

# MÉTIS NATION BC CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP SERIES



**MÉTIS NATION**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



*Fraser Basin Council*

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## Acknowledgements

This virtual workshop series was held thanks to the efforts of numerous people and we would like to thank them for the important roles that they played in bringing this workshop series to life.

Our deepest gratitude to Leona Shaw from Métis Nation BC, who worked tirelessly with Fraser Basin Council to co-host and co-organize the workshop series. Leona's input was essential in ensuring that the topics we covered were priorities of the BC Métis community.

We truly appreciated our volunteer facilitators, who helped lead our group discussions and supported back-end logistics throughout the series. These include Raven Fawkes, Inger Miller, Shannon Gilchrist, Halina Rachelson, and Michael Stanyer.

Many thanks to our speakers who generously gave their time and shared their knowledge with attendees: Kari Tyler, MacKenzie Breiteneder, Claudette George, Candice Wilson, and Morgan Guerin.

A heartfelt thank you to elders Earl and Deryl, who hosted our opening welcome and who also played a role as healers, creating spaces for participants to speak with them if they encountered pain or climate grief during our workshops. Their role was invaluable.

Lastly, we would like to thank all our amazing participants who offered their time and ideas throughout the workshop series.

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Note: The cover image of this workshop report is credited to Métis Nation BC.



## Workshop Series Overview

### Background

Climate change is exposing Métis to changes in weather patterns and more frequent extreme events, placing communities at risk and impacting the health and wellness of community members. Climate change is also affecting ecosystems and the plants, fish and animals that provide food, medicine and culturally-important items. It is becoming clear that work needs to be done to prepare for climate impacts. The multi-generational knowledge, skills and experiences of Métis People are needed to make good decisions on how to shift and build resilience in this changing world.

### Purpose

Fraser Basin Council partnered with Métis Nation BC (MNBC) to co-host and co-organize a virtual climate preparedness workshop series, called "Strengthening Our Resilience to Climate Change". The goals of this series were to engage Métis Nation members across the province in:

- Learning about climate change projections and future impacts,
- Sharing success stories of Indigenous climate resilience, and
- Discussing regional priorities in moving forward with climate change preparedness.

### Structure

We hosted three 2-hour virtual workshop evening sessions in January over three weeks.

#### ***January 14, 2021: Climate Change & Métis Nation - Lived Experiences and Projected Changes***

What does climate change look like now, and what will it look like in the future in BC? This session dove into participants' lived experiences of weather and climate changes. It also featured Kari Tyler, with Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, presenting future climate projections.

#### ***January 21, 2021: Climate Change, Salmon and Food Security - Ways Forward***

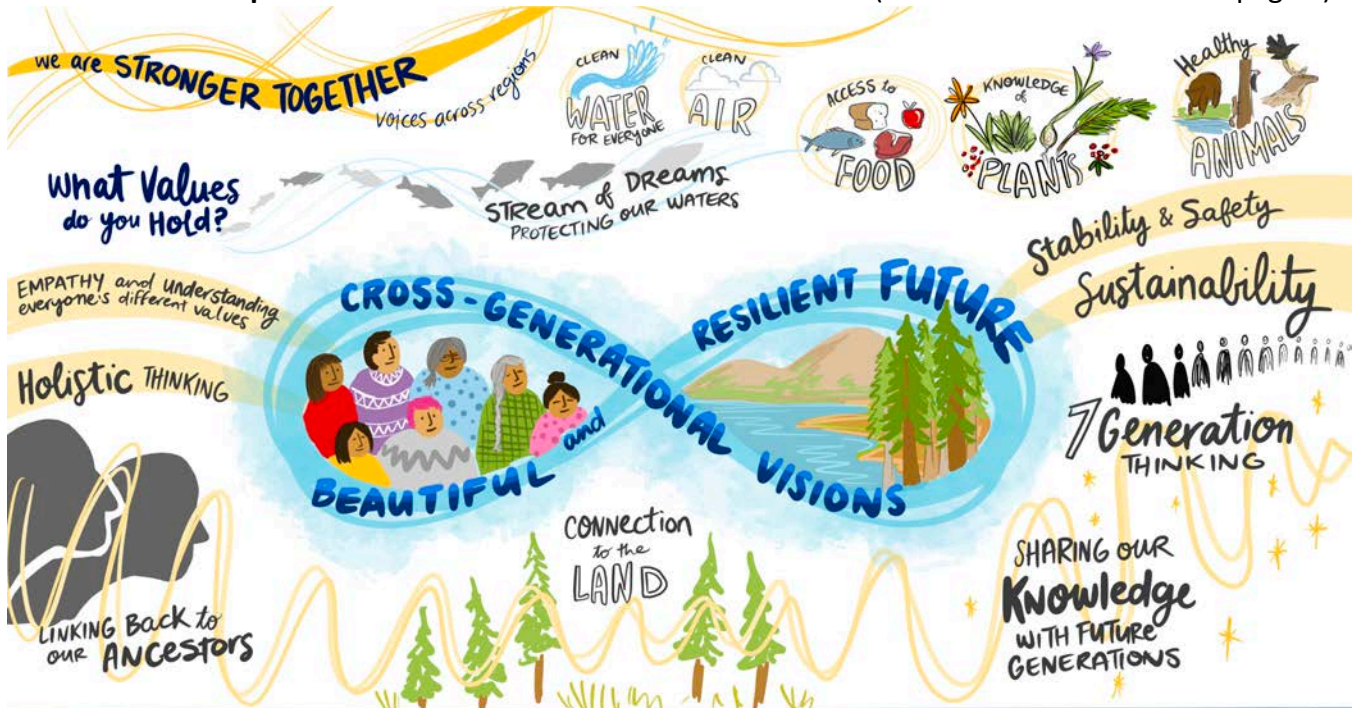
This session featured five speakers on the topics of building resilience for salmon and food security. Guest speakers presented on Métis youth climate work, Haisla Nation's riparian restoration work, Tseil-Waututh Nation's community food gardens, and Musqueam First Nation's restoration of Musqueam Creek.

#### ***January 28, 2021: Cross-Generational Visions of a Resilient and Beautiful Future***

This session engaged participants of all ages, across many regions, to discuss how Métis Nation BC should move forward in climate change preparedness, and what priorities the Nation should hold as they do their work to create a resilient and beautiful future.

## Graphic Recordings

Values that are important to hold as we discuss a resilient future (More discussion details on page 8)



Métis Nation BC: Cross-generational Visions of a Beautiful & Resilient Future

Graphic recording  
Tanya Gadsby

lunelight  
creative

Communities of the Future as envisioned by MNBC members (More discussion details on page 8)









Métis Nation BC: Cross-generational Visions of a Beautiful & Resilient Future

Graphic recording  
Tanya Gadsby

lunelight  
creative

## Observed Climate Impacts

During the January 14 workshop, participants went into breakout discussions about climate impacts they are already witnessing and their top concerns related to those changes. This table summarizes key points from their discussions.

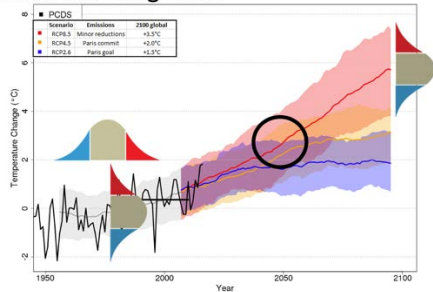
| Climate Impact  | Top Concerns Related to Impact   |
|---|--|
| <b>Warmer temperatures</b><br>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Warming oceans and rivers, affecting ecosystems and salmon.</li> <li>- Lakes covered in algae.</li> <li>- Mountain pine beetle outbreak.</li> <li>- Changes to animal behaviour, affecting hunting.</li> <li>- Invasive species disrupting local ecosystems.</li> <li>- Extreme heat impacts on low-income and vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Dry summers, Less water</b><br>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water quantity issues, need to conserve and for water storage.</li> <li>- Water restrictions are being put in place sooner each year.</li> <li>- Private ownership of water is a concern.</li> <li>- Food insecurity from drought. Health of soil, impacting agriculture.</li> <li>- Rivers changing shape. Riverbeds drying.</li> <li>- U.S. starting to take more water from the Columbia basin.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Increasing storms, winds, precipitation</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disruption in work, in the economy.</li> <li>- Local lake level rising.</li> <li>- Stronger winds because of dams and deforestation.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Flooding</b><br>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Danger to people living on the coast/shoreline, wanting to relocate.</li> <li>- Breakdown in transportation.</li> <li>- Hiking/recreation impacted.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Wildfires</b><br>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More evacuations.</li> <li>- Native species having harder time surviving. Worried about future of plants.</li> <li>- Decrease in elk, deer and wolf populations.</li> <li>- More human-wildlife interaction as animals come into town for food.</li> <li>- Restrictions on having fires (e.g. Campfire bans).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Rising sea levels</b><br>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk to people living on the coast/shoreline.</li> <li>- Impacts on wells and septic systems.</li> </ul>  |

Note: Icon images are attributed to Freepik.



## Overview of Presentations

### Future Warming in BC



### Climate Projections Conversation

*Kari Tyler, User Engagement and Training Specialist, Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC)*

Presentation on understanding climate change projections, the difference between climate and weather, and what the range of emission scenarios mean. *Graph by PCIC.*

Learn more: <https://pacificclimate.org/>



### My Climate Story & Food Security

*MacKenzie Breiteneder*

Presentation on MacKenzie's "Climate Story", her time with Fraser Basin Council's Co-Creating a Sustainable BC initiative, how youth can get involved with food security in BC, and personal goal setting. *Photo by MacKenzie Breiteneder.*

Learn more: <https://cutt.ly/ozVOT8A>



### Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Community Garden

*Claudette George, Tsleil-Waututh Nation*

Presentation on the community garden box initiative at Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The garden grows vegetables for community members and offers a chance to learn about nutrition and cultural traditions. *Photo by Claudette George.*

Learn more: <https://twnation.ca/>



### Riparian Restoration Projects in Haisla Traditional Territory

*Candice Wilson, Environment Manager, Haisla Nation Council*

Presentation on Haisla Nation's riparian restoration projects, which gave employment opportunities for Haisla members. Haisla is also engaged in monitoring with the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network. *Photo by Candice Wilson.*

Learn more: <https://haisla.ca/>



### Salmon and Riparian Restoration

*Morgan Guerin, Musqueam Indian Band*

Presentation on the different factors impacting salmon health on Musqueam territories, restoration projects done to date, and community education on environmental stewardship.

Learn more: <https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/>

## Regional Impacts & Actions

During the January 28 workshop, participants broke into discussion groups based on their geographic region. In these groups, they were asked to respond to the following questions:

- *What values are important for a resilient future?*
- *What are the most important climate impacts for your region?*
- *What work is already taking place in your region to build resilience to these impacts?*
- *What responses are needed in your region to become more resilient to these impacts?*

Below is a summary of those discussions, categorized by MNBC regions.

### VANCOUVER ISLAND & POWELL RIVER (MNBC REGION 1)

**Overarching Values:** Intergenerational learning, sustainable resource use, holistic thinking, inclusion, equity, Indigenous rights and title, traditional knowledge, reciprocity, seven generations, collective responsibility, collaboration, healing, land stewardship.



#### Priority Impacts

- Impacts on marine life.
- Quality of water.
- Increased precipitation, landslides, erosion cutting off access to landscapes.
- Ecosystem balance. Loss of old growth forests.
- Drought.
- Heat impacts on human and plant health.
- Rising sea level forcing relocation.



#### Current Work

- Guardian programs.
- Work on clam gardens and sea grasses.
- Salmon hatcheries, Sooke's Climate Change Action Committee.
- Preserving waterways and aquifers.
- Seed saving, permaculture.
- Invasive species removal.
- Parks Canada & Ditidaht First Nation cleaning Cheewat Lake watershed.



#### Needed Responses

- More IPCAs and Guardian programs.
- Better awareness about funding opportunities and help writing grants.
- Collaboration between Nations, Province, and Federal level.



## LOWER MAINLAND (MNBC REGION 2)

**Overarching Values:** Empathy, teamwork, collaboration, intergenerational learning, sustainability, biodiversity, equity (human and non-human), adaptability, innovation.



### Priority Impacts

- Food security, drying salmon streams.
- Population health, social inequity.
- Drought, forest fires.
- Invasive pests for agriculture.
- Warming waters.



### Current Work

- Reducing chemicals used in agriculture in the Fraser Valley.
- Waterwealth project: river temperature monitoring, data collection.
- Education in elementary and high schools.
- Fraser Health vulnerability assessment for health impacts.
- BC Housing resilient social housing project.



### Needed Responses

- Household permaculture.
- Community education. Mindset change (eg. need green lawns).
- Identifying streams for protection in land use plans.
- Indigenous leadership in environmental policies.
- Improve composting.

## THOMPSON, OKANAGAN & KOOTENAYS (MNBC REGION 3 & 4)

**Overarching Values:** Life as a gift, vivacity, playing on the land, land stewardship, caring for the next generations.



### Priority Impacts

- Threats to the watershed.
- Rising river water levels. Flooding.
- Forest fires.
- Industry impacts (mine spills, coal mines, fracking, pipelines).



### Current Work

- Flood infrastructure work.
- Tree adoption and volunteer fruit picking (bear safe program).
- Clean energy greenhouse.
- Kamloops community garden.



### Needed Responses

- Better communication with elders.
- Demonstrate that climate action does not need to be a sacrifice.

## NORTH CENTRAL, NORTHWEST & NORTHEAST (MNBC REGION 5, 6 & 7)

**Overarching Values:** Hope, culture, traditional knowledge, connection to land, land stewardship, youth, all our relations.



### Priority Impacts

- Healthy water.
- Biodiversity, ecosystem balance.
- Food security. Moose populations, salmon health, cariboo collapse.
- Wildfires. Forests also impacted by pine beetle, logging, recreation.
- Forestry and mining.



### Current Work

- Lobbying by Outdoor Recreation Council.
- Re-establishing salmon habitat by removing or modifying dams.
- FireSmart and emergency response plans.
- Local shopping, farmer markets. Community gardens, local producers.
- First Nations land use planning. Valuing less tangible metrics.
- Better monitoring.
- Salmon and water research.
- Sturgeon river law.
- Asserting land sovereignty.



### Needed Responses

- Education on policies.
- Teach young children where food comes from.
- Organized political action to keep industry in check.
- Decolonize mindsets and education.





Note: Icon images are attributed to Freepik and itim2101.

## MNBC Moving Forward



Over the course of the workshop series discussions, recommendations emerged from participants about priorities and action items for Métis Nation BC. The table below is a summary of suggestions that came out of the breakout discussions and post-workshop survey feedback.

Participants were asked:

- How should MNBC support your Chartered Community in [climate adaptation] work?
- What responses are needed in your region to become more resilient to [climate change] impacts?
- Which climate preparedness topics do you see as priorities for further education and training?

| Action Areas  | MNBC Moving Forward  |
|---|--|
| <b>Knowledge</b><br>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide education, awareness, share knowledge that is accessible and helps people take action.</li> <li>- Start with youth. Early childhood education.</li> <li>- Partner with universities on scientific research and data collection.</li> <li>- Métis film or book club, focusing on climate change.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Priority Education Topics</b><br>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency supplies and preparedness. Community emergency resilience.</li> <li>- Protecting homes from wildfire and flooding. Forest fire prevention.</li> <li>- Water security. Rainwater collection.</li> <li>- Wildlife behaviour and migration.</li> <li>- Food security, land-based food generation (gathering, hunting, trapping, gardening, food processing, seed saving) and land access.</li> <li>- How to strengthen Indigenous knowledge transmission and preservation.</li> <li>- Indigenous-led land restoration.</li> <li>- Solidarity economy.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Advocacy</b><br>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be more vocal and political. Bring Métis community to the forefront.</li> <li>- Advocate on behalf of communities to Environment Canada.</li> <li>- Advocate for decentralized power and more local control in the Water Sustainability Act.</li> <li>- Protect Métis harvesting areas. Work on establishing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).</li> <li>- Get involved in Columbia basin negotiations to protect water resources.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow up with members and report on the success of programs.</li> <li>- Add the climate context to harvester reporting. Get members involved in monitoring and reporting.</li> <li>- Look into accessibility of connections (no computer and no phone = no connection).</li> <li>- Partner with First Nations to monitor other aspects of climate change (on top of harvesting program).</li> <li>- Engagement and reporting on regional needs in relation to climate change.</li> </ul>   |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share regional data with members.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Programming</b><br>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide rewards or incentives to create change.</li> <li>- Make grants available for climate change projects and research.</li> <li>- Make climate programs easier to access, especially for remote communities.</li> <li>- More programs like MY Eco Action.</li> <li>- Connect Youth programs to Climate programs.</li> <li>- Provide opportunities for youth to access elders. Seasonal camps where Métis elders can teach youth how to live off the land.</li> <li>- Strengthen engagement and communications with elders.</li> </ul>                                      |
| <b>Priority Program Areas</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address poverty. Marginalized groups are most affected by climate change and have the least resources to address it.</li> <li>- Support local food security programs and local farmers. Build social connections and solidarity in local food systems. Education on growing food and food preservation. Regional program dropping off garden/food boxes and pots. Deliver food for elders, valuable for social interaction.</li> <li>- Engage youth in land stewardship and connecting with the land, especially urban youth.</li> <li>- Early childhood education.</li> </ul> |

Note: Icon images are attributed to Freepik.