Final Report: Impacts to the Health and Wellness of The Jean Marie River First Nation in the Face of a Changing Climate

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