.

A primary objective of the Summit is to reach out to the public and provide opportunity for national and community dialogue on important issues. We believe that it is only by providing these opportunities that policies, programs and projects can be developed and successfully implemented.

