

An illustration at the top of the page shows a group of diverse people from various ethnicities and ages. The illustration is in a light, muted color palette and is partially obscured by a dark teal wave-like shape that frames the title below.

Towards Inclusive Adaptation

Tools and Success Stories for Local Governments



**The impacts of climate change will
not be experienced uniformly.**

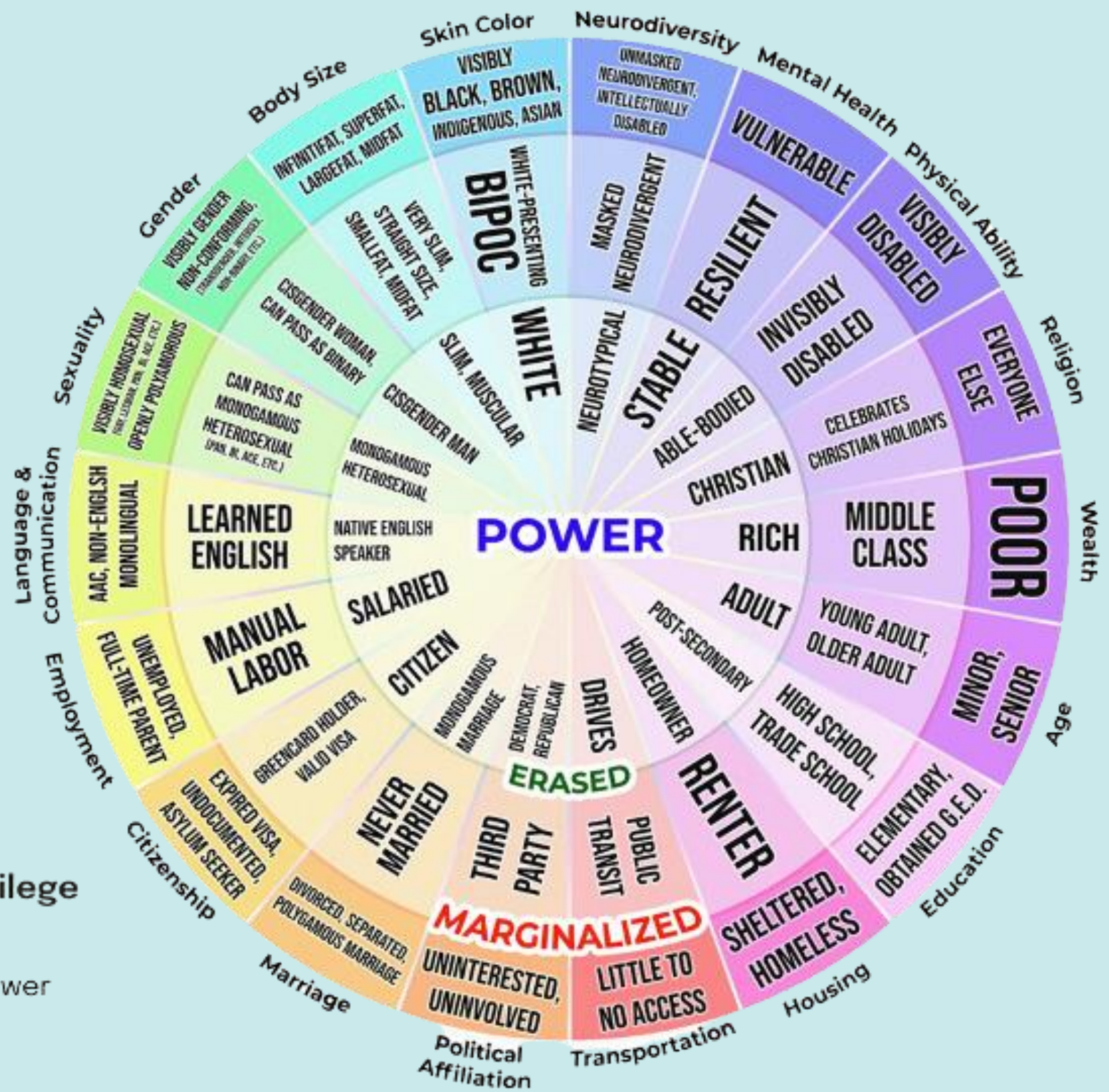
“...Equity refers to fairness and justice ...[w]hereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances. The process is ongoing, requiring us to identify and overcome intentional and unintentional barriers arising from bias or systemic structures.”

Equity(?) in Municipal Adaptation Planning

<i>Present</i>	<i>Future</i>
Placation	Meaningful Engagement
Eroded Trust	Relationship Building
Perpetuation of Harm	Community-Based Action

Making the Shift

- **Recognize the power dynamics** between decision-making actors and community members.
- **Challenge patterns of behaviour** that perpetuate inequities and uneven patterns of participation in decision making.
- Acknowledge **communities and marginalized members as active agents of change.**



Examples of Privilege and Inequity

Figure 1: Wheel of Power and Privilege ²

Identifying Equity Objectives

Procedural

Process-oriented
Emphasize equitable
treatment
Incorporate
Engagement

Distributional

Focus on resources,
benefits, and burdens
Equitable distribution
and redistribution

Structural

Systems-oriented
Address root causes
Community-led
Decision-making

Activity 1: Applying the Wheel of Power to Climate Adaptation

Purpose: Using the Wheel of Power, recognize the need to consider different lived experiences in the planning, design, and implementation of adaptation actions by reflecting on who benefits (or might be excluded), barriers to inclusion, and possible unintended consequences.

In Breakout Groups [15 minutes] :

- **Go to Miro Board**
- **Take 2 minutes to review the wheel of power document (individually or together).**
- **For each of the adaptation actions listed on the Miro Board, discuss 2 – 3 questions or reflections that you have about the project related to equity. Use the wheel of power to inform your reflections.**
- **Share your questions/reflections to the Miro Board under each of the adaptation actions using “post-it” notes.**

Green Infrastructure and Public Space

Access to green spaces enhance community resilience to different climate events. Research by Natures Canada shows that neighbourhoods with lower household incomes and larger BIPOC communities have less access to trees and urban forests than wealthier and less culturally diverse communities



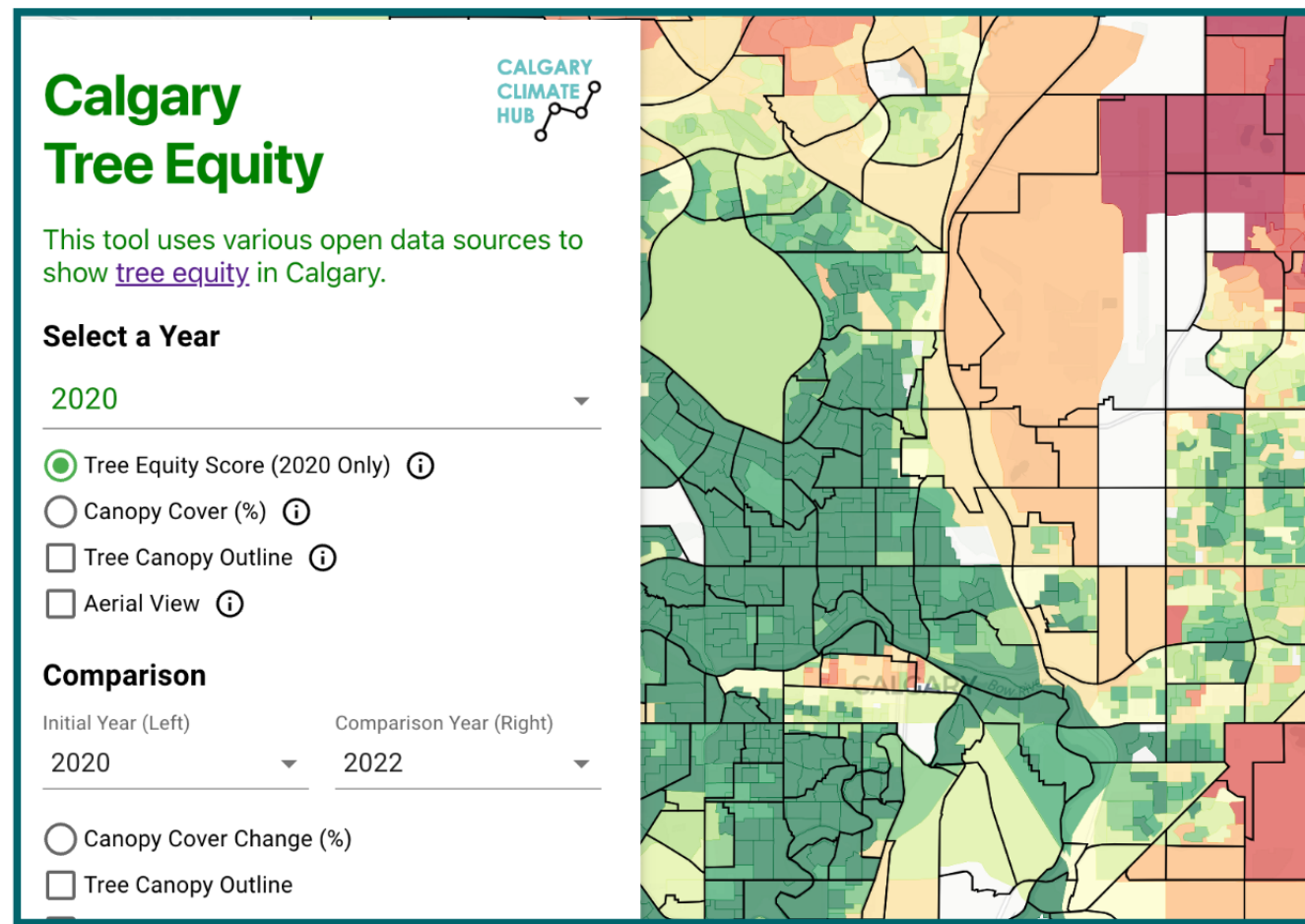
- Do your plans look at intersecting barriers experienced by equity-deserving communities? (i.e. tree canopy cover and income)
- How can you communicate this information to prioritize support for equity-deserving communities?
- If you don't have this information, how might you gather this knowledge and in collaboration with whom? Who might be effective partners to help support this process?

Community Engagement To advance Tree Canopy

Equity: Calgary Tree Equity Hub Project

Network and Nature Canada Workshop

investigated some of the work being undertaken to start advancing tree equity through public engagement:



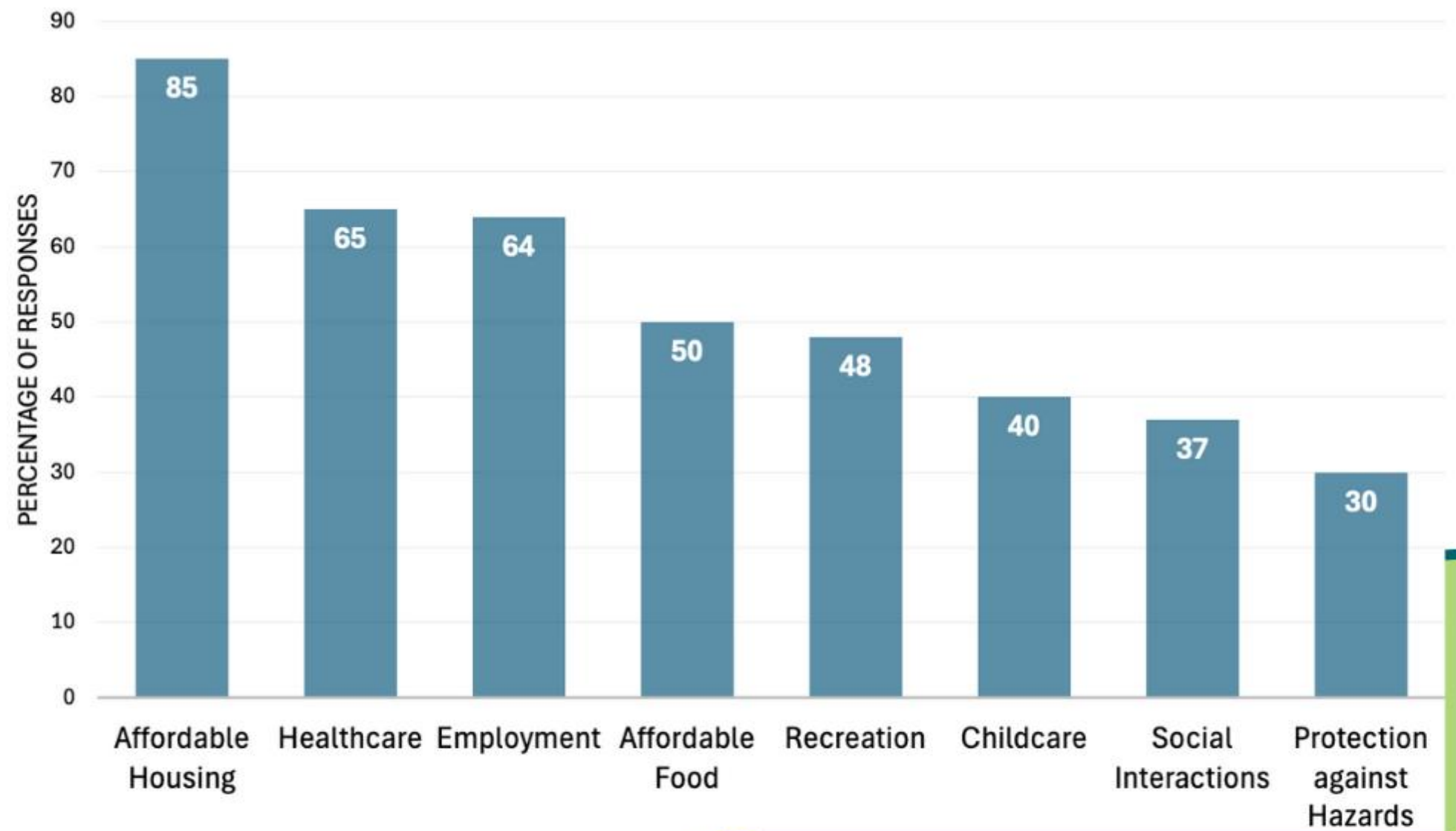
Affordable and Sustainable Housing

Access to quality housing with safe and upgraded infrastructure plays an important role in climate resilience. However, low-income communities cannot afford quality housing.



- Do your plans look at intersecting barriers of housing affordability and resilience?
- How can you provide quality and resilient housing for equity-deserving communities?
- Who might be effective partners to help support this process?

Risk Inequalities and Lack of Engagement: Thorncliffe Park, Toronto



Engagement Barriers: Thorncliffe Park, Toronto



Lack of Social Networks

- Immigrants
- Lack of connections

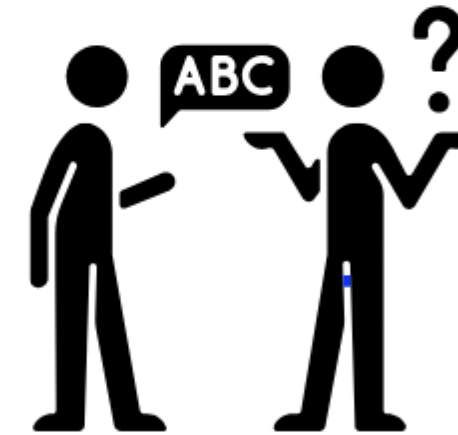


Climate Unawareness



Lack of Citizenship Rights

- Refugees



Communication Barriers

- Language
- Cultural issues
- Livelihoods

TRCA Sustainable Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP): San Romanoway Towers Revival

The project applied the **Participant to Leader model**, which actively engage community members and foster community leadership. A variety of engagement techniques were used to understand residents' needs, identify emerging leaders, and develop trust, through: outdoor events, focus group discussions, residents tours.

Edible Balconies



Urban Agriculture Project & Training



Building Retrofits



Activity 2: Equitable Community Engagement

Purpose: Recognizing that community members are experts in their own experiences, practice designing inclusive community engagement processes that centre equity-deserving communities.

In Breakout Groups [20 minutes] :

- Select an adaptation action from **Activity 1**
- Reflect on the steps that would be required to **bring that action to life (applying an equity lens)**
- For a hypothetical **engagement phase** of the project, answer the following questions:
 - What is the **purpose of engagement?**
 - **Who are you trying to engage?**
 - What are some **activities or events** that could be undertaken to support this engagement?
 - What are **possible barriers to community participation** in these engagements?
 - How can you ensure that these activities are **accessible to the widest number of people and/or that they are able to meaningfully engage your target audience(s)?**
 - What **follow-up is required to ensure accountability?**

Equitable Climate Adaptation:

Considerations for Local Governments



Equitable Climate Adaptation: Considerations for Local Governments

A resource to help guide you through equitable engagement processes for adaptation. It aims to support users in the following ways:

To help **understand and address primary barriers** to centering equity in climate adaptation

To **provide replicable case studies** of local government action

To **highlight tangible and applicable tools** for centering equity and engagement in adaptation efforts.



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Additional Resources

From Risk to Resilience: Indigenous Alternatives to Climate Risk Assessment in Canada (Yellowhead Institute)

For Our Future: Indigenous Resilience Report (NRCan)

Equity and Climate Synergies Resource Hub (CAP)

Factsheet: Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Municipal Service Delivery (FCM)

Bringing the Canopy to All (Nature Canada)

Close to Home: How to Build More Housing in a Changing Climate (CCI)

Equity and Climate Lenses - A Guide to Application (Dufferin County)

Youth Climate Lab

Thank you for your participation!

