Examining forest vulnerabilities to climate change and developing resilience enhancement strategies through long-term community partnerships in Yukon

**CONTEXT**
Climate change is expected to have multiple environmental and economic impacts on northern forests and communities. This study stems from previous research on impacts of climate variation on Yukon’s forests. It was determined that communities are likely to face unique ecological and social challenges.

**OBJECTIVE**
Through a collaborative and community-directed process, this project identified priority forest vulnerabilities and potential adaptation opportunities in the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory (TTTT).

Findings were communicated through reports, meetings and open houses.

**RESULTS**
The study found that areas of wildfire risk potential in the TTTT are located in close proximity to Teslin and important land-use areas for the community.

Potential adaptation priorities identified through the community-directed process included:

- Building community awareness to support informed planning and decision-making.
- Strategic application of forestry activities to optimize risk-mitigation and community-based sustainable economic development.
- Applying integrated approaches to mitigation activities to enhance efficient use of resources and to broaden community support.
- Developing flexible planning strategies to accommodate community responses to potential future large-landscape wildfires.

**Significance**
This project has demonstrated how forest management practices geared toward adaptation to climate change can be influenced by community values and objectives.

**Partners**
- Forest Management Branch, Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon
- Teslin Renewable Resource Council
- Teslin Tlingit Council
- University of Northern British Columbia
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- Wildland Fire Management, Community Services, Government of Yukon
- Canadian Forest Service

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