

Economic Activities and Livelihoods

Many New Brunswick communities rely on resource-dependent industries, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism, which are already being impacted by climate change. Preparing now for future risks can help protect our livelihoods and keep these sectors strong.

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. These risks could also cause economic losses across important sectors.

Climate hazards can also amplify existing social and economic challenges in vulnerable communities. This means rural and resource-dependent regions, small and medium-sized businesses, land-based livelihoods, and workers with limited resources and support systems are more vulnerable to economic disruptions.

Risks to Economic Activities and Livelihoods

While both drought and wildfires are expected to become bigger threats to New Brunswick's economy and livelihoods, this report found the top drivers of risks to the province's sectors were coastal flooding and erosion, warming seasonal temperatures, inland flooding, and extreme heat.

These are expected to cause:

- disruption to fisheries and forestry, risks to agriculture, damage to assets, and increased recovery costs
- impacts to traditional harvesting and resource availability
- loss of revenue and higher maintenance costs
- increased occupational health risks and lower worker productivity
- reduced outdoor tourism



How Can We Adapt?

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

ADAPTATION IN ACTION: BUILDING CAPACITY OF WOODLOT OWNERS TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Warming temperatures, flooding, droughts, and storms increasingly threaten the forestry industry, which is one of the largest employers in the province.

Around 30% of forests are owned privately.

In response, the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners created resources to help small private woodlot owners learn more about climate-resilient management practices. The resources include a silviculture prescription tool, guidelines, and training to help woodlot owners understand how climate change affects their forests and how to sustainably manage their trees.



In New Brunswick, the capacity to adapt remains uneven across sectors and regions.

Many sectors struggle with the high upfront costs of climate-resilient technology, limited training and funding, and a lack of administrative support. Stronger collaboration, inclusive engagement, better access to resources, and support for innovative and affordable technologies will help move adaptation forward.

Next Steps

- You can prepare for climate change by taking practical steps as an individual within your sector and workplace, and in your community. Working with governments and neighbouring sectors can help integrate climate change considerations into planning, asset management, emergency plans, and policies.
- 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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