

Climate-Disaster Toolkit for Vulnerable Communities: A Community-Based Participatory Research Project

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BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

- Climate Crisis in BC: 600+ deaths in 2021 heat dome, disproportionately affecting older adults and people with disabilities
- Growing Vulnerability: 27% of Canadians have disabilities; aging population doubling by 2050
- Resource Gaps: Most climate resources are reactive (post-disaster) rather than proactive (prevention-focused)
- Accessibility Barriers: Limited culturally responsive, accessible climate information for vulnerable populations



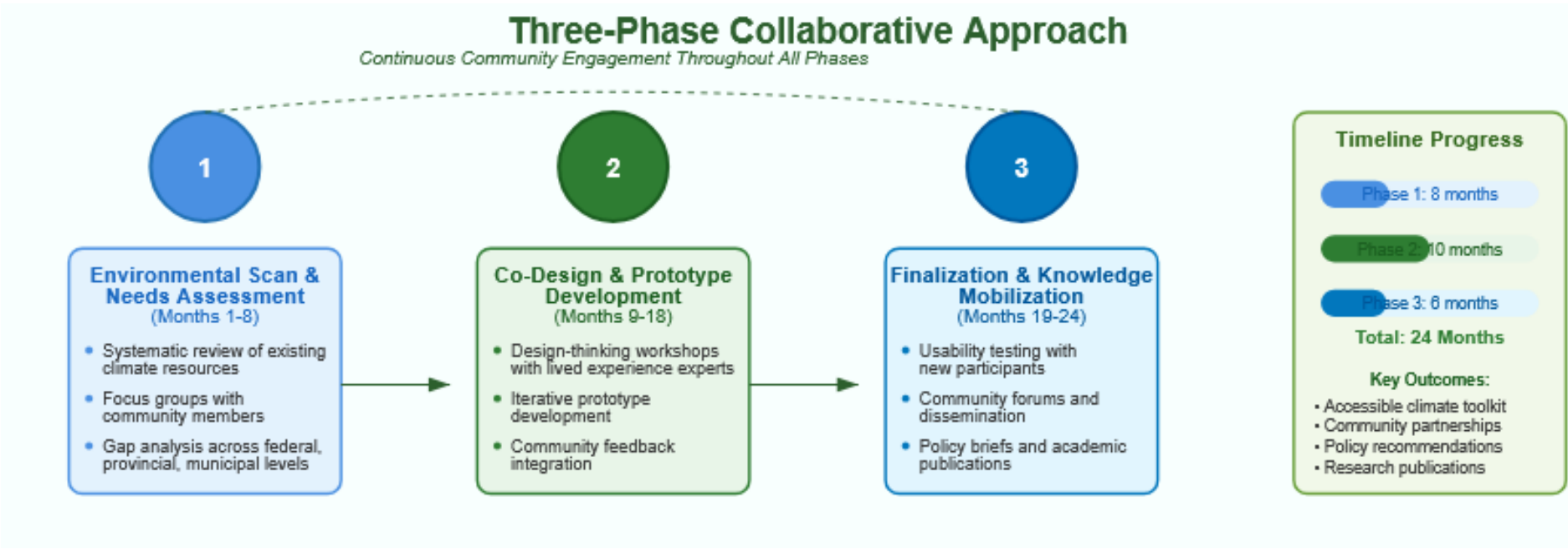
PROJECT VISION

From Reactive Response to Proactive Adaptation

- Develop user-centered climate-disaster toolkits for Metro Vancouver
- Target populations: Older adults, people with disabilities, family caregivers, migrant workers
- Community-based participatory research approach
- Focus on prevention rather than crisis response



PROJECT PLAN & METHODOLOGY



KEY FINDINGS FROM PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

- Federal/Provincial: Frameworks exist but lack accessibility features
- Municipal Variation: Uneven resource distribution across Metro Vancouver
- Community Organizations: Essential services but face resource limitations
- Critical Gaps: Proactive adaptation, language accessibility, coordination between levels



PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

Research Team:

- Mobility, Access, and Participation Research Partnership (SSHRC)
- OT Climate Action Network (OT CAN)
- Peaceful Society, Science and Innovation Foundation

Community Partners:

- AMSSA, SCI-BC, disability organizations
- Municipal health authorities (VCH, Fraser Health)

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

- **Participatory Design:** Community members as co-researchers
- **Accessibility First:** Universal design principles throughout
- **Climate Justice Framework:** Addressing structural inequities
- **Occupational Security:** Protecting meaningful daily activities

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Immediate Outcomes:

- Comprehensive, accessible climate-disaster toolkit
- Strengthened community partnerships
- Enhanced climate preparedness for vulnerable populations

Broader Impact:

- Model for other urban centers facing climate challenges
- Evidence for policy development and system transformation
- Contribution to climate justice and health equity efforts

FUNDING & TIMELINE

- **Funder:** CIHR Catalyst Grant for Community-Based Research in Climate Change Priority Areas
- **Timeline:** 2025-2027 (2 years with no-cost extension)
- **Current Status:** Environmental scan complete, UBC REB Ethics application filed

NEXT STEPS

- Phase 1 recruitment planned after ethics approval
- Open to collaboration and feedback



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