



# Thinking Beyond Silos

Climate Change Adaptation  
& Community Health, Well-  
Being and Resilience

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# CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH



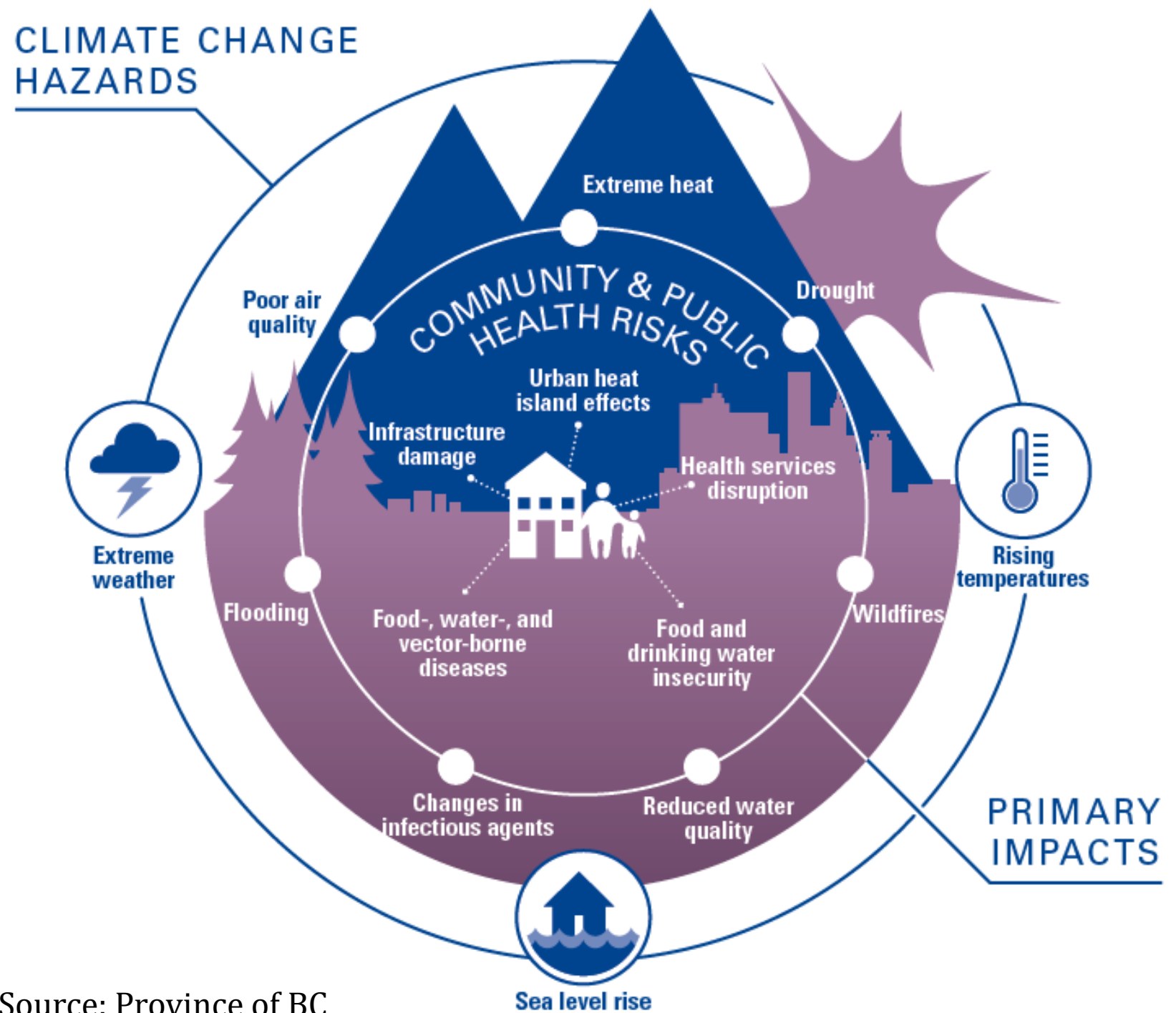
Health and well-being is the human face of climate change.

*"For public health, climate change is the defining issue of the 21st century"*

Margaret Chan,  
World Health Organization

In BC, the main health hazards from climate change include:

Rising temperatures;  
Extreme weather events; and  
Sea level rise.



Source: Province of BC



# EXTREME HEAT



- 2009 extreme heat events in BC contributed to 156 excess deaths in Lower Mainland.
- Extreme heat event in Quebec resulted in ~ 280 deaths in 2010 and over 90 deaths in 2018.



# WILDFIRES & AIR QUALITY

- 2018 was BC's worst fire season on record
- Vancouver was ranked as the fifth-worst major city for air quality in the world on August 22, 2018
- In 2017, the province was under a state of emergency for 10 weeks with 65,000 people evacuated from their home.



# MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

For High River women residents following 2013 Alberta floods:

- 164% increase in anti-anxiety medication
- 232% increase in sleeping aids

(Sahni et al. 2016)

During the 2017 wildfires, 100 Mile House support workers saw a doubling to tripling of domestic violence cases. (100 Mile Free Press)



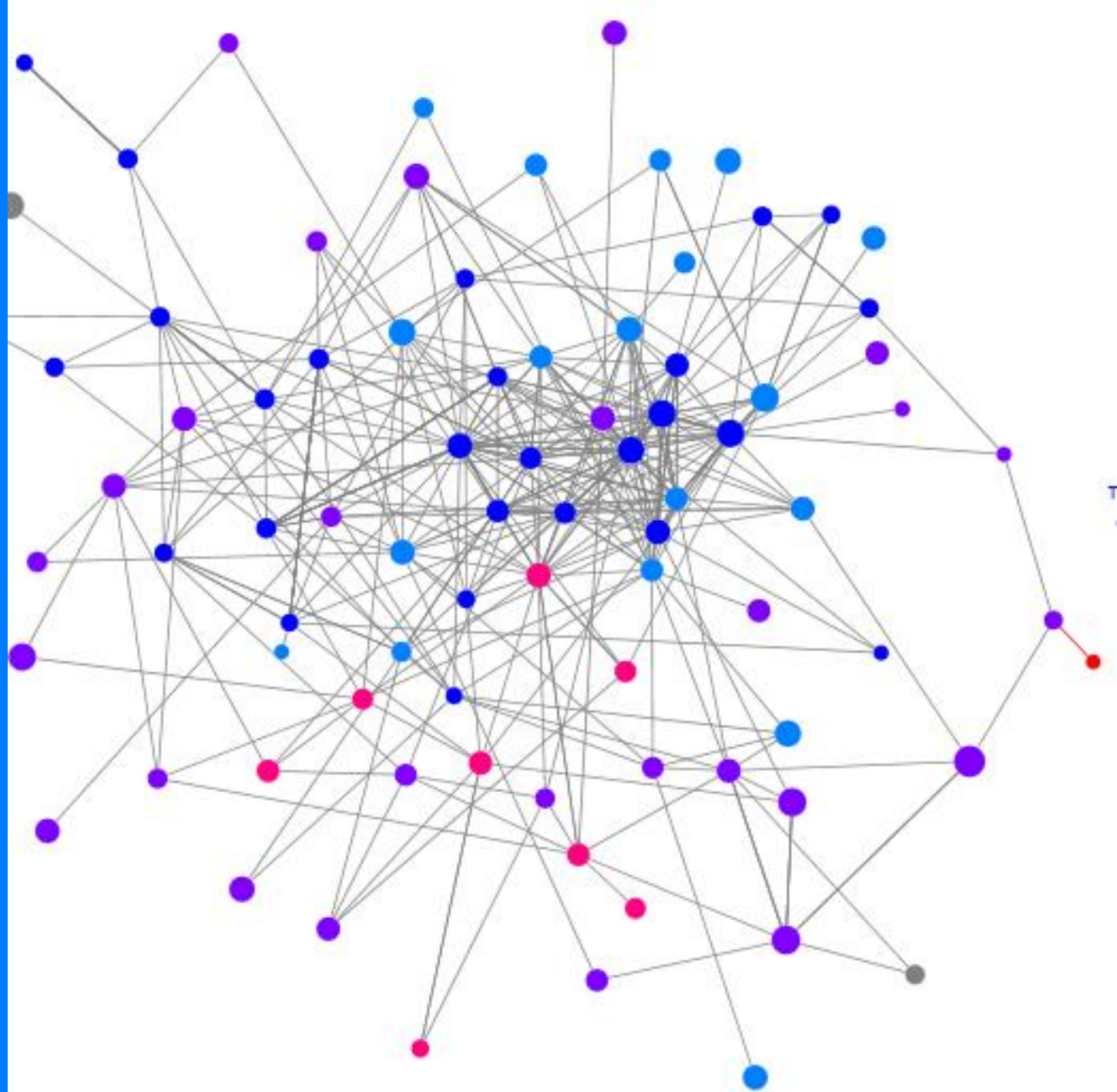
# CLIMATE CHANGE & EQUITY

Climate change exacerbates existing health inequalities:

- Those most unable to adapt are more likely to be vulnerable
- Those most vulnerable are most likely to face other challenges



**THINKING  
BEYOND  
SILOS...**







# RESILIENCE

*“Resilience is the capacity of a community to anticipate, plan for, and mitigate the risks—and seize the opportunities—associated with environmental and social change.”* Island Press and The Kresge Foundation

# Social ties, Not sand bags



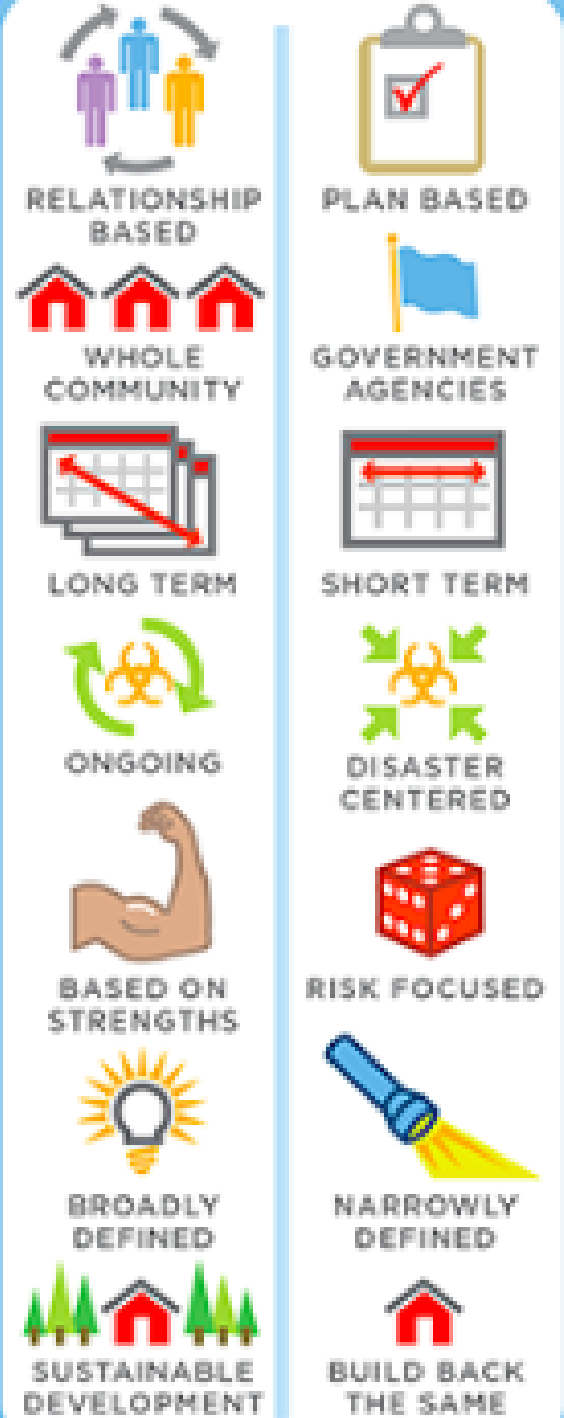
Survivors leave Tohoku a day after the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. // Warren Antiola/Flickr



**In Disaster Recovery, Social Networks Matter More Than Bottled Water and Batteries**

# RESILIENCE VS PREPAREDNESS

## Resilience



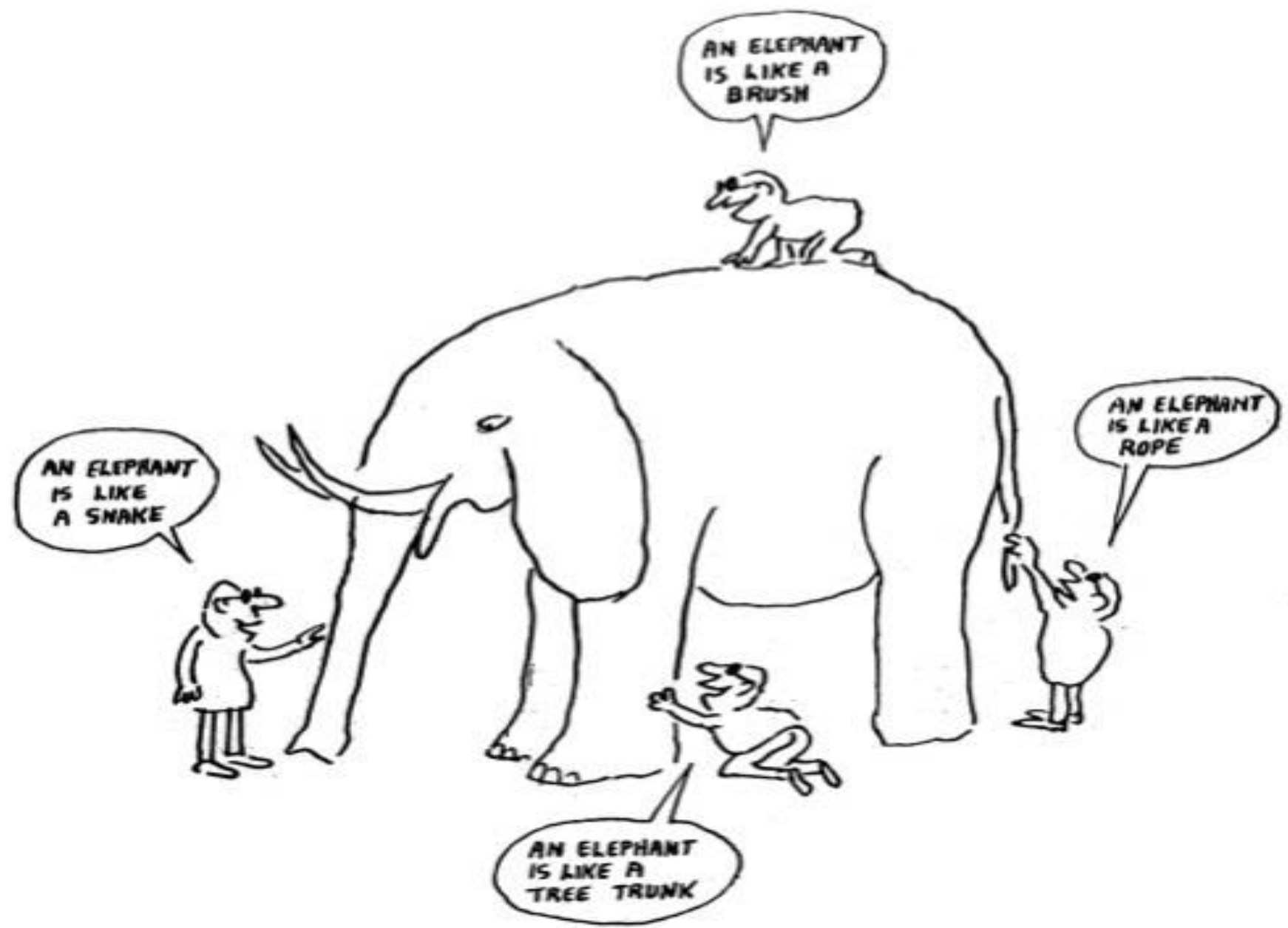
## Preparedness



# BOUNCE FORWARD

Resilience is an idea with potentially transformative power.

- Rethink the urban systems that supply our energy, transportation, food, water, and housing
- Eradicate inequities so that all people have a chance to adapt and thrive in as we adapt to climate change



S. GROSS

# CONNECT & PREPARE



A project of  
Building Resilient  
Neighbourhoods  
& Victoria Ready

- Rooted in neighbourhood
- Based on strengths (residents skills & tools)
- Community-led

# MAKING THE LINKS 2018: Climate Change, Community Health & Resilience



SYMPOSIUM ON COLLABORATIVE ACTION | NOV 5 & 6 | KELOWNA, BC



# Framework for Collaborative Action on Health and Climate Change







**Thank you!**

Kerri Klein

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