

# Protecting the Health of Canadians Through Climate Change Adaptation

Jim Frehs  
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch  
Health Canada

Ontario Climate Change Workshop  
Thunder Bay  
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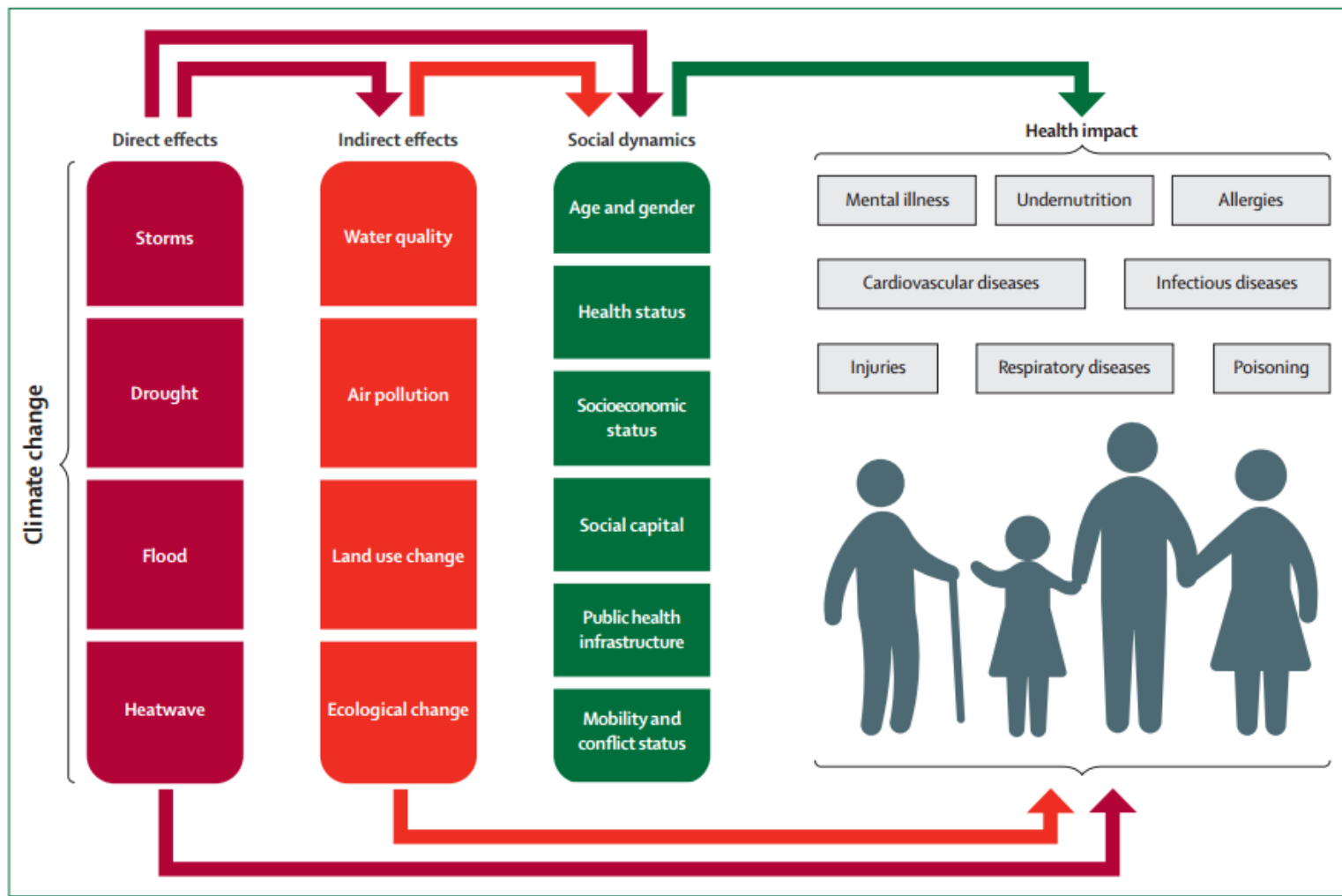
# Greatest Health Risk of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

<http://www.thelancet.com/climate-and-health>

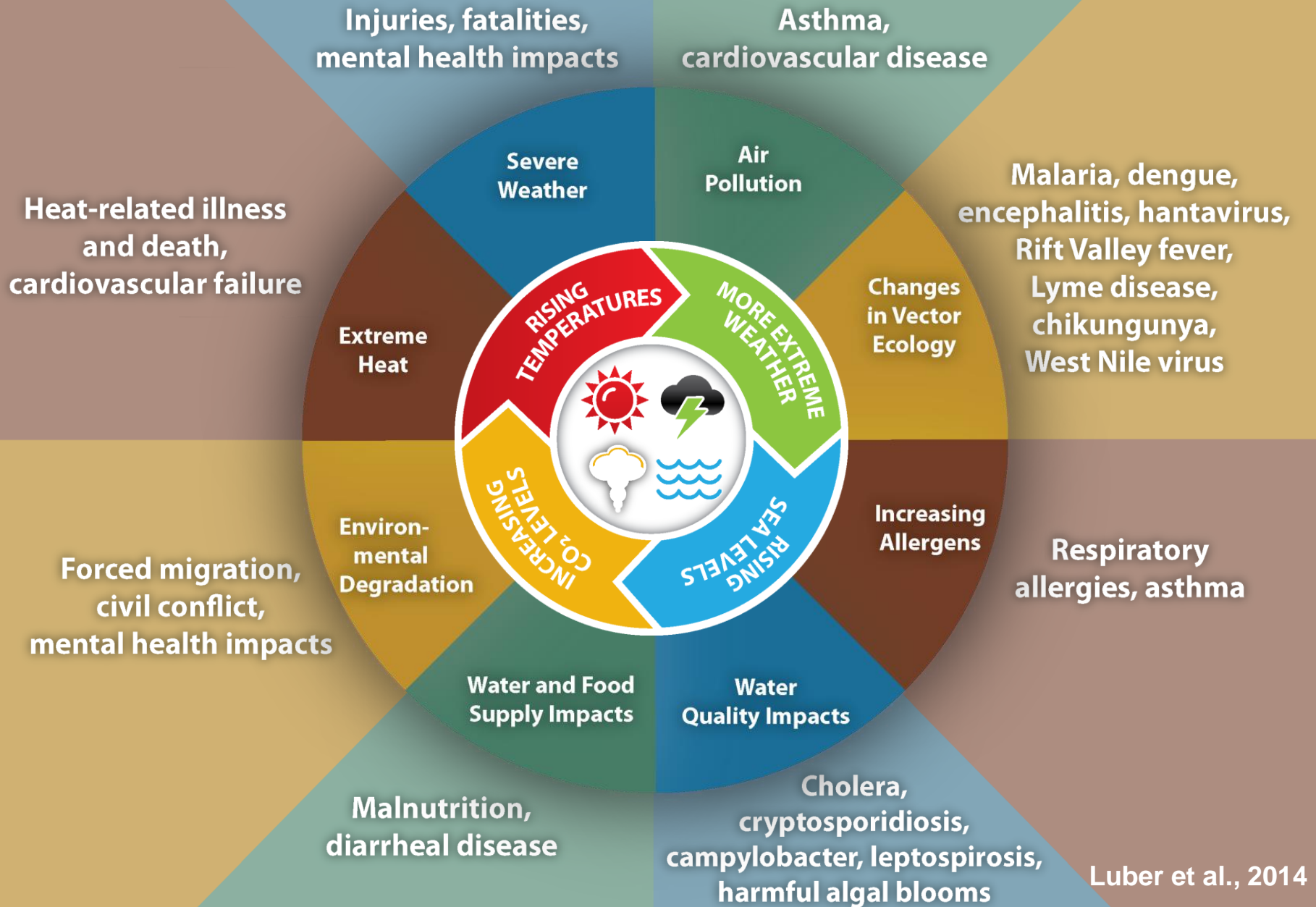
“Indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices, including indigenous peoples’ holistic view of community and environment, are major resource for adapting to climate change, but these have not been used consistently in existing adaptation efforts. Integrating such forms of knowledge with existing practices increases the effectiveness of adaptation.”

IPCC 2014

# Multiple, Wide Ranging, Interactive Impacts



# Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



# Provinces and territories will continue to face climate change and health risks. Examples include:

## Northern Territories

- Food security
- Water-borne contamination
- Dangerous travel
- Cultural impacts

## Atlantic Canada

- Coastal erosion
- Water-related morbidity
- Hurricanes
- Vector-borne diseases
- Flooding

## Prairies

- Drought
- Extreme temperatures
- Flooding
- Wildfires
- Mental health impacts
- Lyme disease

## Quebec

- Urban heat island effect
- Air quality – smog and aeroallergens
- Vector-borne diseases
- Wildfires

## British Columbia

- Coastal erosion
- Storm surges
- Wildfires
- *Cryptococcus gattii*

## Ontario

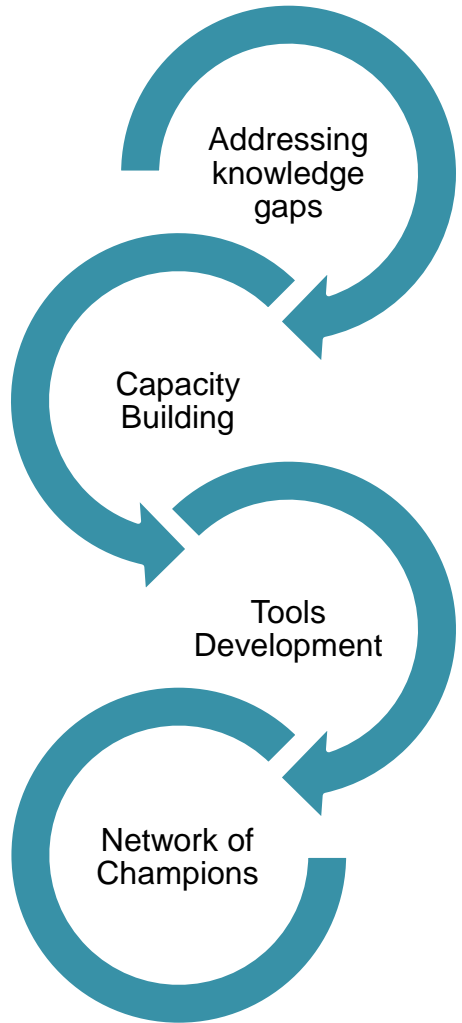
- Extreme heat
- Storms (ice, wind)
- Lyme disease
- West Nile Virus
- Air quality
- UV radiation

# What is going on in Northern Ontario

- Spread of infectious disease such as Lyme and West Nile Virus cause increased health risks, losses in productivity due to illness and higher treatment costs
- Warming water and air leads to changes to traditional foods and risks food security
- Loss of ice roads can lead to health risks from food and energy security as well as the health hazards associated with risky travel conditions
- Increased forest fires leads to poorer air quality and increased respiratory issues as well as evacuations
- Extreme weather events such as ice and wind storms can lead to mortalities
- Mental health concerns related to above risks such as PTSD, knowledge of future risks and economic security

# How do we adapt to climate health risks

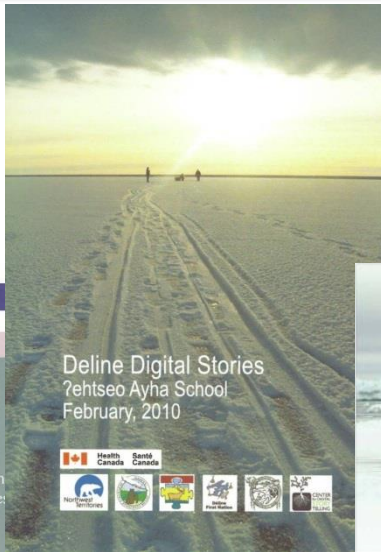
Health Canada has successfully applied a collaborative, capacity-building model to increase resilience to climate change-related health risks.





# Supported 95 First Nations and Inuit community-driven adaptation projects in North

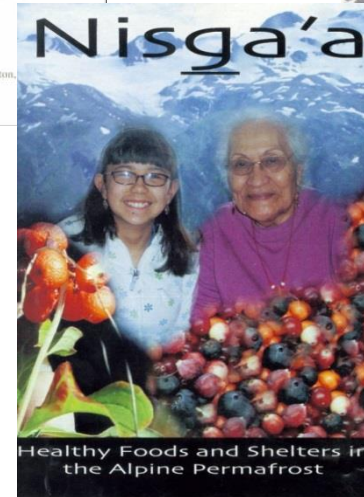
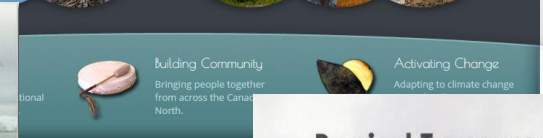
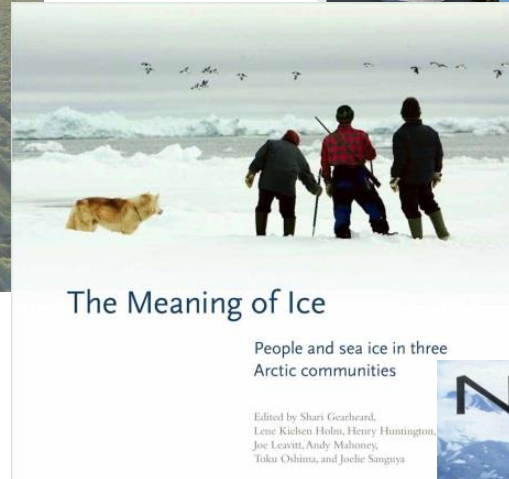
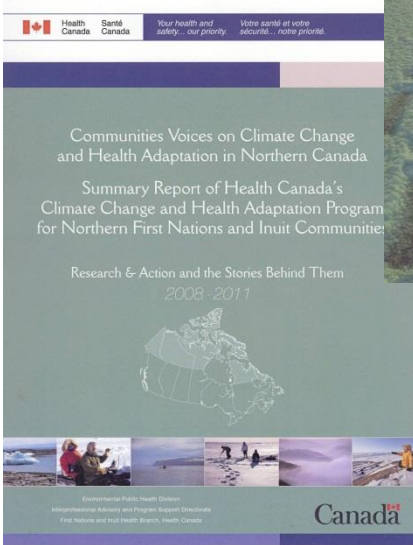
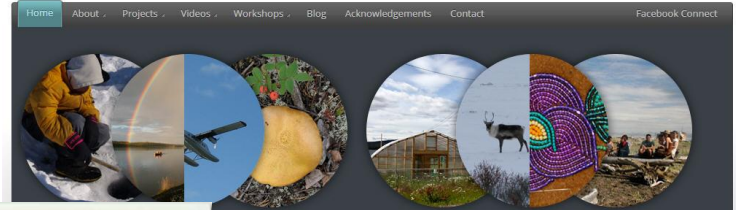
## Healthy Resilient Communities



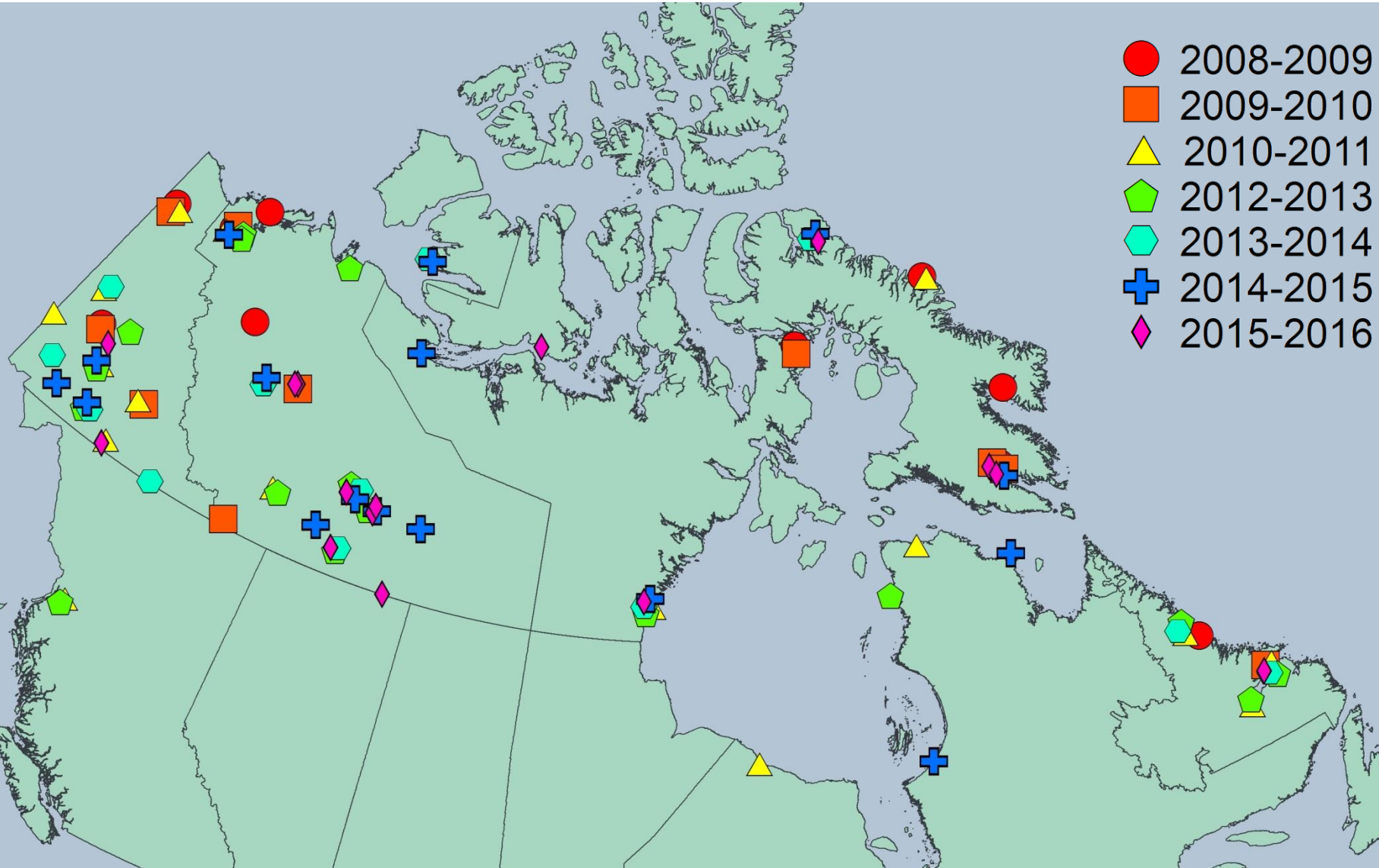
Deline Digital Stories  
?ehtseo Ayha School  
February, 2010



Climate Telling <sup>BETA</sup>



# History of the CCHAP



# What does this mean for Indigenous populations

## Lessons learned from the northern CCHAP

- Adaptation increasingly requires a multidisciplinary approach
- Importance of integration of scientific and Traditional Knowledge
- Community-led research moves quickly to action
- The more resilient a community the better prepared it is to adapt to climate change
- Climate change exacerbates existing conditions

# THANK YOU

[jim.frehs@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jim.frehs@hc-sc.gc.ca)