



Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones  
et Affaires du Nord Canada

# Supporting Indigenous Leadership on Adaptation through Federal Programs

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Canada



# Climate Change and Indigenous Communities

- First Nation Peoples evacuation rate 18x higher than non-Indigenous Canadians
- Reduced access to local food sources, traditional/medicinal plants and land-based activities
- Disrupted transportation networks
- Unpredictable and extreme weather
- Impacts include:
  - Safety on the land
  - Food security
  - Mental health
  - Community and cultural connection
- Impacts often amplified by pre-existing socio-economic vulnerabilities



*Flooded houses on Siksika Nation in 2013. Photo: APTN*

Flooded houses on Siksika Nation in 2013.  
Photo: APTN





# FIRST NATION ADAPT PROGRAM

*Supporting First Nations with community-led projects assessing and responding to climate change impacts on community infrastructure and disaster risk reduction.*

## OVERVIEW

- Supports First Nation communities south of 60°
- Equips communities with information on how climate change will affect their **infrastructure and emergency management**
- Supports efforts to effectively reduce long-term **flood risk** for First Nation communities.
- Supports
  - Risk or vulnerability assessments
  - Cost-benefit analyses
  - Flood mapping
  - Adaptation plans

### Priority areas

- Inland flooding and shoreline erosion
- Sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion
- Wildfires
- Drought
- Winter roads





# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE MONITORING PROGRAM

*Supporting Indigenous Peoples with tracking climate and the effects of climate change to support adaptation and fill climate data gaps*

## OVERVIEW:

- Supports climate monitoring projects across Canada
- Distinctions-based
- Projects
  - Are **Indigenous-led**
  - Use **Indigenous Knowledge systems** and science
  - Build **capacity**
  - Support intergenerational **knowledge transfer**



Tracy Levasseur, 2017

Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Symposium

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# CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH ADAPTATION

*Building capacity for climate change and health adaptation by funding community-designed and driven projects.*

- Open to First Nations and Inuit communities and organizations South and North of 60
- Projects relate to supporting **Indigenous health** adaptation
  - Community risks or vulnerability assessments
  - Adaptation planning

## Priority areas

- Mental wellness
- Access to land
- Air or water quality
- Knowledge sharing and education
- Traditional food security
- Traditional medicines
- Travel safety

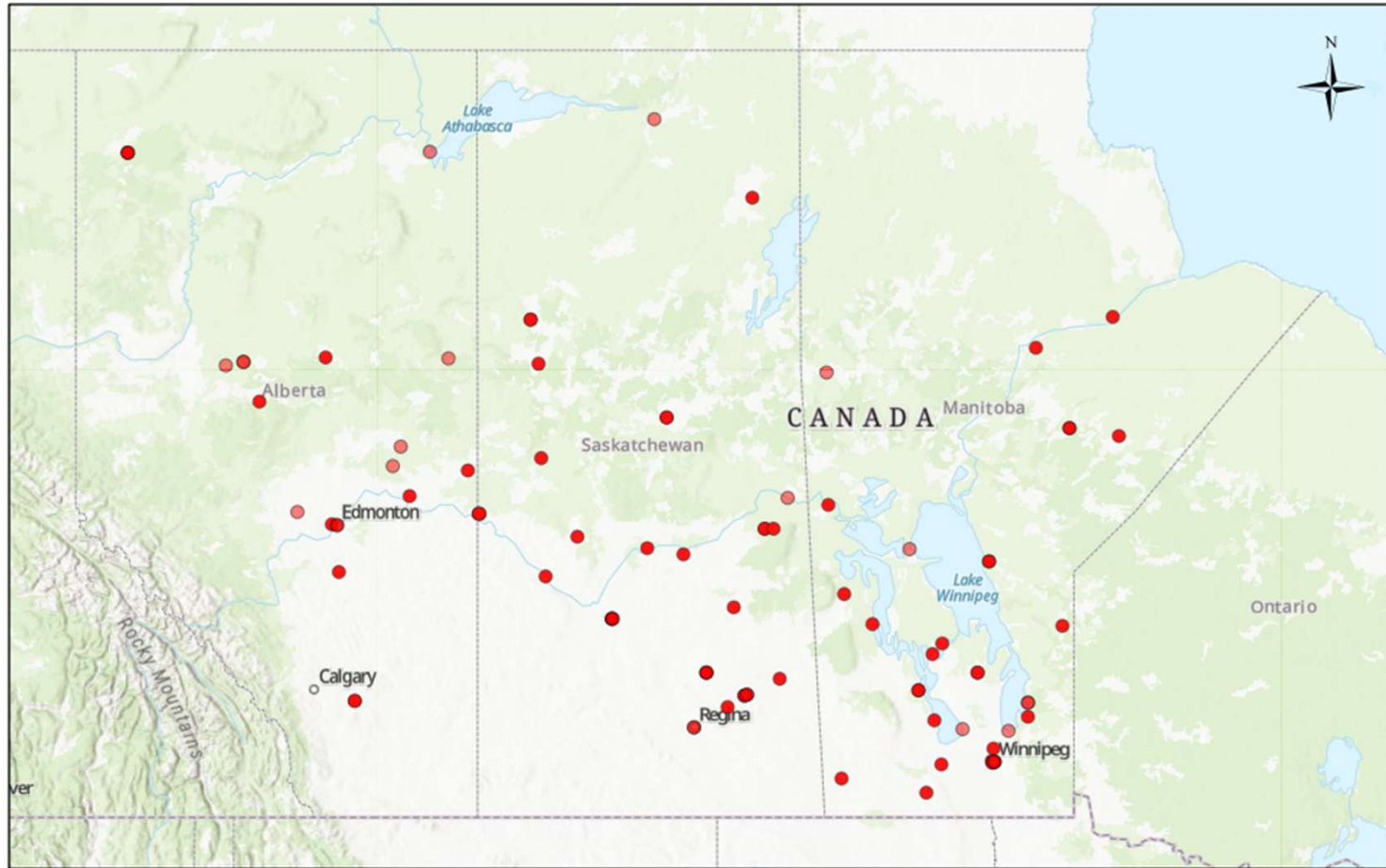
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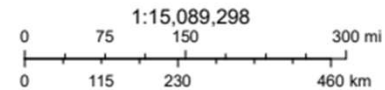


# There are many examples of Indigenous-led adaptation across Canada

Location of Indigenous-led adaptation projects supported by CIRNAC



4/27/2023



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA,





# INDIGENOUS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AGENDA

*Indigenous peoples and Canada collaborate to build a better system for partnership where important decisions about national climate policy are made together, and the resources necessary to take climate action are easy to access.*

## OVERVIEW:

- Co-developed at regional and community-level with **First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples**
- Process is
  - Distinction-based
  - With national and regional Indigenous representative organizations and governments

## OBJECTIVES:



Fundamentally change how Indigenous peoples access funding for climate action.



Ensuring Indigenous peoples to have a seat at the table in climate-related decision-making.



Remove systemic barriers to Indigenous climate action, and self-determined responses to climate change.





# TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR INDIGENOUS ADAPTATION



## INDIGENOUS CLIMATE HUB

[www.indigenousclimatehub.ca](http://www.indigenousclimatehub.ca)

- Community Adaptation Projects, Members Network, Resource Library, etc.



## Indigenous Climate Monitoring TOOLKIT

[www.indigenousclimatemonitoring.ca](http://www.indigenousclimatemonitoring.ca)

- Climate monitoring steps, stories, resources, and map of projects

## ClimateTelling

"An Indigenous community portal for climate change and health"



PROJECTS BY REGION



GET INVOLVED



COMMUNITY VIDEOS

[www.climatetelling.info](http://www.climatetelling.info)

- Indigenous community portal for climate change and health



**Funding:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/indigenous-partnership/funding.html>





# Example Good Practices in Partnering with Indigenous Communities

- Engage with the community and identify local needs
- Respect community protocols, culture and authority
- Clarify each party's interests and expectations
- Actively pursue opportunities for community leadership, benefit and to build lasting capacity
- Self-reflect on assumptions and positions of power within systems
- Communicate outcomes back clearly; Recognize contributions of Indigenous partners
- Relationship and trust building takes time

*Good practices informed by resources on subsequent slide*





# Contact

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## Selected Resources

- First Nations Health Authority. *FNHA's Policy Statement on Cultural Safety and Humility: It Starts With Me.*
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Nunavut Research Institute. 2007. *Negotiating Research Relationships with Inuit Communities: A Guide for Researchers.*
- Kitasoo/Xai'xais Stewardship Authority. 2021. *Informing First Nations Stewardship with Applied Research: key questions to inform an equitably beneficial and engaged research process.*
- Théberge et al.. 2019. *Initiative for knowledge co-creation in collaboration with Indigenous Communities. Basic approach: Ethics of research.*
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action: Calls to Action.*

