

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions



MEDIA RELEASE

January 15, 2009

PAPERS IDENTIFY KEY AREAS OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERN FOR BC

How will climate change affect the health of British Columbians and what can we do about it? What infrastructure and institutional changes are needed to reduce greenhouse gases while maintaining BC's economic competitiveness? And how can a cap and trade system help BC meet its emission targets?

These are some of the questions tackled in a set of climate change discussion papers prepared by teams of researchers associated with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS). The discussion papers cover eight broad areas of policy concern for BC—identified in consultation with the BC government—and have been submitted to the BC Climate Action Secretariat for review.

“These papers define the issues and set the questions in each of these policy areas,” says Dr. Ned Djilali, the Canada Research Chair in Energy Systems at the University of Victoria and chair of the PICS program committee. “Once we’ve received feedback from the government and other stakeholders, the papers will serve as building blocks for the institute’s long-term research agenda.”

PICS is a collaborative venture among BC’s four research-intensive universities. Led and hosted by UVic, PICS was created in 2008 with a \$90-million endowment from the BC government. It brings the province’s best minds—from universities, government and the private sector—together to frame questions and propose solutions to the technological, social, economic and public policy challenges that lie ahead for BC.

The eight discussion paper topics are: health; forestry; cap and trade systems; green building design; transportation; alternative energy; sustainable communities; and adaptation priorities. A backgrounder (attached) gives a brief summary of each paper; the full text of each is available on the PICS website at www.pics.uvic.ca/research.php.

Two more discussion papers are in preparation by PICS, on the topics of energy recovery from waste streams, and the economic opportunities and benefits of BC’s transition to a low-carbon economy. These papers will be completed and made public in early spring.

Media contacts:

Dr. Ned Djilali (PICS) at 250-721-6034 or ndjilali@uvic.ca

Valerie Shore (UVic Communications) at 250-721-7641 or vshore@uvic.ca