

Appendix 3: Interview Guide

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Preparing For the Interview

- i. Set up the recording equipment.
- ii. Assign the participant a PIN.
- iii. Review the project purpose and objectives.
- iv. Ask the participant to sign the consent form.
- v. Check the recording equipment.

Conducting the Interview

- i. Introduce the interview session.

Start each interview with the following introduction:

“Over the last 15-20 years the climate in the Northwest Territories has been changing noticeably, with a general warming trend being observed and experienced in most regions. As part of an effort to document these observations and experiences of climate change and to assess any impacts related to physical, cultural, community, and environmental health we need to collect some information about the long term changes in weather and any associated impacts these changes are having on the people and traditional territory of the Jean Marie River First Nation. This information will be used to identify and assess how long term changes in the weather are impacting the health of the community and individual community members, as well as the health of plants and animals. Today I'd like to ask you about your knowledge and observations in regard to climate change. We'll record this information using audio recorders.”

After the participant has reviewed and signed the consent form proceed with the following:

“I have just reviewed the permission form with (participants name), which he/she has signed, and we are now going to conduct the interview. We are here in (location of interview) in (location) to do an interview about (participant's name)'s observations and experiences concerning climate change and its impacts on the environment and community of Jean Marie River with (participant's name), and it is (date). My name is (your name) and also helping with this interview is (assistant interviewers). (Translator's name) is translating (and mention anyone else that is present observing). (Participant) has been assigned (PIN #).”

- ii. Proceed through the interview guide.

Interview questions that participants will be asked are:

General Questions

1. What is your name?
2. When were you born?
3. Where were you born?

4. How long have you lived in Jean Marie River?
5. What is your livelihood?

Questions Related to Changes in Weather, the Environment, and Culture

6. What was the weather like when you were younger? *Prompts: seasons, snowfall, rainfall, storms, heat waves.*
7. Have you noticed any changes in the weather that you would consider unusual (in terms of changes in temperature, precipitation, wind direction/velocity, and storms/blizzards)—think of seasonal and yearly changes?
 - A. In Spring?
 - B. In Summer?
 - C. In Fall?
 - D. In Winter?
8. How long ago do you remember noticing these unusual changes in weather?
9. In this time period have you noticed any changes to the land, vegetation, or lake and rivers that you think may be connected to these changes in the weather? (*e.g. changes to the topography, soil, berries, medicinal plants, trees, time of freeze up and break up on lakes and rivers*)
 - A. Are these changes positive? If so how?
 - B. Are these changes negative? If so how?
10. Have you noticed any changes to the wildlife that you think may be connected to these changes in the weather? (*e.g. changes in the migration routes, appearance of new species, reproductive cycles, and health of large game animals, furbearers, fish, birds or insects*)
 - A. Are these changes positive? If so how?
 - B. Are these changes negative? If so how?
11. Do you still harvest resources from the land? Which ones? How often are you out on the land?
12. Have the changes in weather changed how you traditionally interact with the land and resources?
[Follow up questions] If so, how have these changes affected:
 - A. Harvesting times and patterns?
 - B. Harvesting practices?
 - C. The types of animals or plants that may be harvested?
 - D. Travel conditions and access to harvesting areas?
 - E. Your ability to predict weather and timing of animal migrations?
13. Have you noticed any changes in water quality? Is the water warmer/colder? Is it murkier?
14. Do you feel comfortable drinking water from lakes and rivers? If not, why? Have you heard of people getting sick from drinking the water?

Questions Related to Physical, Community, and Cultural Health Impacts Caused by Climate Change

15. Do you have any major health issues?
16. Do you think any of your health issues are related to changes in climate? How?
17. Are changes in the weather affecting your health? (*e.g. get colds or the flu more often in a year, allergies, frostbite, sunburn, cataracts, etc.*)
18. Think of your friends and family for a moment. What are some of the major health issues they are facing?
 - a. Can you remember if people faced the same health issues when you were younger?
 - b. Are there Dene words for these health issues (cancer, heart disease, asthma, allergies, sunburn, heat exhaustion, frostbite...)?
19. Do you think any of these health issues are related to changes in climate? How?
20. Are changes in the weather affecting activities of your life at home? (*e.g. traveling, socializing, raising children, household activities, etc.*) How are you responding to these changes?
21. Are changes in the weather affecting your livelihood? (*e.g. traveling conditions, workplace, length of seasonal work, socializing, etc.*) How are you responding to these changes?
22. List some things that you think are necessary for your community to be healthy? How are these affected by the changing weather in either a good or bad way?
23. What are some things that make your community unhealthy? How are these affected by the changing weather in either a good or bad way?
24. Are changes in the weather affecting aspects of community life in relation to community events, interactions with other communities, or the education of younger generations?
25. Are changes in the weather affecting aspects of the local economy – fisheries, forestry, tourism, etc.?
26. Is the community responding to these changes? If so, what is the community doing differently now to respond to these changes?

Questions Related to Knowledge of, and Responses to Climate Change

27. Are you concerned with changes in the weather at this time? If so, why?
28. What do you think people can do within the community or the Deh Cho region as a whole to address some of these concerns?
29. From what sources do you rely on for your information concerning the weather? (*e.g. television, radio, traditional knowledge*)
30. Have you heard about climate change or global warming before? From where? What is your opinion of climate change?

- iii. Introduce each new digital voice recording file.
- iv. Close the interview session.

Conclude the interview with the following closing:

“We are here in the (location of interview) and have just completed a climate change interview with (participant name). It is (date). My name is (interviewer name) and also helping with this interview are (names of others helping), and (name of anyone else observing or translating).”

- v. Turn the digital voice recorder off.