

Introductory Paragraph:

- Hook
- Definition of climate change
- Composition of climate
- Thesis
 - Gist of thesis: Climate change is both affected by and affects the social sector
- 3 Pieces of evidence

“How is your sector being affected by climate change?”

Evidence #1: Climate Change causes major adverse changes to Indigenous peoples’ lifestyle.

- Whale hunters, and caribou and reindeer herders are experiencing unprecedented changes in the Arctic ecosystem in the form of shrinking sea ice and thawing permafrost. For tribes that depend on these animals for meat and for cultural practices, climate change poses a social threat to both their diet and their identity.
- Shrinking sea ice, thawing permafrost, and other extreme weather conditions exacerbated by climate change reduces communities’ livelihood options, which acts as a push factor, causing mass inland migration of Indigenous peoples who have lived in that area for generations. This migration forces indigenous peoples to lose aspects of their very identity.
- Staples of the Inuit diet have become inedible due to pollutants found in pesticides and industrial chemicals. These pollutants were carried north by prevailing winds and could not evaporate in the Arctic cold. Climate change has exacerbated the proliferation of pollutants and now its effects endanger the health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities.
- The introduction of economic development in and around the Albertan oil sands poses a social threat to Indigenous peoples; the development of industry questions Indigenous peoples’ right to land, together with their right to free, prior, and informed consent. This principles must be respected
- Indigenous peoples’ food security and identity is under attack

Evidence #2: Climate change adversely affects rural communities.

- As wildlife habitats shift and the food chain changes in response to climate change, nature-related recreational activities, like fishing, sailing and hunting, are adversely affected. Moreover, shifting climate patterns also shift durations of tourism seasons. Consequently, the rural communities that depend on these activities feel an inordinate amount of stress on their community stability. Due to their remoteness and limited economic diversity, an economic strain on rural communities often implies a cultural and social stress on these communities who are unable to respond effectively in the face of climate change.

- Severe climate swings brought on by climate change increase the frequency of severe weather events like droughts. The devastating effects of these droughts include lighter beef cattle, lower crop yields and reduced herd sizes requiring the construction of tilting systems, the use of expensive fertilizers, and genetically modified plants. These approaches to combat the effects of climate change are sapping the financial strength of Alberta's generations-old farming communities, many of whom are already competing for lower prices. The additional costs represent a real threat to many families' livelihoods.

Evidence #3: Urban communities are also adversely affected.

- Urban communities fall prey to the Urban Heat island Effect, in which black and gray asphalt absorb solar radiation, warming up the ground and the air above it. These heat waves put pressure on electricity generation and distribution systems.
 - Increase peak energy consumption
 - Air pollution costs
- Sewers that combine wastewater and stormwater will have overflows as precipitation levels increase, washing pollutants into local bodies of water, and bringing disease into susceptible areas like cities and suburbs. Health in these areas will decline, and medical treatment will become less available, both of these factors combined could potentially diminish the population in the area.
- As interconnectability increases in the electrical grid, the grid becomes more vulnerable to blackouts when electricity demands are high. As climate change brings more extreme weather, vulnerability increases, as the impact of blackouts has increased with the dependence on electronics in many homes and businesses
- The existing air pollution in urban communities poses health threats, and climate change will decrease the air quality even further. Consequently, the health of every person will decline, and the most vulnerable groups of society, the elderly and the very young, will face an increasing number of health risks.
- Invasion of new insects and diseases

"How does your sector affect climate change?" Describe why and how this is happening

Evidence #1: Society's dependence on fossil fuel products exacerbates climate change.

- Society is heavily dependent on fossil fuel products; transportation systems, are dependent on oil; natural gas is used for heating, cooking, and most notably, electricity. The fossil fuels have high carbon content, and the dependence on fossil fuel products requires fossil fuels to be burned, releasing massive amounts of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming.
- This dependence of fossil fuels doesn't just pollute the atmosphere; it removes Earth's natural mechanisms to combat high levels of carbon in the atmosphere, carbon sinks. Large swaths of land must be cleared to build fossil fuel power plants, and larger areas must be devoted to mining for those fossil fuels. Trees and soil that had once inhabited that area act as carbon sinks; plants like trees take up carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, and convert it to biomass, and some of the carbon is transferred to soil as plants die and decompose. Deforestation in the area threatens

these mechanisms, allowing more carbon to exist in the atmosphere, contributing to global warming and exacerbating climate change.

Evidence #2: Consumer waste exacerbates climate change

- Consumer waste has many forms, three of which are: food waste, E-Waste, and energy waste
- A third of Canada's food never gets eaten, and 47% of the uneaten food is from people buying food and not eating it, letting it spoil and then throwing it out. This has serious ramifications on the environment. When the consumer wastes food, all the resources that went into making the food, such as shipping it, containing it, etc. are wasted along with it. Moreover, discarded and uneaten food ends up in landfills, in which the organic waste releases large amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas 22 times more harmful than carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere, greatly contributing to global warming and climate change.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qx2WFpNTPs>
- The E-Waste that consumers produce when they discard an old electronic device because of planned or perceived obsolescence goes on to cause great environmental damage, and contributes to climate change. In the majority of cases where E-Waste is discarded, it is shipped to China. Once in China, labourers work at dismantling the electronics, trying to salvage electronic components and plastic that can be used for resale. This process pollutes the water and air of the area with noxious fumes, such as mercury and nitrous oxide, that seep into water supplies and livestock, damaging the nearby environment. Moreover, the nitrous oxide that is produced from burning plastics is many more times harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas, which contributes to global warming and exacerbates climate change.
- The average Canadian family wastes about 20,000 kWh of energy every year. Although over three-quarters of this energy comes from energy sources that do not emit greenhouse gases, the last quarter generates large amounts of greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gas emissions come from non-renewable resource power plants, which produce over 120 million kg of greenhouse gases, which greatly contributes to global warming and climate change.

Evidence #3:

"What is your sector doing and not doing to combat climate change?"

Evidence #1: Not-for-profit and nonprofit groups against climate change

- There are an overwhelming number of groups against climate change that readily give information about climate change in an effort to educate the public on what they can do in their everyday lives to combat climate change. In addition to providing ways people can do something in their lives against climate change, the majority of groups provide evidence of why climate change is real as well as the far-reaching effects climate change are having and will impose in the future.
- Examples of what some groups are doing (NASA, US EPA, UNFCCC, CAN-Rac Canada, etc.)

Concluding Paragraph:

- Rephrase thesis
- Rephrase supporting evidence
- Mirror of introductory paragraph