

# CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOSYSTEM DISRUPTION

Planning for resilient rural communities

The RHSRNbc's [fourth chapter](#) emphasizes the importance of adaptation that actively incorporates local and traditional resources, allowing communities and their health systems to prevent, respond, and recover from climate-induced outcomes

## Enablers of community resilience

**Social** community cohesion and motivation, which span across a sense of unity, shared values, and a willingness to overcome challenges

**Procedural** information and strategies that guide policy makers and community members into effectively utilizing the existing physical enablers

**Physical** infrastructures to support communities' physiological needs and safety, such as health care, food and water, utilities, and transportation

## Strengthening rural health services can be accomplished through 4 adaptation strategies:

1



### Evaluation

Evaluating community risks and strengthening emergency preparedness

2



### Support

Supporting the education and recruitment of generalist health care providers

3



### Integration

Integrating synchronous and asynchronous mechanisms of patient and provider support via telehealth

4



### Build

Building systems to train generalists in enhanced skills

## Measures relevant to rural health services planning

Improving medical transport so rural residents can have access to urgent care when needed



Improved telehealth access and quality



Supporting culturally safe testing and pandemic protocols that are co-developed with First Nations organizations

Providing rural residents with the information they need to decide where they receive care



## GENERALISM is FUNDAMENTAL to rural health responsiveness & ecosystem disruption

Generalists are front line witnesses to the social dimensions of health, critical to accessing the health system and key to long-term health outcomes

### Broader scope of practice

↳ More interactions with patients

↳ Stronger relationships with community

↳ Provide effective education for climate resiliency



Virtual family visits during long-term hospital stays allow patients to remain connected with their community while enhancing cultural support and psychological wellbeing

Remote public health education can increase knowledge, thereby reducing health vulnerability and increasing adaptation capacity

## TELE-HEALTH



enhances access to care and in turn contributes to building healthy and resilient communities

Enhanced access to remote diagnostics and specialist consultations increases access for patients in remote communities and the resilience of communities' health care systems.

Remote management of chronic diseases can improve the quality of life and increase access of care