Building Climate Resilience Together: Intersectoral Community Actions to Adapt to a Changing Climate

The Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

April 20, 2024

Introductions



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Paris Marshall Smith Regional District of Central Kootenay



Outline

- IH Perspective on Climate Change and Health
- Collaborative Work in the City of Trail
- Climate Action in the Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Panel Discussion

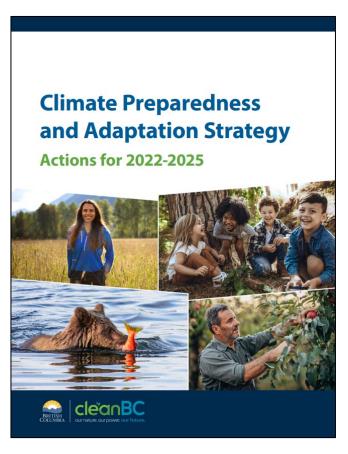


IH Perspective on Climate Change and Health



Provincial Priorities







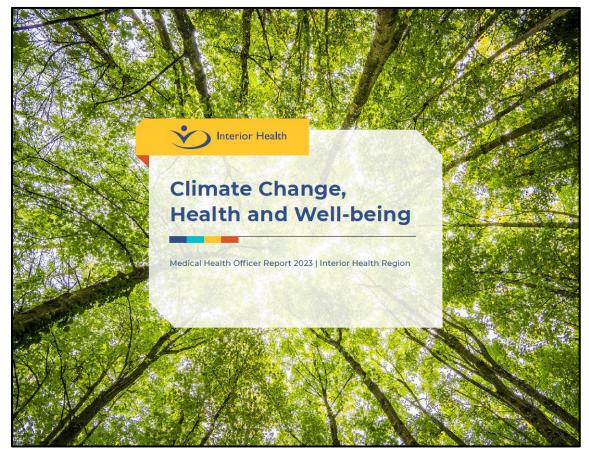
Interior Health Direction

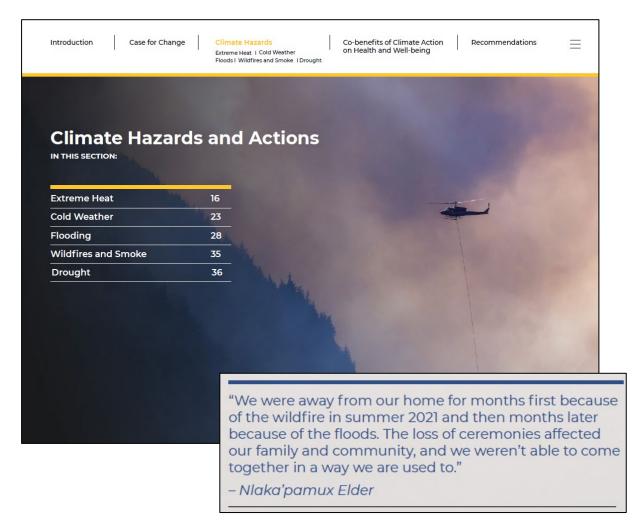






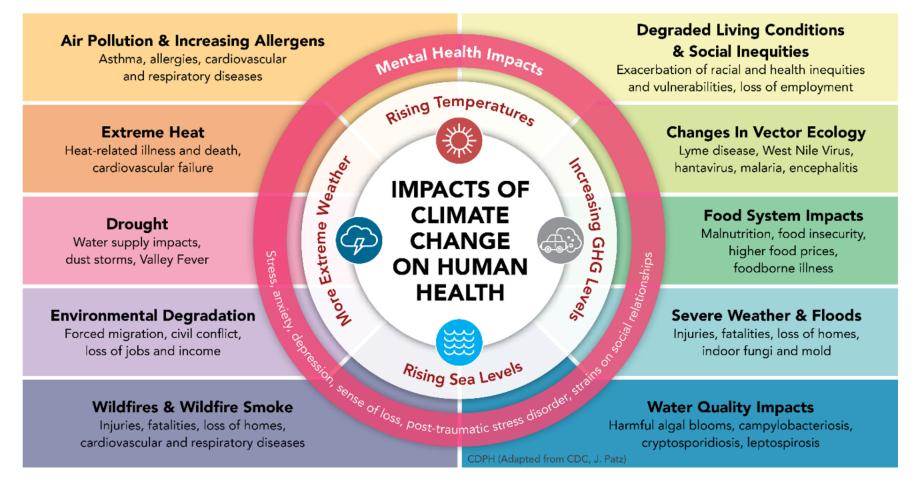
Medical Health Officer Report







Climate Change Hazards & Health Impacts

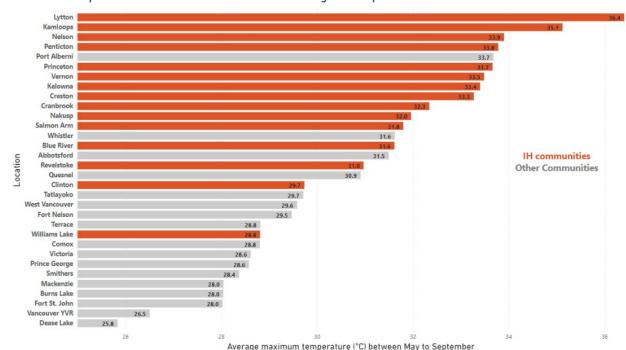


Source: Impact of Climate Change on Human Health (Adapted from CDC)

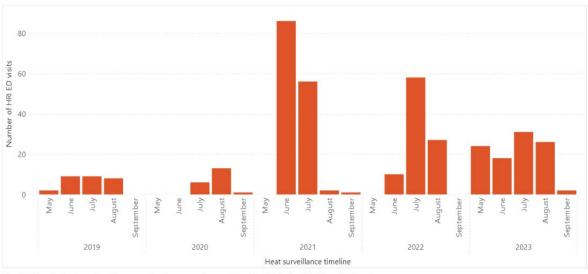


Heat in the Interior Health Region

Communities in BC ranked from high to low for average maximum temperature recorded between May to September



Number of heat-related illness emergency department visits at IH sites between May and September in the last five years



Note: ED visits related to heat-related illnesses were based on a presenting complaint with a CEDIS code of "207-Heat-related issue".



MHO Report: Multiple Benefits for Individuals and Communities

Support Natural Infrastructure Management & Future Proofing



Climate Change Benefits

- Reduced energy consumption and GHG emissions²⁴
- Increased lifespan of infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, and pipes²⁴
- Improved air quality and carbon sequestrations^{4,24}
- Improved biodiversity²⁴
- · Mitigated flood risk4,24

Community Health Benefits

- Reduced heat in paved areas^{4,24}
- Improved storm water management – reduced runoff volume, improved quality^{4,24}
- Improved access to green and recreation space^{4,24}
- Effective and efficient use of tax dollars and community resources²⁴

Individual Health Benefits

- Improved mental health4,24
- Increased physical activity walking, cycling, and running^{4,24}
- Improved access to cool and shaded spacess⁴



City of Fernie – Annex Neighbourhood Active Transportation and Flood Mitigation Project

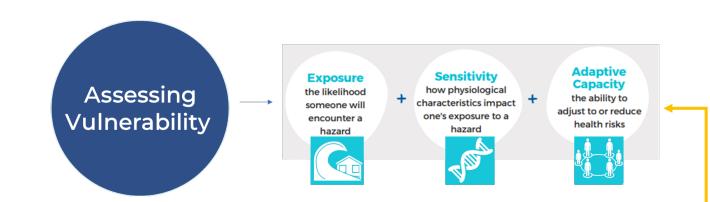


MHO Report: Recommendations

- Interior Health
- Provincial Partners
- Community Partners



- Partner with IH on climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including implementation of adaptation plans.
- Work in partnership with IH and other partners on extreme heat, cold, flooding, drought, wildfire and smoke preparedness and response that will help ensure health and well-being for all citizens.
- Endorse policies and programs that build on community assets and promote the co-benefits of climate action on health and well-being.







How is climate change impacting you or your work?

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Collaborative Work in the City of Trail

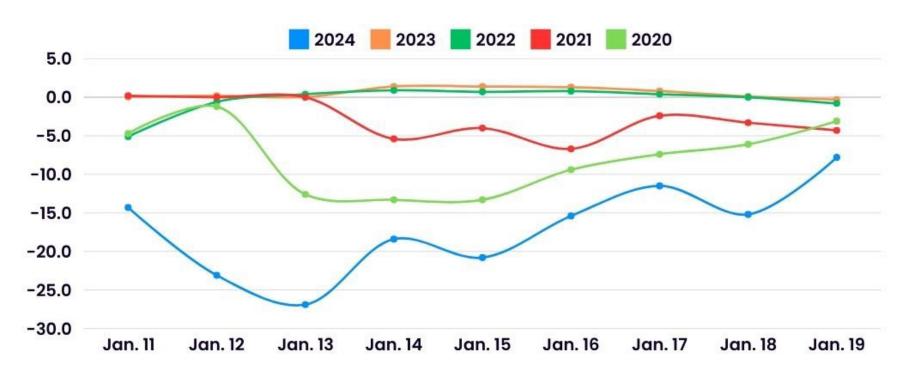








5-year temperatures in Trail

















Climate Action in the Regional District of Central Kootenay





- 1 External context
- 2 RDCK Climate Actions our response
- 3 The impact
- 4 What we learned



1 External context



Major change drivers:

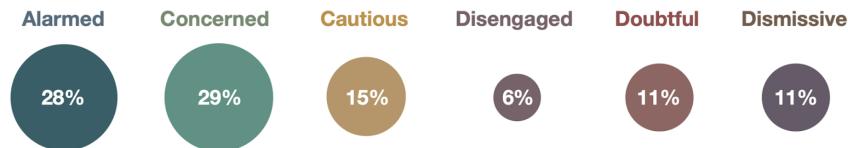
- Climate change
- Population growth
- Increasing urbanization
- Economic development
- Interconnectivity of infrastructure and supply chains
- Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- New and update Legis tion
- COVID-19

Increasing:

- Frequency and severity of disasters
- Social and economic disruption
- Public and private sector costs of disasters
- Cost of living, including insurance and housing
- Role of Local Government in service delivery



Spectrum of concern & motivation



Highest Belief in Global Warming Most Concerned Most Motivated

Global Warming's Six Americas, Fall 2023 Base: 1,033 U.S. adults

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication; George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication Lowest Belief in Global Warming Least Concerned Least Motivated

Finding	2019	2021	2023
Worried to some degree about the impacts of climate change	68%	79%	74%
Indicated they would have neighbours, friends or family support during an emergency (ex: forest fire or flood)	94%	91%	84%
Perceived impacts of climate change in their community on a regular basis	64%	74%	78%
Indicated climate change is a problem to some degree	34%	48%	67%
Indicated extreme weather events are a problem to some degree	19%	37%	45%

State of the Basin Subjective Well-being



rdck.ca



2

RDCK Climate Actions – our response

Our Changing Climate

Increase frequency, intensity, and cost of cascading and compounding natural hazards



Climate Change Adaptation

Disaster Risk Reduction

RDCK Community Sustainability Department

Sustainability & Energy Efficiency Program

Emergency Management Program

RDCK Climate Actions



3,518 COMMENTS



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The impact

VANCOUVER SUN

News / Local News

Climate action open houses shuttered in Nelson due to safety concerns

Protests against 15-minute cities concept at heart of cancellation

David Carrigg

Published May 18, 2023 · Last updated May 19, 2023 · 2 minute read

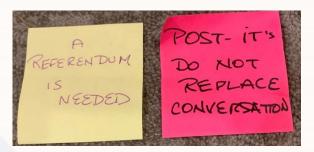




Out of scope

Engagement process

Residents sought more input through a referendum, town halls, and increased opportunities for expression. Views on the engagement model varied.



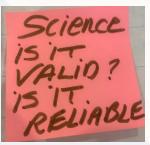
Discussion of climate science

Some residents acknowledged the reality of a changing climate, while others did not.

Concerns about external forces

Some residents are concerned the RDCK is being controlled by external forces, such as the Provincial and Federal government, the United Nations and the World Economic Forum.

Note: These topics include comments in support and opposition. These comments were roughly ¼ of the total comments received.





TRANSIT AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

STEP CODE & RETROFIT

WATER PROTECTION & CONSERVATION

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

RENEWABLE ENERGY

GRID RESILIENCE

RESIDENT HOT TOPICS
FOR RDCK CLIMATE
ACTION



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What we learned



Ideally future RDCK Climate Action will reflect:

- Clarity of volunteer and required actions
- Clear and direct communication
- Looking for local solutions
- Need for increased resilience
- Interest to work together
- Shared values











Ideally climate action will:

- Support the difficult conversations
- Support an understanding of our common
 feelings of fear and anxiety about a changing world
- Inspire a vision that serves all beings
- Recognize our collective capacity











What are you doing in your community to adapt to climate change and build resilience?

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Panel Discussion and Q&A

