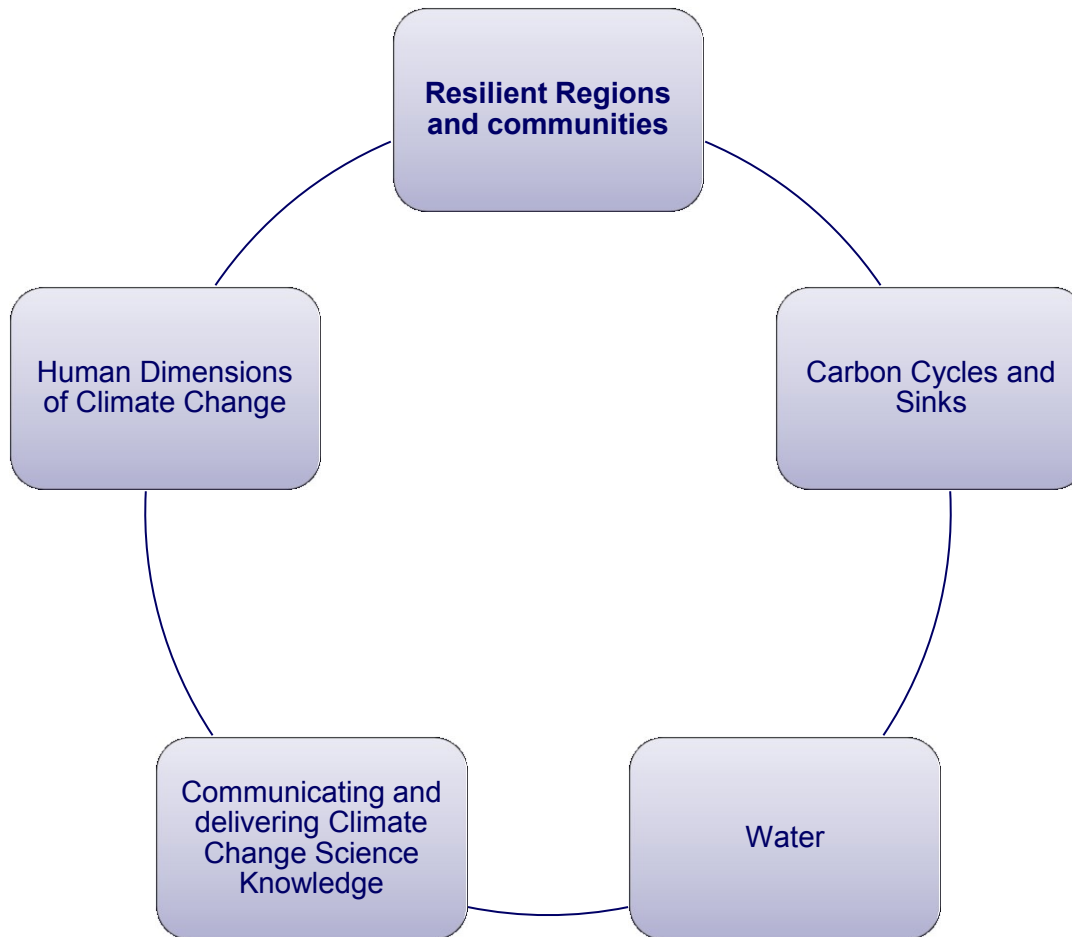




Addressing Mental Health Impacts in Indigenous Communities Due to Evacuations Caused by Extreme Weather Events



Targeted Federal Climate Change Science Plan





Targeted Federal Climate Change Science Plan

Activity 4.2: Resilient Regions & Communities





Partnerships:



Indigenous
Services Canada



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



Public Safety
Canada

Sécurité publique
Canada



National Collaborating Centre
for Infectious Diseases

Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses



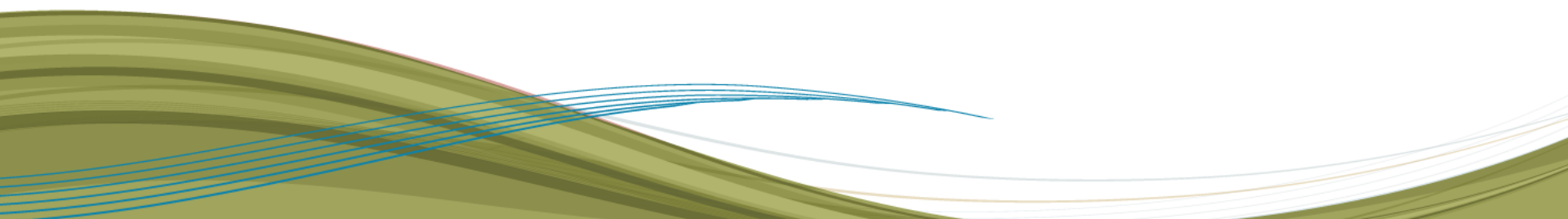
NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE
FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

CENTRE DE COLLABORATION NATIONALE
DE LA SANTÉ AUTOCHTONE



Natural Resources Canada

www.nrcan.gc.ca





What do we need to know about evacuations in Indigenous communities?



Image: Jonathon Zettel, Siksika Nation (CTVNews 2013)

“Climate change affects individuals, groups and sectors differently depending on their vulnerability, exposure to risk and capacity to be resilient...inequalities influence local coping and adaptive capacity”

Source: Targeted Federal Climate Change Science Plan (2018-Draft)



Food for thought

“Between 2009-2016 on-reserve First Nations in Canada were 28.7 times more likely to be internally displaced as a result of disaster than their off-reserve Canadian counterparts”

“81,485 on-reserve First Nations evacuated since 2009”

“Around 2,000 First Nation individuals from Manitoba have not been able to return home since 2011 floods”

(Durocher 2018)



Jeff Labine, tbnewswatch.com (2011)



“[T]he disaster of which many residents spoke pertains not to the threat of wildfire, but to the efforts to protect them from it.”

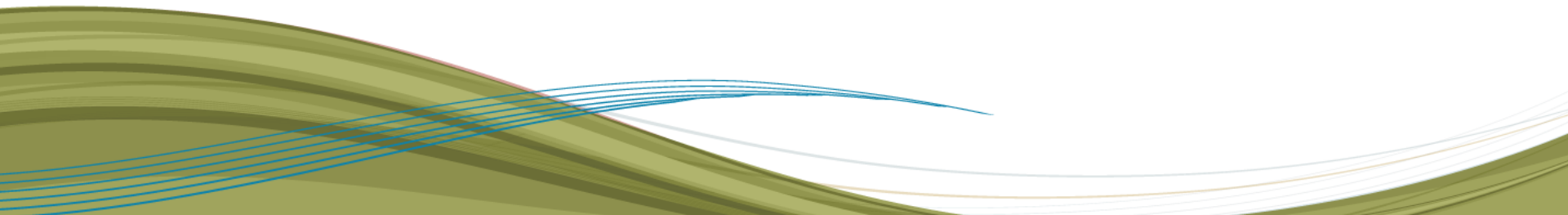
–Prof. James Waldram, 2017



Indigenous perspectives of health and well-being

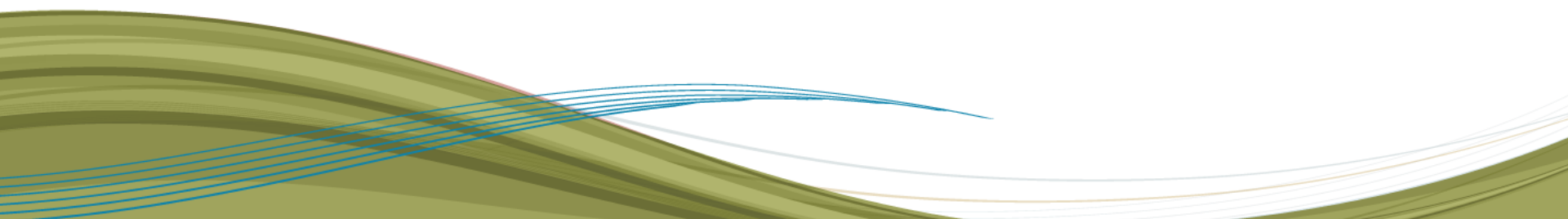
“It’s about looking at each community and respecting the cultural diversity of each nation. So in evacuation, it is critical that we honour the [cultural] diversity and the traditions, language, and culture. In doing this, you are actively breaking down barriers that exist in order to assist evacuees in ways that work for them.”

– community member





Pathways Forward





Summary

- Ensure Indigenous communities are at the table throughout all phases of emergency management
- Keep families with people they know (other Indigenous communities)
- Continue cultural practices when possible (feasts, powwows, potlatches) understanding that these will change depending on communities
- Offering opportunities to debrief with the community
- Supporting community-led efforts
- Service providers (volunteers, etc.) obtaining necessary cultural safety training, as defined by Indigenous communities



What is your experience?

- What are the best practices you see being utilized by and for Indigenous communities during evacuation processes?
- There are several documented short-term impacts of evacuations. What long-term impacts are you witnessing in Indigenous communities?
- In what ways are cultural safety considerations utilized in evacuations, or more largely, as a part of community action plans? If not, what are the ways that cultural safety considerations can be implemented into evacuation processes?