

HOW CAN A FLOOD AFFECT YOUR COMMUNITY?



Many First Nation communities are near areas that flood - shorelines of rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Causes of flooding in First Nation communities include:

- Storm surges (on the coastlines of oceans or large freshwater lakes)
- Hurricanes
- Heavy rains/flash floods
- Tsunamis (storm surge associated with earthquakes)
- Failure of dams, dykes, and other infrastructure (bridges, culverts, stormwater systems)
- Ice jams
- Snow melt

Our climate is changing, and we are seeing rising sea levels, increases in temperature, and more frequent extreme rainfall events throughout the country.



Rising Sea Levels



Increased Temperatures



Extreme Rainfall

The impacts of these events on First Nation communities can be severe, because of location and close ties to the land.

Potential impacts of flooding to First Nation communities include:

- Damage or destruction of community infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, community buildings, schools, and water and sewer systems
- Damage or destruction of housing
- Disruptions to education due to evacuation or damage to school buildings
- Stress and anxiety associated with flood events
- Health issues due to mold and water damage in housing following a flood
- Interrupted access to cultural, hunting, fishing and gathering areas
- Impacts and damage to aquatic habitat, harvesting areas and cultural sites

We can't reduce flood hazard, but we can reduce exposure and vulnerability through adaptation planning. Tools and resources to help your community understand hazard and vulnerability, and prepare a climate change adaptation plan, can be found at:

<http://floodsmartcanada.ca/climate-change-and-first-nation-communities/>