

FloodSmartCanada – Bringing Together Communities, Businesses and Governments to Tackle Flood Risk

Presenter: Shawna Peddle (Director, Partners for Action, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo)

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm ET (please note your time zone)

Cost: Free!

Flooding is the most common and most expensive cause of property damage in Canada, with an estimated 1.7 million Canadian households at very high risk of flood damage. Our recent survey of Canadian homeowners revealed a lack of public understanding of flood risk and responsibilities for protection and recovery, but also highlighted public desire to understand risk and contribute to personal flood protection. To improve our odds towards reducing flood risk, we need better communication from governments and the insurance industry, as well as education on personal actions that will reduce dependence on federal and provincial disaster assistance programs.

Partners for Action (P4A), an applied research network advancing flood resiliency in Canada, collaboratively engages a diverse set of stakeholders to create and share knowledge, address information needs, and drive action. We are working through our FloodSmartCanada project to inform Canadians about their risk, opportunities to reduce this risk, and methods of risk transfer, to inspire disaster resilience in the face of a changing climate and extreme weather. This presentation will highlight results from our public survey and how these results are guiding both website content (www.floodsmartcanada.ca) and community-level projects towards understanding and tackling flood risk.

Shawna Peddle

Shawna is the Director of Partners for Action, an applied research network facilitating flood resiliency in Canadian communities, based at the University of Waterloo, with founding support from The Co-operators and Farm Mutual Reinsurance Plan. She has 17 years of experience managing environmental permitting and engagement programs for energy, resource, and infrastructure projects. That experience allowed her to engage with scientists, governments, Indigenous communities, and residents on often contentious projects. Shawna currently directs researchers furthering our knowledge of preparedness and the costs and benefits of resiliency, and facilitates a network of stakeholders identifying knowledge gaps and sharing best practices to reduce the impact of flood. She has a Bachelor's of Science (Honours) in Biology and English from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a Master's of Science (Forestry) from the University of Toronto.



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