

# Traditional Knowledge Survey for Climate Change

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This questionnaire, created by Dr. David Pearson (Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON) for the collection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Adaptation Planning in the Far North, was modified by the Georgina Island First Nation and the Turtle Island Conservation to collect TEK related to changed weather and climate, as well as impacts to various facets of Traditional Ways of Life on Georgina Island.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview #: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Changes in the “bush” - trees and plants in your traditional territory

1. Have you noticed any changes in the plants or the trees in the bush such as:

- areas of dead or dying trees or shrubs
- new species
- anything that has disappeared or appeared?

If so, how have they changed?

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2. Is finding medicinal and edible plants harder or easier than it used to be? Why/How?

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3. Do you think any of the changes in the bush have caused a problem for people in your community? Or have they been good for people? **How** have these changes affected the people in the community?

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### **Changes in lakes and rivers**

4. Have you noticed any changes in the lakes, rivers and creeks in your area, such as unusual water levels, temperature or colour (pressure cracks, water quality)?

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5. If there is a large river in your community, have you noticed any changes in its flow or when it freezes and breaks up (or lake)?

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6. Have you noticed any changes in the water plants found in lakes, rivers and creeks? Is so, how?

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7. Have you noticed unusual growth of green scum (algae) in any lakes or creeks? If so, where?

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8. Do you think any of the changes in lakes and rivers have been good for people in the community? Have any changes been bad for people? How?

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### **Changes in swamps and wet areas**

9. Have you noticed swamps and wet areas changing in size or looking different in any way?

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### **Changes in fish**

10. Has the fishing changed in the community? For example, have you noticed any change in the kinds of fish or their number or size or do any of them seem to be unhealthy?

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11. Have you noticed any changes in the places and dates when fish spawn?

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12. Do people in your family eat the same kinds of fish and as much fish as they used to?

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Other comments/concerns about changes in fish

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### **Changes in birds, animals and insects**

13. Have you noticed any kinds of birds or insects or animals you haven't seen before?

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14. Have you noticed greater numbers of some kinds of birds or insects or animals? Have any of them begun to behave differently?

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15. Have any changes in birds or insects or animals affected you or other people in some way?

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16. Has there been any decrease of insects?

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**Changes in air and clouds**

17. Have you noticed any changes in the air at any time during the year?

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18. Have cloud shapes and patterns changed at some times of the year?

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**Changes in winter and spring**

19. Have you noticed any change in winter temperatures? Spring temperatures? Compared with when?

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20. Has there been any rain during the winter in recent years? Has it been a problem?

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21. Has the date of first and last snowfall changed? From when to when?

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22. How has your community been affected by changes in winter roads (pressure cracks, etc)?

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23. Have animals been affected by changes in winter weather and ice on lakes and rivers in your community?

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24. Have you noticed changes in the date of freeze up of lakes and when the ice breaks up in the Spring? Has that affected you or anyone you know?

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25. Is the Spring run-off different from the past in any way?

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**Changes in weather during the rest of the year**

26. Have you noticed changes in summer temperatures and rainfall? Compared to when?

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27. Are long periods of dry or hot summer weather affecting your community more than in the past? Compared to when?

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28. Have you noticed any changes in the number of windstorms and rainstorms and how severe they are? Perhaps thunder and lightning at different times of the year?

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29. Has the community been affected by wildfires?

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**Effects of changing weather on buildings, roads and utilities**

30. Do rainstorms cause flooding in your community? More than in the past? At what time of year?

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31. Have changes in weather affected:

- homes and other buildings

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- power lines

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- drinking water

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32. What have people done about these changes?

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### **Weather emergencies**

33. Have you noticed changes in flooding in your community?

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34. Does the spring break-up cause problems in your community? Are any of those problems different from the past?

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### **Health**

35. Have any changes in weather led to health problems in your community? Including problems like diseases carried by insects?

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Other climate change concerns within the community?

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