



MEOPAR

September 29 & 30, 2020

FORUM SCHEDULE

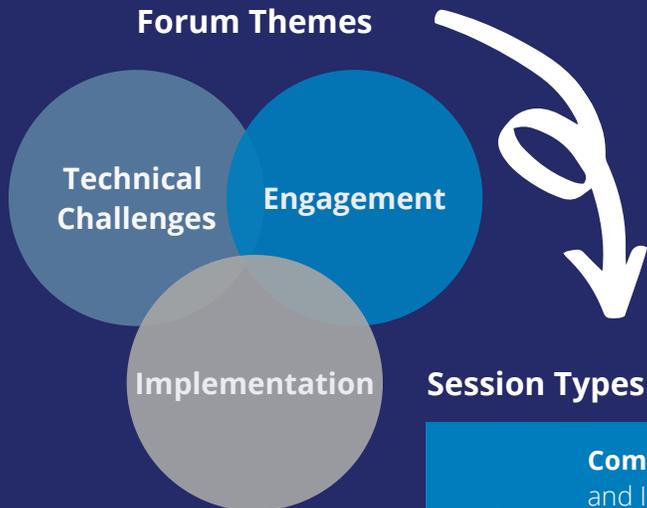
National Forum on Coastal Community Resilience

Local Government Initiatives to Address Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Flooding



Forum Structure: Themes + Session Types

The National Forum was structured around our three key themes for coastal adaptation – **Technical Challenges, Engagement, and Implementation**. Within each of the themes, there were three key session types which aimed to capture different perspectives and create opportunities for participants to discuss topics and share ideas with one another.



Session Types



Community Snapshots: Community Snapshots put the spotlight on local and Indigenous government practitioners, who were invited to share short presentations about how their communities are currently addressing coastal adaptation. We sought to profile communities from different coastlines, of different size and scale, with different adaptation challenges, and at different stages of coastal adaptation action.



Key Resources: The Key Resources panelists represented various not-for-profit, academic, policy, and Indigenous-led organizations whose work is focused on coastal community adaptation. Across the board, these panelists offered great insight on emerging research, tools and approaches that may support local governments as they address coastal flooding and sea level rise.



Interactive Discussions: Structured in the form of virtual breakout rooms, these interactive discussions offered Forum participants the opportunity to debrief and discuss learnings from the Forum with speakers and participants. These sessions were created to foster engagement, networking, and deeper discussion between communities and practitioners around core questions and concepts that emerged from the community and key resource sessions.

Forum Day 1

Opening Plenary

Moderator: Ron Pelot, MEOPAR / Dalhousie University

Speakers: Annie Lalancette and Tony Charles, Saint Mary's University

Climate Hazards and Responses - A Survey of Canadian Coastal Municipalities

This presentation describes the results of an extensive survey of hundreds of Canada's coastal communities, on the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic coasts. The results indicate how climate and other hazards fit into the municipal reality, the most crucial challenges being faced, the responses to these so far, and the identified needs for better responses in the future.

Speaker: Jason Thistlethwaite, University of Waterloo

Changing Flood Governance

Effective coastal risk governance involves setting goals, aligning policy instruments, negotiating roles and responsibilities and allocating resources. By exploring coastal risk governance in Canada, this presentation will describe its strengths and weaknesses emphasizing gaps in coordination between levels of government as critical areas for improvement.



Technical Challenges: Community Snapshots

Moderator: Joel Finnis, Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Speakers: Randy Angus, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI; Jenifer Aspell, Town of Bay Bulls; Nicole Foth, District of North Vancouver

Communities share presentations about initiatives or challenges they have undertaken or face(d) involving technical challenges or issues.



Technical Challenges: Key Resources

Moderator: Danika Van Proosdij, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies Saint Mary's University

Speakers: DG Blair, Stewardship Centre for BC; Tim Webster, Applied Geomatics Research Group, Nova Scotia Community College; Piers Evans, Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador

Canadian coastal communities are under increasing pressure (social and political) to develop and implement climate adaptation strategies. When attempting to meet this challenge, each community must navigate a range of technical issues that include the interpretation of climate projections, identifying and prioritizing climate vulnerabilities, and assessing diverse adaptation options (e.g. zoning solutions, engineering solutions, green infrastructure, managed retreat etc). This session will explore resources available for navigating these technical needs, and present cases from coastal communities of varying size. Particular emphasis will be placed on translating environmental data into effective adaptation guidance; vulnerability assessment tools; and cost effective green infrastructure options that can be easily incorporated into broader adaptation plans.

Forum Day 1



Technical Challenges: Interactive Discussions

Participants were grouped into breakout rooms to discuss the ideas, issues, and resources raised in the Technical Challenge Community Snapshot and Key Resource presentations. Discussions were structured around the topics of Locally Relevant Data, Coastal Green Infrastructure, Climate/Sea-level rise, Flood Mapping (Coastal and Floodplain), and Vulnerability Identification.



Engagement: Community Snapshots

Moderator: Tony Charles, St. Mary's University

Speakers: Matt Osler, City of Surrey; Edmundo Fausto, City of St. John's; and Tricia DeMacedo, Township of Esquimalt

Across Canada, many municipalities, First Nations and coastal communities are tackling challenges of sea-level rise and coastal flooding, along with many other impacts of climate change and marine hazards. How do they engage on these challenges with community residents, with a range of groups, and with levels of government? What useful insights can be found on carrying out public engagement, seeking public 'buy-in' and communicating about risks? In this session, presenters will share both the successes and persistent challenges they are experiencing in dealing with public engagement or communication activities, with a focus on dealing with sea-level rise and coastal flooding, and including the current challenges of Covid-19 times. How do engagement and communications fit into the plans developed by municipalities and others across Canada?



Engagement: Key Resources

Moderator: Kate Sherren, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University

Speakers: Ken Paul, Assembly of First Nations; Nancy Anningson, Ecology Action Centre; Steve Plante, Université du Québec à Rimouski

As Canada's coastal municipalities, First Nations and local communities seek to engage with their citizens, as well as with community groups of various forms, and other levels of government, they can benefit from a range of resources and ideas to support that engagement. The goal of this session is to provide such ideas on approaches to engagement, with awareness of the nature of engagement as it may vary, for example, within large and small municipalities.



Engagement: Interactive Discussions

Forum participants formed small groups in moderated breakout rooms to discuss the issues, ideas, and resources on Engagement as raised in the Community Snapshots and Key Resources presentations. The discussions sought to tie together common themes raised by municipalities and others, from coast to coast, leading to reflections on lessons learned that may help inform future activities. Discussion topics ranged from engaging diverse communities; small communities and public engagement; risk communication & tools; public buy-in; and public engagement.

Forum Day 2

Opening Plenary

Speaker: Stephanie Chang, University of British Columbia

How are local governments planning for coastal flooding? A pan-Canadian portrait

Coastal communities in Canada are increasingly facing risks related to coastal hazards. The Resilient Coasts Canada Platform (Resilient-C), a free online tool, was created by MEOPAR researchers to help communities discover other locations that face similar hazard vulnerabilities, determine what actions these communities have taken to address coastal risks, and create resilience networks that span both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The platform contains vulnerability indicators and risk reduction action data on over 150 communities in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. This session will provide an overview of common actions and strategies being undertaken by different types of communities across Canada to address coastal flooding and sea-level rise.



Implementation: Community Snapshots

Moderator: Andrea Minano, Climate Risk Research Group, University of Waterloo

Speakers: Aaron Rodgers, District of Tofino; Shannon Miedema, Halifax Regional Municipality; and Terry Thibodeau, Municipality of Digby.

Progress in climate change adaptation in coastal Canada

Many municipalities in Canada have developed plans to address coastal flood risks, including anticipated sea level rise impacts. Implementing adaptation plans can come with a series of challenges, including financial, political and governance challenges. In this session, presenters will share both the successes and persistent challenges they are experiencing when putting adaptation plans into action. A moderated discussion will tie common themes together raised by municipalities from coast to coast, which could lead to a reflection on lessons learned that other municipalities in Canada could learn from.



Implementation: Key Resources

Moderator: Jason Thislethwaite, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

Speakers: Claudia Verno, Insurance Bureau of Canada; Tony Bowron, CB Wetlands and Environmental Specialists; Brent Doberstein, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo; Nikki Elliott, Capital Regional District

Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration to advance climate resiliency in coastal Canada

Leveraging resources, data, expertise, knowledge found across all sectors has been highlighted as an essential component for strengthening resiliency to climate change. Engaging in cross-disciplinary projects can offer many benefits, such as identifying appropriate responses to sea level rise, overcoming technical and data challenges, and securing financial compensation in the event of a disaster. In this session, panelists will share how cross-sector collaboration and partnerships have played a role in advancing coastal risk reduction efforts and climate risk management.

Forum Day 2



Implementation: Interactive Discussions

Reflections on the implementation of resiliency in coastal communities

Forum participants will be formed into small groups to discuss the issues, ideas, and resources on Implementation as raised in the Community Snapshots and Strengthening Interdisciplinary Collaboration presentations. Key questions for consideration will include: What implementation challenges are participants currently facing? Have other participants faced similar challenges themselves? How did they respond to them? What lessons were learned, and what good practices emerged? Discussion topics included land use planning and managed retreat; finance and insurance; small communities; Regional/Provincial/Federal roles; and partnerships.

Government Perspectives

Moderator: Sara Jane O'Neill, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Speakers: John Somers, Nova Scotia Environment; Matthew Godsoe, Public Safety Canada; Chad Nelson, Infrastructure Canada

The role of government in a resilient coastal Canada

Government remains the most important actor in promoting resiliency and adaptation in Canada. In recent years, federal and provincial governments have committed billions towards these objectives in addition to adopting a range of different policy approaches. This session will provide the perspective on the role of upper tier governments in local resiliency and reflect on some of the major themes that emerged during the conference. Presenters will describe ongoing initiatives and how they can address persistent challenges raised by communities. Ultimately, the session will provide ideas on how intergovernmental collaboration can be leveraged to strengthen coastal resiliency and adaptation.



[Access presentations and additional resources here.](#)



[Check out the National Forum on Coastal Community Resilience Virtual Poster Session](#)