

NECHAKO
WATERSHED
ROUNDTABLE

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE IN THE NECHAKO WATERSHED WORKSHOP

November 29, 2024





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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN THE NECHAKO WATERSHED “THE WATER THAT CONNECTS US”

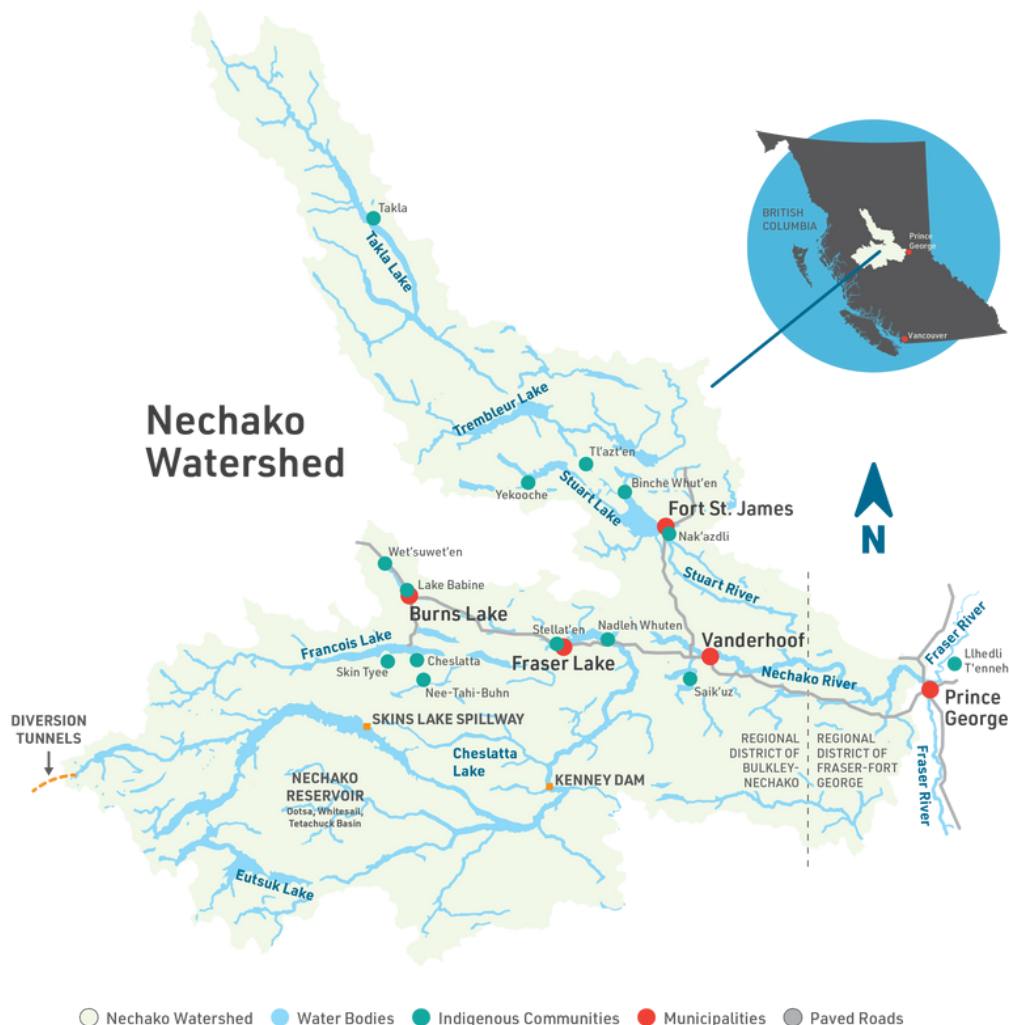
The Nechako Watershed

The Nechako Watershed is a roughly 47,200 km², which is over 1.5 times the area of Vancouver Island (31,285 km²). The Watershed combines areas drained by the Nechako River (originating in the east slopes of BC's Coast Mountains) and the Takla Lake-Stuart River drainage, prior to joining the Fraser River at Prince George. The land overlaps with 15 First Nations, 5 municipalities and 2 regional districts.

Indigenous Communities: Binche Whut'en, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Lake Babine, Llhedli T'enneh, Nadleh Whuten, Nak'azdli, Nee-Tahi-Buhn, Saik'uz, Skin Tyee, Stelat'en, Takla, Tl'azr'en, Wet'suwet'en, Yekooche

Municipalities: Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Prince George, Vanderhoof

Regional Districts: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN THE NECHAKO WATERSHED

“THE WATER THAT CONNECTS US”

DATE: November 29, 2024

TIME: 9:00am - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Sandman Signature Prince George (2990 Recreation Place)

NWR CO-CHAIRS: Gina Layte Liston & Kim Menounos

FACILITATOR: Dan George, Four Directions Management Services

Workshop Goals & Outcomes

- Learn how Nechako Watershed specific climate modelling gives insight into how current and future climate changes and events will impact the health of the environment, individuals and the economy
- Identify participant priorities of focus for climate change adaptation and resilience in the Nechako Watershed
- Create strong and consistent messaging for advocacy of priorities (e.g. Developing a framework for water sustainability planning)

Agenda

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
9:00am	Welcome, Housekeeping and Introductions	Dan George, Four Directions Management Services (FDMS)
9:10am	Territory Welcome and Blessing	Darlene McIntosh, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Elder and UNBC Chancellor
9:20am	Framing the Discussion	Dan George, FDMS
9:35am	Climate Change in the Nechako Watershed	Dr. Stephen Déry, University of Northern British Columbia
10:20am	Break	
10:40am	Current Trends in the Nechako Watershed 1. Economy 2. Health 3. Forestry	1. Greg Halseth, University of Northern BC 2. Raina Fumerton, Northern Health 3. John deGagne, Ministry of Forests

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN THE NECHAKO WATERSHED “THE WATER THAT CONNECTS US”

Agenda Cont.

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
11:40am	First Nations Action Plans Overview	Dan George, FDMS
12:15pm	Workshop Introduction: What we've heard, where we are going and how we can work together	Brian Frenkel, NWR Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Steering Committee Chair
12:30pm	Networking Lunch and Keynote Speaker Koh-Learning in our Watersheds: Integrating Youth in Sustainability	Dr. Margot Parkes & Johnathan Doyon, University of Northern British Columbia
1:30pm	Priority-Setting Discussion: 1. Survey results and takeaways 2. Facilitated dialogue to clarify priorities and collaboration synergies	Dan George, FDMS
3:00pm	Break	
3:10pm	Action Process & Scope: 1. Reaffirming the collective commitment to action 2. Drafting a framework for future action 3. Process next steps	Dan George, FDMS
4:20pm	Closing Remarks and Next Steps	
4:30pm	Adjourn	

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN THE NECHAKO WATERSHED

“THE WATER THAT CONNECTS US”

Primer Materials - Workshop pre-reading

Regional Climate Change Modelling

- [Assessing Potential Biophysical and Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change on Forest-Based Communities: A Methodological Case Study](#)
- [Scenarios of climate change and natural resource development: Complexity and uncertainty in the Nechako Watershed](#)
- [Towards an integrative understanding of British Columbia's Nechako Watershed: Connecting knowledge systems to strengthen understanding of climate change, watershed security, health and well-being](#)

Watershed Action

- [Yinka Dene 'Uza'hne Surface Water Management Policy](#) adopted by Nadleh Whut'en, Saik'uz, and Stelat'en First Nations

Public Health

- [2022 Health of Canadians report from Health Canada: Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate – Advancing our Knowledge for Action](#)
- [Watershed Management and Public Health: An Exploration of the Intersection of Two Fields as Reported in the Literature from 2000 to 2010](#)

First Nations Action Plans

- [Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC 2023-2030](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations Climate Action Plan: 2023 Climate Strategy Report](#)
- [BC First Nations Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gathering on Climate Change](#)

Nechako Portal

The Nechako Portal is a comprehensive geospatial platform that integrates diverse data types, including research articles, environmental monitoring data, BC fish observations, sampling site data, and community health information. The portal's spatial search functionality allows users to explore data in connection with specific geographic locations or features, fostering insights into watershed health by connecting environmental and societal factors. For more information or to access the portal visit: nechakowatershed-portal.ca



NECHAKO
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ROUNDTABLE

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2024 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, entitled **"The Water that Connects US"** took place on November 29th, 2024, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The meeting was held in-person at the Sandman Signature in Prince George, BC.

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) is grateful to Lheidli T'enneh First Nation for the opportunity to host the workshop on their Traditional Territory. We would like to thank Elder Darlene Macintosh for sharing her time and wisdom. Her welcome to the territory touched upon the importance of the Nechako Watershed and spread hope for the connection with the land and water.

Thank you also to Dan George and Tina Gillanders of Four Directions Management Services for workshop facilitation of the day's events.

We extend our appreciation to the following individuals for their contributions:

Dr. Stephen Dery, Dr. Greg Halseth, Dr. Raina Fumerton, John DeGagne, Brian Frenkel, Dr. Margot Parks & Jonathan Doyon.

Special thanks to the planning and organization of the Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience steering committee: Brian Frenkel, Rob van Adrichem, Diana Kutzner, Tannis Reynolds, Raina Fumerton, Nolan Thiffault, Kim Menounos, Tara Clapp & Terry Robert.

Funding for this event was provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada & the Ministry of Forests.

The purpose of this document is to summarize the key learnings from the workshop.

**Now is the time to join together and work collaboratively
towards solving local problems with local solutions.**



Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Ministry of
Forests



Dan George

President and CEO of Four Directions Management Services Ltd.

Dan George is a member of the Wet'suwet'en Nation and is recognized for his extensive experience in Indigenous governance, economic development, and reconciliation initiatives. He hosts the Reconciliation Road Podcast, which explores transformative conversations around Indigenous relationships and reconciliation efforts. Dan holds a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Management from Royal Roads University and is a Certified Professional Facilitator.

Dan set the stage, emphasizing how and why we need to do more work that moves us towards collaboration. Informing an understanding of how leaders can lay the **foundation of trust, that collaboration and action can be built upon.**

"Collaboration is inherently messy. Great ideas need some tension; otherwise, they would be easy to make. Ultimately, **people need to be respectful** of other people's roles, thoughts and what they bring to the table. These relationships only work if there is trust. You can only move at the **speed of trust**. At its core, trust can best be defined as **the willingness to be vulnerable to the actions of others** based on positive expectations of their intentions and behaviour. Trust is foundational for good governance and good process."

- Leaders must prioritize **change management** to guide teams through transitions smoothly, ensuring alignment and minimizing resistance.
- **Collaboration** fosters inclusivity and diverse problem-solving, strengthening team cohesion and outcomes.
- The **speed of trust** accelerates decision-making and execution by creating a foundation of reliability and credibility, essential for navigating challenges effectively.



For more information about the FDMS , visit <https://fdms.ca/index.php?2-about-us>:



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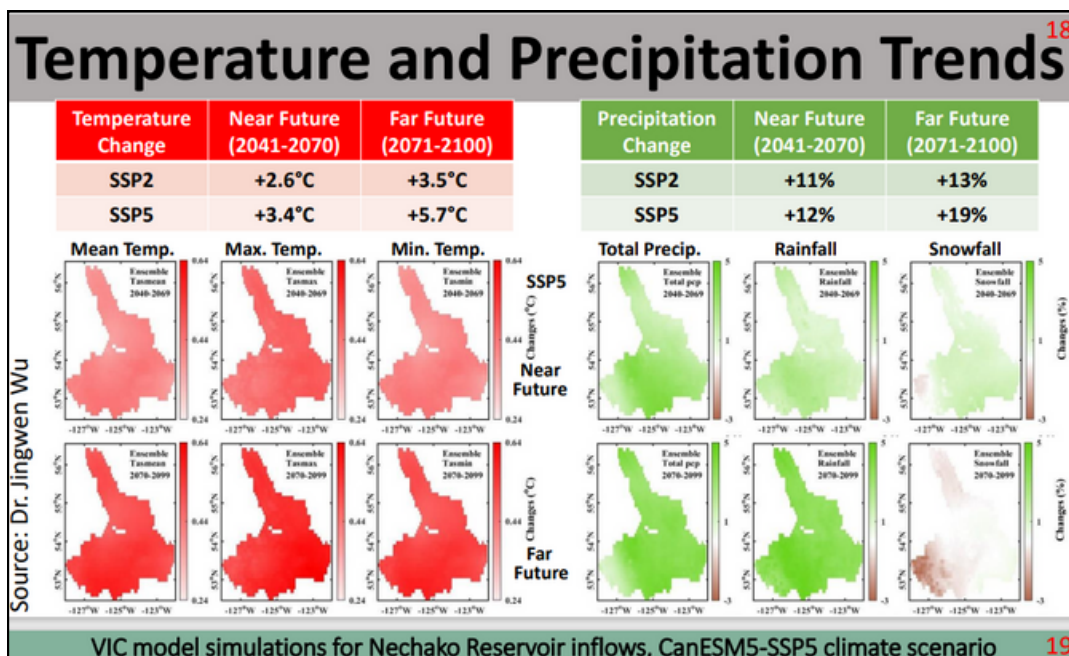
Climate Change in the Nechako Watershed

Presented by: Dr. Stephen Dery, IWRG, UNBC

Stephen D ry joined the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in 2005 as a faculty member and as a Canada Research Chair. He is now a full professor in UNBC's Department of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences where he leads the Northern Hydrometeorology Group and holds the NSERC / Rio Tinto Senior Industrial Research Chair in climate change and water security focusing on the Nechako Watershed. Dr. D ry is also a founding and active member of UNBC's Integrated Watershed Research Group (IWRG) that brings a holistic approach to integrated research on the vast and complex Nechako Watershed.

• Summary of historical climate change in Nechako Watershed

- Air temperature warmed by 2.1 C from 1950 to 2023.
- More pronounced trends in winter, less so in autumn.
- 2023 was the warmest year on record and third driest.
- Generally, more rainfall (particularly in spring) and less snowfall (mostly in winter) but no change in total annual precipitation over 1950-2023.
- Increased interannual variability in total annual precipitation since the 1980s.





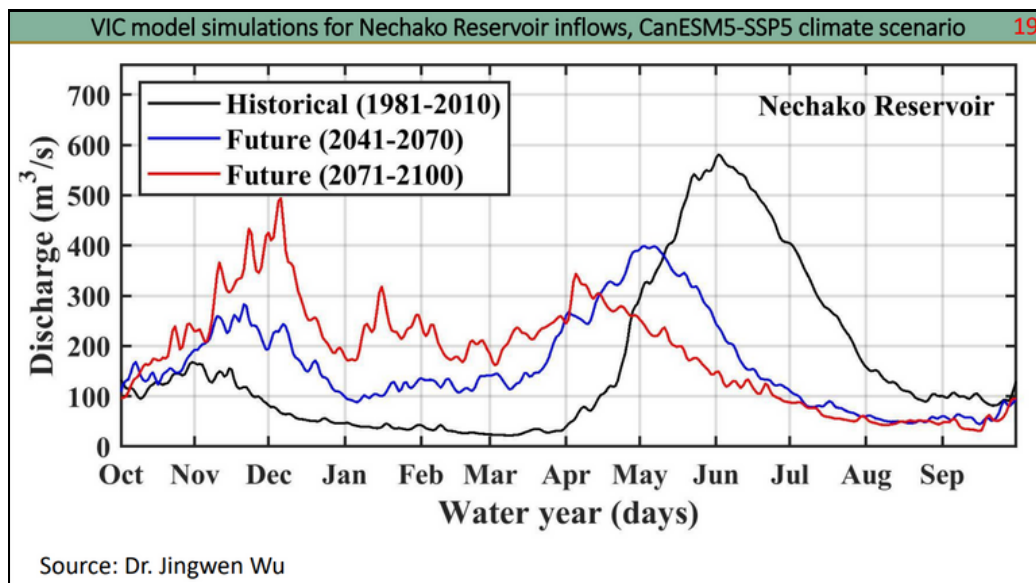
Climate Change in the Nechako Watershed Presented by: Dr. Stephen Dery, IWRG, UNBC

• Summary of potential future climate change in the Nechako Watershed

- Mean annual air temperature of the Nechako Watershed is anticipated to rise significantly by +3.0°C (near future) to +4.6°C (far future).
- Total annual precipitation may also rise from ~11% (near future) to ~16% (far future) with robust increases in rainfall and declines in snowfall.
- Future climate change will alter significantly the Nechako Watershed's hydrology including seasonality of flows while warming water temperatures.
- Amplified interannual variability in future climate conditions may result in greater potential for floods, droughts and wildfire activity.

• Summary and final thoughts

- The Nechako Watershed has warmed by >2°C in last 75 years.
- Climate model simulations project an amplification of these trends with up to an additional 5°C of warming by 2100.
- Changes in precipitation are anticipated, with robust increases in rainfall and decreases in snowfall.
- In response to this, streams may transition from snow- to rain dominated flows with enhanced potential for floods and droughts.
- This requires careful and immediate planning and actions to adapt to ongoing and potential future climate change.





Nechako, Climate Change and Resilience: A Community Development Perspective **Presented by: Dr. Greg Halseth, UNBC**

Greg Halseth is a Professor in the Department of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Northern British Columbia, where he is also the Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies and the founder and Co-Director of UNBC's Community Development Institute.

Dr. Halseth shared his knowledge surrounding the upcoming 50 years forecasting into 2070. His presentation discussed the stark realities of the climate crisis and what that could mean for our region. Within his assessment he provided hope, but emphasized the need to take action now so we can survive in future climate forecasts of 2070.

- We need to consider current and future need and build in a way that is suitable for our climate future.
- Federal and provincial responsibilities are being offloaded to a local level which can be good but leads to more responsibilities without increased capacity/ time/ money/ expertise.
- What does vision 2070 mean for climate and community and beyond?
- We need to be prepared for future agricultural needs. There is potential that the climate crisis can create possibilities with more food production in the area.
- As other areas become more drought stricken, water will become more of a commodity.
- Potential for "climate refugees" seeking more habitable places to live.
- There is a need to shift from reactive to proactive, from awareness to collaboration.



For more information on UNBC Community Development Institute (CDI) <https://www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute> or connect with Dr. Halseth at greg.halseth@unbc.ca.





Climate Impacts & Health-Action in Northern Health

Presenter: Dr. Raina Fumerton, NH

Dr. Raina Fumerton MD, MPH, PHPM is a medical doctor who completed her specialty training in public health and preventive medicine. She has been a Medical Health Officer with Northern Health for almost 11 years and supports the regional portfolios of Environmental Health as well as Climate Change and Health. Dr. Fumerton presented on the health impacts from climate change, focusing on key activities and learnings related to climate and sustainability at Northern Health.

- The health of the river ties to our health & wellbeing.
- What We're Learning: Climate Change & Health Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment.
 - Extreme heat events are increasing in frequency and duration, posing a greater threat to public health, and priority populations are at higher risk.
 - Wildfires are impacting health from smoke events to evacuations disrupting access to care, medicines, and supplies, and increasing stress and emotional trauma.
 - Recent flooding and drought events are demonstrating the connection between water and health impacts: Waterborne illness, disrupted supply chains and compromising infrastructure.
 - Mental health concerns, eco-anxiety increasing.
- What We're Doing: Climate & Sustainability Roadmap: Process & Early Findings.
 - 2024/5 Objective: Increase climate resiliency of our health system.
 - Develop a climate resiliency strategy and roadmap (March 2025).
 - Year over year reduction in total carbon emissions per FTE, adjusted for degree days.
- We need to get there together, remove silos and increase communication and collaboration.



SOURCE: FIGURE 1. HOWARD ET AL. THE LANCET PLANETARY HEALTH 7, NO. 3 (MARCH 1, 2023): E251-64. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1016/S2542-5196\(23\)00022-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(23)00022-0).



A Forester's Perspective

Presented by: John DeGagne, Ministry of Forests

John DeGagne, RPF, originally from northern Ontario, started working in BC as a tree planter in 1987, then moved into forestry consulting/contracting until 1998 when he started with Ministry of Forests (MoF) in Fort St. James. He now lives and works out of the Vanderhoof MoF office for the Omineca Region. Primarily interested in and responsible for the strategic delivery of wildfire recovery, ecosystem restoration and research programming.

In order for communities to weather the storm and build resiliency it starts with planning, followed by a rapid response when the event occurs.

- A plan makes a difference, 75% of communities who have a plan agree it is effective.
- A plan is a framework designed to guide community growth by setting objectives and strategies to enhance economic vitality, create jobs, and improve quality of life. Essentially a guiding light or road map for the economic path forward.
- Regional forest projections show low harvest availability for the next 50 years.
- We have not been harvesting at a sustainable level.
- Wildfires are continuing to burn larger and larger areas of land within the region.

Make your plan, if it isn't already made, and follow through.





First Nations Action Plans

Presenter: Dan George, FDMS

Dan set the stage for where we are and what we need to do, calling for an **urgent need for action**. Increasing wildfires, flooding and periods of drought have highlighted the need for enhanced climate adaptation strategies in British Columbia as the province faces increasing climate-related challenges. The climate crisis is outpacing B.C.'s and Canada's ability to adapt and exponentially affects First Nation communities and territories.

The BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan

- **Focus:** Comprehensive framework addressing climate crisis through Indigenous leadership, ecological restoration, and reducing emissions.
- **Key Themes:**
 - Upholding inherent rights and governance in climate action.
 - Enhancing community capacity and leadership.
 - Protecting ecosystems through sustainable practices.
 - Aligning with global frameworks like the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- **Approach:** Strategic, structured plan with 143 actionable items emphasizing collaboration between governments and Indigenous communities.





First Nations Action Plans (cont'd)

Presenter: Dan George, FDMS

BC First Nations Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gathering on Climate Change

- **Focus:** Restoring balance with nature through spiritual and cultural teachings.
- **Key Themes:**
 - Healing relationships with the land and people.
 - Revitalizing traditional laws, practices, and ceremonies.
 - Critiquing colonial systems and advocating Indigenous leadership in climate solutions.
 - Emphasizing interconnectedness and relational approaches to the environment.
- **Approach:** Rooted in spiritual values and cultural teachings, with a less formalized but deeply transformative lens.

Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC (2023–2030)

- **Focus:** Building resilience to climate-related disasters, such as wildfires, floods, and extreme weather.
- **Key Themes:**
 - Risk assessments tailored to local community needs.
 - Building disaster response capacity and infrastructure.
 - Incorporating traditional knowledge alongside modern emergency planning.
 - Strengthening partnerships with governments and stakeholders.
- **Approach:** Focuses on preparedness, response, and recovery to mitigate immediate climate-related risks, while advocating systemic reforms.

Comparison of the Three Plans

- **Shared Elements:**
 - All prioritize Indigenous leadership, traditional knowledge, and cultural practices.
 - Emphasis on collaboration with governments and other stakeholders.
 - Recognize the interconnectedness of environmental health and community well-being.
- **Differences:**
 - The **Climate Action Plan** is a broad, strategic blueprint addressing systemic issues and long-term sustainability.
 - The **Disaster Risk Reduction Plan** focuses on immediate and practical preparedness for climate-related disasters.
 - The **Knowledge Keepers Gathering** emphasizes spiritual and relational frameworks, advocating for a values-based transformation of human-nature relationships.

For more information on the individual Action Plans:



- [Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction by First Nations in BC 2023-2030](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations Climate Action Plan: 2023 Climate Strategy Report](#)
- [BC First Nations Spiritual Knowledge Keepers Gathering on Climate Change](#)



Workshop Introduction: What we've heard, where we are going and how we can work together
Presenter: Brian Fenkel, NWR Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Steering Committee Chair

"The question we are left with is this: how do we take everything we've learned this morning—from global, national, provincial, and First Nations perspectives—and apply it meaningfully to our watershed? It can sometimes feel like a daunting task."

Brian guided us through the historical journey of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR), highlighting both its successes and the challenges that have at times felt like bottlenecks. Over the past decade, many projects have gained momentum, with the NWR making steady progress, even if in small, incremental steps. Despite the challenges, the achievements to date reflect a strong foundation upon which to build. Brian emphasized that now is the time to focus on creating more robust and collaborative action plans to solidify and expand the work that the Nechako Watershed Roundtable can accomplish within the region.

As we consider the changes ahead—moving from a climate suitable for potatoes to one favorable for grapes—the question becomes: how do we adapt to such a profound shift? What should our priorities be today to ensure we are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow?

**Now is the time to join together and work collaboratively
towards solving local problems with local solutions.**





Koh-Learning in our Watersheds: Integrating Youth in Sustainability

Presenters: Dr. Margot Parkes & Jonathan Doyon, University of Northern British Columbia

Sharing lessons from a decade of collaborations that are informed by youth voices in the Nechako watershed, exemplified by Indigenous co-led events focused on climate, lands, water & health. Highlighting the importance of youth engagement and the co-benefits of bringing together youth and adult voices. Building a vision for how youth interact with climate change forecasting, their community and their health.

**A confluence, of coming together with differences,
to become a whole, moving in the same direction together.**

Jonathan shared that the process of youth coming together, to work on a common goal can become inspiring to those around. Witnessing the passion that can transform. He asked, "how do we make space to work together?" How can we set the proper foundation so we can all build the next level of solutions?

Successful Youth Engagement projects:

- The Murray Creek Restoration Project: How One Fish Can Impact the Health of a Community (2013)
- Stream Monitoring for Change in SDg1 (2019) Stories of the Nechako: Youth Perspectives (2022)
- Koh-Learning: Reflections on the Seasonal Rounds Digital Story (2024)
- Youth engagement in these ongoing collaborations also informed a series of Indigenous co-led and co-designed events focused on connecting climate, lands, waters & health

Looking Ahead:

- How to be in the same boat: and keep fueling intergenerational exchange?
- See with new eyes: how do we commit to the co-benefits of adult-youth interactions.?
- How to reflect the 'generosity' of youth engagement to inspire & cross boundaries?
- What if we choose to thrive together, now and across generations?





Survey Results and Takeaways

Facilitated by: Dan George, FDMS

Surveys sent out prior to the workshop were compiled and assessed by Dan George and his team at FDMS. The results highlighted some key findings leading to discussions around what climate resilience means, and how we work towards making change.

- **What does climate resiliency mean to you or your community?**

Climate resiliency means being able to live and maintain our way of life even as the environment changes. It's about adapting to new conditions, protecting resources, and reducing the impacts of climate change. Some communities focus on wildfire prevention, water management, and food security. It's also about communities thriving despite challenges, like extreme weather, and shifting to more sustainable practices. Some communities are already making changes, while others are still figuring out how to prepare for future challenges.

- **In what ways should we be working together versus individually?**

Together:

Communities should collaborate on learning, decision-making, and tackling complex projects. By working together, they can address common issues like watershed needs, forest resiliency, and climate impacts. Joint efforts can focus on securing resources, enforcing policies, and developing regional strategies. Collaboration is important for monitoring ecosystems, co-governance, and brainstorming solutions for extreme weather. Working together can also help identify local risks and mitigation strategies, improving efficiency and the overall capacity to respond to challenges.

Individually:

Individuals can contribute by focusing on specialized tasks, staying informed, and addressing community needs. They can work on practical actions like fire-smarting, reducing energy use, and cutting down on waste. Small, everyday actions, like reusing materials and reducing plastics, can add up over time. Each person can make a difference in their community, but large-scale project execution often requires collective effort. Sharing knowledge and research also helps build a stronger community response.



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Facilitated Dialogue to Clarify Priorities and Collaboration: Setting Priorities

Facilitated by: Dan George, FDMS

The survey results also provided 6 draft priorities. Setting priorities is crucial for maintaining focus, ensuring efficient use of resources, and guiding the collaboration toward its strategic goals in an aligned and coordinated manner. These 6 priorities as outlined below were used as the base for small group discussions.

- **Climate Adaptation and Resilient Infrastructure**

Boost community resilience through climate-conscious design, sustainable infrastructure, and improved emergency response systems.

- **Community Collaboration and Governance**

Foster collaboration with communities, Indigenous groups, and stakeholders to co-develop climate policies and resource management strategies.

- **Food Security and Self-Sustainability**

Enhance local food security through sustainable production, diversified sources, and improved access to fresh, affordable food.

- **Public Awareness, Education, and Health**

Promote climate literacy, support vulnerable populations, and enhance resilience through targeted health interventions and community-based research.

- **Water and Flood Management**

Ensure sustainable water management through conservation, water quality monitoring, and strengthened flood prevention systems.

- **Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness**

Reduce wildfire risk and improve disaster preparedness through proactive management and community education.



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Facilitated Dialogue to Clarify Priorities and Collaboration:

Reaffirming the Collective Commitment to Action.

Facilitated by: Dan George, FDMS

Overall Focus:

Effective climate strategies hinge on clear communication and collaboration across generations, sectors, and regions. Community-building efforts must prioritize inclusivity and accessibility for vulnerable populations, addressing power dynamics, reconciliation, and truth-telling. Strengthening connections across sectors such as supply chains, food security, and energy is essential to bolstering resilience. Building trust and mutual respect among Indigenous, local, and diverse community groups is critical for sustaining long-term collaborative efforts and ensuring all voices are heard.

Areas of Focus:

Collaboration & Governance

- Collaboration Focus: Break down operational silos across local, provincial, and Indigenous governments to address climate change's transboundary challenges.
- Shared Purpose: Prioritize human survival and environmental protection (water, air, wildlife, ecosystems).
- Co-Governance: Develop a shared vision involving diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous communities, governments, industry, and scientists.
- Key Principles: Emphasize adaptability, resilience, and intergenerational responsibility in decision-making.
- Goals: Prevent harm, ensure equitable collaboration, celebrate successes, empower communities, and value diverse perspectives.

Climate Crisis and Challenges

- Forestry & Deforestation: Habitat destruction and water cycle disruption due to unsustainable forestry practices.
- Water Security: Challenges from drought, rising water temperatures, and diminishing snowpack affecting agriculture, hydropower, and wildlife.
- Wildfire Risk: Increased wildfire threats necessitate effective wildfire-proofing strategies for community and ecosystem protection.
- Ecosystem Restoration: Priority on recovering salmon populations, enhancing biodiversity, and restoring watershed health.
- Air & Water Quality: Growing threats from industrial activity, pollution, and climate change impacting airsheds and waterways.
- Economic Impacts: Strains on land- and water-dependent industries, risking economic downturns tied to environmental degradation.



Facilitated Dialogue to Clarify Priorities and Collaboration:

Reaffirming the Collective Commitment to Action (Cont'd)

Facilitated by: Dan George, FDMS

Areas of Focus:

Inclusion & Stakeholder Involvement

- Broad Stakeholder Engagement: Inclusive participation from Indigenous peoples, youth, elders, healthcare, forestry, fisheries, and local governments ensures diverse perspectives and expertise.
- Indigenous Knowledge: Traditional knowledge provides critical guidance on sustainable land stewardship, resource management, and resilience strategies.
- Youth Involvement: Vital for succession planning and sustaining long-term climate resilience efforts.
- Elder Wisdom: Essential for navigating climate impacts, leveraging lived experiences and community guidance.
- Collaborative Partnerships: Governments, scientists, economists, Indigenous leaders, and communities must work together for holistic and equitable climate adaptation solutions.

Resources & Needs:

- Resource Investment: Financial and human resources are crucial for advancing climate adaptation, with strategic funding to support local capacity-building and community-led initiatives.
- Sustainable Funding Model: Establish long-term funding mechanisms, including toolkits to help local communities access resources for grassroots climate projects.
- Government Priorities: Shift focus toward green energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient practices, integrating traditional knowledge for holistic solutions.
- Bureaucratic Barriers: Remove obstacles to progress by empowering local communities to control resource allocation and tailor climate responses to regional needs.

Action and Communication:

- Cross-Sector Collaboration: Foster effective communication across generations, sectors, and regions to create cohesive climate strategies.
- Inclusive Community-Building: Ensure resilience efforts are accessible to vulnerable populations, addressing power dynamics, reconciliation, and truth-telling.
- Strengthened Connections: Integrate sectors like supply chains, food security, and energy to enhance community resilience.
- Relationship Building: Prioritize trust and mutual respect among Indigenous, local, and diverse community groups for sustained collaboration and inclusivity.



The workshop was a resounding success with strong participation and networking opportunities resulting in new connections being made. Dan George and his FDMS team facilitated discussions emphasizing the urgent need for collaborative action to address the climate crisis in the Nechako Watershed. Participant engagement underscored the importance of fostering cross-regional partnerships, promoting equity, and integrating traditional Indigenous knowledge with scientific expertise.

Key challenges include water security, biodiversity loss, wildfires, and economic impacts, all requiring innovative, community-led solutions. A shared vision for co-governance emerged, highlighting the ethical responsibility to protect the environment for future generations through adaptable, resilient strategies. Central to this effort is the inclusion of diverse voices—Indigenous communities, youth, elders, scientists, and local stakeholders—working together to ensure sustainable practices and shared leadership.

By prioritizing resources, removing bureaucratic barriers, and fostering trust, the group called for a unified approach to secure the future of the watershed and its interconnected ecosystems, celebrating the water that connects and sustains us all.

**Now is the time to join together and work collaboratively
towards solving local problems with local solutions.**





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Contact

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