



Northern Climate ExChange

independent information, shared understanding, action on climate change

2007-08 Annual Report

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Executive Summary

The Northern Climate Exchange (NCE), a program of the Northern Research Institute at Yukon College, was established in February 2000 to provide a credible independent source of information, develop shared understanding and promote action on climate change in northern Canada. Its mandate is to promote increased understanding of, and appropriate responses to climate change in the North. The NCE is designed to serve as a catalyst for multidisciplinary climate change research in the Canadian North, to facilitate the collection and assessment of scientific and traditional knowledge, and to advance a virtual framework for circumpolar climate change research. The NCE administered the northern region of the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN North) to June 2007. The Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and Yukon College have been the primary funders of NCE programs and activities.

NCE had a number of changes over the last year including a new Coordinator, Jen Turner, who started in September. Two new positions were created in March 2008 through funding from the Northern Strategy Trust. Lewis Rifkind was hired as the Community Adaptation Project Manager, based in Whitehorse. Sebastian Jones, was hired for the local adaptation coordinator position in Dawson.

This annual progress report describes work completed by the NCE between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.



Project Highlights

Climate Change Communications and Outreach

2007-08 was a very productive and interesting year for the Northern Climate Exchange especially in light of its reduction in staff and funding. Below are descriptions of some of the many projects from the fiscal year.

While communications and outreach were downscaled this year due to staff cuts, NCE carried out a number of presentations and outreach activities, including:

Presentation of Atlin Final Workshop Report to the community of Atlin, September 2007. This work was funded by Indian and Northern Affairs.

Presentation of Atlin work at Changing Climate, Changing Basin workshop, Columbia Basin Trust, Cranbrook, BC (Nov. 28-29, 2007). NCE's presentation and involvement in the workshop were valuable for initiating the development of an informal network of local governments and community groups who are all working on the relatively new activity of adaptation planning. NCE's participation in this activity was funded by the Columbia Basin Trust.

Presentation as part of McBride Museum's Climate Change Series (Feb 20, 2008)

Education and outreach on Northern Regions Chapter of the National Assessment Report *From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007* (Dec '07– March 2008). This work was funded by Indian and Northern Affairs.

NRCan Calendar Club (Jan to May 2008). Promotion and distribution of contest information through mailouts.

Discussion of adaptation and the Northern Strategy Community project for a documentary being produced for Dutch Public Radio interview.

NCE weekly email updates on recent climate change news, research, and announcements. The contact list for the weekly update is approximately 400 people, although we anticipate this number is higher as we've been told that once sent out, our email updates get forwarded as part of other list services.

NCE also provided a lecture on adaptation for Yukon College's Geography Course on Climate Change.

NCE hopes to expand it's abilities to do more education and outreach and it's likely that a part-time employee will be hired early in the new fiscal year.



NCE Website

The NCE website is an interactive, up-to-date site for climate change information relevant to Canada's North. Primarily maintained by the NCE Coordinator with assistance from our web technician, the site contains information on the projects and programs underway at the NCE and throughout the North. Along with information about the NCE, the website provides current climate change news, reports, information, conferences, resources, and funding opportunities. Statistics indicate our site received almost **44,000** hits in the last year.

The website had an overhaul this past Fall to provide updates on the number of programs ending and the new projects that have been completed recently. A new section on the website called "Impacts and Adaptation" reflects the surge of interest and activity surrounding climate change adaptation. Further changes took place in March with funding from Environment Canada. These additions included: links to adaptation research, methodologies, and projects with a northern or community focus will be added in Spring 2008.

Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C_CIARN)

From 2001 to June 2007, the NCE delivered the northern node of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN North), until Natural Resources Canada ended the funding for this program. NCE worked in partnership with the Nunavut Research Institute and NWT's Ecology North to coordinate and facilitate climate change impacts and adaptation research, disseminate information and research results, build research capacity, maintain a database and web site, provide training opportunities, promote stakeholder involvement, and provide continuity in the effort to develop scholarship and a shared understanding of present-day and future climate impacts, vulnerabilities, risks, resiliency and adaptation.

Two of the products that came out of this project included: a northern poster as part of NRCan's national climate change assessment, and a legacy website. With C-CIARN ending in June 2007, this site was designed so that the many products of C-CIARN, such as workshop and conference reports, posters and other communication products, remain accessible to the public.



Northern Strategy Community Adaptation Project

The Northern Strategy Community Adaptation project officially started in March 2008 with the signing of a contribution agreement with the Yukon Government. This four-year project (funding currently confirmed to March 2009) will assist three Yukon communities with developing climate change adaptation plans.

The contribution agreement with Yukon Government was signed in mid-March, 2008 and the project started in earnest at this point. A local (Dawson) coordinator and a Whitehorse-based project manager both started in mid to late March. Some of the major tasks to be completed or well underway in the first couple of months of this project include, setting up a Dawson office, data collection, development of survey questions, Dawson public open house/workshop in May, and baseline scenario mapping.

We are currently planning a May open house in Dawson to introduce the project and to collect some community input. This summer will be an intensive data collection season including surveying and workshops. NCE is working closely with Frank Duerden, the International Polar Year lead, who is studying the vulnerability and capacity of the Dawson region to deal with climate change.

We anticipate many partnerships will evolve out of this work. Short-term funding agreements in March 2008 with Environment Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs contributed to work that will benefit this project.

International Polar Year

NCE is involved in a number of International Polar Year projects including:

Canadian Science Writers' Conference, Whitehorse May 2008

NCE has been involved in the planning for this conference, will assist with logistics, co-lead a session on climate change adaptation and co-host an evening event that will highlight our community adaptation work and the Northern Strategy project.

CAVIAR (Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions) projects in Whitehorse and Dawson

These two projects are part of a \$1.4 million research effort in over 12 communities across the Canadian North. The focus of the CAVIAR Project is to increase understanding and enhance the capacity of northern communities to deal with social, economic and ecological changes related to the current and expected impacts of climate change.

NCE is assisting with the research and logistics for both projects. Our Northern Strategy work in Dawson is closely aligned with the Dawson CAVIAR.



Climate Change Research Centre of Excellence

In the fall of 2006, The Government of Yukon announced the establishment of a Climate Change Research Centre of Excellence at Yukon College. The NCE has been actively working with Yukon College on defining what this Centre will look like. As part of this process, the NCE and Yukon College have had meetings with the University of Alberta, the Canadian Polar Commission, and other interest groups.

NCE reviewed materials for and attended a planning symposium in March 2008.

From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007

NCE provided education and outreach on the Northern Regions Chapter through development of a power point presentation, two-page backgrounder, sector representative list, and sector surveys. Surveys were developed for mining, tourism, resource management, community health, infrastructure, and water management sectors. The funding from Indian and Northern Affairs ran from mid-February to the end of March and the report was not released until mid-March. As such, NCE developed the communication tools and piloted the two-pager and surveys to a limited number of sector representatives.

There may be opportunities in the new fiscal year to do a Yukon-wide distribution of the surveys, the intention of which are to inform policymakers and practitioners of the findings of the report and to initiate the discussion on adaptation.

Preparing for Change: Managing Climate Change Risks in the Atlin Area

A workshop report was prepared and presented to the community in September, 2007. While there are no specific plans for further work in Atlin, NCE has offered to provide support for implementing any of the activities listed in their adaptation plan.

This work, which was funding by Indian and Northern Affairs, provided NCE with valuable adaptation planning experience and has led to a number of new partnerships.

Yukon Forest Management Branch, Strategic Forest Management Plans for Teslin and Dawson

NCE provided funding from Environment Canada to YG Forestry Management Branch (FMB) to develop, compile data and analyze climate change indicators for a status report framework for the Teslin Tlingit Council's Forestry Management Plan. This framework will provide baseline information that future monitoring and reporting of indicators can be compared against and will help in identifying monitoring needs. NCE is a member of the Teslin Tlingit Forest Management working group.

Similar work was funded by NCE for YG FMB, Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation and the Dawson Renewable Resource Council who are jointly preparing a Strategic Forest Management Plan (SFMP).



Arctic Borderlands Ecological Coop

NCE provided funding from Environment Canada's *Adaptation and Impacts Research* Division to assist the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop in synthesizing data collected over the last ten years by the non-profit Coop. NCE's contribution represents a small part of a large synthesis report that the Coop is working on and aims to complete this fall.

Iqaluit, Planning for Climate Change Conference

The Canadian Institute of Planners is holding a conference in Iqaluit from July 20-23, 2008. NCE submitted a joint proposal along with Frank Duerden (IPY) to present our adaptation work in Atlin and Dawson. The proposal was accepted and NCE will do a joint presentation with Frank.

Participation in this conference will be partially funded by Environment Canada's *Adaptation and Impacts Research* Division.



NCE Partnerships

Climate Change adaptation planning is a new activity for local governments and a number of new partnerships, as reflected in the list below, have largely developed over the last year through NCE's work in Atlin, BC and the Northern Strategy Community Adaptation project.

In 2007-08 the NCE held funding agreements with:

- Yukon Environment
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment Canada
- Natural Resources Canada

NCE worked collaboratively on projects with the following organizations:

- Yukon Environment
- Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources
- Yukon Forestry Management Branch
- Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop
- City of Whitehorse
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
- Arctic Council
- Canadian Science Writers Association
- Canadian Institute of Planners
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Yukon College
- Ryerson University
- University of British Columbia

As described in the previous section, some of these projects are standalone, while others build on NCE's or other organization's existing projects (e.g., Forestry Management Branch, Arctic Borderlands Coop). For example, Environment Canada provided NCE funding that went to YG Forestry Management Branch for research that will be beneficial to a Forest Management Branch project and NCE's Northern Strategy Adaptation project.



Financial Report

The Northern Climate Exchange received core and project funding from Yukon Government, Department of Environment and additional project funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, and Natural Resources Canada.

In total NCE cash and in-kind revenues were \$307,060 for 2007-08. In total, NCE cash expenditures were \$108,513.

The following tables summarize NCE revenues and expenditures received during this period from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Detailed financial statements are available upon request. This summary is not an audited financial statement and is extracted from the Yukon College financial records.



Table 1 NCE 2007-08 Cash Revenues Summary

The following table summarizes cash revenues for the NCE between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

Funding Source	Description	Amount
Government of Yukon Department of Environment	Core funding for NCE activities, including C-CIARN North	\$75,000.00
Government of Yukon Department of Environment	Northern Strategy Community Adaptation Project	\$65,000
Environment Canada, Adaptation and Impacts Research Division	Core funding for NCE activities	\$20,000
Natural Resources Canada	C-CIARN North operations in Yukon (March to June 2007)	\$18,750
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	Networking and Capacity- Building for Northern Regions Chapter of NRCan's <i>From Impacts to Adaptation Report</i>	\$15,000
Columbia Basin Trust	Travel Assistance	\$860
Total Revenue (Cash)		\$194,610



Table 2 NCE 2007-08 In-Kind Revenues Summary

The table below summarizes in-kind revenues for the NCE between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

Funding Source	Description	Amount
Yukon College	Administrative support	\$42,900
Yukon College	Office space	\$41,250
Arctic Borderlands Coop	Server space	\$1,500
UNEP-GRID	Server	\$1,300
INAC, Michael Westlake	Advice and expertise	\$2,500
NCE Management Committee, and NCE Advisors	Advice and expertise	\$20,000
John Streicker	Advice and expertise	\$3,000
Total Revenue (In-Kind)		\$112,450



Table 3 NCE Core Expense Summary

The following table summarizes expenses associated with the NCE core activities between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

Project Item	Expense
Salaries	\$61,728.69
Admin	\$2,666.02
Materials	\$2,102.42
Total Expenditures	\$66,497.13

Table 4 Northern Strategy Expense Summary

The following table summarizes expenses associated with Northern Strategy activities between December 2007 and March 31st, 2008.

Project Item	Expense
Salaries	\$5,459.12
Admin	\$1,357.43
Materials	\$200
Total Expenditures	\$7,016.55



Table 5 Environment Canada Expense Summary

The following table summarizes expenses associated with Environment Canada activities between April 1st, 2007 and March 31st, 2008.

Project Item	Expense
Salaries	\$17,000
Admin	\$0
Materials and Travel	\$3000
Total Expenditures	\$20,000

Table 6 Indian and Northern Affairs Expense Summary

The following table summarizes expenses associated with Indian and Northern Affairs activities between February 1st, 2008 and March 31st, 2008.

Project Item	Expense
Salaries	\$15,000
Total Expenditures	\$15,000