

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

WWRP/THORPEX Steering Group Meeting of the Polar Prediction Project

27-28 March 2012

Meteorological Research Division (MRD) - Environment Canada
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

LOCATION OF MEETING

Please note that the meeting venue has changed and will take place in the Breda Nadon room at Environment Canada offices located at 105 McGill Street, Montreal.

MONTREAL

The city of Montreal is one of Canada's most unique and lively cities, offering a perfect blend of the old and new. It is also the second largest French-speaking city in the world after Paris, but North American visitors needn't worry as over half the city's population also speaks English. Culturally, there are few cities that beat it. Montreal also boasts a daunting number of museums such as the notable McCord Museum of Canadian History and its fair share of historically significant sites including the Notre-Dame Basilica, one of the largest cathedrals in North America. Shoppers will swoon at the sight of Montreal's downtown core, which has over 3,000 shops and services, most of which are conveniently centred around Ste-Catherine Street.

HOTEL

Please note: All participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and you are encouraged to stay at the Marriott Château Champlain where a group rate of CAD\$139. The Government rate is for the "PPP Steering Group" and you are able to cut the room rate in half if you wish to share a room. Any further queries, e-mail Inès Ng Kam Chan (see details below).

- **Address:** 1050 de la Gauchetière West, Montreal, QC, H3B 4C9
- **Phone number:** +1 514 878 9000
- **Toll-free for Canada and USA:** 1-800-200-5909
- **Fax number:** +1 514 878 6777
- **Web:** www.marriott.com/yulcc

| Room | Single Rate | Double Rate |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Standard Deluxe non-smoking | \$139.00 | \$139.00 |

Hotel's room rates are subject to applicable taxes in effect at the time of check-in, currently 3.5% Montreal Lodging Tax, 5% Federal Tax for Goods and Services (GST) and 9.5% Provincial Sales Tax (PST).

For each additional person, there is a charge of \$30.00 (maximum of 4 people per room). There is no charge for children under 18 years of age, sharing parent's room.

All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. Hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured by one of the above methods. A guaranteed reservation is held for arrival until 12:00 noon on the day following the first night reserved.

Check-in time: 16:00

Check-out time: 12:00

EARLY DEPARTURE FEE:

In the event that a guest has requested a room within your block and who checks out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, the Hotel will add an early check-out fee of \$50.00 to that guest's individual account. Guests wishing to avoid an early check out fee should advise the Hotel of any changes, at or before check-in. Hotel requests that you inform your attendees accordingly.

CUT-OFF DATE:

Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **March 12, 2012**. At the cut-off date, the hotel will release the unreserved rooms for general sale, and determine whether it can accept additional reservations based on a space-available basis, if so, regular rates will apply.

Click on either of the two links to book online:

Code: Ppppppa

Montreal Marriott Chateau Champlain >>

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yulcc?groupCode=ppppppa&app=resvlink&fromDate=3/25/12&toDate=3/30/12>

AIRPORT

The distance from Dorval Airport to the hotel is about 19km/25 minutes and will cost, in a taxi, about CAD\$40.

Public Transit (Route 747 Express Bus) from Dorval Airport is \$8. Please have the exact change. There is a stop about 1 block (North-west) from the hotel, at the corner of René-Levesque and Mansfield (see web site: <http://stm.info/English/bus/GEOMET/a-GE0747.htm>).

TRANSPORT

Walking is one of the best ways to get around. If you should choose to go further afield, information on buses or metros (subways) can be found at the following site:

<http://stm.info/English/a-somm.htm>

and train schedules at the following site:

<http://amt.qc.ca/home.aspx?&LangType=1033>

TOURISM

There is much to do in Montreal it can be hard to be selective and choose only what will fit into your few days! Take a look at the following sites and plan your spare time.

<http://go-montreal.com/>

<http://www.montreal.com/tourism/>

VISA

Check Citizenship and Immigration Canada web site <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp> to see whether you need a visa to visit Canada. In most cases, no visa is required but **we strongly recommend all participants visit the Canadian Immigration web site to make sure your entry requirements are met.** Please get in touch with the local organizing committee if you need an individual letter or similar documentation in support of your visa application.

PASSPORT

A current passport is essential for all visitors and it must be valid for at least 6 months after the planned departure date.

MONEY

The currency in Canada is based on dollars and cents. There are six coins (1c, 5c, 10c, 25c, \$1 and \$2) and five notes (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100). Some banks in Canada are open on weekends but not on public holidays and trade daily between 10am and 3pm. You will find facilities to exchange your currency at the International Airports, and Traveller's cheques can be changed at hotels, banks and bureau de change.

All major credit cards are accepted everywhere and ATMs can be used to obtain local currency with overseas banking cards.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods and Services Tax (GST)

In Montreal **almost all** goods and services are subject to a government Provincial Sales and Federal Goods and Services Taxes. Prices are always quoted exclusive of PST and GST. Visitors cannot claim back GST.

Tipping

Recognition for good service is always appreciated. In most cases, a tip in the range of 15% - 20% is perfectly acceptable. Gratuities are seldom included, but there can be some exceptional cases. Please check your bill carefully.

Here is a link that may be useful:

<http://www.tripadvisor.ca/Travel-g1533339-s606/Canada:Tipping.And.Etiquette.html>

For daily weather forecasts and related information:

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/qc-147_metric_e.html

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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