

The Impact of Climate Change on Farms: The Importance of Including the Perspective and Needs of Migrant Workers

P2P 2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 26, 2024





Land Acknowledgement

As a provincial umbrella association, AMSSA acknowledges that B.C. is on the unceded homelands of First Nations who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. We recognize the privilege that we have as settlers on this land and acknowledge that AMSSA's operations is on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As an organization, AMSSA is committed to creating a safe space for indigenous voices.



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Funded by the
Government of
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Canada

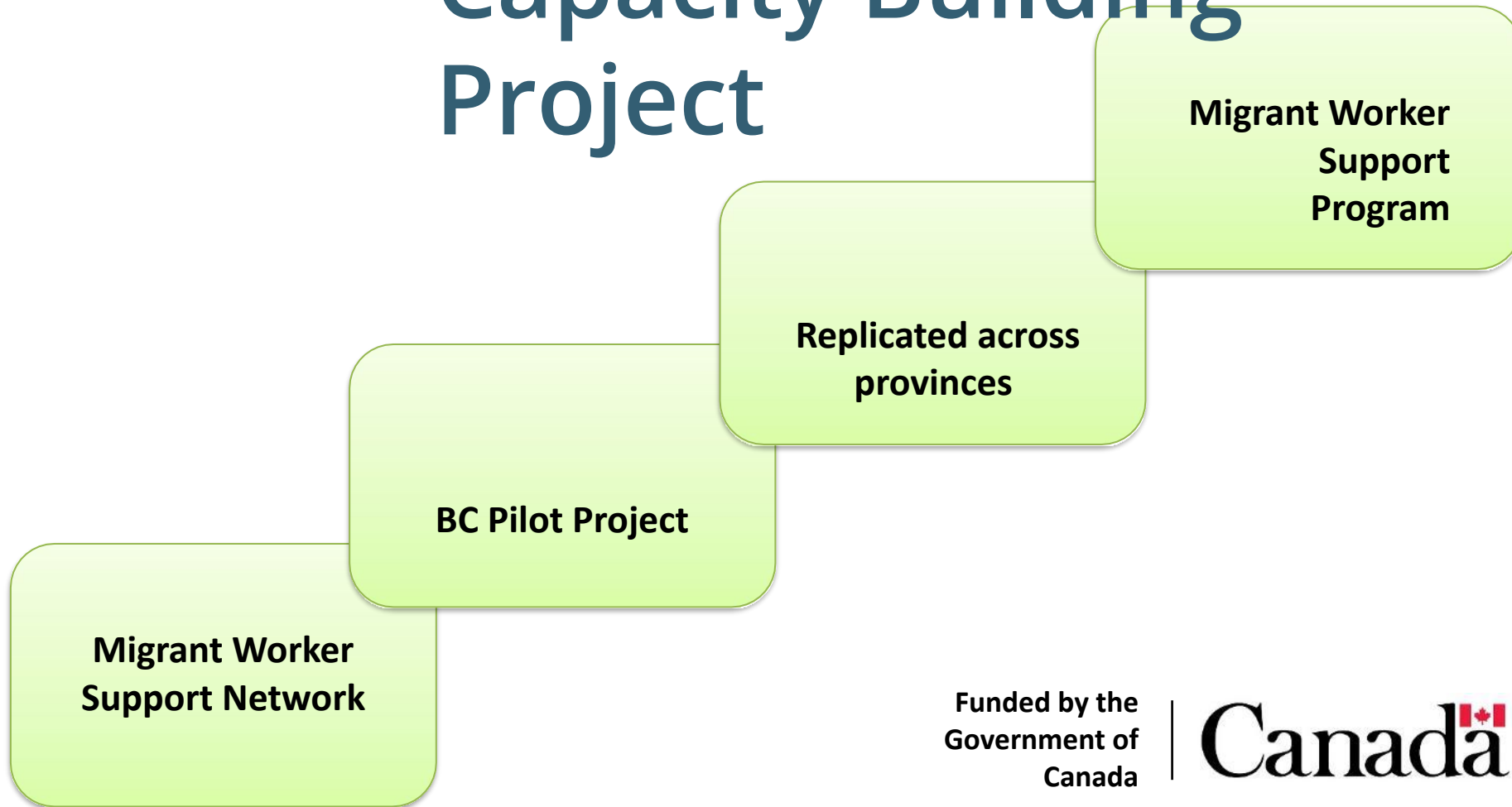


Welcoming Remarks and Land Acknowledgement

MOSAIC operates on the traditional and unceded Coast Salish Territories, the ancestral lands of the s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), x̓m̓əθk̓w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam), q̓iq̓éyt (Qayqayt), s̓c̓əw̓aθən məsteyəx (Tsawwassen), k̓w̓ik̓w̓əłəm (Kwitwetlam), q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie), q̓'w̓a:ñł'əñ (Kwantlen), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) and Matsqui nations.



BC Community Capacity Building Project



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MOSAIC's Migrant Workers Program

□ Service Delivery directly by MOSAIC

- 1-1 Support
- Educational sessions
- Outreach
- Emergency Support
- Migrant Worker Forums
- Community Events

□ Redistribution of Funds to 26 (now 23) Agencies

- Various Funding Streams
- Monthly Meetings with Collaborating Agencies
- Building Connections
- Sharing Best Practices and Addressing Challenges
- Specialized Services



BC Community Capacity Building Project

Fiscal Year	# TFWs served
2019-2020	11,597
2020-2021	28,383
2021-2022	49,991
2022-2023	35,830
2023-2024	38,941
2024-2025	13,558
TOTAL:	178,300 ... and counting!



BC Community Capacity Building Project

TFWs served so far in the current 18-month project
(October 1, 2022 – October 31, 2024)

MOSAIC	26 Sub-Agreement Holders
1,455	57,701

TOTAL = 59,156

... and counting!



BC Floods



Emergency Response: BC Floods

- Collaborative efforts between agencies, consulates, Ministry of Agriculture, churches, community groups
- Delivery of groceries, warm winter clothing, and other essential items to displaced workers
- Transportation support in cases of emergency evacuation
- Led MOSAIC to be the first settlement agency to become part of the Integrated Disaster Council of B.C.



Emergencies

- CLAC funds (Since Feb 2022) --> ESDC funds (Since Oct 2022)

Funding Source	\$ amount	# TFWs supported
CLAC	\$119,141.83	240 TFWs
ESDC	\$153,666.25	343 TFWs
TOTAL	\$224,529.25	TFWs

- **Guidelines**

- \$1,000 max per worker to cover immediate needs when in crisis
- Latest ESDC guidelines shared with sub-agreement holders

- **Ongoing emergency needs**

- Housing provided by employers
- Mobility & accessibility to community supports
- Medical emergencies
- Income support (eg. climate-related, abusive employers)



BC Migrant Worker – Wildfire Task Force

- Collaborative effort between agencies, consulates, employers to solve issues in real time.
- 24/7 Support and immediate contact with first responders and Integrated Disaster Council.
- Delivery of groceries, clothing, and other essential items to displaced workers
- Language support throughout B.C.
- Transportation support in cases of emergency evacuation



2024 Wildfires in Canada: Temporary immigration, passport and citizenship measures

2024 Wildfires in Canada: Temporary immigration, passport and citizenship measures

Due to the recent wildfires across Canada, we've introduced temporary special measures to help those directly affected by these wildfires.

If you're directly affected by the wildfires, you can apply for free to:

- replace citizenship, immigration or travel documents (including passports) that have been lost, damaged or destroyed,
- extend or restore your temporary resident status,
- transition from an employer-specific work permit to an open work permit if you're unable to work for your current employer

These special measures start July 19, 2024, and end November 30, 2024





Thank You



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AMSSA

Established in 1977, AMSSA is a province-wide umbrella association that supports more than 90 immigrant and newcomer serving member agencies and community organizations fulfill their mandates and build culturally inclusive communities.

AMSSA provides support by:

- Building knowledge and resources based on current research and policy trends
- Expanding partnerships and networks
- Developing and facilitating training events



Why is AMSSA talking about climate change?

The struggles of settlement organizations supporting TFWs during extreme climate events

Lack of newcomer knowledge of what to do during an emergency

Newcomers struggling to understand climate emergency information in English

Addressing the impacts of climate change on newcomer communities an emerging need

Project Collaboration

The WorkSafeBC Project is delivered by AMSSA and funded by WorkSafeBC.

The mandate of the project is to:

- Support organizations and individuals who provide services and supports to vulnerable workers, including temporary foreign workers
- Increase the capacity of organizations to engage in this work

The two main objectives of the WorkSafeBC Project are:

- Resource creation, including events and materials developed to address specific WorkSafeBC training and information needs
- Service mapping which involves the Migrant Worker Supports Service Map.

Context

Occurance and Severity

- Extreme climate emergencies are increasing in occurrence and severity
- They are affecting B.C. communities across the province

Needs

- In an emergency, newcomers need many of the same things that the rest of the population does
- There are also factors unique to being a newcomer

Adjustment and Adaptation

- Each newcomer that arrives adjusts to life in Canada and adapts to their new community at their own pace
- This process includes understanding how things work in their community

Familiarity

- Newly arrived migrant workers tend to be unfamiliar with their region
- They tend to not know what to do and where to go in the case of a climate emergency

Knowledge

- Newcomers may not know about geographical designations and names of evacuation zones
- There may be differences between how a road or specific area is referred to on a map

Service Scan Findings Overview: Organizations Supporting Temporary Foreign Workers in BC

Migrant workers are multi-barriered and vulnerable in an extreme situation where everyone experiences significant challenges

More services and resources are needed before, during and after extreme climate events

There are significant negative health effects for migrant workers after extreme climate events

The specific needs of temporary foreign workers during evacuations need to be accounted for

The majority of migrant workers and their employers are not sufficiently prepared for extreme climate events

The Last 2 Years: Similarities & Differences

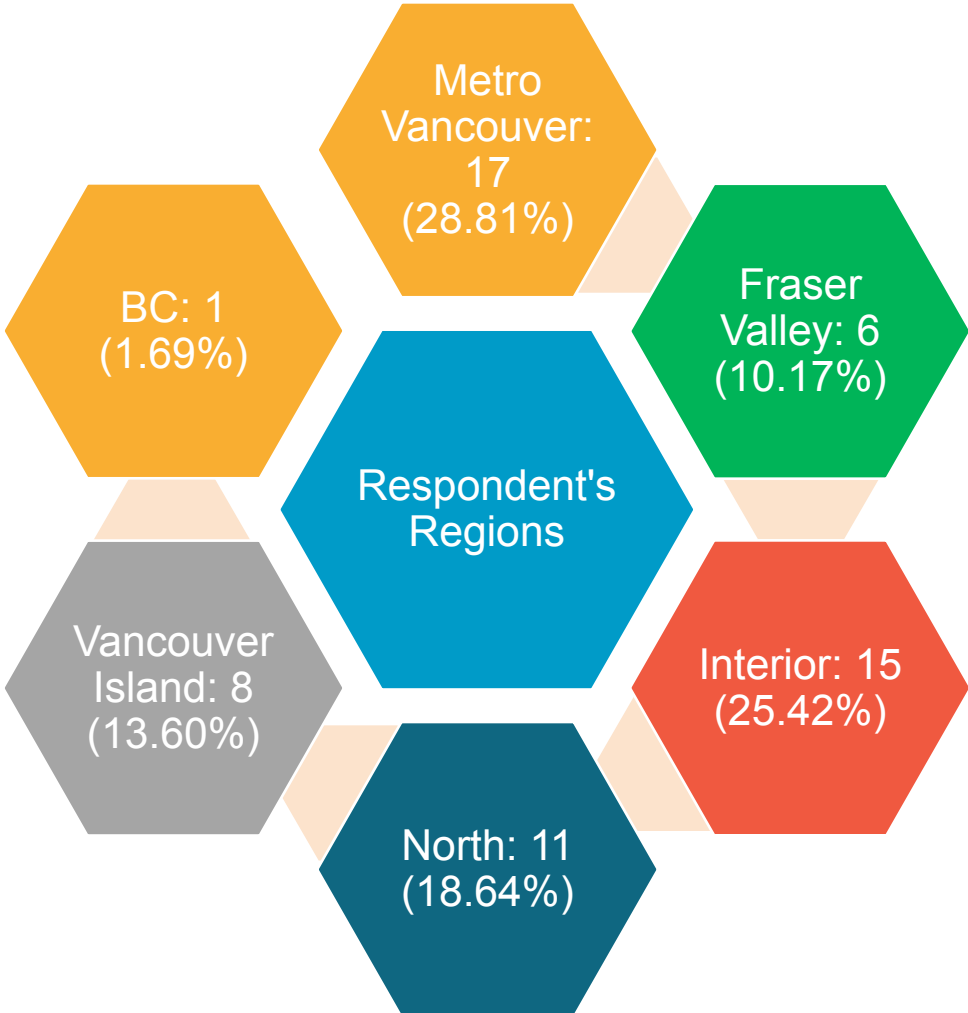
Several themes were present in both service scans, including:

- A lack of preparation and training for climate emergencies
- The lack of information available in a language the migrant workers understand
- The effects of extremely hot temperatures on the health of migrant workers
- A lack of guidance on how best to respond to extreme climate events

Differences in findings between the last 2 years:

- Much stronger concern for the need of appropriate equipment such as N95 masks and adequate clothing
- However, this year's findings did highlight the importance of cooling stations to deal with extreme temperatures
- This year, the importance of providing hampers to deal with extreme hot and cold temperatures

Service Scan 2024: Organizations Supporting Temporary Foreign Workers in BC



What challenges do clients experience during climate emergencies?

Temporary Foreign Workers are vulnerable in many ways

Insufficient services and resources

The health effects of working during extreme weather

Challenging experiences during evacuations

Dynamics between large and small service providing organizations

Are TFW employers and TFWs prepared for climate emergencies?

The majority of responded that they felt TFW employers and TFWs were not sufficiently prepared for climate emergencies with the following themes emerging:

- Lack of information and information that accounts for migrant worker needs
- Clients often lack essential information and resources
- Challenges of poor housing conditions, limited access to emergency services, and no financial support which makes it hard to manage during a crisis

Some of the responses were more nuanced and highlighted how it can depend on different factors.

"During the flooding in Chilliwack -Abbotsford, and the wildfires in Okanagan we notice how none of them know what to do. But the local authorities also don't know what to do. We provided a document to the authorities in both situations of what to do during emergencies."

Have TFW clients received training and resources for working during climate emergencies?



• Indicated that this was rare



• Believe that this happens sometimes



• Note that this happens often

Is climate emergency information and resources provided in a language they understand?

Several responses indicated that the information provided is in English, mostly not in their language but highlighted that they have staff that can speak other languages and simplify the information

More needs to be done to provide information in Spanish for Temporary Foreign Workers in rural areas

Two respondents felt that climate emergency information and resources were provided in a language that the Temporary Foreign Workers understand

Other Resources From AMSSA

AMSSA VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION ON SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS DURING CLIMATE EMERGENCIES JUNE 26TH, 2024

THE SESSION WAS TARGETED TOWARDS FRONTLINE WORKERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PLAN FOR A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Needs highlighted by a speaker included the following:

- **Housing and Accommodation:** Short-term emergency accommodation/housing, safe and secure shelters and information on insurance/tenancy insurance
- **Language:** Understanding and accessing community resources and services in other languages and interpretation and translation support not readily available
- **Community Services:** Knowing what supports are available (Some services temporarily closed) and immediate supports (Waitlists put in place due to demand)
- **Food, Clothing and Other Material Needs:** Food, water, medicine, toiletries, and other basic needs, face masks and pet food
- **Transportation:** Finding ways to evacuate the city or reach temporary shelters and public transportation majorly affected for those still needing to work
- **Financial:** Financial aid due to additional expenses and job security
- **Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Health risks (e.g. toxic air), access to hospital services and medical support, stress management, psycho-social counselling support and face masks

Understanding Climate Change E-Learning Course

Through consultations with content experts, AMSSA has developed an e-learning that focuses on understanding climate change, climate change and migration and supporting newcomers and preventing climate change.

The causes, impact and projected trends of climate change as well as how environmental factors like droughts, floods and land degradation can drive migration both within and across borders.

How service provider organizations can support newcomers with building their knowledge on climate change and prevention.

The experiences of those experiencing climate related displacement.

Follow AMSSA on Social Media

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AMSSA on LinkedIn



Questions?



Please contact Sabrina Dumitra at sdumitra@amssa.org.



Climate Events: Understanding the needs of migrant workers

P2P 2024 National Conference

Doug Pasco, WorkSafeBC

November 26, 2024 – Vancouver BC

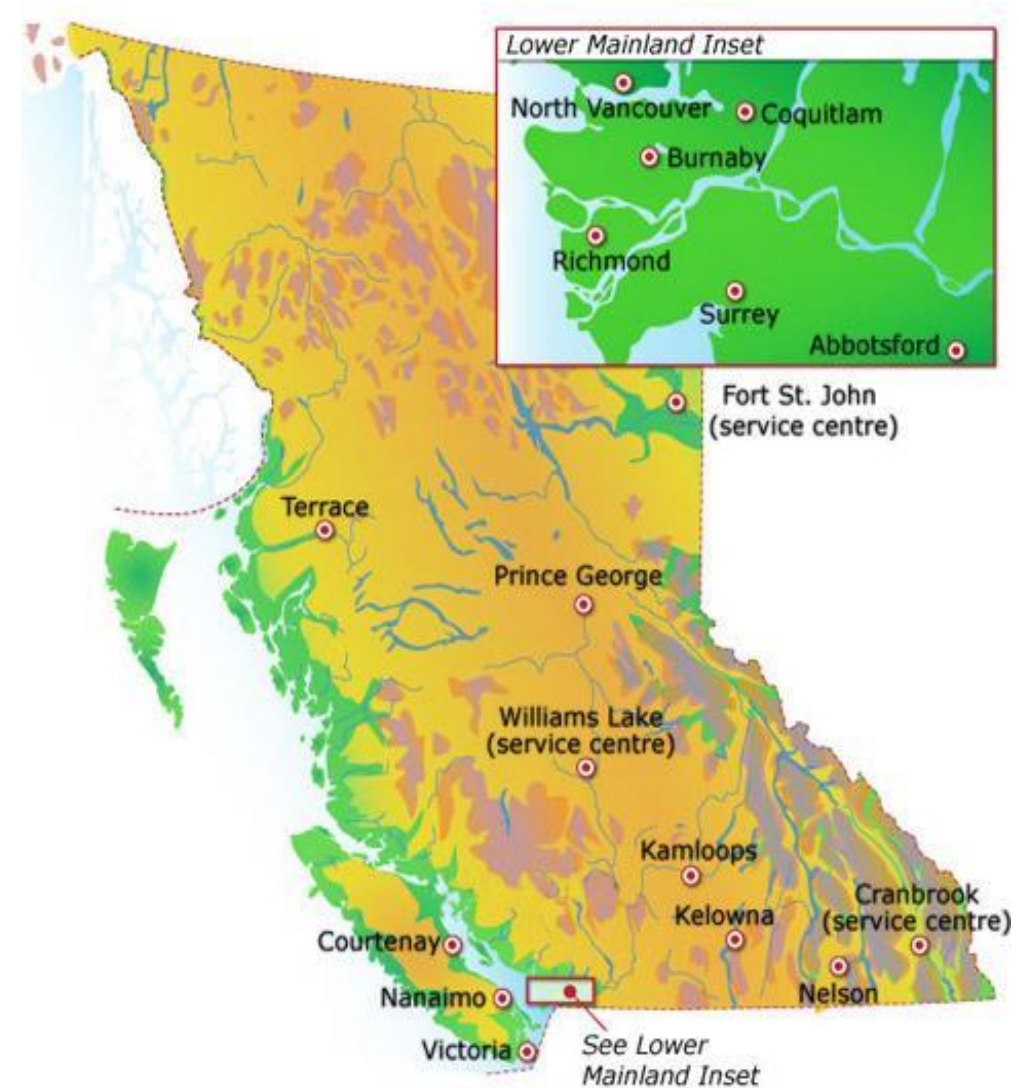
Agenda

- 1 WorkSafeBC – who we are and what we do
- 2 History of Protection of Migrant Workers
- 3 Partnerships
- 4 Proactive work
- 5 Response to concerns
- 6 Worker Engagement Team

WorkSafeBC

Who is WorkSafeBC?

- Provincial agency dedicated to promoting safe and healthy workplaces across B.C.
- Separate from Government – have an independent Board of Directors
- Engage with workers and employers to save lives and prevent work-related injury, disease, and disability.
- Services - education, prevention, compensation and support for injured workers, and no-fault insurance to protect employers and workers.
- We serve over 2.4 million workers and over 260,000 employers across B.C.



Our Business

Occupational Health and Safety

- Prevention of fatalities, injuries and occupational disease
- 300 Prevention Officers – Inspect workplaces
 - Unannounced
 - Action Requests – Anonymous

No Fault Workplace Insurance

- Provide compensation Wage Loss, Medical/Health Care, and Rehabilitation
- All workers covered – Status in Canada does not affect entitlement

History

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Migrant Worker Support Network

- **Federal Initiative**
- **BC Pilot**
- **All agencies that support Migrant Workers**
- **AMSSA and members**
- **Federal - P/T working group on TFW Protections**

Agencies



Climate Events

- Communication Channels
- Federal/Provincial Agencies
- Settlement Sector
- Local Groups

Worker Engagement Team

Dedicated Team

- Create channels to reach marginalized/underserved workers
- Focus on awareness, education and protections
 - Workers
 - Employers
 - Partners
- Migrant Workers, International Students, Persons with Diverse Abilities, non-status