



This **Framework for Collaborative Action** on Health and Climate Change provides a map of key “action areas” for addressing the intersections of climate change and health in BC. More information on the intersections of health and climate change and opportunities for collaborative action are included in the complete User Guide that accompanies this summary, available at: [www.shiftcollaborative.ca/framework](http://www.shiftcollaborative.ca/framework)



**LEAD:**  
**Leadership & Governance**

The recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) makes it startlingly clear: bold, visionary and collaborative leadership is needed now to avert the most devastating consequences of climate change and ensure a healthy quality of life for all. In the face of many competing priorities, the kind of bold action needed now will require champions and leaders to take bold steps that seem impossible. **How can we call forth inspired and committed leadership in individuals and collectives, in order to forge a path together through inevitable uncertainty and complexity?**



**INCLUDE:**  
**Health Equity & Climate Justice**

The impacts of climate change are not equally or fairly distributed across people or communities. Already socially and economically disadvantaged populations will be more adversely affected by the health impacts of climate change, and generally have less capacity to adapt to the increased stressors. In addition, planning and decision-making processes continue to marginalize already vulnerable groups. However, many of the drivers of existing socioeconomic inequities are also at the root of climate change. **How can we respond to climate change in ways that transform economic and social systems to increase equity, fairness and quality of life for all?**



**SUSTAIN:**  
**Healthy Ecosystems and Communities**

Climate change exacerbates the challenges faced by already stressed environmental systems. Beyond a certain point, humans cannot physically survive without healthy air, water and food systems, and these all depend on, and influence, the health of broader ecosystems. **How might we better work across sectors to protect, restore and regenerate the natural systems that sustain us?**



**RESPECT:**  
**Indigenous Rights & Culture**

Here in BC we live on the largely unceded territories of the first peoples of these lands, where all of our actions on climate change and health—past, present and future—take place. Indigenous communities' connection to their traditional territory is vital to their identity and is particularly affected by the impacts of climate change. A commitment to reconciliation is at the heart of building resilience for all of our communities, and cannot be fully realized without including Indigenous peoples' stake and leadership in addressing climate change. **How might our work at the intersections of climate change and health provide leadership to the ongoing process of reconciliation?**



**ENGAGE:**  
**Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration**

Addressing the causes and impacts of climate change requires integrated action across all sectors (including health, all levels of government, academic, non-profit and business sectors) and groups in society. However, we are often stuck in silos, facing significant barriers to aligning our visions, resources and actions to move in a common direction. It is particularly important that those who are affected, are included in developing responses to those impacts. As well, climate change spans past, current and future generations; the voices and actions of both young and old are needed. **How can we evolve our approaches, mobilize our collective creativity and wisdom, and align resources to effectively address the complexities and intersections of climate change and health?**



**EMPOWER:**  
**Information, Communications & Capacity-Building**

The ongoing development and maintenance of local and expert research, monitoring and data is a foundation for informed design and decision-making. To make the most of available resources, we must also improve the accessibility and openness of data and information sharing systems to unleash our collective capacity to translate information into action. In support of all other action areas,

effective communications, meaningful engagement, capacity-building and education will be needed to enhance climate and health literacy across sectors. **How can we generate and apply information and build capacity in ways that empower all stakeholders to take responsibility and aligned action?**



**ACT:**  
**Innovation for Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities**

As a province we need to reduce our GHG emissions by 80% in the next 30 years. This is nothing short of a profound call to rethink and transform the systems we depend on to live (i.e.: energy, transportation, food, economy). At the same time, there are many opportunities to innovate through aligned strategies that simultaneously reduce GHG emissions while protecting and also improving health and well-being in the face of climate impacts. Preparedness and the capacity to respond to, recover from, and build resilience to both chronic stressors as well as extreme events relating to climate change, has direct implications for health outcomes. But to achieve all of this, we have to go beyond business as usual and reimagine how communities can function in ways that will be resilient in the face of drastically changing conditions. **How can we innovate through the strengths and tools available in various sectors, to create low carbon systems and conditions that can drastically improve health & resilience in an uncertain future?**



**CARE:** Personal and Social Resilience

We can't build a resilient future if we ourselves are not healthy and resilient. The demands of being aware of and involved in addressing the intersections of climate change and health—whether in an acute sense such as emergency responders, or the long game of raising awareness and changing mindsets and actions to adapt and transform systems—are growing, and place a real strain on those at the frontlines of climate impacts and responses. **How can we ensure that supporting personal resilience and caring for each other is at the heart of our efforts to build a healthy and climate resilient future for us all?**