

# Indigenous Food Security

**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**  
**West / Pacific Region**



National Collaborating Centre  
for Infectious Diseases  
Centre de collaboration nationale  
des maladies infectieuses



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## Key Findings

- Climate change has caused movement of the fish due to changes in water temperature. Salmon is where you see environmental impacts the most. Clam season has been dramatically shortened and there has been a shorter oyster season as well.
- Many people still rely on the harvest of elk, deer and moose to fill their freezers because store-bought meat is too expensive. Elders and those without are traditionally taken care of by other members of the community who have extra to share.
- There is a gap in access to food harvesting/hunting/fishing for off-reserve members.





## Priorities

- Support for Indigenous fishing and seafood harvesting programs. This goes hand-in-hand with having jurisdiction or access to traditional harvesting territories.
- Support for community members who are struggling with food insecurity and high costs of living, such as food banks and subsidies.
- Encouraging the transmission of Traditional Knowledge as it relates to food (hunting, fishing and harvesting)

## Best practices

- Traditionally based food-sharing programs, particularly for Elders and other vulnerable members. These are often informal and grounded in traditional cultural practices and values that have been practiced since time immemorial.
- The City of Mission and the Le'quamel First Nation partnered to create temperature maps, invasive species mapping, and increased heat and temperature risk assessment and modelling, which will then lead to a Community Wellness Strategy.
- Breakfast programs for school children and community food centres provide an essential immediate service.



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