

Learning from Indigenous Leaders: Climate change and public health



National Collaborating Centre
for Infectious Diseases
Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses

Theme: Why climate change is important.

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Climate change is a call to action. A call to change our current systems.

- Climate change affects all life, but inequitably affects underserved communities within our current systems (e.g., capitalism, colonialism, government structures, healthcare institutions).
- These systems simultaneously accelerate climate change and lower societal resilience to its effects (e.g., increased infectious disease).



Climate change and Indigenous Peoples



RELATIONSHIPS

Changes in close relationships with lands, water, human, and non-human life can affect physical and mental health



ICE

Melting ice affects another key relationship and can reduce transportation and resource access



CULTURE

Changing interactions within these relationships can lead to loss of language and culture

80%

of the Earth's biodiversity is protected by Indigenous Peoples on Indigenous land

([Garrett et al., 2018](#))

- Indigenous communities on Turtle Island have cared for and flexibly adapted with the land since time immemorial. But today, these communities are often the most affected by climate change.
- Climate/health researchers also often do not center community experiences or share research results.



The disproportionate effects of climate change on Indigenous communities is influenced by external systems/policies that simultaneously fuel harsh environmental changes and prevent culturally-appropriate adaptation.

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