

Climate Change in Northern Ontario – Community Vulnerabilities and Risks

*Al Douglas, Program Manager
Climate Change Adaptation, MIRARCO*

As greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise around the globe, changing weather and climate conditions are posing new challenges and risks to communities in Ontario. The economies of many northern Ontario communities are based on natural resources, thus climatic threats to biophysical systems will require attention and action in terms of adaptive planning. This proactive thinking and planning will ensure that communities in northern Ontario are prepared for the negative effects of climate change and are well positioned to capitalize on any advantages that may arise. Furthermore, communities must consider climate change when developing community plans. For example, economic development and strategic planning must recognize the significance of a low carbon future, reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and embrace a shift to sources of renewable energy.

This presentation will give an overview of the state of climate change planning in northern Ontario highlighting key challenges and concerns. Methods of improving adaptive capacity in northern Ontario communities and ongoing adaptation efforts will also be presented along with some of the methods available to aid and facilitate community adaptation planning.