



Climate CARE Assembly

Presentation to
Community Based Research Canada

June 12th 2025

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Kristopher Peters, FNESS & Community Advisory Circle

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the lands, waters, relationships and stories informing this project





First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



Making a difference...together



First Nations'
Emergency Services Society
O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A



Ministry of
Health

Funding Provided by



Advisory Circle

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Presentation Overview

- ❖ Research Question & Context
- ❖ Caring Democracy: Practical Applications
- ❖ Methodology and Methods
- ❖ Preliminary Findings
- ❖ Discussion
- ❖ Conclusion

Project Overview

Our story

Ministry of Health seed funding to address the research question:

- ❖ *What barriers prevent access to public space for vulnerable communities during extreme weather events?*
- ❖ Growing the team, partnerships
- ❖ Community-engaged research and mixed methods

“

Only a holistic and politically grounded rethinking of care can adequately address the present situation. ”

Joan Tronto,
Caring Democracy

Literature Highlights

Four identified categories of public health risks associated with extreme weather (Ebi, et al., 2021):

- (1) physical hazard during the event;
- (2) exposure duration to hazard;
- (3) vulnerability of the individual and community;
- (4) preparedness, management, and recovery capacity from the event

It is also well-documented that socially constructed marginalization is a barrier to medical and health care for individuals and communities.

CARE:

Community

Actions and

Responses to

Extreme weather events





Methodology

- Mixed methods/multiple methodologies
 - Quantitative survey and qualitative climate CARE circles
 - Community-engaged research
- Deliberative policy analysis
 - Policy listening
 - Convening a 'mini-public'
- Design justice and co-creation
 - Participatory
 - Storytelling



Story-Telling

Climate CARE Context

Governance

- Many actors/policy players: health, environment, emergency, and also housing, transportation, etc.
- More funding for acute events rather than long-term planning
- Prevention appears to be an afterthought

Defining the Problem

- Fragmented jurisdiction and responsibility
- Alert messaging often inconsistent, i.e. differing temperature thresholds/triggers, affecting distribution of funds
- Shifting definitions and experiences of vulnerability, making it difficult to have coherent policy responses

Key Considerations

- Preparedness often covered by non-governmental agencies – local authorities often filling a gap, ad hoc
- Need for a more holistic approach to the “disaster management cycle”: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
- How to look beyond the vulnerable/resilient binary

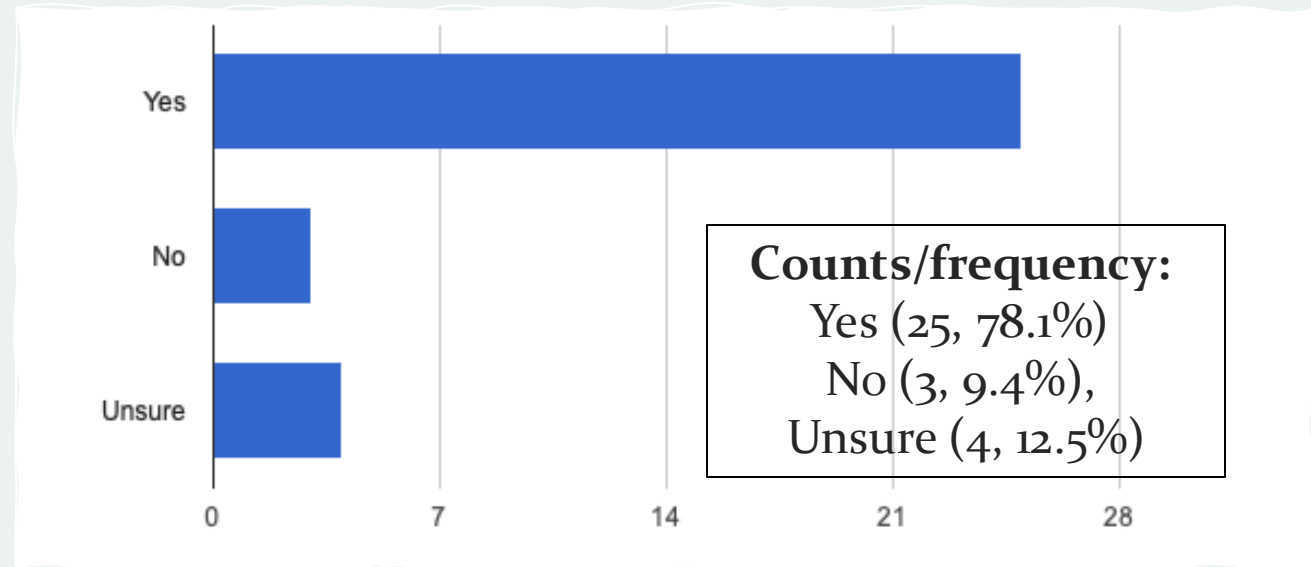
Preliminary Findings

- Sent to 400+ emergency coordinators across the province
 - Currently: ~50 responses
- Questions include:
 - demographics
 - employment status
 - health impacts
 - access to barriers
 - communication
 - policy strategies

Survey Snapshot

Question:

In your emergency coordination leadership role, have you noticed an increase in health concerns (emotional, physical, and mental health, and/or quality of life) of the communities you serve, due to extreme weather events?





GOVERNANCE & DECISION-MAKING

ACCOUNTABILITY

LOCAL & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

We only have one main highway, that's one of our major barriers.

DELAYS

FUNDING

SAFETY SPACES

Our smaller communities, they don't have the budget to do prep work.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, PLANNING & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

PROVINCIAL REGIONAL LOCAL

COORDINATION

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFE SPACES

PRIORITIES

- ☒ Safety
- ☒ Trust
- ☒ Design

OPEN TO ALL

MOBILITY

ACCESSIBILITY

NATURAL

INFRASTRUCTURE

shaded green space

TIMELY ALERTS & RESPONSES

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

CARE RESEARCH PROJECT
Illustrated by LAKSHYATA KUMARI

Where there were bridges, there's no water coming through... like the droughts.

COOLING & WARMING CENTRES

BRIDGING GAPS IN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH!

RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

EMERGENCY PLANS

CAPACITY & HUMAN RESOURCES

TRAINING GAPS

STAFF BURNOUT

VOLUNTEER NETWORKS

Key Themes

1. Governance
2. Communications and Public Engagement
3. Infrastructure, Safe and Inclusive Spaces
4. Administration and Human Resources,
Workforce and Capacity

Preliminary Findings

Governance

Transcript excerpt:

*It's very difficult, like even to get an [EMCR task] number. This is something I ran into this year for the extreme cold...**there's a lot of bureaucracy** that's within it, and you got to do this and check this box and check that box and, well, even if you do that, **you might not actually get covered**...I've heard similar to that..both federal for First Nations and provincial, is that it's **very much left up to the community to figure out** and kind of guess, a lot of guesswork on those bureaucratic pieces of paper...*

~Emergency Coordinator, Interior Region, 11 April 2025

Preliminary Findings

Communications & Public Engagement

Transcript Excerpt:

*...we just recently started...we never really all had access to Internet.... You know, we all lived off of the landlines and they just recently took that out. So not too many people have any landlines left...**communication wise, it's really difficult unless you have access to the internet...**you really need wheels out here to just communicate with our elderly out here.*

~Emergency Coordinator, Northern Region, 24 April 2025

Preliminary Findings

Transcript excerpt:

*...our smaller communities they don't have the budget to do prep work like it's not in their budget to like preset up a cooling space, ...**they have to rely on EMCR for funding...not released until the event** ...do their best to utilize existing infrastructure and programs like ...extending hours of a pool, or ...skating rink during the summer. But the problem often...**there isn't staff available to keep those open for extended hours, or a lot of the infrastructure is also aging**...might not have...proper HVAC... to be like a cool or clean air space or ...isn't that much public infrastructure like some of our communities like maybe have...one community center that's like an old building in a field, you know, like **there's not like this plentiful, plentiful public infrastructure.***

Infrastructure, Safe,
and Inclusive Spaces

~Emergency Coordinator, Interior Region, 29 April 2025

Preliminary Findings

Administration and
Human Resources,
Workforce and Capacity

Transcript Excerpt:

...a lot of the support that people receive at a local level is going to be from community social services. Which deliver most of the services that that people receive for a variety of intersectional issues that overlap with the effects of climate disasters...

~Emergency Coordinator, Island Region, 8 May, 2025.



Closing the Circle

ARE YOU A LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY DURING AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT?

Please complete our survey for a project entitled:

CARE Assembly

*Co-Creating Equity-Informed Emergency Planning and Policy with
Affected Communities to Address Extreme Weather Events in
British Columbia*



<https://redcap.link/climatecare>



Questions?

Email our research team at
climatecareuvic@gmail.com

or

Check out our website:

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/care/>

Human Research Ethics Office
University of Victoria
250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca



The School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria is situated on traditional and unceded Coast Salish territory. We acknowledge with respect the Lekw'ənən (Xwsepəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose lands we stand, and the Lekw'ənən historical relationships with the University of Victoria.

Climate CARE Research

Project Email:

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Join in the Conversation / Share with Others:

REDcap Survey:

<https://redcap.link/climatecare>

Project Website

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/care/>



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