



IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN RURAL BC

The objective of the RHSRNbc's first chapter is to assess the current impacts of climate change and the effects on rural British Columbian communities.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In rural regions where livelihoods are closely tied to natural resources, climate change may contribute to

social disruption,
economic declines,
and population displacement

Noticeable evidence of anthropogenic climate change includes

extreme and unusual weather events
 (fire, flood, mudslides)

loss of species

declines in glaciers and ice caps

sea level rise

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

While all BC communities are anticipated to experience health consequences due to climate change, some rural populations may face disproportionately high health impacts. This includes

Indigenous and Northern populations, children, infants, and the elderly, despite contributing the least to damaging anthropogenic activities

12% increase in average annual rainfall by 2050

2.7°C increase in predicted temperature by 2050

74 - 94% projected decrease in sea ice later this century

By 2050 most Canadian Arctic marine regions will be sea ice-free

Sea ice will continue to melt annually across the Canadian Arctic summers, exacerbating sea level rise and resulting in habitat loss for species that depend on sea ice

RURAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

respiratory illnesses

food & water quality and safety

heat and cold related mortality

new and re-emerging diseases (COVID-19) zoonotic and vector borne diseases

mental health issues