

Thompson Rivers University & Kamloops Women's Resource Group Society

Community Level Adaptation to Climate Change, Disasters and Sustainable Development

HEALTH IMPACTS

This study aims to better **understand the impacts of climate change** by affected community members from their perspectives. Apart from the economic, environmental, and social factors, the **health** of community members has also become a **growing issue**. During the interviews and focus group discussions, participants were asked: **“Has climate change impacted your health? Have you noticed any changes in your health? How are you responding or adapting to the effects of climate change on your health?”** The responses throughout the communities touched on an underlying theme of **respiratory health issues**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES

“My son has asthma and in the summer time I listen to the radio and the air quality advisory council ... I have got to keep him in [side] [otherwise it is harder for him, he doesn't go into a full blown attack, but it is harder for him to be outside and breathe and you know there are three or four [kids] in his class that have asthma whereas when I was going to school there was like one or two kids in the entire school that had [it], now it is a reality.” – Quesnel

“Wood smoke is another big issue, and with the cost of fuel and hydro going up, a lot of people are going back to wood smoke and yeah, it's a real situation ...” – Quesnel

“High risk for maternity, they have even come to the point of having a respiratory therapist in the hospital which is quite unusual for small towns.” – Quesnel

“I ride my bike a lot more, so physically I am probably in better shape than before, but I also started to have breathing problems from riding my bike on full ... breathing problems, so I think it goes hand in hand here ...” – Prince George

“I was sick for four months last semester and yeah I had like [a] horrible cough, like asthma and stuff, I was not well, it was just like school or weather or you know the air, it is hard to say.” – TRU Eco Club

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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