

Partnering to Build Resilience to Climate Change

The First Nations Land Management Climate Change Workshop
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Quarterly Newsletter available through our website



At the time of this presentation TRI is transforming its name to The Resilience Institute.

TRI is...

- Charitable organization created specifically to advance education & research on climate change with a focus on adaptation.
- Partnering to develop tangible processes for weaving scientific & Indigenous knowledges that inspire transformative approaches to climate adaptation.
- UNFCCC Non-State actor and contributor to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform to bring best-practices to communities and to the world.
- We support the United Nation's vision of a world where vulnerable places, regions, states, communities and individuals can thrive in the face of multiple risks, uncertainty and change.
- In the process of changing our name from The Rockies Institute to **The Resilience Institute**



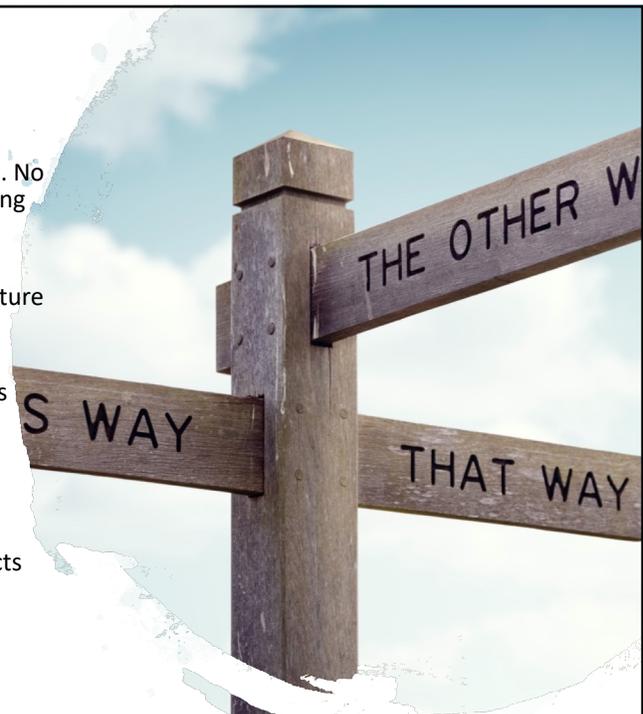


Community Partners

- Kainai First Nation: over 4 years on climate resilience and adaptation activities. Process has engaged over 100 community members: elders, council members, land technicians, emergency services, health and education.
- Band Council Resolution with Piikani Nation on building resilience to climate change. Co-designed a series of capacity building activities.
- Work together to obtain funding from multiple sources i.e. grants from national and provincial governments and foundations, or provide support on contract if funding is already secured by the community.
- Also working with Métis communities in Northern Alberta and the Nama peoples in South Africa.

Why ?

- Climate crisis is complex, serious, and happening fast. No one way of thinking will adequately address it. Working together and weaving knowledges is imperative to building resilience and minimizing suffering.
- Impacts will be hardest on those who live close to nature and are already dealing with consequences of marginalization and colonialism.
- So much conflicting information and political agendas clouding the way forward.
- We're expected to go from "0 - 60" and many people don't even know what to believe.
- Basic education and engagement on climate change, plus taking a thematic approach to anticipated impacts seems to help grow positive momentum.





Collaborative Process

1. Invitation to meet
2. Secure small amount of funding for 3-5 engagements with community members to
 - a. Deliver basic climate change information
 - b. Dialogues to determine priorities & ideas for activities
3. Co-design the initiative
4. Strategize and seek funding for implementation



5 Examples of Resilience Building Initiatives

1. Youth Artists of Climate Change Program
2. Traditional Plants Database & Restoration Stewardship
3. Custom Climate Change Game Kit
4. Adaptation Planning – Creation of a Local Early Action Plan (LEAP)
5. Fire with Fire - Braiding Indigenous and scientific knowledges of wild fire to enhance climate change resilience



Youth Artists of Climate Change

1

- Engaged youth and elders in an 8 month learning journey about climate change from western scientific and Blackfoot perspectives.
- 5 youth worked with Blackfoot artists to create pieces inspired by their experiences that present a vision of land, culture and ecological transformation as seen through their eyes.
- Included a half day workshop with established Blackfoot artist Adrian Stimson to mentor and inspire participants.
- Art supplies, stipends, and costs for the community event were covered by the grant.

Youth Artists of Climate Change

Outcomes

- Youth artists premiered their work in the community at an evening event.
- On exhibition at the Mortar and Bricks Gallery in Lethbridge.
- Featured in the summer exhibition at the Cave and Basin Historic Site in Banff National Park visited by an estimated 300,000 people.



2

Traditional Plants Database

Professional botanist trained technicians and helped create an in-community database to store traditional plant data. Engaged with elders, traditional knowledge holders in meetings and in hands-on training.

Enabled the community to:

- Collect and store traditional ecological knowledge on plant use and pass knowledge from elders and experts to younger members of the tribe.
- Help address threats to traditional plant populations further threatened by climate predictions for the region.
- Inform restoration and conservation decisions.
- Inform land management practices especially in the context of climate change.



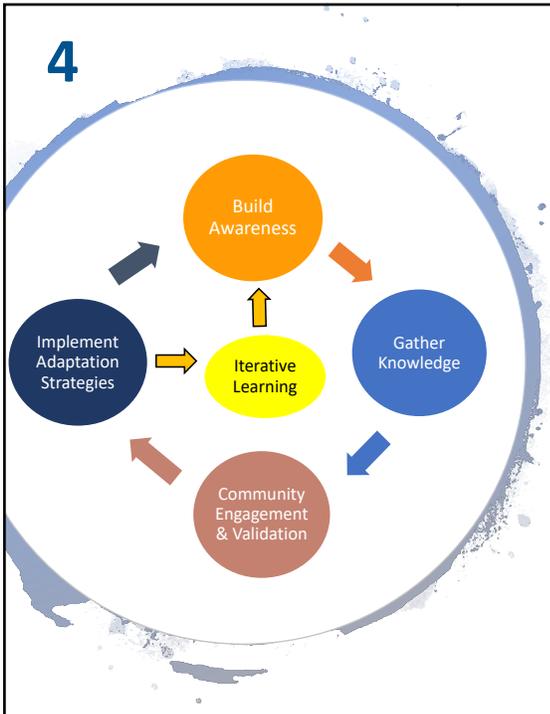
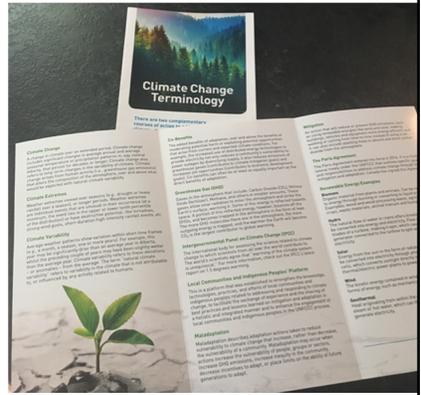
From Database to Restoration Stewardship

- builds climate resilience by addressing cultural and ecological vulnerabilities in prairie ecosystems such as changing fire regimes, invasive species, and livestock overgrazing.
- a series of workshops, community events, trainings on seed collection and skill-building for control of invasive species.
- An important component of this initiative is the creation of a Grasslands Restoration Stewards Program - engaging land occupants.



Custom Climate Change Kit

- Climate Change Terminology **3**
- Climate Change Survivor Game
- Board Pieces
- Matching Terminology Cards – multiple levels



Adaptation Planning – Creation of a Local Early Action Plan (LEAP)

- Used to guide early actions at the local level.
- Helpful in developing and pursuing a simple set of local strategies, practices or actions that can be initiated to address climate change impacts.

Helps address questions such as:

- What are the most pressing community concerns and what climate risks do we need to adapt to?
- Who or what adapts? Which parts of the community are most impacted?
- How do we adapt? Practical strategies for community-led adaptation to climate change.

LEAP Planning Strategies

Traditional coping strategies and other adaptation strategies are identified by community members

Priorities are set that are achievable in the near future; action plans are created

LEAP Planning Sheet Example

THREAT: [i.e. Wildfire]

List 3 adaptation options

Timeframe for implementation:

- Ongoing now
- Near-term (< 2 years)
- Short-term (2-5 years)
- Medium-term (5-10 years)
- Long-term (> 10 years)

Total estimated cost of implementation:

- Low (< \$10,000)
- Moderate (\$10,000 - \$50,000)
- High (\$50,000 - \$100,000)
- Very high (> \$100,000)

Other resources, support, technical expertise required:

Adaptation idea	Adaptation idea	Adaptation idea
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Examples of LEAP Strategies



- Best-practices research on wildfire, flooding and drought adaptation that can be woven with traditional knowledge.
- Land restoration and stewardship.
- Linkages to how the reintroduction of cultural and ecological keystone species are a form of adaptation i.e. bison.
- Mapping of cultural assets in flood zones.

Portrait of a snow-dusted American bison" from National Geographic by Robbie George

5



FIRE WITH FIRE

4 pilot communities:
Samson Cree, Piikani,
Kainai, and Dene Tha'
First Nations

- multi-year, multi-partner initiative supported by Natural Resources Canada's Building Regional Adaptation Climate Expertise program.
- aimed at building capacity for climate adaptation by braiding Indigenous, local and scientific knowledges.



Fire with Fire Goals

- Develop and deliver workshops with participating Indigenous communities.
- Compile best available Indigenous and scientific knowledge by using the participatory video method.
- Hold knowledge-sharing workshops to improve local climate change adaptation responses.
- Establish respectful knowledge co-production between Indigenous, local, scientific and decision-making communities.

Keys to success

- Holding a number of community engagement sessions first that include delivering basic information on climate change and projections for the region
- Ample time for dialogue helps to identify gaps in knowledge and ideas for community-relevant activities
- Having an in-community “champion” or coordinator is helpful
- While there are potential grants for this type of work, dedicating some human and financial resources to the process shows commitment from leadership to the goals

Lessons Learned

- Collaborating demonstrates how partners can work together in weaving/braiding traditional and scientific knowledges to develop long-term resilience to complex challenges.
- Learning through interesting engagement activities can help “ready” the community for future decisions on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Engagement of multiple community members and perspectives creates a diverse approach to climate planning.

