





## DID YOU KNOW?


In 2019, Lakehead University researcher Dr. Lindsay Galway and her team conducted a postal survey to explore how the residents of Thunder Bay perceive, experience and respond to climate change. Here is a snapshot of what community members had to say:

### Climate change is important for Thunder Bay residents:

- "We get it and we care."   
9 out of 10 residents believe climate change is happening and most people believe it to be caused by human activity.
- "We are worried."   
8 out of 10 of residents are worried about climate change, and half of those are very worried. We are also feeling frustrated (72%) and sad (64%).
- "We have a lot of concerns."  
Given our close relationships with the land, water, and outdoor recreational activities, it is no wonder we are concerned about how climate change will impact the things we love: Lake Superior and other blue spaces and moose populations. We hold a deep concern for the wellbeing of Indigenous communities across Northern Ontario.
- When it comes to our health, we are most concerned about infectious disease, the risk of injury due to extreme weather events, and the consequences of forest fires – the risk of which is forecast to increase by over 50% by 2050 in Northern Ontario.



### We are already living in a climate-impacted community:

- Almost half of Thunder Bay community members report experiencing the effects of climate change, including:
  - Unusual precipitation events (unusually heavy rain, January rain, etc.),
  - Shifting seasons,
  - Extreme and unpredictable weather,
  - Impacts on wildlife and plants,
  - Human health (including increased presence of blacklegged ticks and Lyme disease),
  - Changes in nearby waterways.
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8 out of 10 people believe that the impacts of climate change are harmful to the health of vulnerable populations in our community.





## WHAT CAN WE DO?

### Now is the time for action:

- *We know we need to act.* 86% of residents think we should be doing more to address climate change, and over 60% believe climate change should be a high priority for our municipal government.
- *We can all do more.* Although 69% of residents feel a strong moral responsibility – to future generations, plants, or animals – we don't typically take meaningful climate action. Our individual actions tend to focus on recycling and waste reduction, simple feel-good actions with a negligible impact.
- *Collective action makes meaningful change.* Despite the need for urgent, policy-level change, only 14% of residents report expressing their support for climate action to politicians or decision makers.
- *We need to build community awareness.* 70% of residents aren't aware of any examples of climate action underway in Thunder Bay.



### TAKE ACTION NOW!

- *Communicate about climate change*
- *Encourage decision makers to take action*
- *Get involved with community initiatives*



### We can all be a part of meaningful change:

- Now is the time to ensure our personal and community actions are transformative.
- Help break the silence: talk about climate change with friends, family, and neighbours. What are the people around you saying?
- Call or email politicians and decision makers regularly to express support for climate friendly action.



### REFERENCE:

- **Galway, L.P., Buse, C., Gislason, M., & Parkes, M.W (2020) Perspectives on Climate Change in Thunder Bay: Findings from a Community Survey.** Lakehead University, Ontario, Canada. Available at: [https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-hall/resources/Documents/EarthCare/Galway\\_2020\\_Perspectives-on-Climate-Change-in-Thunder-Bay.pdf](https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-hall/resources/Documents/EarthCare/Galway_2020_Perspectives-on-Climate-Change-in-Thunder-Bay.pdf)

### THIS RESOURCE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

- CITIZENS UNITED FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET
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