



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

VISION FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN DROUGHT MONITOR PROGRAM IN CANADA

**Biannual International Workshop of the
North American Drought Monitor
Marriot Courtyard, Ottawa
E. G. (Ted) O'Brien
Meteorological Service Canada
October 15, 2008**

How did the vision for NADM get established in Canada?

- Invitation from the USA in April 2002
- Canadian participation in the NADM held May, 2003 at Edmonton
 - Organized by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - Federal attendees from EC, NrCan, Statistics Canada
 - Provincial attendees from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Nova Scotia and federal attendees from BC & Quebec

Richard Heim - USA

- **Continental-scale depiction of drought**
- **Consistent across international borders**
- **Pool of resources, increase communication**
- **Move USA from climate divisions to station network**
- **Increase spatial density of stations across North America**



Miguel Cortez Vazquez - Mexico

- **Strategy to monitor regionally, nationally and year round**
- **Teamwork & Collaboration (Academics and governmental institutions)**
- **Incorporation of objective indices in analysis**
- **Climate stations with suitable data for near real-time assessment**

Brian Abrahamson – National Agroclimate Information Service five year vision in support of agriculture and its adaptation programs

- A National System for Monitoring and Reporting Current Climate Conditions with emphasis on extremes
- Information to support sustainable management of the agriculture resource base.
- Early warnings (outlooks) of seasonal climate for agriculture
- An accessible agroclimate data base
- Greater access to real time data, and operational forecasts
- Climate change impact scenarios



Environment Canada

- Data Management Framework providing access to all temperature and precipitation data in real/near real time
- Real-time hydrometric data access: indicator of current hydrological conditions
- Future projections of trend and variability, especially extremes – global, national and regional



Ron Stewart - Drought Research Initiative (DRI)

- Better understanding of the physical characteristics of and processes influencing Canadian Prairie droughts through a focus on the severe 2000-2003 drought



Gaetan Deaudelin - Quebec

- Drought not necessarily the main issue... but we're paying more attention (summers 2001, 2002)
- Dry spell indicator : number of days without significant precipitation
- Access to information to address the higher frequency of other extreme weather events (hail, heavy rain, damaging winds)



Richard Carr – How NrCan Contribute?

- Ongoing research into forest microclimate and fire-related issues
- National view of drought conditions in forested regions
- Collaboration with provincial and national meteorology and forestry agencies
- Reporting by apolitical boundaries (ecozones for example)
- Experience with international forest and burning conditions



Facilitator Observations

- Understand and manage interests of stakeholders
- Needs support at the senior level
- Senior co-ordinating body
 - Identify lines of accountability and partnership
 - Resources and commitment
- Defined lead, defined resources, defined support and defined roles
- Keen interest – nurture and support
- Danger of an eclipse.

NADM Project Vision

- A long term co-operative strategy that assures access to **real time** and historic climate data (including non-standard).
- A set of indicators that defines drought and has the flexibility to be geographically sensitive.
- Indicators that meet the information needs of agriculture, forestry, water use sectors and native ecologies.
- A team from federal and provincial departments and other regional and local centres such as universities work in partnership to complete a national assessment of drought in support of adaptation programs.
- A North American assessment of drought completed on a routine and scheduled basis in partnership with the USA and Mexico.

