

Adapting to Climate Change Risks: Planning and Policy in Nova Scotia Municipalities

SUMMARY

Nova Scotia municipalities were required by a provincial mandate to prepare and complete a 'Municipal Climate Change Action Plan' (MCCAP) by January 1, 2014. The purpose of this PhD study is to assess the MCCAP policy process to identify the key characteristics for enabling and advancing climate change adaptation and resilience in coastal municipalities. Climate change risks include: severe weather, storm surge and sea level rise. Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada to mandate MCCAP, offering an excellent research opportunity to develop knowledge of adaptation processes and the role for inter-governmental policy collaboration in facilitating local scale climate change risk mitigation and adaptation.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for this study combines three qualitative methods to conduct a comparative case study analysis of municipal climate change adaptation planning and policy approaches in coastal municipalities of Nova Scotia.

A meta-level content analysis of all MCCAP plans will utilize a conceptual adaptation policy framework constructed from cogent literature for thematic indicator coding and policy analysis (Vogel and Henstra, forthcoming). The preliminary findings of this analysis will provide interactive research opportunities for engaging with municipal stakeholders to explore the key policy themes relevant to enabling municipal scale climate change adaptation and resilience to climate change effects and impacts in coastal municipalities of Nova Scotia.

FOCUS GROUPS
&
INTERVIEWS

CONTENT
ANALYSIS

n=49 MCCAP Plans

CONCEPTUAL
ADAPTATION POLICY
FRAMEWORK

NVivo 10.0

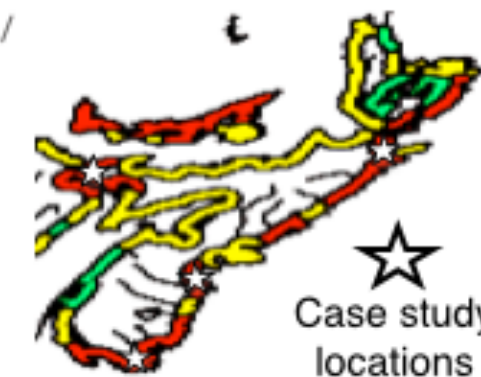
Mac Beta

Sensitivity to sea level rise /
Sensibilité à l'élévation du
niveau de la mer

High / Élevée

Moderate / Modérée

Low / Basse



Brennan Vogel BES MA

PhD Candidate, Department of Geography
University of Western Ontario

Supervisor: Dr. Gordon McBean C.M., O.Ont, Ph.D., FRSC
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