



Interior Health

# Climate Change, Health and Well-being



Medical Health Officer Report 2023 | Interior Health Region

Dr. Sue Pollock, Medical Health Officer

Dr. Martin Lavoie, Chief Medical Health Officer

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Health and well-being for all  
Quality | Integrity | Compassion | Safety

# Overview of Report

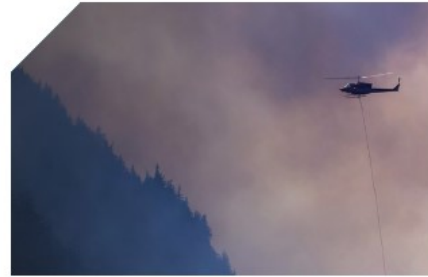
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**Introduction**



**Case for Change**



**Climate Hazards  
and Actions**



**Co-benefits of Climate  
Action on Health and  
Well-being**



**Recommendations**



# Climate Hazards: What are we experiencing in the IH region?



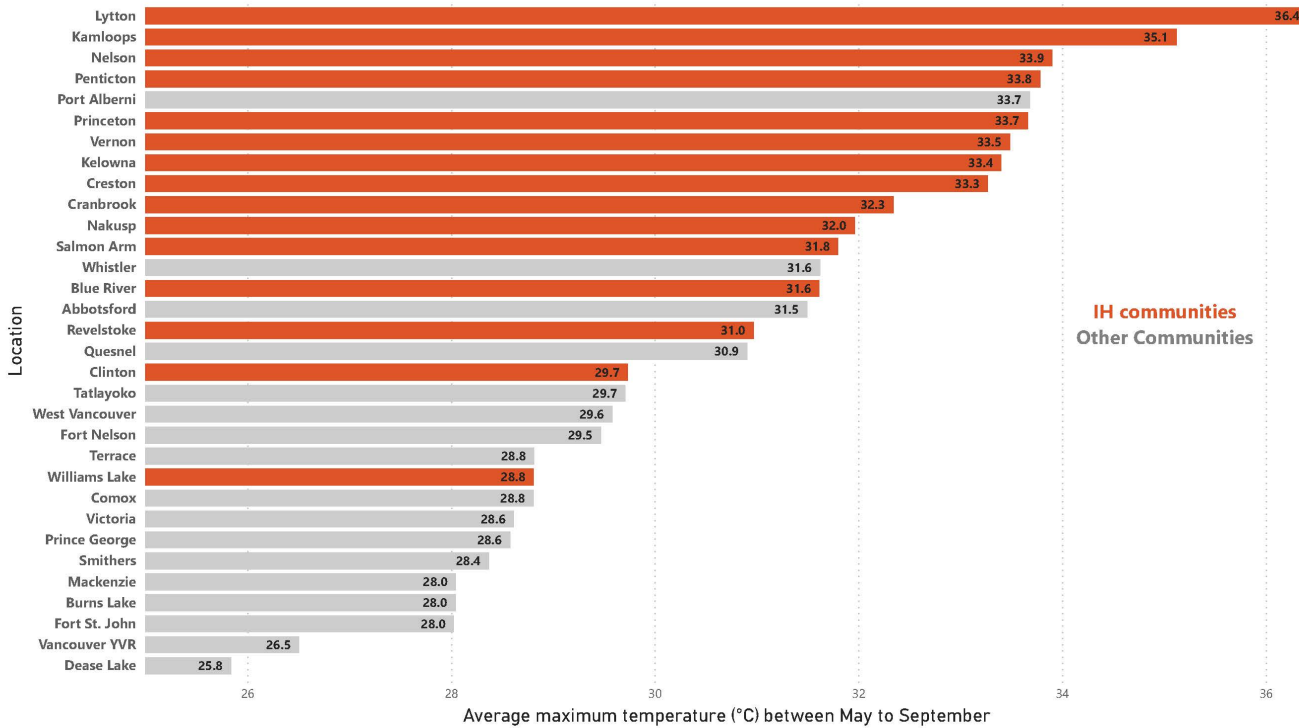
- What is the hazard?
- How is the hazard affecting health & well-being?
- Who is being affected most?
- How do we take action?

- Extreme Heat
- Cold Exposure
- Flooding
- Wildfires and Smoke
- Drought



# Climate Hazards: Climate and Health Data

Figure 1: Communities in B.C. ranked from high to low for average maximum temperature recorded between May to September (2019-2023)



64

Heat-related deaths during the June 25- July 1, 2021 Heat Dome

50%

occurred in the Okanagan Health Services Delivery Area

38%

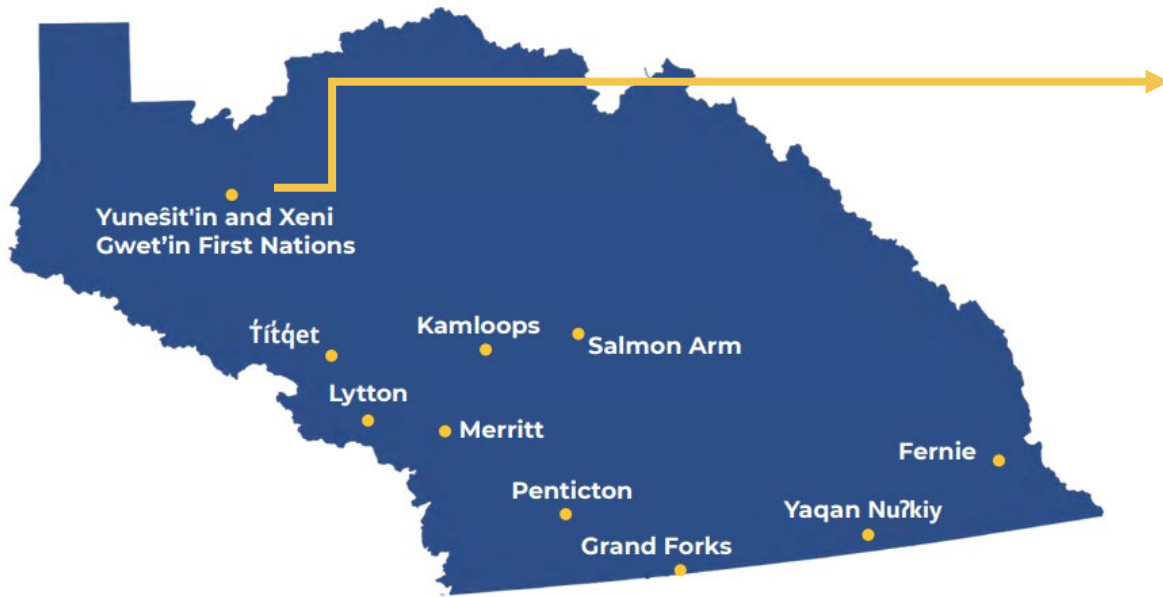
occurred in the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Services Delivery Area

9/10

deaths occurred indoors



# Climate Action: Community Stories



Watch Revitalizing Traditional Fire Management in Tsilhqot'in Territory

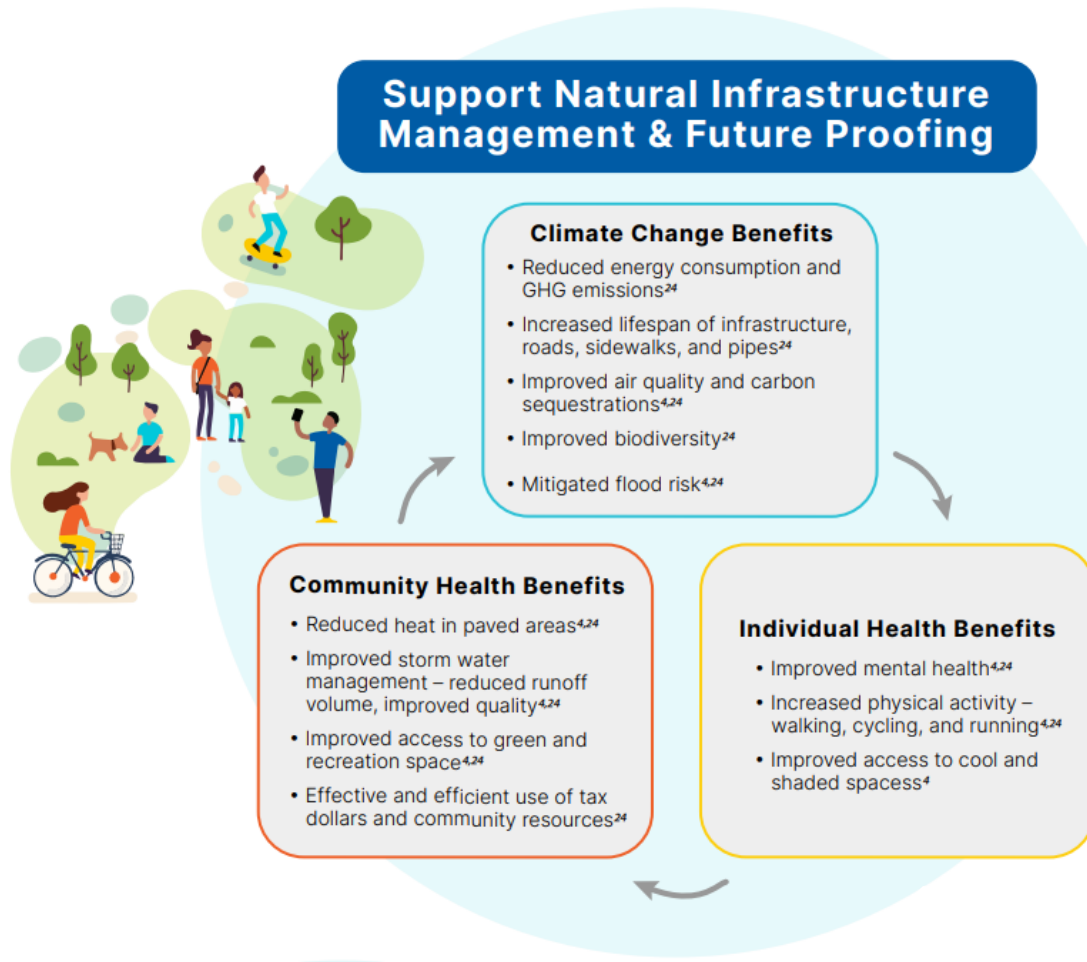


## Case Study 10

Indigenous Knowledge Systems with Western Science for Forest Management – Yunešit'in and Xení Gwet'in First Nations






# Climate Action: Multiple Benefits for Individuals and Communities



City of Fernie – Annex Neighbourhood Active Transportation and Flood Mitigation Project



# Recommendations

 Interior Health	 Community Partners	 Provincial Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fulfill commitments in the IH <i>Indigenous Health and Wellness Strategy 2022-2026</i> and the <i>Métis Nation BC-Interior Health Métis Health and Wellness Plan 2024-2028</i></li><li>• Implement the actions within the IH <i>Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap 2023-2028</i></li><li>• Apply lessons from past climate-related events</li><li>• Create and endorse policies and programs that promote the co-benefits of health system action on climate change</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support Indigenous-led actions</li><li>• Partner with IH on climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments</li><li>• Work in partnership with IH and other partners on heat, cold, flooding, drought, wildfire and smoke preparedness and response</li><li>• Endorse policies and programs that build on community assets and promote the co-benefits of climate action on health and well-being</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Centre discussions in alignment with Indigenous perspectives and voices</li><li>• Align vision and goals on climate change across provincial ministries</li><li>• Strengthen provincial climate change and health governance structures and provide effective support for community-level actions</li><li>• Ensure equitable allocation of resources to communities that are most impacted by climate change</li><li>• Coordinate health assessments and surveillance in relation to climate change and health</li></ul>