

# Climate Change & Public Health

Advancing Yukon's understanding of health implications associated with climate change

## CONTEXT

Climate change can affect human health. Extreme weather events, environmental changes, new diseases and unpredictable weather patterns can impact the overall health and well-being of individuals and communities. Impacts can range from immediate and severe to slow and cumulative. They can be physical, emotional or psychological.

Climate change can affect social and environmental influences on human health and, therefore, the well-being of our communities. Taking stock of what we know



Photo: Government of Yukon

about the relationship between climate change and human health in Yukon can help us better understand existing gaps in knowledge and resources. This is particularly noticeable in areas like food security, shelter, traditional knowledge and culture, which have been the focus of much of the research and analysis undertaken on this issue.

## OBJECTIVE

Identifying current and future health impacts caused by climate change in Yukon and drawing on existing knowledge and experience in this area to help address gaps in our knowledge and resources that inform future planning and action.

## APPROACH

In 2014, the Yukon government, in partnership with the Northern Climate ExChange and the Council of Yukon First Nations, led a research project exploring the relationship between climate change and public health in Yukon.

## RESULTS

The final report helped establish an understanding of past and current activity exploring the relationship between climate change and health in Yukon. Future projects addressing the impacts of climate change on the health of Yukoners may build on these results. Future projects addressing the impacts of climate change on the health of Yukoners may continue to build on these results.

## Significance

*Climate change may affect the health of Yukoners in unique ways. Increasing our knowledge of the relationship between climate change and health will help communities to respond appropriately and to build resiliency.*

## Partners

- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Northern Climate ExChange, Yukon Research Centre, Yukon College
- Arctic Athabaskan Council

## FOR MORE INFO

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