

Community

Climate change is already affecting communities, social services, and cultural resources in New Brunswick. Preparing now for future risks can help keep our communities safe.

This summary draws on findings from [New Brunswick's Climate Change Risk Assessment](#), which looks at how climate change is impacting the province today and what we are likely to face going forward. The assessment identifies key issues of concern and opportunities for action.

What's the Risk?

The actions we take today to prepare and build resilience can help reduce the harm of future climate-related hazards like flooding, erosion, heatwaves, and wildfires.

Risks from the changing climate range from minimal disruptions to widespread and lasting disruptions. This can cause harm to health and safety, ecosystems, communities, economic sectors, or infrastructure.

By 2050, risks and the resulting impacts will increase significantly if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced and if we don't prepare for the impacts of climate change through adaptation. Community spaces and cultural sites could be permanently damaged, which would affect the health and well-being of communities and their culture.

Climate hazards can also amplify existing social and economic disparities in vulnerable communities. This means that people in rural areas, First Nation communities, lower-income households, and equity-deserving groups are more likely to experience stronger and longer-lasting impacts of climate change.

Community Risks

The top drivers of risks are coastal flooding, inland flooding, coastal erosion, wildfire, and extreme heat. These drivers are expected to cause:

- more evacuations and displacement
- increased strain on social, community, and housing services
- loss or relocation of important community spaces like beaches, parks, and coastal trails
- damage to archaeological, heritage, and culturally and spiritually significant sites
- reduced access to outdoor spaces, recreational activities, and community programming

How Can We Adapt?

Climate change adaptation refers to actions that reduce the harm caused by climate change impacts.

ADAPTATION IN ACTION: MI'GMAQ GUARDIAN PROGRAM (GELOTIGETJIG)

In recent years, rising sea levels, stronger coastal storms, and less sea ice have accelerated erosion along the coastlines of Kouchibouguac National Park. Kouchibouguac holds vital spiritual and cultural importance to Mi'gmaq communities, including burial and archaeological sites.

In response, Kouchibouguac National Park introduced a Mi'gmaq-led Guardians program. It uses nature-based approaches, such as planting American beachgrass, to stabilize and reduce erosion to the banks of culturally significant sites.



In New Brunswick, the ability to adapt to climate change remains low. Although many communities show strong social cohesion and local leadership, they still have limited capacity and funding to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disruptions.

Over time, communities can become more resilient by supporting locally driven initiatives and making sure that climate change is incorporated into decision-making.

Next Steps

- You can prepare for climate change by taking practical steps as an individual, as part of a community, or within a social service organization. Working with governments and community partners can help create inclusive programs and supports that take climate change into account.
- Learn how the [New Brunswick Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) is helping the province understand current climate risks and how to prepare for the future.
- Explore climate change adaptation resources. [CLIMAtlantic.ca](#) offers tools, information, and services to get you started.
- Connect and get involved with local organizations through the [New Brunswick Environmental Network](#).



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