

IAF EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
21st Anniversary of the Disaster Charter: History, Status and Future of this Powerful and Productive  
International Cooperation (6)

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THE 2019 FLOODS

**Abstract**

The catastrophic consequences of climate change on the natural world are becoming profoundly apparent in Canada and globally. Natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes are striking more frequently with greater intensity. Northwestern Canada was recently exposed to a giant heat dome that broke temperature records and created the perfect environment for wildland fires that decimated the town of Lytton in British Columbia. Monitoring natural hazards from space-based earth observation (EO) platforms and sensors is key for effective emergency management, from the practitioner to the policy maker. Since its inception in 2000, the International Disaster Charter has provided satellite imagery for hundreds of natural and man-made disasters. Canada has leveraged the Charter for 14 large scale events. This talk will focus on the record-breaking floods in Québec and Ontario in 2019 and describe how multi source EO derived information created timely situational awareness products.