

Learning from Indigenous Leaders: Climate change and public health



National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases

Centre de collaboration nationale des maladies infectieuses

Theme: Public health action.

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Public health practitioners can influence how climate change affects communities.

Start with talking to those most impacted, but don't stop there:

1. Make safe spaces for discussion, relationships, and sharing.
2. Privilege the voices of Indigenous communities and underserved groups.
3. Mobilize resources to take action regarding the needs they share.
4. Invest in knowledge mobilization to engage and share with these groups and other stakeholders.



Climate change and Infectious Diseases



DISEASE SPREAD

Changing climates affect the pathogens that animals/vectors encounter, as well their movement patterns



PERMAFROST

Melting permafrost can cause the re-emergence of diseases that public health may not be prepared for



HISTORY

Plan culturally safe interventions by educating yourself on the history of infectious disease weaponization against Indigenous Peoples

The big picture...

Diversify public health and healthcare.

Representation, leadership, and expertise from underserved communities is needed to be flexible, innovative, and culturally-safe when dealing with our upcoming health challenges.

- Individual actions are important, but large organizations also need to embrace system-level change for a better collective future.
- We need to be courageous when supporting new ways that will fundamentally change how our current world works.

Ask yourself, "what traits and actions do you want to see from public health leadership?"

Be the change that is needed.

Informed by interviews with:

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