

A Canadian Bid to host the 11th International Conference on Polar and Alpine Microbiology

Team (*ECRs)

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The diverse team assembled to organize a future PAM meeting in Canada spans the country and the people in it, including over 50% early career researchers. Chair Dr. Eric Collins is an aquatic microbial ecologist working in the Arctic and has attended PAM meetings in Rovaniemi (2004), Banff (2008), Big Sky (2013), Waikato (2019), and now Aarhus (2026), providing familiarity with the audience, format, and benefits of the PAM conference and community. Dr. Jackie Goordial is a microbial ecologist working on permafrost at both poles, is a keynote speaker at PAM10 and a veteran of previous PAM meetings. Dr. Catherine Girard is a terrestrial viral ecologist working in the Arctic including glaciers, lakes, and atmosphere, and will be in attendance at PAM10. Dr. Jérôme Comte is a microbial ecologist working in Northern aquatic ecosystems. Dr. Srijak Bhatnagar is a microbial ecologist working on contaminant remediation in the Arctic. Dr. Ann Gregory studies the impact of viruses across ecosystems. Dr. Ayush Kumar is a microbiologist working on drinking water and antimicrobial resistance in First Nations communities. Dr. Marike Palmer is a microbial systematist exploring biological novelty from underexplored environments. Dr. Nagissa Mahmoudi works on microbial processes that mediate the fate of organic compounds in coastal and marine environments. Dr. Miguel Uyaguari is an Indigenous scholar of Amerindian (Cañari) and Spanish descent working on the diversity of environmental microbiomes in human-impacted aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

A key strength of the assembled team is extensive work with **Indigenous peoples in Canada** and beyond, including collaborations with Inuit, First Nations, and Métis communities. These connections ground our work in microbial ecology with Two-Eyed Seeing approaches that braid Indigenous Knowledge systems with Western Science, bringing new perspectives to both communities by building long-lasting relationships. A primary goal of hosting PAM11 in Canada is to showcase these connections by inviting Indigenous scholars and community members to help organize and participate in the program. The ArcticNet Annual Science Conference has been a pioneer in this practice, with 40% of attendees at the 2025 conference coming from Northern communities. As regular attendees, many of us can attest to the value that these interactions bring to both communities, and we will support broad participation from Indigenous collaborators in PAM11.

Winnipeg, Manitoba is home to extensive research in polar and alpine science and is excited to host PAM11 in Fall 2027 (e.g. **October 3—8**, to be confirmed).

Theme: “Communities of the Cryosphere: The Relationships that Shape Life, Ice, and Us”

The proposed theme places an emphasis on connectivity: human-to-human, human-to-microbe, microbe-to-human, and microbe-to-microbe. Through a systematic exploration of this theme, the PAM community will have a chance to reflect on itself and its scientific pursuits by examining both the human and microbial relationships that drive our work.

Outline of Potential Sessions

Day 1: Human-to-Human: Communities of Practice

- Northern Voices: Microbial Stewardship with Arctic Institutions and Communities
- Microbiology at the Policy Table: Science for Pan-Arctic Decision-Making
- The Long Haul: Community-Based Monitoring That Endures
- Whose Samples, Whose Data? Sovereignty, Access, and Accountability
- Naming What Lives Here: Language, Place, and Microbial Identity

Day 2: Human-to-Microbe: Human Effects on Microbes

- Resistance in Remote Places: Contaminants and Antibiotic Genes in the Cold
- When Sampling Is the Disturbance: Ethics in Low-Biomass Systems
- Can We Fix What We've Broken? Restoration of Microbial Communities
- Thawing Ground, Rising Risk: Infrastructure, Waste, and Permafrost
- Nowhere Else to Go: Endemic Microbes and Shrinking Refugia

Day 3: Microbe-to-Human: Microbial Effects on Humans

- Living Indoors at High Latitudes: Microbes, Health, and the Built Environment
- Is It Safe to Drink? Microbial Indicators in Water and Melting Ice
- What Crosses the Ice Edge? Wildlife, Vectors, and Disease Spillover
- What Microbes Do for Us: Ecosystem Services in Frozen Landscapes
- Talking About Risk Without Sparking Alarm: Tools for Decision-Makers

Day 4: Microbe-to-Microbe: Relationships on Ice

- Friends and Rivals in the Cold: Cooperation, Competition, Survival
- Life Beneath the Ice: Biofilms, Aggregates, and Hidden Hotspots
- Sharing the Metabolic Load: Partnerships for Survival
- Sleeping and Waking: Dormancy, Seed Banks, and Surprise Blooms
- Genes on the Move: Horizontal Transfer and Fast Adaptation

Dates

A number of prominent scientific conferences are expected to be held in **2027**. To avoid overlap with other recurring conferences, the team has put forward **October 3—8** as suggested dates for PAM11.

Important notes on dates:

- September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a statutory holiday in Canada to honour and remember the children taken from their families, those who never returned home, and the individuals, families and communities still living with the lasting impacts and trauma caused by the residential school system in Canada.
- October 11 is Thanksgiving Day, a statutory holiday associated with a long weekend (Saturday-Monday). This is a high-travel weekend.

2027 Conference Calendar

January – Arctic Frontiers – Tromsø, Norway

February / March – Aquatic Sciences Meeting – TBD

April – Arctic Science Summit Week – Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan

April – EGU General Assembly – Vienna, Austria

April – Microbiology Society Annual Conference – UK

June – Canadian Society for Microbiology Annual Conference – Canada

June – ASM Microbe – USA

July – FEMS MICRO – Europe

July / August – Goldschmidt Conference – Paris, France

September – Extremophiles Conference – TBD

October 3—8 – PAM11 – Winnipeg, Canada

December – AGU Fall Meeting – Washington, DC, USA

December – ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting – Canada

Location

Winnipeg, Manitoba (pop. 860k) is easily accessible by air, has multiple potential conference venues and numerous hotels, and is home to academic institutions with a long history of polar and microbiological research, including the University of Manitoba's Centre for Earth Observation Sciences and the National Microbiology Laboratory – Canada's only BSL-4 lab.

Winnipeg Manitoba

- **Diversity:** Winnipeg offers strong opportunities to embed cultural diversity into PAM11, especially through meaningful Indigenous partnership: Indigenous Peoples make up ~12.5% of the Winnipeg population. The city is also notably diverse across newcomer and long-established communities—about 31.5% identify as a visible minority.
- **Weather:** Late May in Winnipeg is usually proper spring heading into early summer: daytime can be pleasantly warm, but evenings can still feel cool. Early October is typically cool and crisp, with cool nights and the first real taste of fall.
- **Landscape:** Winnipeg sits at the meeting of prairie and river landscapes (notably the Red and Assiniboine Rivers), with big skies and flat terrain. It hosts a blend of early 20th-century warehouse/exchange-district brick architecture, grand civic and rail-era buildings, and contemporary landmarks like The Forks and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

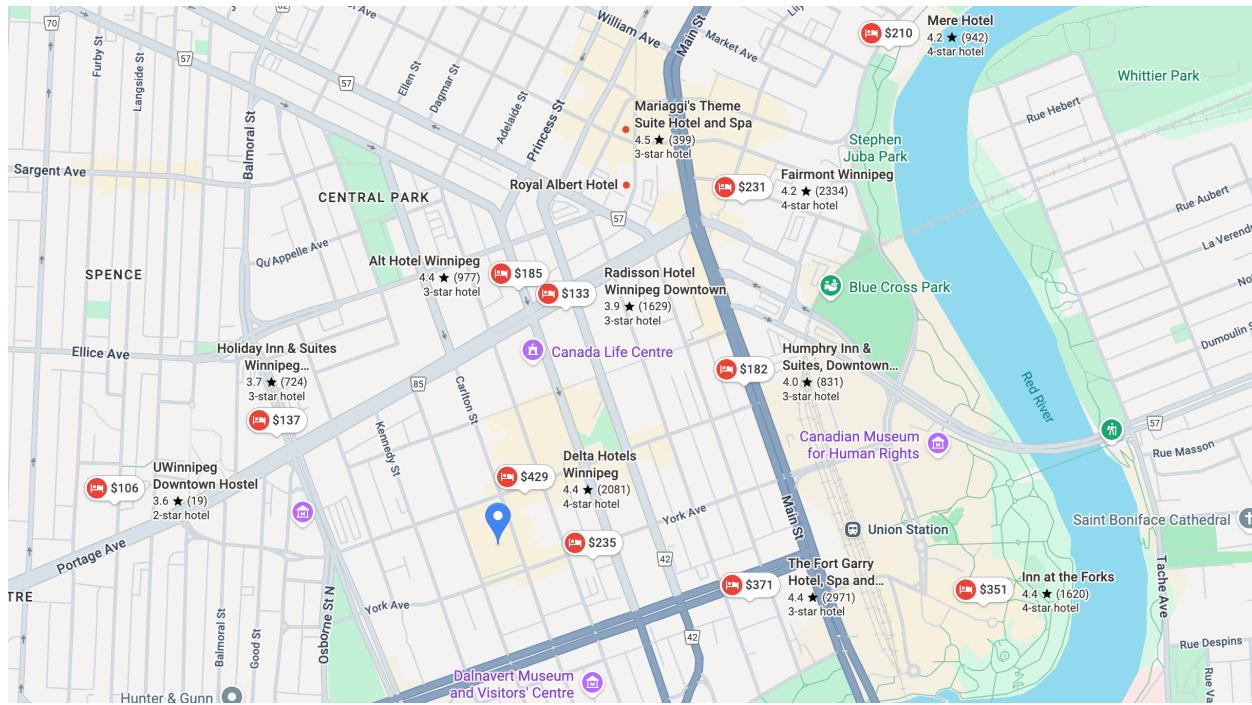
Flights

- **Winnipeg** is a Canadian hub for domestic travel, with the James Armstrong Richardson International Airport (YWG) offering regular connections through major Canadian gateways and a straightforward airport-to-downtown transfer by taxi/rideshare and public transit.
- Typical flight prices (USD/EUR) from global locations to Winnipeg (YWG).

Origin city	Winnipeg (YWG)
Vancouver	\$200
Toronto	\$200
Los Angeles	\$300
Montreal	\$400
New York	\$500
Copenhagen	\$900
Paris	\$900
London	\$900
Berlin	\$1,000
Tokyo	\$1,500
Sydney	\$2,200
Cape Town	\$2,500

Housing and Venue

Winnipeg – the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg (blue pin) can host PAM's plenary and posters under one roof, and it sits in a downtown hotel cluster including Delta Hotels Winnipeg, Fairmont Winnipeg, Fort Garry Hotel, and Radisson Hotel Winnipeg Downtown, while nearby options like Alt Hotel Winnipeg and Holiday Inn & Suites Winnipeg Downtown offer tiered price points and keep attendees within a short walk. Typical prices are \$150--\$250 CAD per night (\$100--\$200 USD/EUR).



Budget

As with previous PAM conferences, we expect PAM11 to be financially accessible with a friendly homegrown feel that contrasts with the glitzy offerings of many large conferences these days. That may mean utilizing University resources when possible rather than conference center offerings, including offering budget accommodations in dormitories.

	High	Mean	Low	Pricing	CAD	USD	EUR	GBP
Funding & Sponsorship:								
Special Events Tourism Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Early Bird/Full	600	433	371	322
Funding from UManitoba Riddell Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,000	Early Bird/Subsidized	400	288	247	215
Funding from UManitoba Conference Fund	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ -	Regular/Full	750	541	463	403
Funding from CEOS CRC Program	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Regular/Subsidized	500	361	309	268
Funding from CEOS CERC Program	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000					
Other sponsorships and support	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -					
Registration Fees:								
Full registrants (early bird)	\$ 30,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 18,000	Attendees High	50	40	30	
Subsidized registrants (early bird)	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 12,000		50	40	30	
Full registrants (regular)	\$ 37,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 22,500		50	40	30	
Subsidized registrants (regular)	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000		50	40	30	
Total Revenue	\$ 217,500	\$ 155,000	\$ 92,500					
Expenses:								
Meeting Space Rental	\$ (30,000)	\$ (22,500)	\$ (15,000)	Price Each High	\$ (150)	\$ (113)	\$ (75)	
Food and Beverage	\$ (50,000)	\$ (37,500)	\$ (25,000)		\$ (250)	\$ (188)	\$ (125)	
AV	\$ (20,000)	\$ (15,000)	\$ (10,000)		\$ (100)	\$ (75)	\$ (50)	
Opening Reception	\$ (12,000)	\$ (12,000)	\$ (12,000)		\$ (60)	\$ (60)	\$ (60)	
Wednesday Reception	\$ (25,000)	\$ (18,500)	\$ (12,000)		\$ (125)	\$ (93)	\$ (60)	
Transportation	\$ (6,000)	\$ (4,000)	\$ (2,000)		\$ (30)	\$ (20)	\$ (10)	
Keynote Speaker Travel and Accomodations	\$ (10,000)	\$ (7,000)	\$ (4,000)		\$ (50)	\$ (35)	\$ (20)	
Student Travel Support	\$ (20,000)	\$ (12,500)	\$ (5,000)		\$ (100)	\$ (63)	\$ (25)	
Registration and Gifts	\$ (5,000)	\$ (3,500)	\$ (2,000)		\$ (25)	\$ (18)	\$ (10)	
Printing and Promotion	\$ (5,000)	\$ (3,500)	\$ (2,000)		\$ (25)	\$ (18)	\$ (10)	
Photographer and Media	\$ (5,000)	\$ (3,500)	\$ (2,000)		\$ (25)	\$ (18)	\$ (10)	
Conference Website	\$ (5,000)	\$ (3,500)	\$ (2,000)		\$ (25)	\$ (18)	\$ (10)	
Total Expenses	\$ (193,000)	\$ (143,000)	\$ (93,000)	\$	\$ (965)	\$ (715)	\$ (465)	
Revenue - Expenses Matrix								
High Rev	High Exp	Mean Exp	Low Exp					
High Rev	\$ 24,500	\$ 74,500	\$ 124,500					
Mean Rev	\$ (38,000)	\$ 12,000	\$ 62,000					
Low Rev	\$ (100,500)	\$ (50,500)	\$ (500)					

Additional Details

Attached are event planning brochures for Winnipeg, which has numerous opportunities for activities for the traditional Wednesday break day, including visiting **The Forks** and the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**, exploring the **Exchange District** and local galleries, spending time at **Assiniboine Park** and **The Leaf**, or choosing optional day trips to nearby prairie-and-lake landscapes.