



Pacific Institute
for Climate Solutions
Knowledge. Insight. Action.

Climate Insights 101 Questions and Discussion Points Module 2, Lesson 1: The Climate of British Columbia

Available at: <http://pics.uvic.ca/education/climate-insights-101>

1. Climate Variability

Questions:

What is the difference between weather and climate (Ref slide 2)

How does the historical temperature and precipitation baseline vary throughout the Province? In particular, how do the coast, Okanagan, Kootenay, and Northeast regions differ from each other? (Ref slide 3)

What phenomenon exerts the strongest influence on year-to-year variability in British Columbia (Ref slide 3)

What pattern has the strongest relationship with decadal variability in British Columbia? (Ref slide 7)

What are four examples of things that can be impacted by year-to-year and decadal temperature and precipitation variability? (Ref slides 5 and 7)

For Discussion

If historical variability is a natural part of the climate system that has occurred in past and will continue in future, why is it important to take into account when considering future climate projections? What are some examples in your area of work that might be improved if historical variability were taken more directly into account currently? (Ref slides 2 & 3)

2. Historical climate trends

Questions

Have daytime high temperatures or nighttime low temperatures been warming in British Columbia? Why is this important? (Ref slide 13)

Why is it important to compare historical trends to interannual variability? (Ref slide 14)

For Discussion

Find out the historical temperature and precipitation trends in your location. How does this compare with your local knowledge and experience? Why are these trends important? (Ref slide 14)

Can historical trends *alone* be used to estimate the future climate? Brainstorm at least three reasons in support of and three reasons against using historical trends to estimate the future climate. (Ref slide 15)