



Media Advisory

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Internationally recognized scientist to speak about climate change

PRINCE GEORGE—The effects of climate change and other human stressors on fresh water in the western prairies of Canada will be the subject of a public lecture February 10 at the University of Northern BC.

Dr. David W. Schindler, Killam Memorial Chair in Ecology at the University of Alberta, will present the lecture, hosted by UNBC in partnership with the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (PFWWCP). Dr. Schindler will examine the impacts that increasing average temperatures are having on wetlands of the western prairie provinces.

“The climate has already warmed by one to four degrees Celsius since the mid-20th Century, causing increases in average evaporation,” said Dr. Schindler. “Snowpacks and glaciers have declined. As a result, river flows in summer have already decreased by 30 to 85 per cent, lake levels have declined, and wetlands have disappeared. Natural drought, climate warming, damage to natural drainage patterns and human demands for water will combine to cause severe water problems in the years ahead,” he predicted.

Dr. Schindler is an internationally recognized scholar whose work has influenced ecological management policy in Canada, the United States and in Europe. He has won numerous international research awards, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Royal Society of London (UK), the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. In 2004 he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Canada.

“We are honoured to be able to welcome such a renowned scientist to Prince George,” said Arne Langston, natural resources specialist with the PFWWCP. “The message Dr. Schindler brings may not be easy to hear, but it is extremely important and relevant because it concerns the future of one of our most important and fundamental resources – water.”

Dr. Schindler’s lecture takes place in Lecture Theatre 7-212 on Friday, February 10 beginning at 4 p.m. There will also be an opportunity to meet Dr. Schindler and view displays of PFWWCP projects during a reception following the lecture. The lecture and reception are open to the public.

The PFWWCP is a joint initiative of BC Hydro, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The program was established to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the creation of the Williston and Dinosaur reservoirs in north central BC. The fish program’s mission is to provide naturally diverse and abundant fish populations in a healthy ecosystem. For more information about the PFWWCP visit our website at:

www.bchydro.com/pwcp/

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