Biodiversity is about living things and their relationships with each other. This includes species, ecosystems and the ecological processes of which they are a part.

The earlier arrival of spring changes the life cycles of many plants that provide food and habitat for other species. Many species won’t be able to adapt quickly enough to changes in their environment.

Habitat fragmentation happens when natural landscapes are broken up by development such as river dams and highways, which can interrupt migration routes.

Northern ecosystems are vulnerable to habitat loss and could see an influx of new species and diseases from the south.

Range contraction occurs when already limited habitats change and shrink further.

In prairie ecosystems, more droughts will likely harm the growth of natural grasslands. Extreme storms and rising sea levels can cause coastal squeeze.

Climate change can lead to competition for resources among species, as well as bigger and more frequent infestation outbreaks.

Hybridization is the mixing of different but similar species, and can drive rare species to extinction or increase adaptability.

Preservation through adaptation includes:
- Protect - nature reserves and marine sanctuaries
- Connect - wildlife crossings, bridges and corridors
- Restore - selective fishing, animal breeding programs

For the whole Canada in a Changing Climate report, visit Adaptation.NRCan.gc.ca