

# Community Needs Assessment Surveys

Improving our understanding of community climate change needs and priorities in Yukon

## CONTEXT

Yukon communities are already adapting to climate change by, for example, responding to different migration patterns by hunting in new places. To further prepare communities for climate change, they first need to know which key areas need attention. Food security? Infrastructure? Climate change education? Energy issues? Results from the 2010-2011 *Yukon Climate Change Needs Assessment*, based on answers from Yukon community members, will help define future adaptation priorities.

Photo Credit: Council of Yukon First Nations



## OBJECTIVE

Identify priority areas of community concern related to climate change, and provide insight into priority areas for future climate change programming.

## APPROACH

Project partners took time to review previous surveys in order to gather ideas and background knowledge for this project. In 2010 the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Northern Climate ExChange and the Climate Change Secretariat worked together to develop survey questions, including:

- What are Yukon residents observing about climate change in their communities?
- What factors limit the use of traditional knowledge in climate change planning?
- What is the general level of knowledge that Yukon residents have about climate change?

Hired contractors then distributed surveys to residents of 13 Yukon communities.

## RESULTS

Highlights of the 2011 survey results were:

- The majority of survey respondents think that the climate is changing (96%);
- Climate, wildlife and food security are areas of key and current concern;
- Energy-related initiatives were deemed a priority;
- Education/training and information management are barriers to individual and organizational participation;
- 75% of respondents stated that climate change is having a direct impact on their lives.

## Significance

*The Yukon Climate Change Needs Assessment provides key recommendations for priority climate change adaptation projects to increase Yukoners' ability to respond to climate change.*

## Partners

- Circumpolar Relations, Council of Yukon First Nations
- Northern Climate ExChange Yukon Research Centre, Yukon College
- Climate Change Secretariat, Government of Yukon
- Statistics Agency Program
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

## FOR MORE INFO

Director

Circumpolar Relations, Council of Yukon First Nations

p. (867) 667-5220

f. (867) 393-6266

2166-2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4P1

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