



The territory's weather has become increasingly unpredictable:

- Shorter, milder winters
- Longer, hotter summers
- Later freeze-up
- Earlier breakup

Forest fires and extreme weather events, such as lightning storms and flooding, are more frequent and intense. These changes derail traditional Cree knowledge and impact the Cree subsistence harvesting cycle and food security.



In the territory, the sea surface temperature is warming at 6 times the global trend and at almost twice the rate of polar warming.

From 1979 to 2013, studies showed shortening of the sea ice season in Eastern James Bay by approximately 10 days per decade, and up to 30 days close to Chisasibi and Waskaganish. There is less ice and it is thinner on the Bay, on rivers and lakes. By 2050, scientists estimate a 50% loss of ice thickness in James Bay.

Cree observation

“The weather changes suddenly. For example, I can no longer navigate on Mistissini Lake the way my ancestors did and the way they taught me.”

Cree observation

“We have no more blue ice. Now, the ice is white and thinner. It melts earlier in the spring and freezes up later in the autumn.”



For the past 50 years, it has been snowing far less but raining much more. Some communities report much drier conditions, but also heavier rains of short duration.

The Cree note that snow cover duration in Southern James Bay is decreasing and that snow melt is earlier. According to scientists, snow cover may have declined by 25-45 days. By 2050, the territory's users could see up to 20 cm less snow and earlier thawing.

It is essential to work together now to develop climate change adaptation strategies.

Climate parameters must be measured and monitored so that action can be taken to ensure access to the territory, food security and its inhabitants' well-being.

Cree observation

“The snow is softer, making travel more difficult and dangerous. Spring conditions are slushy!”