

Paul Kovacs

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Paul Kovacs' research interest is insurance and adaptation to weather extremes, including actions to build communities resilient to damage from flood, severe weather and earthquakes.

Current positions:

Executive Director, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (since 1997)

Founder of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, a world-renowned research group seeking to reduce the loss of life and property damage caused by earthquakes and severe weather. The Institute is based at Western University and provides a forum for leading international researchers to work with experts in private industry and the public sector to advance disaster loss prevention and adaptation to climate extremes. The insurance and reinsurance industries provide core funding and ongoing support for the Institute. During its first decade the Institute's team of 30 senior scientists and 100 students completed research worth more than more than \$50 million and published more than 300 papers on a broad range of disaster resilience issues, including design and construction of disaster resilient homes and development of comprehensive hazard risk management tools for municipal leaders.

Lead Author, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (since 1997)

Lead author, Working Group II, Third Assessment, 1997-2001
Contributing author, Working Group II, Third Assessment, 1997-2001
Lead author, Working Group II, Fourth Assessment, 2002-2007
Participant, Scoping Meeting for an IPCC Special Report on Extremes, 2009
Lead author, Working Group II, Fifth Assessment, 2009-2014
IPCC Spokesperson, World Conference on Biodiversity, 2014

President and CEO, PACICC (since 2004)

The Property and Casualty Insurance Compensation Corporation (PACICC) protects eligible policyholders from undue financial loss in the unlikely event that an insurance company fails. Over the last twenty years the Corporation has responded to a dozen insurance insolvencies and has paid out more than \$150 million in support to more than 250,000 Canadians.

Adjunct Research Professor, Economics, University of Western Ontario (since 2006)

President, Paul Kovacs & Associates (since 2012)

Chair, World Conference on Disaster Management
Co-Chair, Infrastructure and Buildings Working Group, Canadian Adaptation Platform
Co-Chair, Science and Technology Group, Canadian Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
Member, Board of Directors, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
Member, Board of Directors, PACICC
Member, Advisory Board, Canadian Seismic Research Network
Member, Advisory Board, Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response

Member, Advisory Committee, CSA Municipal Infrastructure Solutions Program
Member, Advisory Council, Western Engineering
Member, Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee, Engineers Canada

Education:

Executive Program, Climate Change and Development, Harvard University, 1998
Master of Arts, Economics, University of Western Ontario, 1977
Hon. BA, Economics and Mathematics, University of Western Ontario, 1976

Past positions:

Research Officer, Executive Council, Saskatchewan 1976
- Member of the Premier's policy research team responsible for economic issues.

Economist, Economic Council of Canada, 1977-1981
- Provided policy advice for improving employment conditions in Atlantic Canada.

Chief Economist, Canadian Manufacturers' Association, 1982-1987
- Lead advocacy work promoting free trade and sales tax reform.

Senior Economist, Burns Fry, 1988-1989
- Member of Canada's top ranked economics research group, with a focus on forecasting.

Acting Director, Social Policy, Dept of Finance, Ontario Government, 1989-1992
- Lead a team of 30 providing demographic and job creation policy advice.

Senior Vice President, Policy and Chief Economist, Insurance Bureau of Canada, 1992-2004
- Spokesperson for the auto, home and business insurance industry on issues including earthquake preparedness, privatization, regulatory reform, taxation and competition with banks.

Consulting / Expert Advice:

River Flood Mitigation Expert Advisory Committee, City of Calgary
- A volunteer contributing advice on flood risk management (2014)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Government of Canada
- Provided a research paper to support the government's climate change work on loss and damage, with a focus on the potential role for insurance (2012)

Stratus Consulting
- Contributed a case study on the insurance industry for a paper for the Environmental Defense Fund dealing with adaptation to climate change (2012)

Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, OAG, Government of Canada
- Advice to assess the federal government's climate change adaptation program (2010)

Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, OAG, Government of Canada
- Advice to assess the federal government's climate change adaptation program (2006)

City of Hamilton Stormwater Panel
- Member of an expert panel advising the City of flood management (2006)

Recent Publications:

Kovacs, P., S Guilbault and D. Sandink (2014). *Cities Adapt... to Extreme Weather*, Toronto: Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (in press)

Sandink, D., D. Shrubsole, G. Oulahan and P. Kovacs (2014). *Flood management in Canada Part 1: Historic Evolution, Current Context and Strategy*, *Canadian Water Resources Journal* (submitted)

Sandink, D., D. Shrubsole, G. Oulahan and P. Kovacs (2014). *Flood Management in Canada Part 2: Review of and commentary on cost sharing for flood losses* (submitted)

Romero-Lankao P., J.B. Smith, D. Davidson, N. Diffenbaugh, P. Kinney, P. Kovacs and L. Villers Ruiz (2014). Chapter 26: North America. C.B. Field (Ed.) *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.

Kovacs, P. and J. Thistlethwaite (2014). Chapter 5: Industry. F.J. Warren and D.S. Lemmen (Eds.) *Canada in a Changing Climate: Sector Perspectives on Impacts and Adaptation*; Government of Canada, Ottawa

Kovacs, P. and D. Sandink (2013). *Best practices for reducing the risk of future damage to homes from riverine and urban flooding. A report on recovery and rebuilding in southern Alberta.* ICLR research paper series #53. Toronto: Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.

Kovacs, P. (2013). *Preparing for change in our climate. A report of the Halton Hills Town Environment Advisory Committee, October 2013*, Halton Hills.

Ray, A., J. Vogel, J.B. Smith and P. Kovacs (2013). *Adaptation to Climate Change in the United States: Examples from Municipalities, Water Resources and Insurance.* Boulder: Stratus Consulting.

Kelly, G., P. Kovacs and J. Thistlethwaite (2012). *Insurance: Adapting Building Codes for Climate Change.* Chapter 6 in *Climate Change Adaptation: A Priorities Plan for Canada* (Eds.) Feltmate B. and J. Thistlethwaite, pp 85 -92. Waterloo: Intact and University of Waterloo.

Kovacs (2011). Chapter 15 *Climate Change Adaptation in Industry.* J.D. Ford and L. Berrang Ford (Eds.) *Climate Change Adaptation in Developed Nations*, Springer.

Kovacs, P. (2010). *Reducing the risk of earthquake damage in Canada: Lessons from Haiti and Chile.* ICLR research paper series #49. Toronto: Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.

Sandink, D., P. Kovacs, G. Oulahan and G. McGillivray (2010). *Making flood insurable for Canadian homeowners: A discussion paper.* Toronto: Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd.

Warner, K., N. Ranger, S. Surminski, M. Arnold, J. Linnerooth-Bayer, E. Michel-Kerjan, P. Kovacs, and C. Herweijer (2009). *Adaptation to Climate Change: Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance*, United National International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat, Geneva.