



CLIMAtlantic

Atlantic Canada Climate Services Hub



Chignecto Isthmus

Sabine Dietz, PhD
Executive Director
January 13th, 2022



CLIMAtlantic



- CLIMAtlantic – who we are, what we do
- Regional Perspectives - Atlantic Chapter (NRCan)
- Why is adaptation important?
- Recommendations for NB

Goal: increased capacity to make decisions based on accurate and up-to-date climate data & information

- Non-profit organization funded by the federal & provincial governments (Atlantic Canada) – June 2021

Mandate:

- deliver climate services, driven by user needs
- provide access to climate data & information
- build local capacity
- offer training and support

Role of CLIMAtlantic

- Locate data, facilitate access to data, interpret data;
- Respond to requests for data, information etc.;
- Jointly develop tools, or adapt tools for regional & local use;
- Website, easy access, bilingual, links to tools, data, information;
- Provide curated access to information, resources & tools, guidelines;
- Ongoing needs identification across all sectors, with sectors;
- Collaborative training & mentoring with regional organizations;
- Provide information about partners & collaborators, service providers;
- Collaborate on projects, delivery, development of project ideas.

Atlantic Provinces, *Regional Perspectives Report*

- Impacts in Atlantic Canada
- Areas of focus
 - Coastal flooding & erosion, infrastructure, natural solutions
 - Health risks associated with climate change, including social vulnerability
 - Indigenous experiences
 - Resource economies
 - Approaches to building adaptive capacity

<https://changingclimate.ca/regional-perspectives/chapter/1-0/>



Atlantic Provinces Chapter, *Regional Perspectives Report*

• Impacts in Atlantic Canada

Lingering effects of ice storm haunt Acadian Peninsula



Financial hardships, psychological damage and questions about government's reaction remain

Jordan Gill - CBC News - Posted: Mar 31, 2017 6:19 PM AT | Last Updated: March 31, 2017



Hydro poles in many areas on the Acadian Peninsula snapped off under the weight of the ice from hours of freezing rain during the storm in late January. (Jane Mather/Radio Canada)



'Seaweed on the roofs'

Bad weather is no joke in Saint Andrews.

On Nov. 5, 2010, a storm that ripped apart a large sea wall, overran the town wharf and flooded the downtown with salt water.

"There was water and seaweed on the roofs of two-storey buildings," former Saint Andrews mayor Stan Choptiany told the legislature's select committee on climate change in 2016.

In spring 2016, another surge ravaged a popular waterfront campground and again overran the wharf.



The former Cottage Craft building sustained significant damage during Thursday night's storm surge. (Submitted by Stan Choptiany)

Atlantic Provinces Chapter, *Regional Perspectives Report*

- A snap shot in time (2018-2019)
- Since then: IPCC 6th report (2021)
 - “Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report”.
 - “Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.”
- **=> Adaptation is crucial, and has to be a priority**

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiansi2pp31AhWKT98KH23DTkQFnoECDcQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ipcc.ch%2Freport%2Far6%2Fwg1%2Fdownloads%2Freport%2FIPCC_AR6_WGI_Headline_Statements.pdf&usq=AOvVaw0JA9sCoU60uvBUDZ-DNCCS

Looking back

- 2016 plan (Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy): 39 of the 118 actions (Actions 66-104) had adaptation components;
- ETF & Climate Action Fund, 2020-2022 (2 years): approx. 45 million on mitigation, 19 million on adaptation (focusing on risk assessments, adaptation plans, supporting communities, education);
- Adaptation is not “sexy”, and we can’t point to “clear wins”;
- **AND: adaptation is complex, and is often closely tied to mitigation and many other climate actions;**
- **BUT: we don't have a choice, we need to scale up our understanding of risk, adaptation action, and mainstream it across all sectors, all institutions, everywhere:**
 - => Risk management, risk tolerance, & risk reduction
 - => Resiliency of people & systems (including nature)

List of actions: good laundry list

Needs @ grassroots

- Provincial leadership (e.g., statements of interest, regulations);
- Financial resources for adaptation actions (e.g., municipalities, NGOs);
- Capacity (e.g., knowledge, HR, climate information literacy);
- Collaboration & networking (e.g., within NB, across governments & sectors, across AC);
- Better understanding impacts (e.g., research on impacts on species & habitats; sectors);
- Availability of most recent, most up-to-date information (e.g., AR6 report data as minimum), in the most accessible way (based on user needs);
- Increased literacy around climate change impacts, risk, resiliency & adaptation;
- Link Mitigation with Adaptation.

Recommendations *(not in order of priority)*

- Although NB has undertaken many actions on adaptation for many years, there is no NB climate risk assessment – will identify weak areas, & provide clarity, focus & education;
- NB Adaptation Strategy (or plan) to strategically outline the provincial priority areas, and underlying principles (statements) – could follow the National Adaptation Strategy currently being developed (to be completed 2022);
- Commit to a quick update of regionally scaled climate projections once AR6 is available (up-to-date, accurate flood hazard maps, sea-level rise maps, temperature, precipitation projections, etc.);
- Implement a climate lens = incorporate climate change considerations on all work & projects undertaken & funded by province (aspect adaptation);
- Recognize the role natural systems play in adaptation and in reducing risk to communities (e.g., dunes, wetlands, as well as forests);
- Emphasize natural solutions in reducing risks from climate change (e.g., shorelines);

Recommendations *(continued)*

- Statements of Public Interest – need include strong directives & include climate change considerations;
- Invest more \$ from the Climate Action Fund into adaptation actions;
- Commit to collaborating across Atlantic Canada on common issues such as the Chignecto Isthmus, which have direct impact on our people and economy;
- Support education & capacity building initiatives (e.g., through funding to NGOs; Dept. of Ed);
- Identify high-risk areas (e.g., highest risk areas for flooding, erosion etc.) – or alternately, enable municipalities to prohibit development in high-risk areas;
- Implement a provincial Climate Change Advisory Council.



CLIMAtlantic

sabine.dietz@climatlantic.ca

www.climatlantic.ca

(506) 227-7670

Wela'lioq
Thank you
Merci

Questions?