

3. Project Tasks and Activities Completed

3.1. Establishment of a Project Working Group and Community Open House

The Project Lead, Margaret Ireland, organized the Project Working Group consisting of seven members from JMR, and consultants from PACTeam Canada. An initial working group meeting was held on July 13, 2010. PACTeam Canada delivered a presentation to the working group about climate change in general, and the current and potential impacts climate change may have on the people and the environment of northern Canada, to demonstrate how climate change is linked to new and existing environmental, economical, cultural, and social changes that affect the health of people, communities, and wildlife in northern Canada. The discussion at the meeting also focused on:

- The goals, and objectives, and activities of this project;
- The role of the working group;
- How health is being, and can be impacted by climate change, and;
- Some initial observations and discussions about current impacts being observed and experienced in the community or out on the land.

A community open house was arranged by the Project Working Group at the JMRFN Band Office on July 14, 2010. Posters explaining climate change and future climate projections, and its impacts to the health of the community, people, culture, and the environment of the JMRFN were displayed in the gymnasium and videos about climate change were shown. Members of the working group were also available to answer any questions members of the community who attended the open house had about the project and climate change.

A one page handout was also put into each community member's mailbox at the Band Office informing them of this project, its purpose, and the need for community support for researching and responding to climate change (see Appendix 1).

3.2. Literature Review

A literature review of primary sources pertaining to climate change and health included the following topics:

- Current and potential climate change impacts on people and ecosystems in northern Canada (Anisimov et al. 2007; Berkes and Jolly 2001; Berner et al. 2005; Environment Canada 1997; Fast and Berkes 1999; GNWT 2008; Guyot et al. 2006; Huntington et al. 2005; IISD 2000; Kochtubajda et al. 2006; Nuttall et al. 2005; Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources 2009; Scott and Lemieux 2007; and Wrona et al. 2005).
- Examples of adaptation approaches and strategies available for small remote northern Aboriginal communities to respond to climate change (Berner et al. 2005; Berkes and Jolly 2001; CIER 2006; Daniel et al. 2007; GNWT 2008; Ford and Furgal 2009; Ford et al. 2010; Nuttall et al. 2005; Patino, 2010; and Séguin and Berry, 2007).
- Future climate projections (ACIA 2005; IPCC 2007; Kochtubajda 2006; and NRC 2009).
- The interconnections of climatic, environmental, and social/cultural changes; and their impacts on health (Anisimov et al. 2007; Berner et al. 2005; Daniel et al. 2007; Fast and Berkes 1999; and Guyot et al. 2006).
- Western Medical Science and Dene perspectives regarding health (Parlee et al. 2007; and Séguin and Berry, 2007).
- The importance of traditional knowledge (TK) in climate change research for revealing how changes in climate are linked to changes in the environment and the community, and the importance of TK for developing adaptation strategies (Berkes and Jolly 2001; Newton et al.

2005; Nuttall et al 2005; Pearce et al. 2009; Séguin and Berry 2007; and Turner and Clifton 2009).

From the literature review the following environmental impacts associated with climate change were identified that were applicable to the Dehcho Region:

- More unpredictable weather and occurrences of extreme weather;
- Warmer winters and warmer temperatures in lakes in rivers;
- Changes in the amount of snow and rain;
- Increase in the number, size, and frequency of forest fires;
- Changes to migration routes of caribou, birds, and fish;
- New wildlife and plant species;
- Habitat changes for existing wildlife and plants;
- Changes in the timing of ice break-up and freeze-up;
- Increased melting of permafrost, impacting roads, bridges and buildings;
- Less predictable ice conditions, and;
- Lower water levels for lakes and rivers including the Mackenzie River.

Many of these impacts are already being observed and experienced by our people. A list of the references cited in this report is included in the form of an annotated bibliography provided in Section 8. For each source a summary is provided highlighting the climate change research that has been conducted in partnership with Aboriginal communities in northern Canada, as well as any gaps in the research.

3.3. Preparation for Interviews

Prior to conducting any interviews with community members the JMRFN applied for ethics clearance and a research permit from the Aurora Research Institute. The JMRFN ethics clearance application was approved September 10, 2010. A copy of the letter of approval and the research permit are included in Appendix 2.

An interview guide was developed that includes instructions on how to conduct the interview, and the questions to be asked. This document was reviewed and approved by the Project Lead. A standard consent form was also drafted prior to the interviews, and reviewed and approved by the Project Lead. A copy of both the finalized interview guide and the consent form are included in Appendix 3 and 4 respectively.

As part of the youth engagement strategy proposed for this project to raise awareness among youth about climate change and its impacts at the community level, PACTeam Canada prepared a presentation about climate change, an experiment to demonstrate what an enhanced greenhouse gas effect is, and a school assignment for the students to complete. A copy of the lesson plan for the experiment conducted is included in Appendix 5.

3.4. Interviews and School Presentation

Seven semi-structured one-on-one interviews were conducted with community members by Margaret Ireland and Ryan Brown (PACTeam Canada) at the JMRFN Band Office. Prior to beginning the interviews, participants were asked to review, or have translated the consent form and sign the form if they agreed to be interviewed. Four of the interviews were conducted in English, and three were conducted in Slavey. Margaret Ireland conducted the interviews in Slavey, and when necessary provided