Pacific Institute
for Climate Solutions
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NASA's top climate scientist to give Vancouver and Victoria talks

Gavin Schmidt, one of the world's top climatologists and director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York, will be giving two free public talks in British Columbia next week.

Schmidt is appearing on Wednesday April 8 in Victoria, and on Thursday April 9 in Vancouver as a guest of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), a collaboration of BC's four leading research universities, hosted and led by the University of Victoria.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Gavin Schmidt began his career at the NASA GISS in 1996, where he developed and improved computer models that integrate ocean, atmosphere, and land processes to simulate Earth's climate past, present and future. In June 2014 he accepted the directorship role after the retirement of long-time director James Hansen.

Schmidt will be giving a different talk in each city, and both will be live webcast.

VICTORIA TOPIC: "**Climate change: Choose your own adventure**!"
WHEN: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 8
WHERE: David Lam Auditorium (room A144), MacLaurin Building, UVic
Webcast: http://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/avmultimedia/webcasting/livewebcasting.php

Abstract: New observations of past climate change allow us to gain a better appreciation of where we are now. Through the use of climate models, Schmidt will demonstrate how those observations give us a better view of how and where we might end up as a result of the choices we make.

VANCOUVER TOPIC: "**What are climate models good for**?"
WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9, 2015
WHERE: Theatre C300, UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street, Vancouver
Webcast: http://pics.uvic.ca/events/what-are-climate-models-good-lecture-dr-gavin-schmidt

Abstract: Explaining current climate change, and what might happen in the future, requires large-scale complex climate models of the atmosphere, ocean, land surface and cryosphere. But can models predict climate changes in the face of the chaotic dynamics of weather? Schmidt will show that while climate models are not perfect, they can be very useful for improving our understanding of the complexities of climate change, for determining what is driving the changes, and for informing policy decisions.

Bio: Gavin Schmidt has a doctorate in applied mathematics from University College London. In addition to more than 100 published, peer-reviewed articles, he is the co-author of the book *Climate Change: Picturing the Science*, a collaboration between climate scientists and photographers. He is a contributing editor to the long-standing RealClimate blog and his 2014 TED talk has been seen by almost one million viewers. In 2011, he was awarded the inaugural American Geophysical Union Climate Communications Prize.

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PICS is hosted and led by the University of Victoria in collaboration with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia.