



# Application Package

## At a glance

**What:** A 5-month training program designed to support communities through the next steps in their climate preparedness journeys.

**Who:** For community leaders and staff from small, remote, and rural communities in BC, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

**Why:** To equip participants with the knowledge, resources, and connections needed to confidently navigate their climate adaptation efforts.

**Application deadline: July 18, 2025**











# CoNext: Climate Preparedness Hub

## Not just another training program.

CoNext is a fully funded, five-month program designed specifically for small, rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in British Columbia. We know many communities are feeling the impacts of climate change but may not be sure where to begin or how to make time for it. CoNext meets you where you are and walks alongside you from there, because your community deserves climate support that actually fits your reality.

This isn't just another training program. CoNext is a collaborative, applied learning experience created for communities that are often left out of climate conversations designed for larger urban centres. It's structured to support real people doing real work, often with limited resources but deep community commitment.

Program Eligibility	Program Structure
 Small, rural, and remote communities in BC	 Duration: 5 months
 Communities in the early stages of climate adaptation planning	 Sessions: 5 x 3-hour virtual sessions
 Dedicated team of people from across departments or organizations	 Individual team coaching: 3 sessions
 Primary applicant must be a municipality, regional district or First Nation community	 Team Size: 3 or more people

### What makes CoNext different is our focus on relationships.

Climate resilience isn't just about technical solutions, it's about how we connect. CoNext helps your team grow stronger connections with yourselves, each other, your community, your neighbours, the land, and the broader systems around you. Along the way, you're supported by facilitators who walk with you, and a network of peers navigating similar challenges.

At the heart of our approach is a commitment to decolonization and reconciliation. That means designing each session and tool with intention, care, and cultural awareness. Western science sits alongside Indigenous Knowledge, local wisdom, and lived experience.

**Deadline to submit an Expression of Interest: July 18, 2025**

## What You'll Do

Over five online sessions and three dedicated coaching calls, your team will examine what climate resilience actually looks like when it's rooted in your local context, your values, and your existing strengths.

You'll learn practical skills like:

- Making sense of climate data without getting overwhelmed
- Talking about climate change in ways that don't shut people down
- Building a shared language around risk that actually makes sense in your community
- Developing realistic next steps that fit your community's pace and priorities



Rather than pushing you toward a perfect plan (because let's be honest, those don't exist), we work with you to develop a realistic, actionable path forward that aligns with your community's capacity.

## What You'll Walk Away With



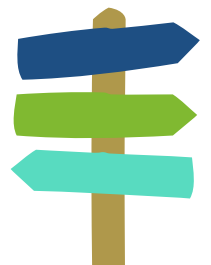
At the end of the program, your team will have:

- A custom climate profile that translates big (sometimes intimidating) climate data for your community or region into practical, place-based insights you can actually use
- A short-term action plan with doable steps that won't overwhelm your busy team
- A stronger, more connected team that's ready to keep moving forward, together

## Is CoNext Right for Your Community?

CoNext is specifically designed for communities in the early stages of climate adaptation planning. You might be a good fit if you:

- Want to be proactive about climate change but feel overwhelmed by where to start
- Know climate change is affecting your region but don't have the time or tools to act
- Are ready to work across departments, organizations, or sectors to create something stronger together
- Can bring a team of at least three people (staff, leaders, or partners) who are committed to learning and supporting one another
- Can apply with a municipality, regional district, or First Nation community as the primary applicant



## How to Apply

Assemble your team and complete a short Expression of Interest form (linked at the end of this package) by 11:59pm PST on Friday, July 18, 2025. Please make sure your team reads through the entire application package before applying.

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# Overview of Sessions

Held virtually from 9:00am-12:00pm PST

1

## Session 1: Understanding Community Climate Impacts

**October 7, 2025**

Explore the impacts of climate change on various aspects of our communities – from infrastructure to economy, priority populations, health, and wellness.

2

## Session 2: Ways of Knowing & Communicating Climate Change

**October 28, 2025**

Learn to use different types of climate data alongside Indigenous and local knowledges, and effectively communicate this information to your community.

3

## Session 3: Adaptive Planning & Assessment

**November 18, 2025**

Get oriented to conducting risk and vulnerability assessments and explore planning approaches for climate adaptation.

4

## Session 4: Living with Climate Change

**December 9, 2025**

Integrate emergency management and recovery into adaptation planning processes and develop a short-term action plan to guide your next steps.

5

## Session 5: Action Plans & Cross-Community Learning

**January 20, 2026**

Share and improve your action plans with the help of collaborative feedback and learning from other communities.



# Assembling a Team

Climate change affects our communities and regions in many ways, from health to homes, food to infrastructure. Building a diverse team is therefore essential for strengthening your community's climate preparedness. By bringing together people from different roles and backgrounds, your team can share the workload, address broad community needs, and ensure your efforts are more sustainable in the long run.

## Possible roles and departments to invite

If your community has a dedicated climate action role or department, their involvement is essential. Many small communities do not have such a role, or if they do, they likely have limited capacity. They would benefit greatly from the support of a diverse team of staff, elected officials or community members from the following roles or areas of expertise, or others who are interested.

<b>Emergency Response / Fire Chief</b> Frontline experience with climate emergencies & public safety.			<b>Communications</b> Strategies to build public awareness & support for adaptation actions.
<b>Planning / Public Works / Housing</b> Understanding of land use & infrastructure considerations.			<b>HR / Grants / Finance</b> Access to funding opportunities that support implementation.
<b>Environment / Guardianship</b> Key knowledge of land & water based resilience.			<b>Policy / Governance</b> Alignment of adaptation actions with governance & legal frameworks.
<b>Health / Community Services</b> Insight into vulnerable groups & community wellness.			<b>Leadership / Champions</b> Support in building trust & buy-in from community & decision-makers.

Note: This list is not exhaustive! Your community may have other valuable contributors who can play an important part in building resilience, such as youth or elders.

## Possible partnerships for joint applications

Partnering with neighbouring communities, organizations, or other local entities can not only boost each other's capacities, but also support relationship-building and more strategic, regional, and holistic approaches to climate preparedness. Below are just a few examples of possible partnerships.

- First Nation communities + Local Governments
- Local Government + local community service organizations
- Regional District + member Municipalities
- Tribal Council + member Nations



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Our community doesn't have any climate staff. Can we still participate?**

**A:** Absolutely! This program is designed specifically for communities like yours. We'll help you build climate adaptation awareness across different departments so your team can work together on building resilience. Please refer to [\*Assembling a Team\*](#) for suggestions on who to involve and partner with. Diverse teams are encouraged.

**Q: I'm not a climate expert. How technical will this training be?**

**A:** Don't worry! CoNext is designed to help communities in the early stages of their climate adaptation journey, and to serve a range of learning styles. Climate change is a community issue, not (just) a technical one, and the course materials and activities include topics such as communications, storytelling, practitioner wellness and community engagement. The program provides foundational knowledge and practical tools that are applicable to a wide range of roles and responsibilities.

**Q: I have a solid understanding of climate adaptation. Will this be too easy for me?**

**A:** CoNext is not just a training program - it's an opportunity to build a cross-departmental or cross-organizational team and work on a short-term action plan together. It offers a space for strategic planning, sharing insights, and learning from experts in various fields. It's a great way to expand awareness and generate momentum across departments and organizations, staff and elected officials / leadership, which is essential for effective, community-wide climate change adaptation.

**Q: What if our community can only commit one person?**

**A:** We request a minimum of 3 team members for consistent participation and support. If your community can't commit 3 members, please reach out to us to discuss your specific situation. We are happy to see what we can do to accommodate your needs!

**Q: Is there a maximum number of people per team?**

**A:** No, there is no maximum. We encourage you to bring together as many people as are needed to support your climate adaptation efforts.

**Q: What's the value of the program? Is there a cost to participate?**

**A:** CoNext is 100% free, with an estimated value of \$10,000 - \$15,000. The main investment for your community is time and effort, which includes:

- Assembling a diverse team for participation
- Attending an interview with the project team to ensure you're set up for success
- Committing to attend all sessions and coaching calls throughout the program
- Developing and presenting a short-term action plan at the end of the program

**Q: How much time does each person have to commit?**

**A:** Each team member is expected to commit approximately 25 hours over 5 months, including training sessions, coaching calls, and assignments.

# Apply Now!

## Deadline to apply: July 18, 2025

Applications for Year 2 of the CoNext: Climate Preparedness Hub are now open! We encourage all eligible communities to assemble a team, apply, and take the next step in their climate adaptation journey.

If you have any questions or need support to apply, please contact the CoNext Team at [conext@fraserbasin.ca](mailto:conext@fraserbasin.ca).



To apply, please complete an online Expression of Interest form, linked below, by **11:59pm PST, Friday, July 18, 2025.**

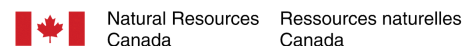
<https://forms.office.com/r/GJrrxFzX6h>

## About Us

This project is a collaborative effort led by a diverse team of organizations committed to enhancing climate resilience across British Columbia.



The CoNext: Climate Preparedness Hub is a three-year project supported by Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Program. Resources and lessons learned will be shared to support broader adoption of climate preparedness strategies across Canada.



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