

**Kimberley Climate Change Adaptation Workshop**  
**24-25 June 2008, Kimberley, BC**  
**Summary Report**

**Workshop Objectives:**

- Participants gain an understanding of climate change adaptation
- Participants understand the project, why it's important and how it applies to Kimberley
- Participants are able to identify impact pathways and brainstorm on community information needs and future steps
- Participants identify priority impact areas in the community for research, analysis, exploration
- Create stakeholder support, interest and enthusiasm for the project.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> (pm)**

**Unique to Kimberley**

Participants shared with each other what makes Kimberley a unique place to live. A long list was generated including the following highlights:

- It is a recreational paradise
- Shifting from being a mining town to a tourist destination
- Abundance of wildlife, deer, moose, etc, both in town and out
- Snow
- Mark Creek used to run orange, now it is clear and swimmable
- Diversity of lifestyles – people do what they need so they can live here
- Having an 800 hectare Nature Park within city limits & a pedestrian downtown
- Quality of community and community spirit

**Participant Observations**

Brainstorming took place in groups on what people are observing in Kimberley that may be related to climate change. A range of observations were shared ranging including shifts in the seasons, warmer winters, lower water levels and less water in mountain lakes, more wind and extreme weather events, , more deer in town, shifts in gardening zones, , more tourists from Alberta because of adverse changes to their lakes, and increase in mountain pine beetle populations.

**Climate change adaptation 101**

Three presentations followed by questions and answers were provided by CBT advisory committee members:

- Mel Reasoner, Climate Change Scientist & Basin Resident, Nelson, BC
- Stewart Cohen, Environment Canada - Adaptation & Impacts Research Division (AIRD), and University of British Columbia - Department of Forest Resources Management, Vancouver, BC ([www.ires.ubc.ca/aird/index.html](http://www.ires.ubc.ca/aird/index.html))
- Lara Whitely Binder, Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (<http://cses.washington.edu/cig/>)

Overall engagement of the participants was high with many questions and dialogue taking place over the two hour session. Some points raised in the discussions included:

- How to communicate climate change impacts more clearly, at all levels/scales, and as much as possible
- The importance of shared learning experiences
- Local governments on front lines making decisions all the time
- Scale: primary and secondary impacts
- How did we shift our attitudes for smoking and drunk driving?
- Need for more social scientists participating
- Need to link climate change and economic development – where are entry points?
- Modeling/future trends is useful and necessary
- Note that government has tools that it can use for adaptation

**June 25<sup>th</sup> (Half Day)**

### **Identifying and prioritizing how climate change may impact Kimberley**

The second day of the workshop looked at challenges and opportunities facing Kimberley as a result of climate change impacts. Areas of concern were then prioritized by participants through a prioritization exercise.



The following list highlights the identified impact areas and associated questions.

1. Water Supply and Demand  
What are the impacts of climate change on water supply and demand in Kimberley (eg. snowpack, streamflows)?
2. Forests and Ecosystem Impacts  
What are the changes to forest ecosystems and impacts to species type, habitat?
3. Economy and Energy  
What are the impacts to our economy with changes in energy costs and availability?
4. Tourism  
What are impacts of climate change on ski, golf and outdoor recreation tourism, eg. quality of experience, level of reliance as economic engine for Kimberley, diversification of tourism products, # of tourists from Alberta and elsewhere.
5. Forests and Fire  
What are the changes in wildfire risk/fire season & impacts of changing fire risk?
6. Municipal Infrastructure  
What are the impacts on roads, stormwater management, bridges, sewers, etc. from extreme events, flooding, freeze/thaw, etc.?
7. Food and Food Security  
What will the impact of climate change be on our food supply?
8. Health – Direct Impacts  
What will be the impact of increased temperature, disease vectors and air quality that directly impact health?
9. Health – Indirect Impacts  
What are the indirect impacts on health resulting from climate change related impacts to the economy, eg. stress, marginalization of low/fixed income groups, opportunity to improve the built environment, attract sustainable industries, etc.
10. Water Quality  
What are the impacts on water quality (temperature, turbidity)?
11. Water – Flood Risk  
What are the changes to flood risk in Kimberley?
12. Groundwater  
What are the impacts on groundwater?

The summarized list of priority areas for further analysis included: Water Supply and Demand, Forests Fire Risk, Economy and Energy, Forests and Ecosystem Health, Municipal Infrastructure, and Tourism. The prioritization exercise was followed by brainstorming on available and needed information/data for each area, which will be supplied to CBT's Climate Change Advisory Committee to determine which information/data can be prepared for Kimberley.

#### **Final words from the Mayor of Kimberley, Jim Ogilvie:**

*"Climate change is real. How it is occurring is not the issue. The effects need to be looked at and addressed."*