

Questions for interviewing First Nation Elders and community members

1. How has the land changed during your life?

Follow-up questions to add missing information or to bring out details

Changes in the “bush” ... trees and plants

- Any changes in plants or trees such as areas of dead or dying trees or bushes ... any kinds that have disappeared or any new ones?
- Have any of the changes made a difference to harvesting activities by members of your community, such as finding healing plants or harvesting berries?
- Have any of the changes on the land been good or bad for people in your community?

Changes in lakes and rivers

- Any changes in lakes, rivers and creeks, such as unusual water levels or colour, or how warm the water is, or when it freezes and thaws?
- Any changes in the water plants in lakes and creeks? Have you see new ones? Have any disappeared? Are there more or less of any of them?
- Have you noticed unusual growth of green scum (algae) on any lakes or creeks?
- Do you think any of the changes in lakes and rivers have been good for people in the community?

Changes in swamps and wet areas

- Have you noticed swamps and wet areas changing in size or looking different in any way?

2. What changes have you seen in life on the land?

Changes in fish

- Has fishing changed? For example, have you noticed any change in the kinds of fish or their size or their health?
- Have you noticed any changes in the places and times when fish spawn?
- Do people in your family eat as much fish as they used to? more? less?

Changes in birds, animals and insects

- Any changes in the migration of birds and the movement of animals on the land?
- Any different birds, insects or animals that you haven't seen before?
- Greater numbers of some birds, insects or land animals?
- Have you or others in your community altered your activities because of changes in birds, insects or land animals?

- Would you say that some of the changes you have seen in birds, insects and land animals have been bad or good for you and people in your community?

3. Has the weather changed since you were a child?

Changes in winter

- Has there been a change in the amount of rain during the winter?
- Have you noticed any changes in the snow pack? Have they caused problems for people or land? animals?
- Have there been any changes in how warm or cold it is in winter?
- Has the date of the first and last snowfall changed? From when to when?

Changes in weather during the rest of the year

- Have you noticed changes in temperatures in the summer during the day and during the night?
- In the spring? In the fall?
- Have there been changes in droughts and periods of dry weather and have they affected you and other people in your community?

Wind and rainstorms

- Have you noticed any changes in the number of rainstorms and how severe they are? Any changes in windstorms?

Changes in air and clouds

- Have you noticed any changes in the air at any times of the year?
- Have cloud shapes and patterns changed at some times of the year?

4. How have changes in the weather affected you and your community?

Winter Roads

- How has your community been affected by changes in the winter roads?
- Have changes in winter weather and ice on lakes and rivers affected land animals in your traditional territory?
- Have there been changes in the ice on lakes and rivers that have affected people in your community?
- How have people been affected?

Effects of changing weather on buildings, roads and services (especially water)

- Have changes in weather damaged buildings in your community? What have people done to deal with the damage?
- Have the roads in your community been affected by weather? How has the community dealt with the effects on roads?
- Have changes in weather affected services such as electricity, sewage treatment and drinking water? and has the community been able to cope with them?

Flooding

- Have you noticed changes in how bad and frequent flooding is in your community?

Wildfires

- Have there been changes in wildfires happening in your traditional territory, such as how often they happen, their size, the time of year when they happen, and how close they've come to your community?

Heatwaves and droughts

- Are periods of very hot weather a problem for some people? Is that new?
- Are long periods with very little rain causing problems in the bush? Is that new?

The Community

- Any emergencies caused by the weather
- What difference has changing weather made to your life?
- Has changing weather resulted in any benefits to your community?
- Are there ways you think the community might be harmed or might benefit in the future if the weather keeps changing?