

Building a pathway to climate resilience in Tsaa? Çhé Ne Dane



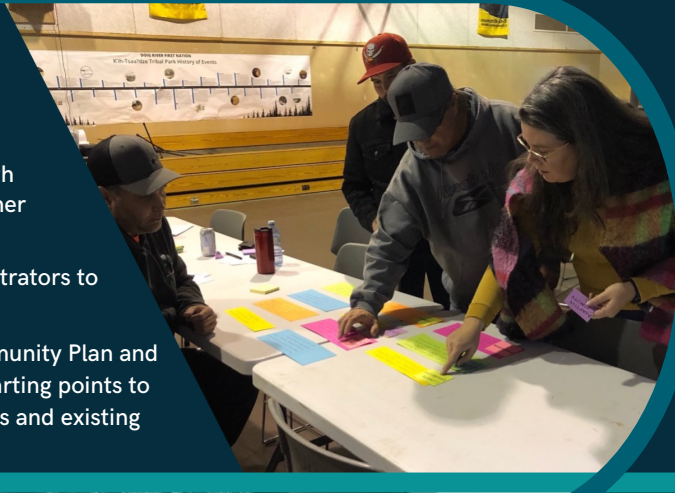
In spring of 2022, Tsaa? Çhé Ne Dane (Doig River First Nation, or DRFN) in northern British Columbia began a collaborative project with Michaela Sidloski (a doctoral candidate at the University of Saskatchewan) to co-develop a six-step process for climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning that prioritizes inclusion and centres local needs, priorities, and voices. This infographic provides an overview of our progress nearly one year later.

In step 1, we:

- Identified and introduced key contacts from the community and the university
- Hosted community workshops and a youth event with Naahtane' Ts'idaaghae (DRFN's youth group) to gather input on project design and engagement approach
- Assembled a "core team" of DRFN staff and administrators to guide the project from start to finish



- Used DRFN's Comprehensive Community Plan and Emergency Management Plan as starting points to align our work with community goals and existing programs



1 Starting the discussion

2 Gathering climate data

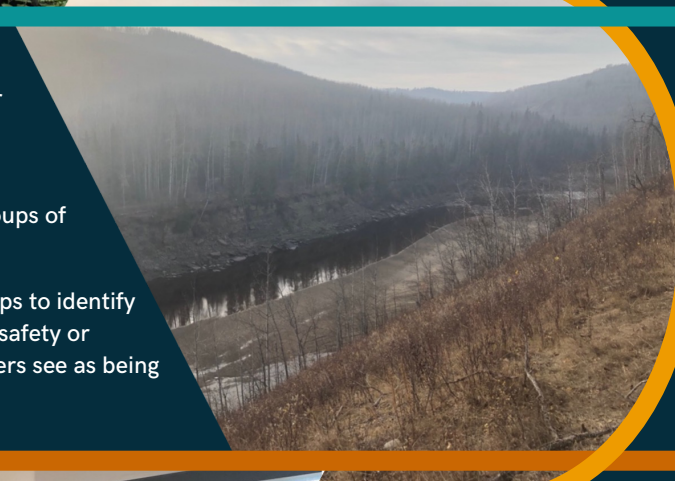


- ### In step 2, we:
- Gathered scientific data on historical weather patterns and potential future climate scenarios
 - Learned that DRFN is likely to face increasing average temperatures, more precipitation in winter and spring, and more frequent and severe droughts as the climate changes
 - Used interviews to gather local knowledge about changes in weather and the environment over time
 - Found that members have already observed things like stronger winds and storms, changes in seasonal patterns, and more floods and droughts



In step 3, we:

- Created a long list of ways in which changing weather patterns are expected to affect the community in the future, including impacts that have already occurred
- Considered how each impact might affect various groups of people in different ways
- Hosted community mapping workshops to identify places that members would go to for safety or survival, as well as places that members see as being at risk in a climate event



3 Identifying impacts

4 Ranking impacts and prioritizing



- ### In step 4, we:
- Identified "Our Territory and Treaty Rights" as the community planning area affected by the largest number of current and potential future climate impacts
 - Found that Elders, land users, and youth were seen as the most vulnerable groups to negative effects of climate change
 - Assessed the community's adaptive capacity to determine strengths and gaps in responding to change
 - Used our new knowledge to focus our adaptation efforts towards a few key areas: emergency preparedness, health and wellness, and adaptive capacity



In step 5 (ongoing), we:

- Created a long list of potential adaptation actions that could address our key focus areas, including ideas raised by community members in interviews and workshops
- Created a plan for implementing our "best bet" actions and collecting additional information on actions which require more knowledge or planning in order to be effective
- Committed to implementing "do it" actions, some of which include: improving access to mental health resources and recording gravesite locations to protect against loss of cultural knowledge



5 Selecting and implementing adaptation actions

6 Monitoring, evaluating, and refining



- ### In step 6, we will:
- Create digital and hardcopy versions of the climate adaptation plan and share with the community along with other products to report on the project's findings
 - Establish a protocol for evaluating progress on the plan, as well as a timeline for revisiting and revising
 - Look back on our work with community members and project participants to consider key lessons learned
 - Create and share a guidebook that outlines our process so that other small, resource-based communities can conduct inclusive and just climate adaptation planning processes



This research is being carried out in Treaty 8 Territory on the traditional lands of the Dane-zaa peoples, as well as on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. This work is being co-supervised by Dr. Maureen Reed (University of Saskatchewan) and Dr. Sheri Andrews-Key (University of British Columbia). Funding for this research has been provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Smart Prosperity Institute.