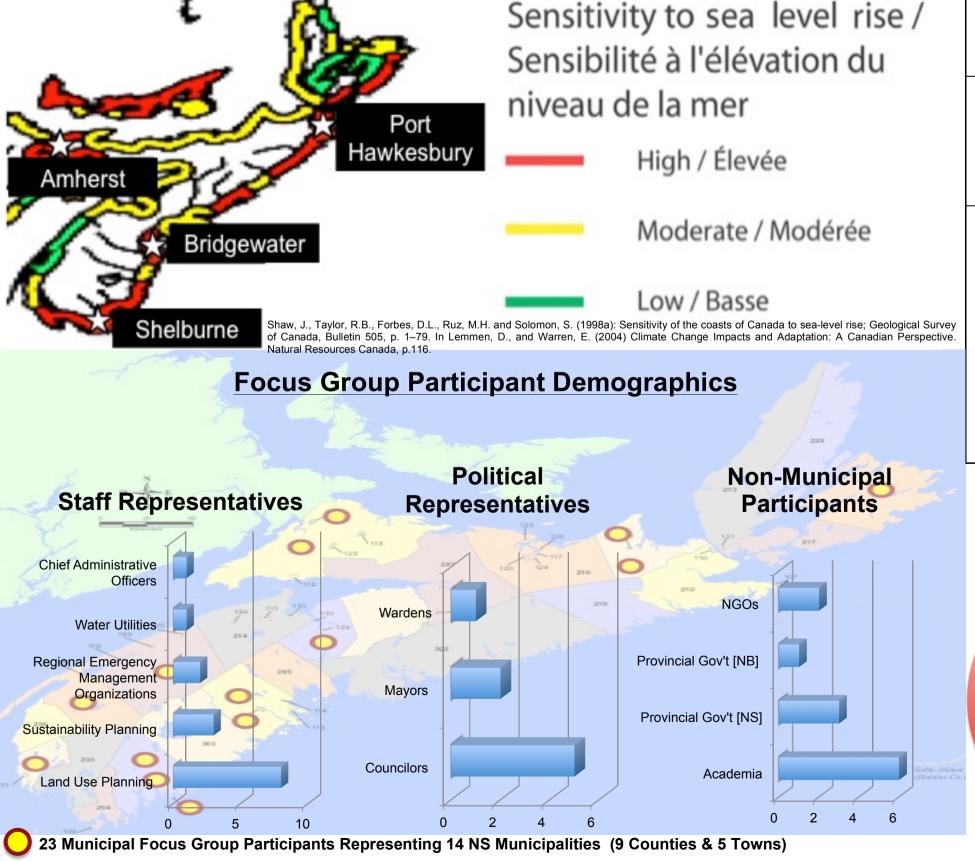


Research and analysis into the local governance of climate change adaptation and the social context of adaptation decision-making presents 'a revealing diagnostic entry point into the structural governance context' in determining the 'action-space' and 'structural constraints, barriers and [im]mutable limits' associated with adaptation governance (Moser, 2009). The Nova Scotia adaptation policy-making approach provides an outstanding opportunity for conducting comparative, case-based research into the social dimensions of how Canadian coastal municipalities are dealing with the challenges of climate change impacts through adaptation planning. Nova Scotia is the only Canadian province to establish a climate change adaptation policy framework, which province to establish a climate change adaptation policy tramework, which included a province-wide policy mandate requiring that all municipalities 79% said MCCAP was unlikely to have occurred without Gas Tax prepare and complete 'Municipal Climate Change Action Plans' (MCCAP) by January 1, 2014 in order to remain eligible for federal Gas Tax funding, as administered by the Province of Nova Scotia (SNSMR, 2011).

In September 2014, four focus groups were conducted with thirty-five Nova Scotian adaptation policy and planning stakeholders in high sensitivity coastal regions of Nova Scotia (Amherst, Port Hawkesbury, Bridgewater and Shelburne). The purpose of these focus groups was to engage with adaptation policy-making stakeholders to identify the barriers and opportunities for enabling adaptation policy and planning at the municipal level. The NCE-MEOPAR Partnership Program provided funding for these focus groups.



FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Consider the Gas Tax & MCCAP - how important was the Gas Tax as a driver for MCCAP? In other words, would the MCCAP have occurred without the Gas Tax incentive?

95% said Gas Tax was the main driver for MCCAP

Results based on 19 responses

When considering bridging the implementation gap between MCCAP preparation and implementation what are the major harriers for MCCAP

TOP 3 BARRIERS	TOP 3 OPPORTUNITIES
Time, resources, capacity; and/orexpertise for the implementation of long-term adaptation and/oremergency plans	
	Integrated regional approaches for long-term adaptation and/or emergency planning (ex. REMO; regional champions)
Council engagement / buy-in / will motivation / leadership for change and/or public knowledge / desire expectations; and/or competin 'infrastructure gap' priorities	e; municipal planning, work plans and capital / plans & projects and related inter-
Does academia have a role to play in decision-support for you municipality? Yes - Academ has a role to	municipal adaptation decision-making & implementation? Implementing MCCAPs may be complex: Further research may be required to identify solutions; requires monitoring the integration and enforcement of MCCAP and gauging effectiveness and implementation progress through: Capital Investment Planning, staff

Results based on 19 responses