

# Lessons Learned: Canada's HealthADAPT Program

## PAHO/Canada Workshop on Building Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Americas

October 17, 2023

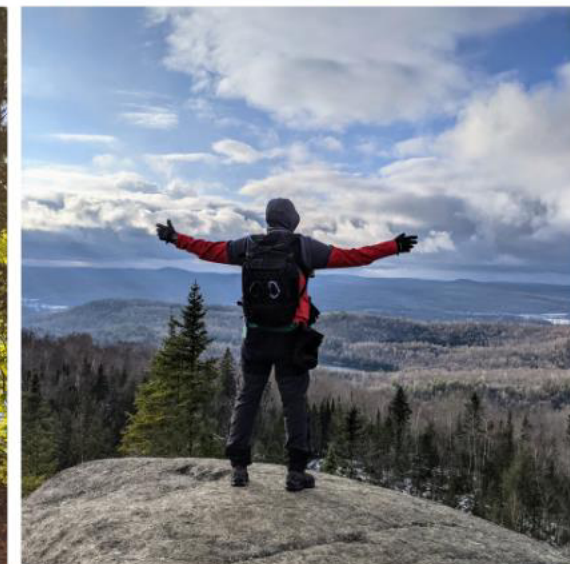
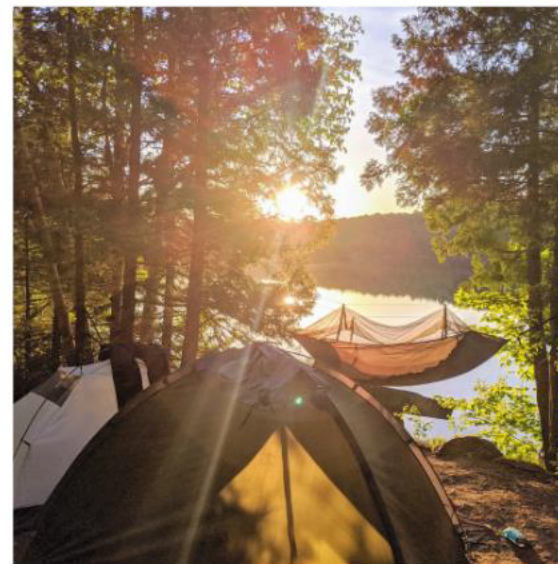


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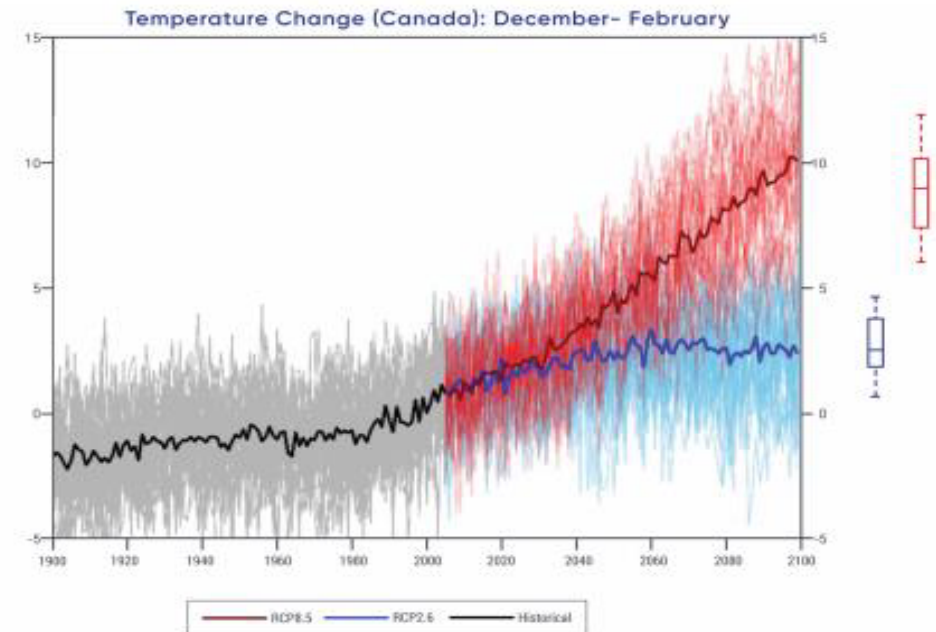
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# Canada's climate is warming rapidly in ways that affect health

## Canada's Changing Climate Report 2019

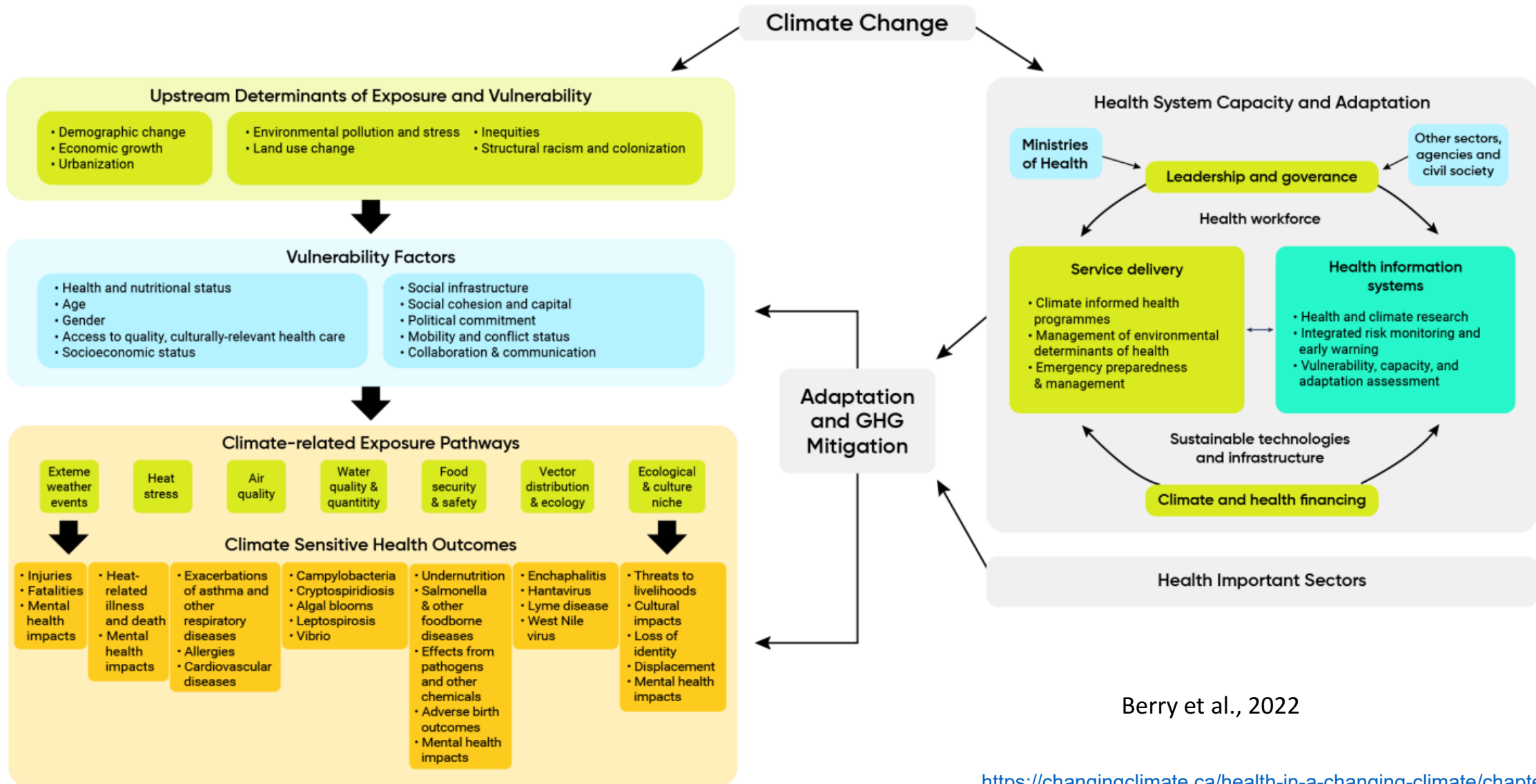
Widespread warming in Canada is causing significant impacts on the environment and people's health and wellbeing, including:

- More frequent and intense extreme hot temperatures;
- Increased severity of extreme heat events;
- Less extreme cold;
- Increased risk of drought
- Increased risk of wildfires
- Increasing length of the growing season;
- Reduced seasonal lake ice cover across the Arctic;
- Reduced sea ice extent;
- Thinning of glaciers; and
- Warming and melting of permafrost



(Bush & Lemmen, 2019)

# Climate change is increasing risks to the health of Canadians

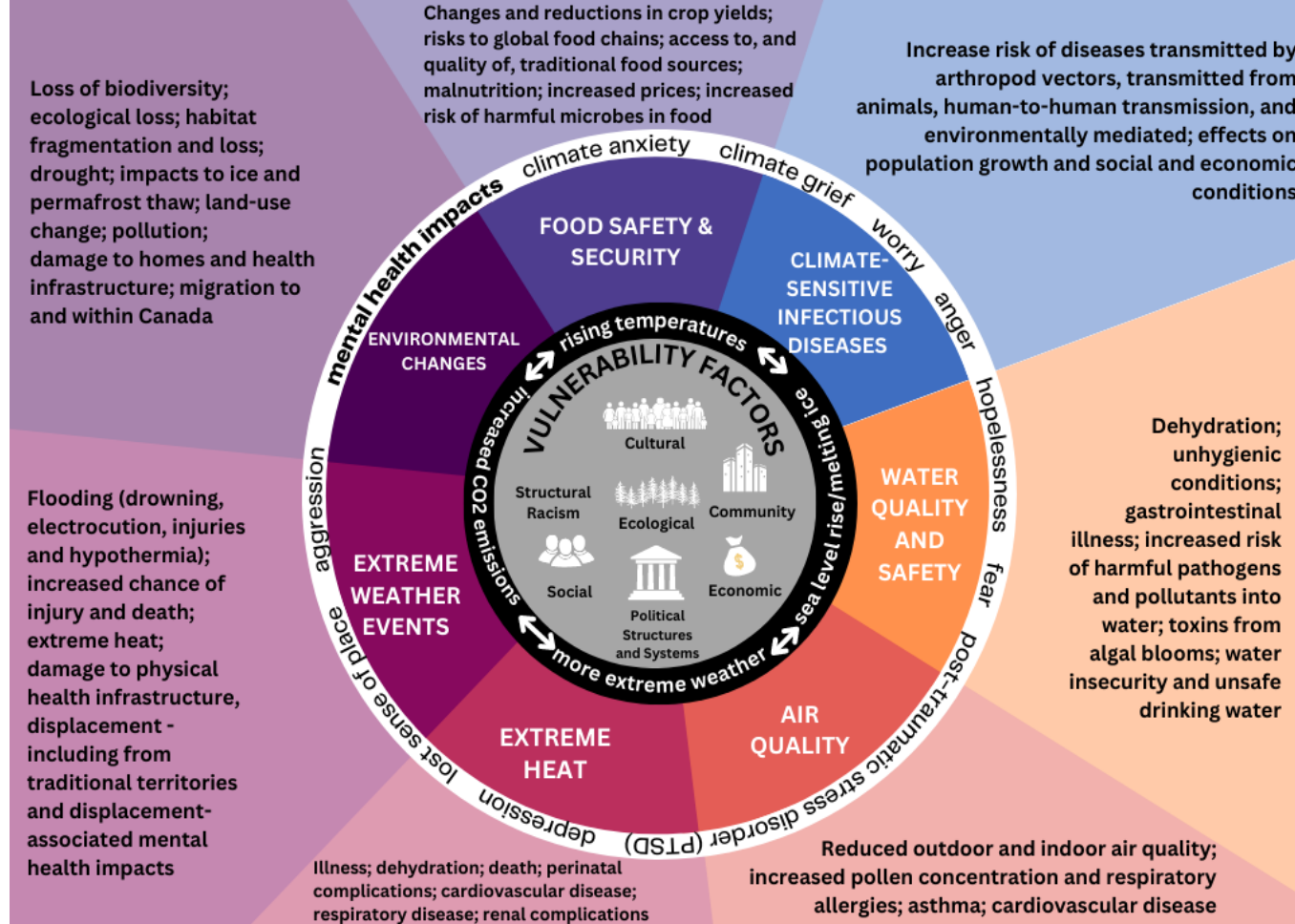


Berry et al., 2022

<https://changingclimate.ca/health-in-a-changing-climate/chapter/1-0/>



# Risks of Climate Change to Health in Canada



<https://changingclimate.ca/health-in-a-changing-climate/>

Charness et al., 2022

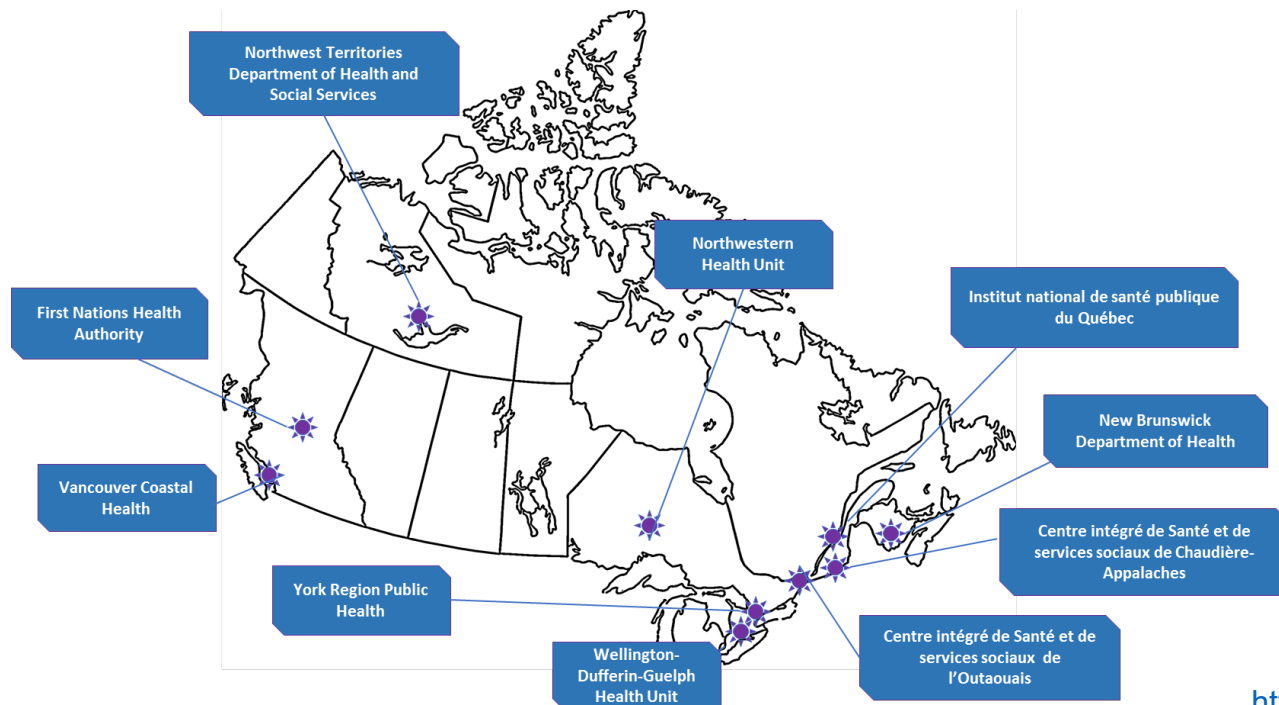




**How can we ensure all people are resilient and protected?**

# Health Canada is building climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems

- **HealthADAPT** is a **multi-year program** introduced in 2019, to support projects at local, regional, and provincial and territorial levels of the Canadian health sector to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.
- HealthADAPT invested approximately **\$3.5 million in partnerships** to support 10 health authorities across five provinces and territories to conduct climate change and health vulnerability & adaptation assessments.



The projects selected represent the **diversity** across the country, including:

- Indigenous Peoples
- Newcomers
- Urban/rural/coastal communities
- Health sector spectrum (i.e., provincial/territorial ministries of health, regional/local health authorities, public health units)
- Official language communities

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/health-adapt.html>



# Increased understanding of local vulnerabilities including health equity considerations

## considerations

SPRING NEWS March 29, 2021

**WATCH PROJECT**  
WE ALL TAKE CARE OF THE HARVEST

**A WATCH Network Project Team**

Four communities are currently participating in the WATCH Project as pilot communities: Inuvialut First Nation, Métis Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Tłı̨chǫ First Nation. These Nations are learning and working together with staff from FNHA and BC Centre for Disease Control as Project Team.

In 2021-22, the Team will develop risk management (climate adaptation plan and disease change and seafood monitoring programs in the pilot communities. To help expand the pilot project in 2022-23, Project Team members will share what they have learned with other Nations in "learn-to-lead" monitoring sessions, meetings with a WATCH First Nations Advisory Team and WATCH Monitoring Community of Practice, and annual challenges.

**Advisory Teams**

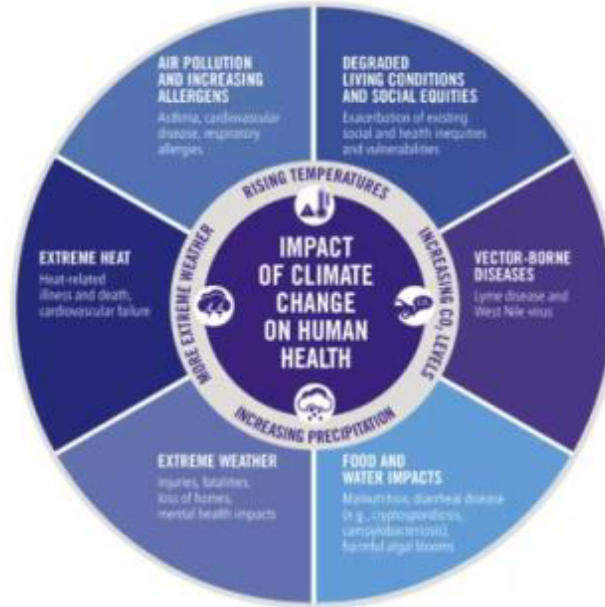
Beginning in spring 2021, new Advisory Teams will help guide the WATCH Project. A First Nations Advisory Team of health, fisheries and food specialists, and an external Advisory Team of scientists and policymakers from universities, governments, and non-profit organizations.

**Monitoring group**

A Monitoring Community of Practice is developing that will share technical expertise to standardize protocols, develop best practices, and more.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH AND FRASER HEALTH  
FEBRUARY 2022



**2030 NWT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**  
CADRE STRATÉGIQUE SUR LE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE DES TNO 2030

The present document content la traduction française du résumé et le message du résumé.

**Understanding climate change and health implications:**  
A background report to New Brunswick's climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment project

**2030 NWT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2019-2023 Action Plan**  
CADRE STRATÉGIQUE SUR LE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE DES TNO 2030 Plan d'action 2019-2023

The present document content la traduction française du résumé.

**Plan d'adaptation aux changements climatiques**

Les événements climatiques extrêmes peuvent engendrer de nombreux problèmes de santé (impacts physiques et psychosociaux), ainsi que sur la structure des installations du réseau de la santé. Dans le contexte des changements climatiques, ces événements seront plus fréquents, plus longs et plus intenses. Plusieurs situations d'urgence sanitaire en Outaouais ont fait ressortir le besoin d'adaptation du Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de l'Outaouais aux événements climatiques extrêmes.

Le CISSS de l'Outaouais a évalué les risques climatiques de sa région, les risques socio-sanitaires associés, ainsi que les vulnérabilités des environnements bâtis et des procédures d'urgences de ses établissements. Le CISSS de l'Outaouais propose donc un plan d'adaptation pour mieux se préparer en cas d'événements climatiques extrêmes, et ainsi réduire les effets des changements climatiques extrêmes sur sa population. La méthodologie utilisée s'appuie sur une évaluation des vulnérabilités du réseau de la santé et des risques socio-sanitaires liés aux événements climatiques extrêmes, et un processus d'identification et de priorisation des mesures d'adaptation.

- Vidéo de présentation du projet et de l'équipe – ADAPTATION Santé: Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de l'Outaouais

AXES	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Cartographie	Portrait des risques climatiques	Évaluation des risques socio-sanitaires et de la vulnérabilité de la population	Évaluation de la vulnérabilité de l'environnement bâti	Identification des options d'adaptation pour les procédures d'urgence	Priorisation des mesures d'adaptation
		Outils d'évaluation des vulnérabilités			Grille de priorisation

**Adaptive Communities**  
Can Reduce Climate Change Impacts on Health

Populations at greater risk of health challenges from climate change due to social and other factors:

- Older adults
- People with pre-existing health conditions
- People with limited financial resources
- People with limited mobility
- People with limited social support
- People with limited access to services
- People with limited access to transportation
- People with limited access to information
- People with limited access to decision-making
- People with limited access to resources
- People with limited access to skills
- People with limited access to knowledge
- People with limited access to networks
- People with limited access to opportunities
- People with limited access to choices
- People with limited access to control
- People with limited access to power
- People with limited access to influence
- People with limited access to voice
- People with limited access to action
- People with limited access to change
- People with limited access to progress
- People with limited access to success
- People with limited access to happiness
- People with limited access to well-being
- People with limited access to quality of life
- People with limited access to life expectancy
- People with limited access to life satisfaction
- People with limited access to life fulfillment
- People with limited access to life meaning
- People with limited access to life purpose
- People with limited access to life passion
- People with limited access to life joy
- People with limited access to life love
- People with limited access to life hope
- People with limited access to life faith
- People with limited access to life charity
- People with limited access to life kindness
- People with limited access to life compassion
- People with limited access to life empathy
- People with limited access to life understanding
- People with limited access to life wisdom
- People with limited access to life knowledge
- People with limited access to life skills
- People with limited access to life talents
- People with limited access to life strengths
- People with limited access to life gifts
- People with limited access to life blessings
- People with limited access to life miracles
- People with limited access to life wonders
- People with limited access to life mysteries
- People with limited access to life secrets
- People with limited access to life treasures
- People with limited access to life riches
- People with limited access to life wealth
- People with limited access to life prosperity
- People with limited access to life abundance
- People with limited access to life overflow
- People with limited access to life fullness
- People with limited access to life completeness
- People with limited access to life wholeness
- People with limited access to life unity
- People with limited access to life harmony
- People with limited access to life balance
- People with limited access to life peace
- People with limited access to life calm
- People with limited access to life quiet
- People with limited access to life stillness
- People with limited access to life serenity
- People with limited access to life tranquility
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- People with limited access to life serenity
- People with limited access to life tranquility

- <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/HealthyEnvironments/yourhealthR1.pdf>
- [https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/128-climate\\_change\\_strategic\\_framework\\_web.pdf](https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/128-climate_change_strategic_framework_web.pdf)
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/health-adapt.html>

- [https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/resources/128-climate\\_change\\_ap\\_proof.pdf](https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/resources/128-climate_change_ap_proof.pdf)
- <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-WATCH-Project-Newsletter-Spring-2021.pdf>
- <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/watch-project>
- <https://ciissofil.ca/developpement-durable/plan-adaptation-aux-changements-climatiques/>

# Climate change impacts on Indigenous health systems

- **First Nations Health Authority:** project assessed climate change impacts on Indigenous marine food safety and vulnerability of BC Coastal First Nations to develop local and Indigenous specific adaptation strategies.
  - *Combined citizen science, Indigenous Knowledge and research to support adaptation, culturally and locally appropriate means of risk communication and community health, climate resiliency, and food security.*
  - *Adapts traditional food harvesting and sea food storage techniques for climate resilience.*
- **Northwest Territories Dept. of Health Social Services:** project included meaningful engagement from all 33 NWT communities including Indigenous communities.



# Addressing health equity impacts

- Health equity was a consideration in the program, but the **application of health equity as a consideration varied among projects.**
- Social determinants such as **income, education, employment, and housing influence health outcomes.** Addressing these determinants is essential for adequately considering health equity in project work.
- Health equity considerations can be used:
  - **As a lens for data collection**
  - **To inform adaptation actions/plans**
  - **To identify pilot communities**



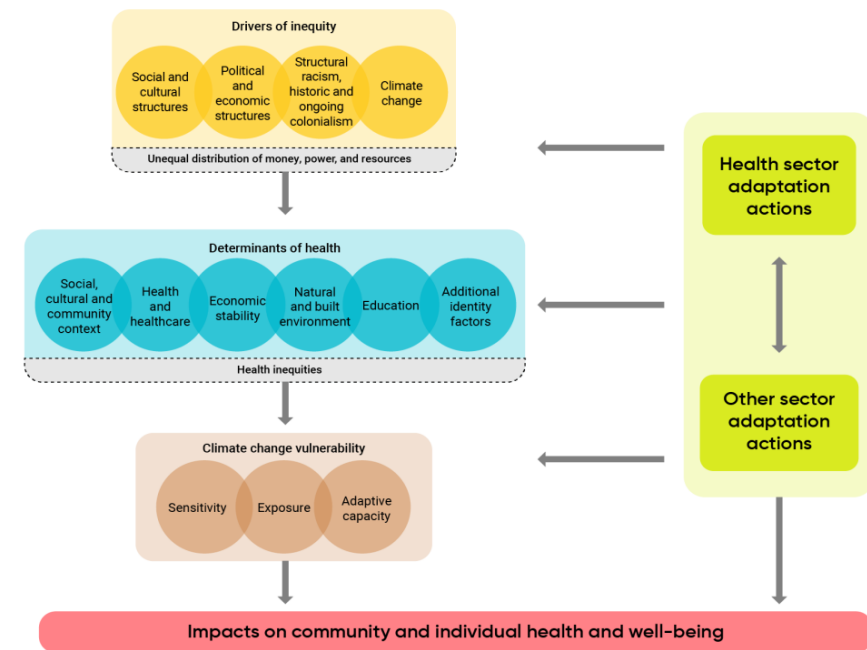
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/climate-health-adapt-vulnerability-adaptation-assessments-workbook.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/climate-health-adapt-vulnerability-adaptation-assessments-resource-guide.html>

## Population features that influence vulnerability and adaptive capacity, as well as populations of concern from the climate change impacts on health include:

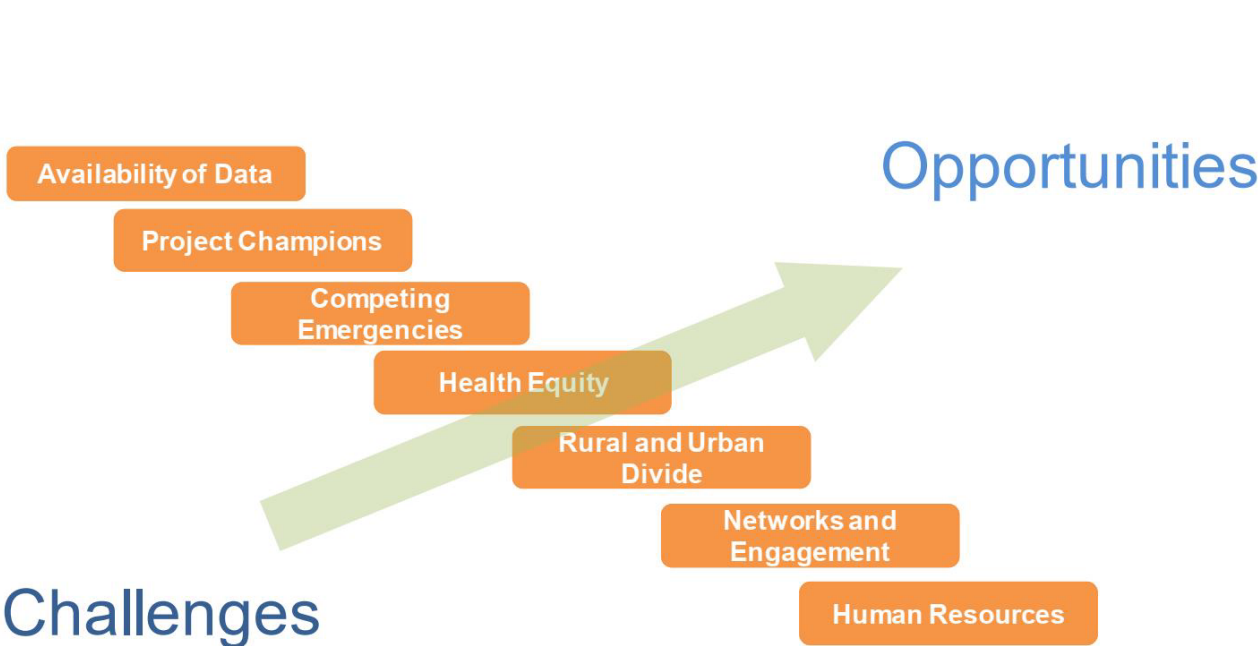
- Gender and sex
- Race and ethnicity
- Age (including: elderly people and children)
- People with pre-existing conditions (e.g. physical and mental health conditions)
- People who are unemployed or underemployed
- People who are socially isolated
- People with lower socio-economic status
- People with lower levels of formal education
- People who are underinsured or uninsured
- People who live in high-risk geographic environments (e.g. flood plains, coastal communities)
- Newcomers to Canada
- Indigenous Peoples
- Occupational groups (e.g. outdoor labourers and first-responders)
- Minority linguistic communities
- Rural, urban, and suburban communities

## Climate Change and Health Equity Framework



Schnitter et al., 2022

# HealthADAPT Program Lessons Learned



Having clear objectives



Importance of engagement



Integrating lessons learned from COVID-19



More focus on prevention and preparation for extreme weather events



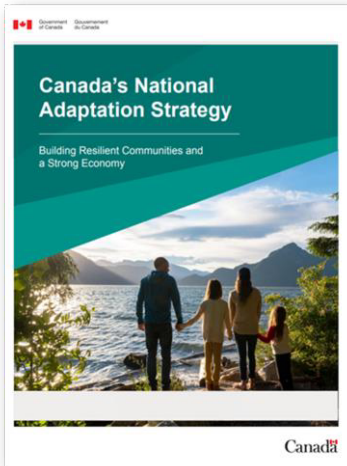
Adaptation as an iterative approach



Having adequate staff capacity

# Canada's current plan to address these challenges is articulated through the National Adaptation Strategy

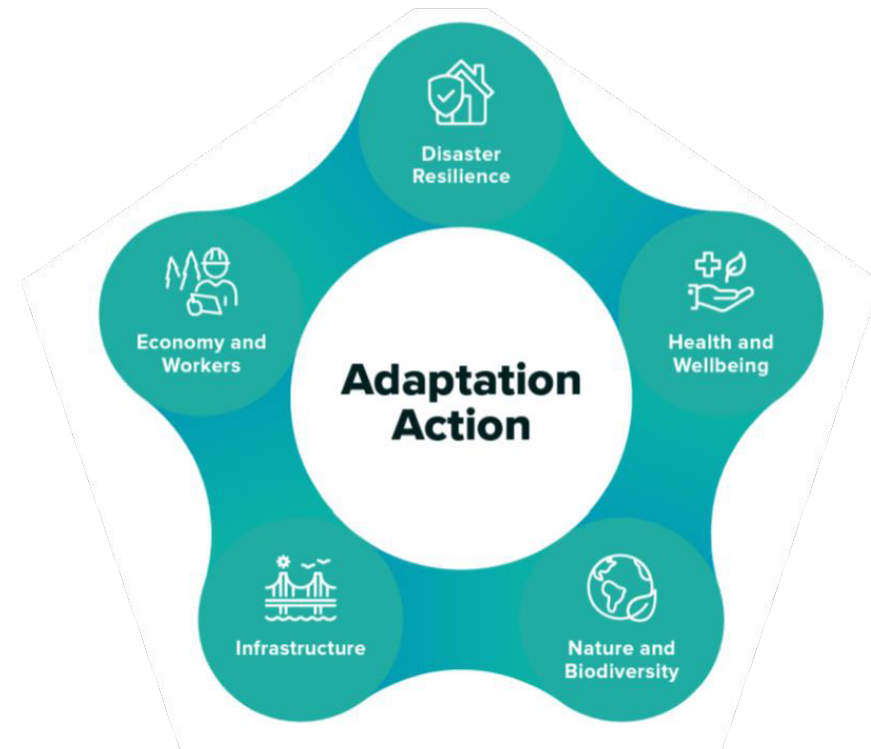
The **National Adaptation Strategy** is a whole-of-society roadmap for building a resilient Canada



**Provides an overarching vision** for resilience in Canada

*All of us living in Canada, our communities, and the natural environment are resilient in the face of a changing climate. Our collective adaptation actions enhance our well-being and safety, promote justice, equity, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and secure a thriving natural environment and economy for future generations.*

Includes transformational **goals, objectives, and targets** under five key systems including **Health and Wellbeing** (led by Health Canada).



Underpinned by **guiding principles** for fair, inclusive, and equitable adaptation



Respect jurisdictions and uphold Indigenous rights



Advance equity and environmental justice



Take proactive, risk-based measures to reduce climate impacts before they occur



Maximize benefits and avoid maladaptation

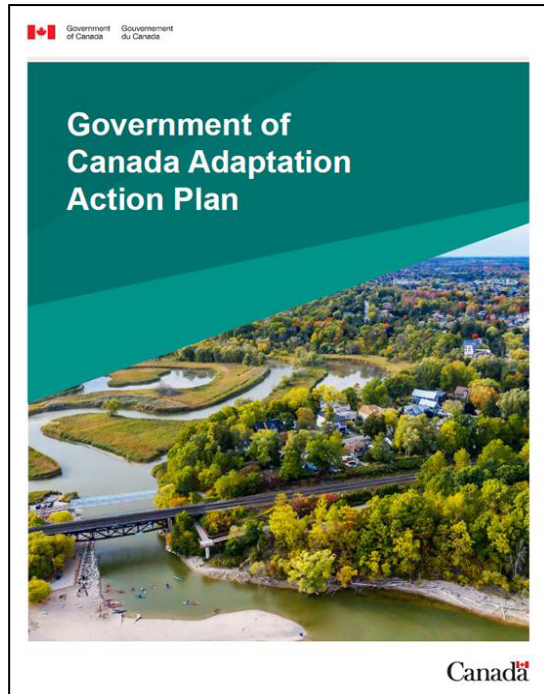
The final National Adaptation Strategy was released on June 27, 2023.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy.html>



# The Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan is the federal contribution to implementing the National Adaptation Strategy

The GOCAAP includes new investments to support Health and Well-being



## Protecting the Health of Canadians from Extreme Heat (Health Canada): \$29.9M over 5 years

- New investments build upon existing programs and will support efforts to enhance the evidence-base and develop federal guidance to support actions to make indoor environments safe from extreme heat; develop climate-ready heat health interventions; scale up the implementation of adaptation efforts; and foster heat resilience in at-risk communities across Canada.

## Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Health Systems (Health Canada): \$13M over 5 years

- Renews Health Canada's HealthADAPT program first launched in 2018 to support health authorities in identifying and addressing climate risks. Health Canada will renew and expand the resources, guidance, data, information, and the promotion of adaptation strategies tailored to local needs to support health systems to assess and adapt to climate change.

# Thank you!



For more information, please visit [canada.ca/health-adapt](https://canada.ca/health-adapt) or



Email us at [hc.climate.health.adaptation-adaptation.climat.sante.sc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:hc.climate.health.adaptation-adaptation.climat.sante.sc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

