

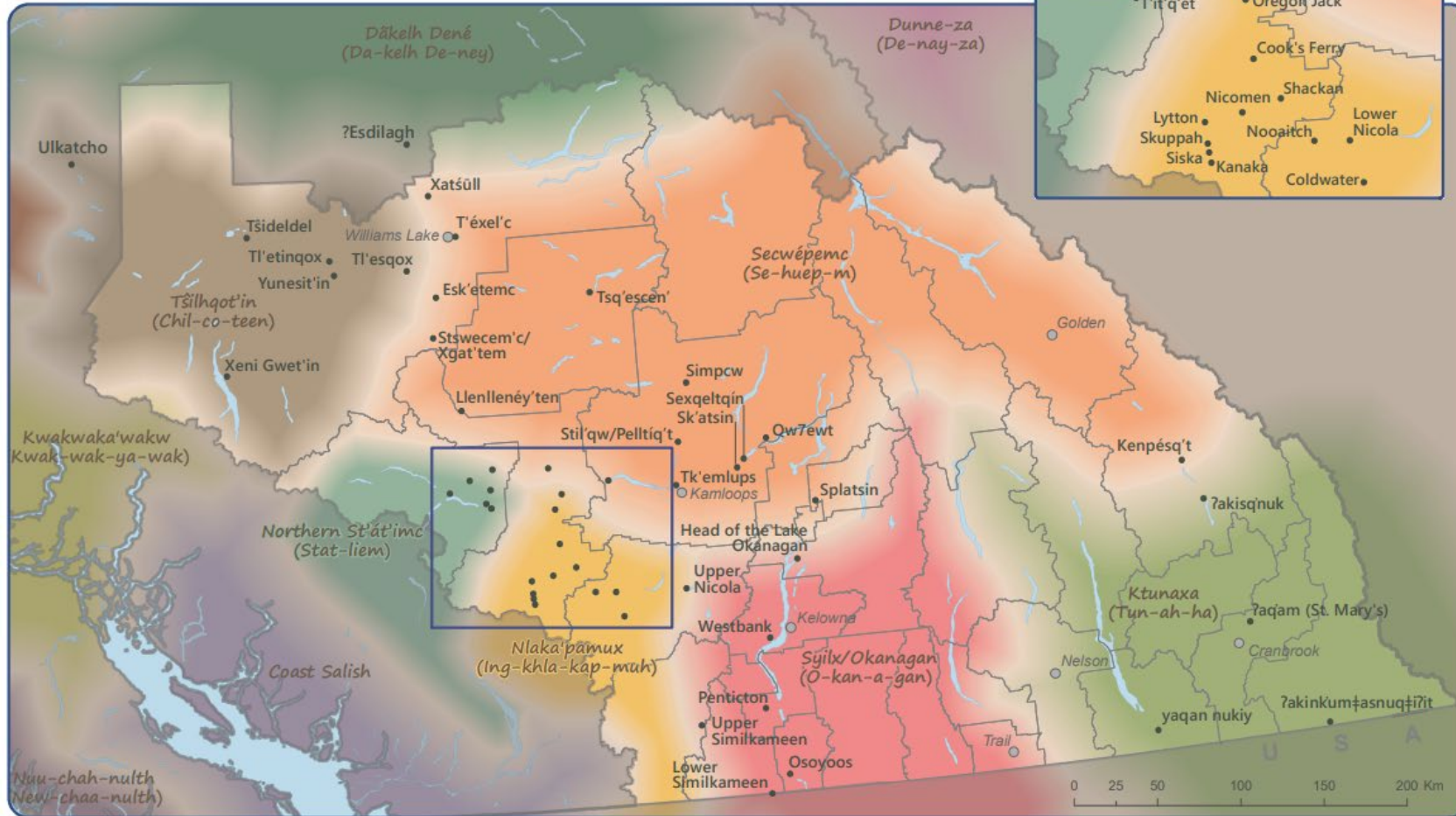
# Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability Interior Health, B.C.

Canadian Health Leadership Network  
May 2, 2024



Interior Health

# First Nations Communities with Local Health Area boundaries

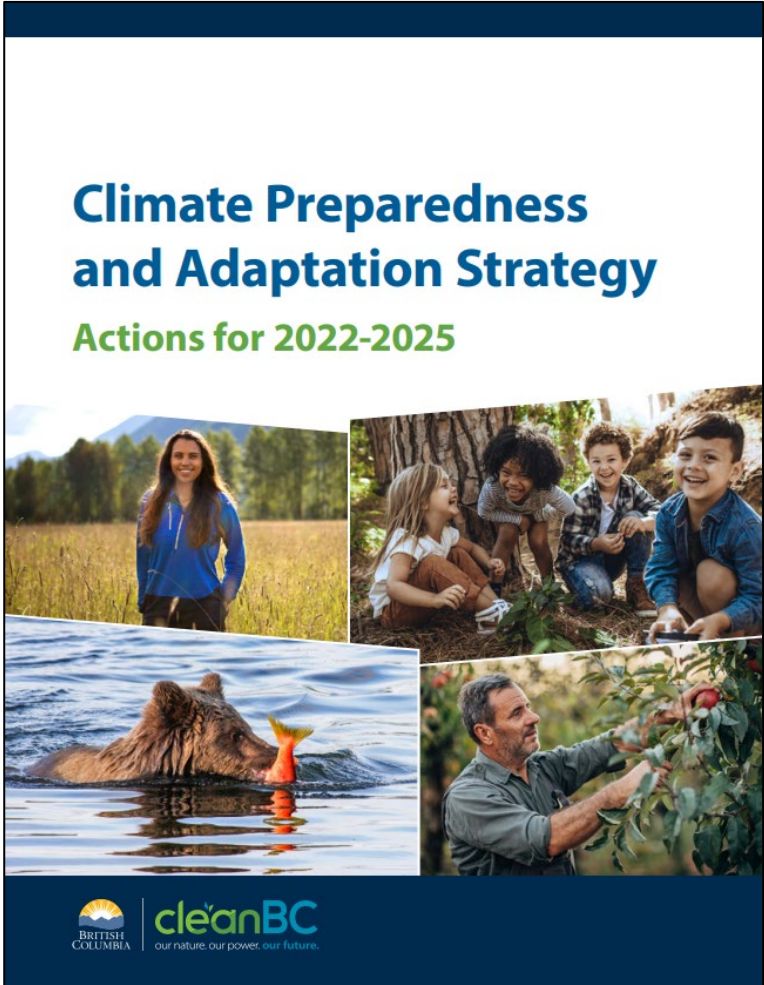


- Ex. People (Pronunciation) / Have Been Called Language Family
- Däkelh Dené (Da-kelh De-ney) / Carrier Athapaskan
- Tšilhqot'in (Chil-co-teen) / Chilcotin Athapaskan
- Northern St'át'imc (Stat-liem) / Lillooet Interior Salish
- Ktunaxa (Tun-ah-ha) / Kootenay Ktunaxa
- Syilx/Okanagan (O-kan-a-gan) Interior Salish
- Secwépemc (Se-huep-m) / Shuswap Interior Salish
- Nlaka'pamux (Ing-khla-kap-muh) / Thompson / Coteau Interior Salish
- First Nation Community

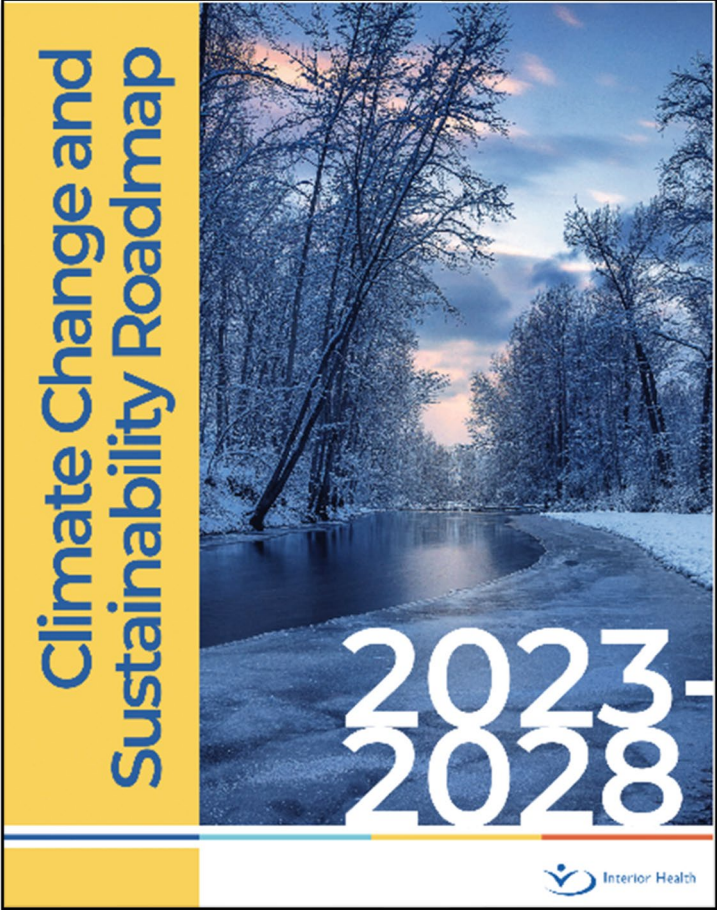
Notes: This map has been adapted from the First Nations Peoples of BC. It is intended to be used as a general reference that reflects the regional diversity of First Nations People served by Interior Health. It is not intended to delineate territorial boundaries.



# Priorities for British Columbia



# Interior Health Direction



# New Strategic Priority 2024-27

## Our Strategic Direction 2024-2027

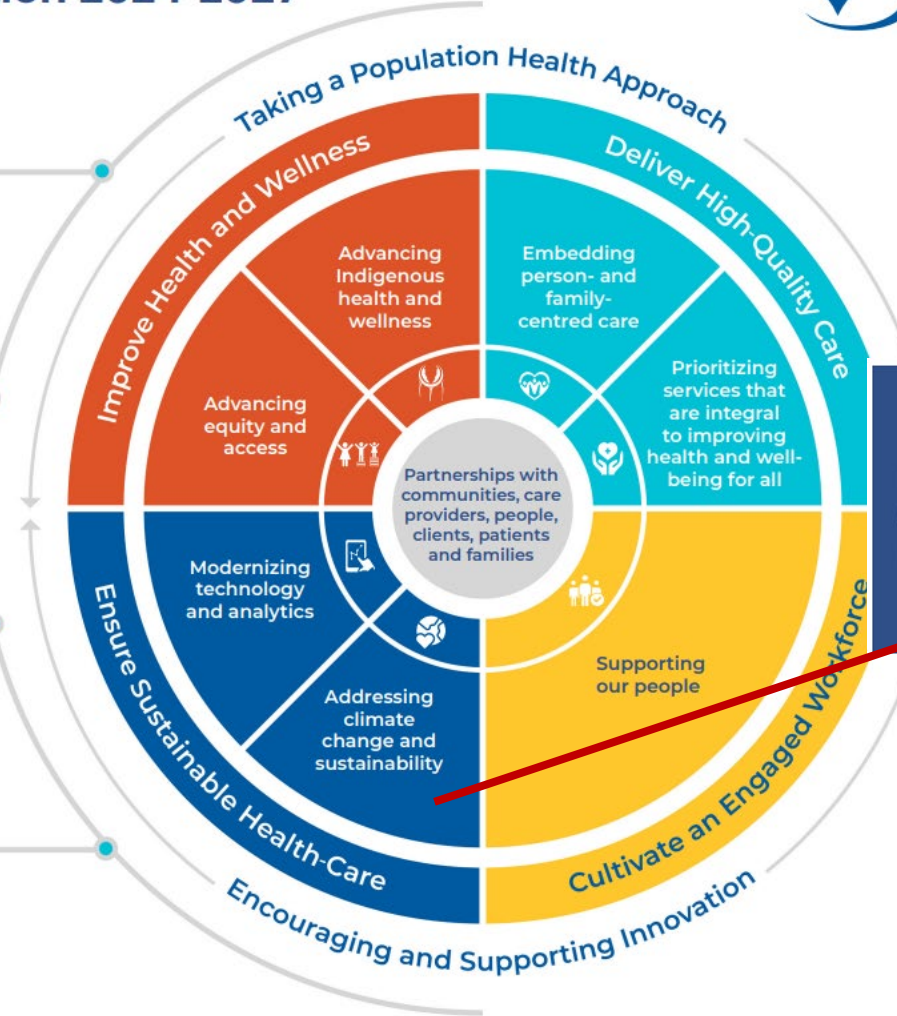


**VISION**  
Health and well-being for all.

**MISSION**  
Working together to improve quality of life for individuals and communities, inspired by innovation and partnership.

- VALUES**
- Quality
  - Integrity
  - Compassion
  - Safety

- GOALS**
1. Improve health and wellness.
  2. Deliver high-quality care.
  3. Ensure sustainable health-care.
  4. Cultivate an engaged workforce.



**Ensure Sustainable Health-Care**

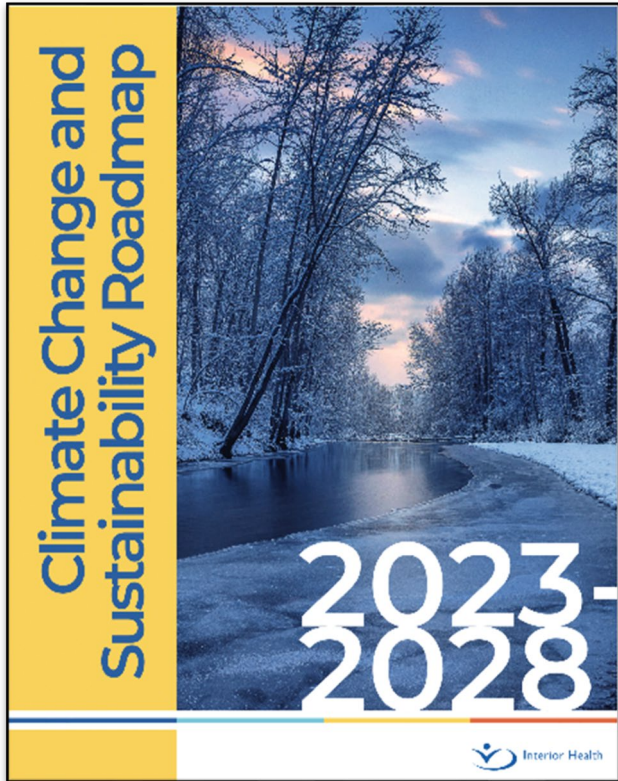
**Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability**

We are focusing on:

- Preparing for climate-related emergencies.
- Evaluating and reducing our environmental impacts.
- Bolstering sustainable healthy community development.
- Establishing accountability for action across Interior Health.
- Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.



# IH Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap



- Sets 5-yr direction and details plans to embed **health-focused sustainability and climate change action across organization.**
- Officially released in October 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> health authority in B.C.
- Informed by three roles of health authority.



# Community-Focused Actions

- 16 Collaborate with local governments and Aboriginal communities on climate adaptation and mitigation actions
- 17 Coordinate seasonal readiness planning program with local governments and Aboriginal communities
- 18 Enhance communication and data governance with Aboriginal partners to support collaborative climate change and sustainability work
- 19 Create and implement surveillance and early warning systems
- 20 Complete a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment to inform future adaptation planning

**ROADMAP ACTIONS, 2023-2028**



# Medical Health Officer Report



Introduction | Case for Change | **Climate Hazards**  
Extreme Heat | Cold Weather  
Floods | Wildfires and Smoke | Drought | Co-benefits of Climate Action on Health and Well-being | Recommendations

## Climate Hazards and Actions

IN THIS SECTION:

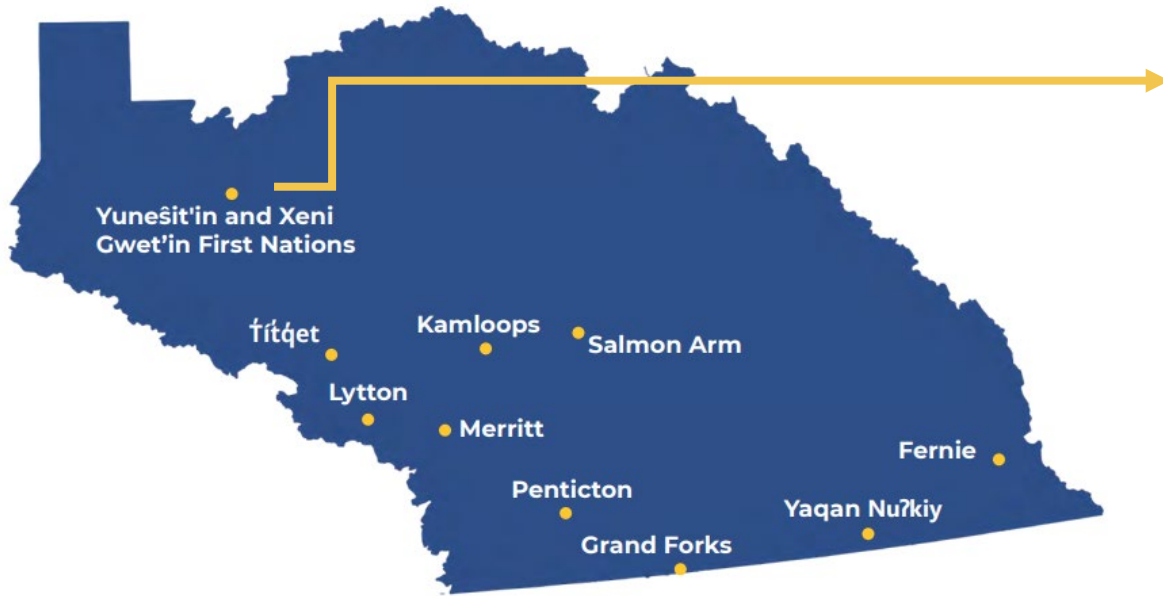
Extreme Heat	16
Cold Weather	23
Flooding	28
Wildfires and Smoke	35
Drought	36

"We were away from our home for months first because of the wildfire in summer 2021 and then months later because of the floods. The loss of ceremonies affected our family and community, and we weren't able to come together in a way we are used to."  
– Nlaka'pamux Elder





# Climate Action: Community Stories



Watch Revitalizing Traditional Fire Management in Tsilhqot'in Territory

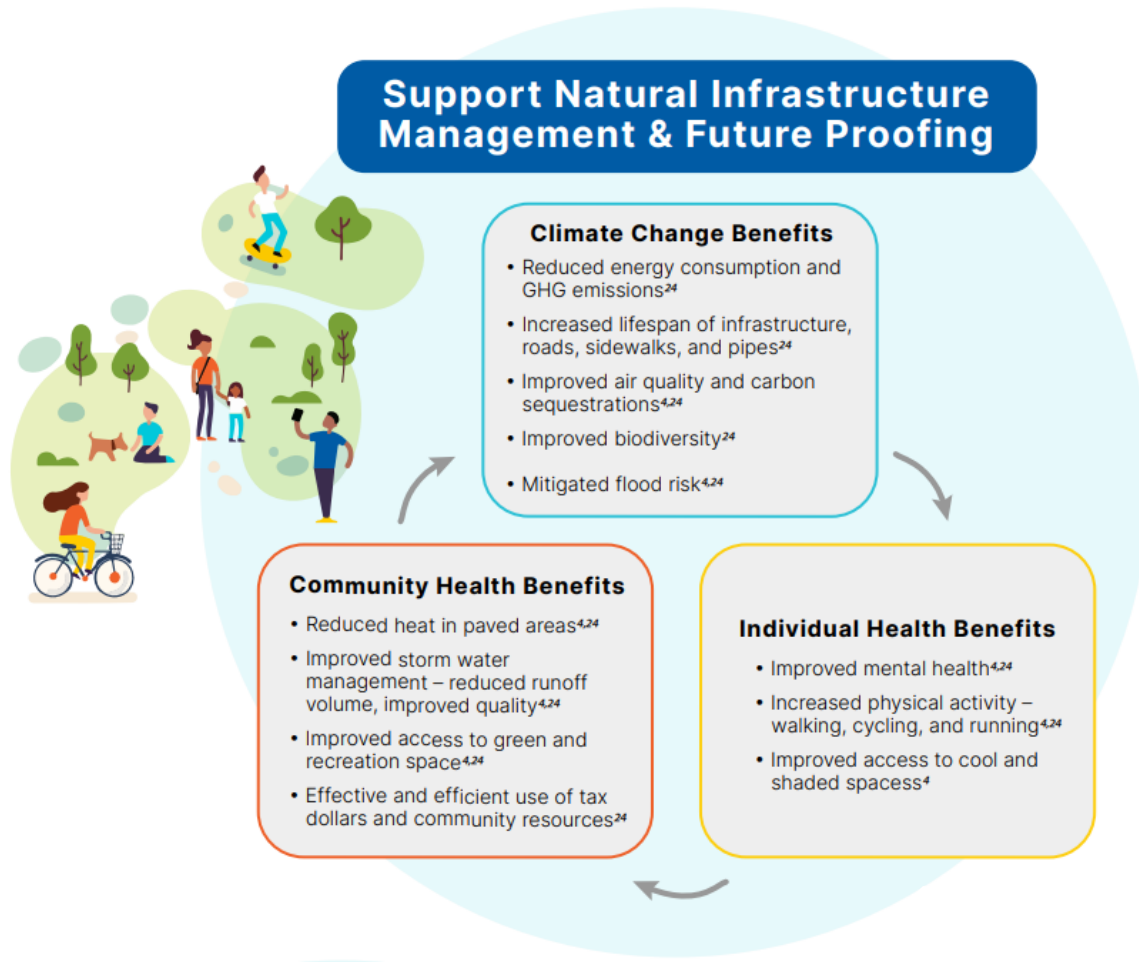


## Case Study 10

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






# Climate Action: Multiple Benefits for Individuals and Communities



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



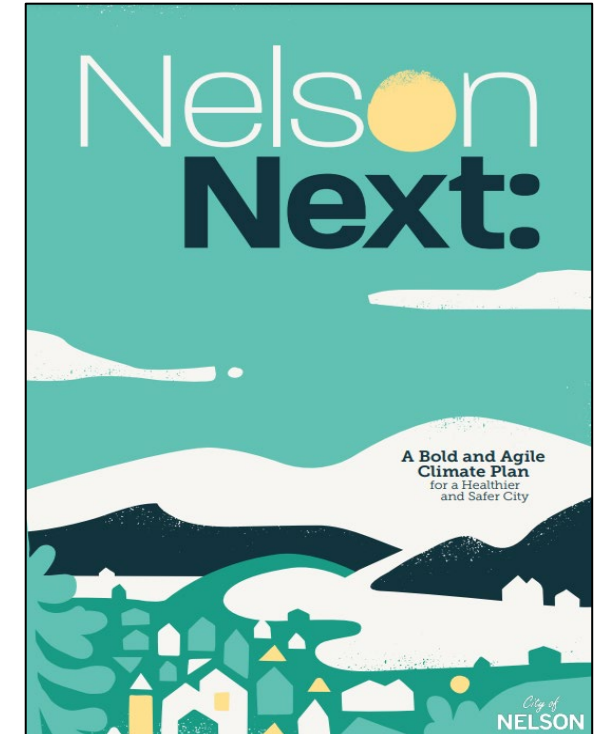
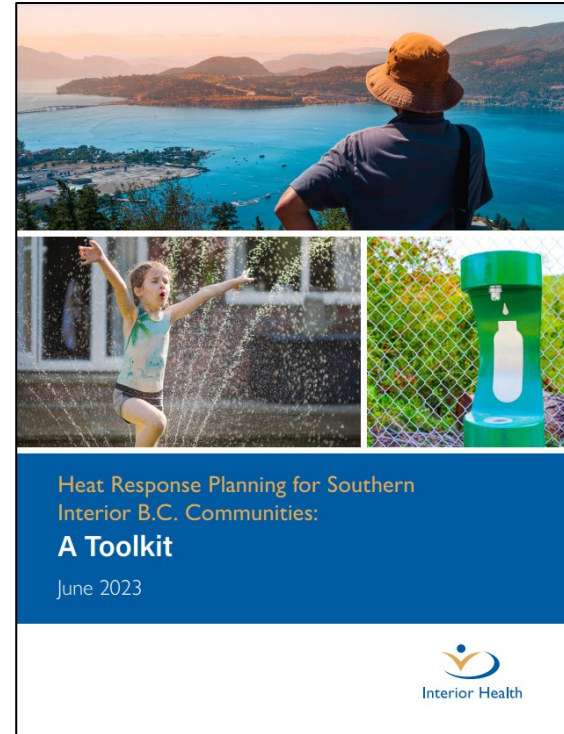
# MHO Report Recommendations

 <b>Interior Health</b>	 <b>Community Partners</b>	 <b>Provincial Partners</b>
<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>

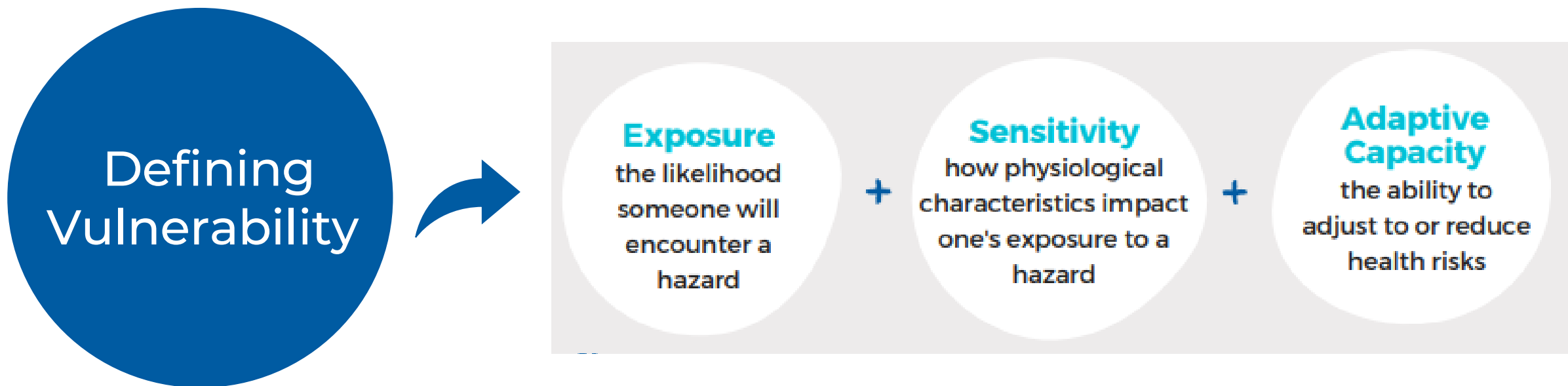


# Supporting Community Action

- Working with Indigenous communities and local government to prepare and adapt to climate change



# Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Adaptation Assessments



# Seasonal Readiness & Response

Public Health Recommendations to Reduce the Impacts of Exposure to Winter Weather on People Experiencing Homelessness in British Columbia

A Guidance Document for Ministries, Indigenous Governing Bodies, Local Authorities, Non-Governmental Organisations, Partners and Service Providers

2023

Interior Health Heat Response Plan



Updated: July 5, 2023

BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS): 2023



- **Provincial Guidance**
  - Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
  - BC HEAT Committee
    - BC Heat Alert Response System
    - Cold Weather Guidance
- **Preparing IH sites/programs**
  - IH Seasonal Readiness Committee



# Experiences from Jan 2024 Cold Weather

- **Conducted scan of IH communities to prioritize based on vulnerability**
  - Considered winter preparedness plans, shelter capacity, # persons experiencing homelessness
- **IH teams met with community partners**
- **Developed IH Cold Weather Comms Plan**
  - Website, social media, internal and external memos sent
- **Regular meetings of IH Seasonal Readiness Committee**

