

Media Release

January 28, 2016

**“Not Adapting is NOT an Option”
McKenna Centre Distinguished Speaker Series Presents
Blair Feltmate on Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events
February 3 at 7 pm**

Blair Feltmate, who works to mobilize practical and cost-effective means to help de-risk Canada from climate change and extreme weather events, will be speaking at St. Thomas University as part of the McKenna Centre for Communications and Public Policy Distinguished Speaker Series.

His talk, “Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events in Canada: Not Adapting is NOT an Option,” will take place Wednesday, February 3 at 7 pm in the Kinsella Auditorium, McCain Hall.

“Climate change has happened, is happening and will continue to happen,” Feltmate says. “Canada must adapt to extreme weather events or otherwise suffer escalating financial and social costs.”

Discussion on climate change has largely focused on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Feltmate will explain why the national conversation must also fully embrace adaptation to climate change to address challenges that will otherwise be beyond correction—and economically, socially and environmentally debilitating to Canada.

Feltmate leads the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. He has published numerous papers on adaptation to climate change, the additive value of sustainable development applied to business, and population and community ecology. He has co-authored *Aquatic Ecology* and *Sustainable Banking*.

He holds a PhD in theoretical and applied ecology, a masters in zoology, a masters in sustainable development, and he was a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council post-doctoral fellow. He is also a member of various business and non-governmental organization boards.

Feltmate has also been vice president of sustainable development at the Bank of Montreal, director - sustainable development, Ontario Power Generation, and a partner with the Sustainable Investment Group/YMG Capital Management.

Past speakers in the McKenna Centre for Communications and Public Policy Distinguished Speaker Series have been Elizabeth May, leader of the federal Green Party, former senator Michael Kirby and former prime minister Paul Martin. The talk is also part of a new agreement between St. Thomas University and New Brunswick Power to generate discussions in the public arena on social, civic and public policy issues.

- 30 -

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