Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada



National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health



Centre de collaboration nationale de la santé autochtone

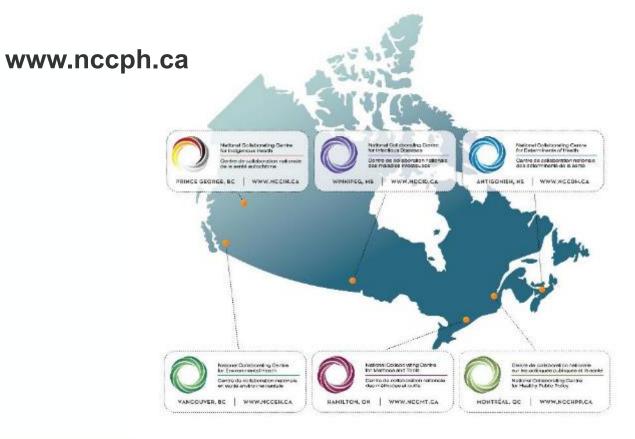


Overview of today's presentation

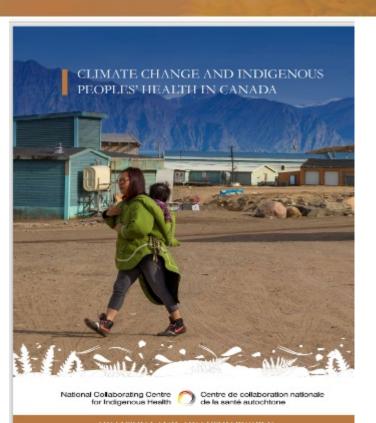
- Background on the NCCIH and our chapter
- Key messages
- Knowledge gaps
- Adaptation examples
- KT resources











Background and Context

- Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action
- 10 chapters health linkages; natural hazards; mental health and well-being; air quality; infectious diseases; water quality, quantity and security; food safety and security; health equity; adaptation and health system resilience
- Chapter 2 Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada

We are the land. If the land is sick then it ain't going to be very long before we're going to get sick (Batchewana Elder)



Increased wildfire, drought, and flooding Air quality health impacts (e.g., respiratory and cardiovascular diseases) events Instability and melting of permafrost and Increased water and foodborne diseases changes to ground snow cover, sea ice Mental health impacts (e.g., stress, anxiety and post-traumatic extent and thickness stress disorder) Changes to sea levels and weather Increased injuries and deaths from accidents (e.g., natural hazards patterns and extreme weather events) Higher exposure to climate risks in relation Increased direct and indirect health impacts from permafrostto natural and built environments (e.g., related infrastructure damage poor housing, water, sanitation, and environmental contaminants) Exacerbation of health and socio-economic inequities Decreased availability, quality, quantity and health of traditional food sources Exacerbation of chronic and infectious diseases Food and water insecurity due to decreased access to, and quality Melting and damage to ice roads of land, waters, plants, animals, and natural resources Effects of warming and changes to precipitation patterns that affect survival Decreased opportunities for transmission of Indigenous and transmission of disease-causing knowledges and land skills, particularly among youth, affecting sense of identity, mental well-being, and cultures organisms Temporary or long-term evacuation or displacement of populations from traditional territories, disrupting lives, creating financial hardship, and affecting mental well-being Impacts on health and infrastructure (e.g., restricted or delayed travel for health and emergency services, access to medical supplies, and patient safety)

Possible health effects

Climate-related causes

Rapid climate change is yet another layer of stress cast over our already stressed society (Natan Obed)

Our land is very important to us. We live it. We breathe it. We work on it. It gives us life. Without it we don't have an identity (Norway Rabliauskas)

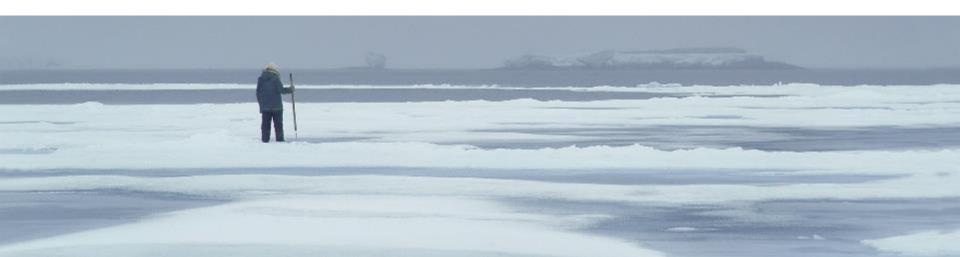


Indigenous people have drawn on Indigenous knowledge and science for millennia to understand and respond to climate and environmental changes they faced

(Suzanne Benally)



...my favourite snowdrift hasn't come back. If I've noticed this in such a young stage of life, I can't imagine how the Elders would feel because they obviously have much more experience with the land around me. (Jordan Takkiruq)



It is our right to keep on living the way we used to and also the right to adapt for a better future (Sam Hunter)



Hazard Mapping in Kashechewan First Nation



- Flood prone Cree Community in Ontario
- Paired geographic information with Indigenous Knowledge
- Furthered understanding of how human-induced factors exacerbate the health impacts of climate change

Improving mental health and resilience among youth in the face of climate change

Engaging in land-and culture-based activities provides mental, emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual benefits and supports individual and community resilience in the face of climate change.



- Selkirk First Nations (Yukon) initiative to promote youth engagement in communitybased research on food security, traditional knowledge, and climate adaptation strategies
- Youth learned valuable skills from the Elders and on-the-land activities including age-old tradition of fish camps



Peavine Métis Settlement FireSmart Program



Wildfire prevention, mitigation and preparedness based on cultural norms and values:

• Participation in subsistence activities on the land, traditional knowledge, social relationships with community members, including Elders, trust, pride in aesthetics, intergeneration knowledge transfer and self-sufficiency.

Knowledge Gaps

- Diversity of geographic locations
- Intersectionality
- Disaggregated and longitudinal data
- Holistic and long-term impacts
- Resilience and protective factors
- Effectiveness of adaptation initiatives







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First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada are uniquely sensitive to the irripacts of climate change

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KT Resources

- Fact Sheets
- Podcasts
- Webinars
- Infographics



Podcasts











Title:

Indigenous Peoples, Food Safety and Security and Climate Change in Canada

Presenters:

- · Dr. Meaghan Wilton
- · Paul Cressman

Date:

February 17, 2022





NCCIH Webinar



Title:

Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on climate change and water safety and security

Presenters:

- · Dr. Kelsey Leonard
- · Dr. Deborah McGregor
- · Dr. Shannon Waters
- · Dr. Trevor Bell

Date:

March 10, 2022



NCCIH Webinar

Webinars



Infographics









National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH). (2022). Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada. In P. Berry & R. Schnitter (Eds.), *Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action*. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada.

Berry, P., & Schnitter, R. (Eds.). (2022). *Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action*. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada.





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