

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY
(JCOMM)
SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM (SOT)

SOT-7/ INF. 1
(12.03.2013)

SEVENTH SESSION

VICTORIA, CANADA, 22-26 APRIL 2013

Original: ENGLISH

MATERIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

(Submitted by Canada)

The meeting is hosted by Environment Canada, Metrological Service of Canada, Victoria, British Columbia.

Travel Arrangements

A. PLACE OF THE MEETING

Opening date and place of the session

The meeting will be held at the **Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites**
345 Quebec St., Victoria, BC V8V 1W4.

The session will begin on Monday, April 22, 2013 at 9:00AM (8:30AM the other days) in "Upper West Harbour Ballroom. Breakout rooms are: James Bay Room 211 and Laureate Room 213. Follow the signs from the entrance to find the right meeting-room.

English will be the language used at the meeting and for all documents.

Focal points of contact for the meeting

Canada Host
Chris Marshall, Manager, Marine Networks, Weather and Monitoring, Environment Canada
Telephone: 416 739 4468
Mobile: 416-254-5023
Email: Chris.Marshall@ec.gc.ca

B. ARRIVAL AT VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Victoria, BC located on Vancouver Island, a large island just west of Vancouver and the British Columbia mainland. Victoria is services by an international airport. Please note that some airline will require you to stop at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) or Seattle Airport (SEA) before boarding a connecting flight to Victoria airport.

Victoria International Airport (YYJ): <http://www.victoriaairport.com/>

1640 Electra Blvd
Sidney, BC V8L 5V4, Canada
(250) 953-7500

Transport between Victoria Airport and Downtown Victoria (Harbour Tower & Suites)

Bus ((BC Transit)

It will take about an hour from the Victoria Airport to downtown Victoria.
You will need to catch the 86 Bus towards McTavish Exchange on Electra Road (approx. 4mins, 2 stops)
Take the 70 bus at McTavish Exchange to Downtown (approx. 38mins, 10 stops)
Get off at Parliament Building and walk to 345 Quebec Street (approx 7 mins)
Cash Fare is \$2.50
For more info on schedules and fares for BC Transit please see link:
<http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/> or call (250) 382-6161.

Taxi

The taxi service from the airport is Yellow Cab of Victoria. The airport is situated approximately 28 km from the Centre of Victoria. The price from the airport to the hotel is approximately \$58.00

Yellow Cab of Victoria: <http://www.empresstaxi.com/> (250) 381-2222 1-800-808-6881

Taxi rates are set by the City of Victoria and The Passenger Transportation Board of British Columbia.

All taxis are licensed to carry 4 or 5 passengers.

All taxi fares include the Canadian Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Non-Canadian residents can have the HST refunded at the border after doing the required paperwork and submitting all receipts.

Current Rates: (Canadian Dollars)

\$3.40 Start rate (Flag) for the first 50.83 metres

\$1.97 for each additional kilometre

\$42.38 Stopping/waiting time (per hour):

Drive (Car Rental)

Driving from **Victoria Airport to Harbour Tower & Suites** takes about 32mins or 28.2KM.

From the parking lot turn left to stay on **Electra Bolverard (East)**.

Turn left to stay on **Willingdon Road**

At the roundabout, take the 1st ext onto **E. Saanich Road**

Turn left onto **McTavish Road**

At the roundabout, continue straight to stay on **McTavish Road**

Take the **British Columbia 17 ramp to Victoria International Airport – YYJ/Vancouver & Gulf Islands Ferry Terminal**

Merge onto **Patricia Bay Hwy/BC-17A**

Turn right onto **Belleville Street/Patricia Bay Hwy/BC-17A** continue to follow Belleville Street

Turn left onto **Oswego Street**

Take the 1st right onto **Quebec Street** Destination will be on the left

Arrive at **345 Quebec Street**.

Please remember to **drive on the right!**

Transportation from Vancouver Airport to Downtown Victoria

Pacific Coach Lines

Vancouver Airport to downtown Victoria by way of BC Ferries' Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay service. Bus tickets may be purchased on selected* BC Ferries sailings between Vancouver and Victoria. Information & reservations: Vancouver (604) 662-7575, Victoria 1-800-661-1725. From elsewhere in Canada, or from the United States, call toll-free: 1-800-661-1725.

* You are advised that changes have occurred to Pacific Coach Lines scheduled service. Please visit www.pacificcoach.com for current information. *

As mentioned, Victoria is located on an island. If you wish to travel by ground, it's only ground transportation from Vancouver/Seattle is by Ferry Service.

BC Ferries

<http://www.bcferrries.com/>

C. TRAVEL INFORMATION

Languages, Currency and Credit Cards

The official languages in Canada are English and French. Please note that the main language spoken in British Columbia is English.

Tax:

In British Columbia there is a Harmonized Tax HST of 13% on all goods and services.

Time Zone

Victoria, British Columbia follows Pacific Time Zone.

Shopping

Shops are usually open on Monday and Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday: 9:30 am to 6 pm. Sunday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Accommodation in Victoria, Downtown and the surrounding area

Location of the Meeting and recommended hotel is:

Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites (B)

345 Quebec St., Victoria, BC V8V 1W4

www.harbourtowers.com

The Harbour Towers Hotels & suites offer a special price for visitors of Environment Canada attending SOT-7.

To make please contact Mr. Sean Bircumshaw at email sbircumshaw@silverbirchhotels.com and to quote **Environment Canada JCOMM SOT-7 or in the subject line of the email** when sending reservation requests.

SOT-Rate (in Canadian Dollars):

Standard Guest Room: Residential View: \$82.00

King Bachelor Suite: Residential View: \$102.00

One Bedroom Suite: Residential View: \$102.00

Superior Guest Room: Ocean View: \$122.00

One Bedroom Ocean View Suite: Ocean View: \$142.00

Two Bedroom Suite: Residential View: \$162.00 Ocean View: \$182.00

Delus Suite: Ocean View: \$232.00

Prices does not include applicable taxes and are base don single or doublé occupancy per night. Children 16 years and under stay free in same room as parent/guardian. Additional adults are subject to an additional \$25.00 per person per night charge.

Other Hotel Locations:

A more complete list of hotels, which can also be searched by category, is to be found on the homepage of the Victoria Tourist Information <http://www.hellobc.com/british-columbia/accommodations.aspx>

Name	Rates	Classification	Address	Telephone	Website	WiFi	Comments
Coast Victoria Harbourside Hotel & Marina	4.5	Hotel	146 Kingston St. Victoria, British Columbia CANADA V8V 1V4	1-800-663-1144	http://www.coasthotels.com/	Yes	Ask for: Federal Government Rate \$90/night
The Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria		Hotel	721 Government Street Victoria British Columbia, Canada V8W 1W5	1-800-257-7544	http://www.fairmont.com/empres-s-victoria/	Yes	
The Oswego Hotel (F)		Boutique Hotel	500 Oswego Street Victoria, BC V8V 4Z2, Canada	1-877-767-9346	http://oswegovictoria.com/site/	Yes	
Albion Manor Bed & Breakfast		Bed & Breakfast	224 Superior Street Victoria, BC V8V 1T3	1-877-389-0012	http://albionmanor.com/	N/A	
Inn at Laurel Point (C)		Inn/Suites	680 Montreal Street Victoria, BC V8V 1Z8	1-800-663-7667	http://www.laurelpoint.com/	Yes	
Hotel Grand Pacific (J)		Hotel	463 Belleville Street Victoria, BC V8V 1X3	1-800-663-7550	http://www.hotelgrandpacific.com/	Yes	
Days Inn - Victoria On The Harbour (J)		Hotel	427 Belleville Street Victoria, BC V8V 1X3	1-800-665-3024	http://www.daysinnvictoria.com/	Yes	
Best Western Plus Inner Harbour (D)		Hotel	412 Quebec Street Victoria, BC V8V 1W5	1-888-383-2378	http://www.victoriabestwestern.com/	Yes	
Belleville Park		Suites	330 Quebec Street Victoria, BC V8V 1W3	1-800-663-7557	http://www.bellevillepark.com/	Yes	

The Admiral Inn (G)		Inn	257 Belleville Street Victoria, BC V8V 1X1	1-888-823-6472	http://www.admiralinnhotel.com/	Yes	
Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour (E)		Hotel	728 Humboldt Street Victoria, BC V8W 3Z5	1-877-515-2148	http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/YYJMC-Victoria-Marriott-Inner-Harbour	Yes	
The Westin Bear Mountain Golf Resort & Spa Victoria	5	Hotel	1999 Country Club Way Victoria, British Columbia CANADA V9B6R3	1-888-533-2327	http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1747&EM=VTY_WI_1747_BEARMOUNTAIN_PROPOVERVIEW	Access to Wireless in public area	Quote Government Rate Note: April 25/26 almost sold out



Victoria climate

Victoria BC has an average of 2,183 hours of sunshine each year.

SPRING (March to May) Mild weather, more sunshine filled days, and the explosion of the city's cherry trees saturate the streets in bright pink! This time of year can see some southwesterly gusts of wind that mark spring. Temperatures range from 11° to 15°C, and layered clothing is still good for March and April.

http://www.climate.weatheroffice.gc.ca/climate_normals/results_e.html?stnID=118&lang=&dCode=&dispBack=&StationName=&SearchType=&province=&provBut=&month1=3&month2=12&submit=View

	Daily Average (°C)	Daily Maximum (°C)	Daily Minimum (°C)	Rainfall (mm)
April	8.8	13.4	4.1	44.5
May	11.8	16.6	6.9	36.5

Hospitality

Environment Canada will provide lunches, teas and coffees during the week. If you have any dietary needs please let Chris Marshall know ASAP. Chris.Marshall@ec.gc.ca

On the Monday evening there will be a reception hosted by Environment Canada, hors d'oeuvres will be provided with a cash bar.

A social event on Thursday night will be arranged. Further information will be provided.

Registration

Name tags and any updates to the meeting agenda will be available the morning of April 22nd from 8:00 AM onwards.

Electricity, mobile phones, currency etc

The electricity voltage is 110 - 120V. Plugs/outlets are 2-prong as used in North America countries.



Mobile phone services conform to the GSM standard 850/900/1700/1900 and your own mobile should work here without difficulty.

The currency is the Canadian Dollar. Most hotels, restaurants and shops accept internationally valid credit cards. Some restaurants accept cash only or may not accept all types of credit cards.

So please check when entering the restaurant. Currency exchange and ATM's are available at the airport.

Tourist Information

Attractions in Victoria

Plan, City Guide and Information on Victoria may be accessed at: *Hello BC - Victoria*
<http://www.hellobc.com/victoria>

- Royal BC Museum <http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/MainSite/default.aspx>
- Art Gallery of Victoria <http://aggv.ca/>
- Butchart Gardens <http://www.hellobc.com/activitylisting/4543363/butchart-gardens.aspx>
- 5 Star - Whale Watching <http://5starwhales.com/>
- Craigdarroch Castle <http://www.thecastle.ca/>
- Government House <http://www.ltgov.bc.ca/>
- Harbour Air (Seaplane) <http://www.harbour-air.com/index.php>
- Pacific Under Sea Gardens <http://www.pacificunderseagardens.com/>
- Hatley Castle <http://www.hatleycastle.com/>
- Hatley Gardens <http://hatleygardens.com/>
- Beacon Hill Park <http://www.beaconhillpark.com/>
- IMEX theatre <http://www.imaxvictoria.com/>
- Miniature World <http://www.miniatureworld.com/>

Contact Person

In the event of any difficulty, or should you require further information, please contact the host:

Canada Host
Chris Marshall, Manager, Marine, Weather and Monitoring, Environment Canada
Telephone: 416 739 4468
Mobile: 416-254-5023
Email: Chris.Marshall@ec.gc.ca

MAPS

