

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title:	St. John's Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Partnership Project
Date Prepared:	November 18, 2024
Report To:	Regular Meeting of Council
Councillor and Role:	Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary, Sustainability
Ward:	N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

For Council to approve a financial contribution to the Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network's St. John's Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Project. This project is funded by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), and funds provided by the City would be matched by NRCAN by up to 75%. The requested contribution is designed to align with the City's specific needs, ensuring the project supports the City by characterizing the climate change risks to its Harbour, developing an actionable plan, and providing funding-ready project details.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network is leading a collaborative project to help coastal municipalities in Atlantic Canada, including St. John's, increase their readiness for climate change. This initiative is supported by NRCAN will assess coastal hazards and develop recommendations for coastal climate adaptation solutions for St. John's Harbour and Coastal infrastructure. The project takes place from September 2024 to March 2027.

This is a unique opportunity to work with a collaborative group of non-profit organizations, academic institutions and industry to build climate adaptation solutions that are effective, achievable, and aligned with the pillars of the National Adaptation Strategy.

During the proposal stage, the City of St. John's provided a letter approving the In-kind staff contributions, and AIM was able to begin the project with that support. The City also provided proposed goals to ensure the project addressed local priorities:

Project Goals:

1. Develop advanced storm surge and wave runup models for St. John's Harbour.
2. Qualitatively assess flood risk scenarios for the Waterford River under different climate futures.
3. Identify potential coastal impacts of climate change (increased storm surge, wave damage, saltwater intrusion, precipitation and sea level rise) and develop action plans.
4. Prepare cost estimates to support the City in being ready to submit funding applications for related priority adaptation projects.

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5. Build funding models for potential readiness actions and capital projects so you can have a sustainable financing strategy that considers ongoing municipal capital and operational funding needs rather than considering adaptation work in isolation.

Supports Requested:

AIM Network is requesting some financial support for this project in order to align with the City’s proposed goals, match the City’s priorities, and to maximize the use of available NRCAN funds. The proposed contribution schedule is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Financial Contribution (pre-tax)	In-Kind Staff Contribution
Fiscal 2024:	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,440
Fiscal 2025:	\$ 29,000	\$ 6,960
Fiscal 2026:		\$ 6,600
	\$ 33,000	\$ 15,000

Benefits for St. John's:

1. Access to expert knowledge and advanced modeling techniques.
2. Improved understanding of climate risks and adaptation strategies for the downtown Harbour area.
3. Development of actionable plans and funding-ready project details.
4. Enhanced community engagement and stakeholder collaboration on adaptation.
5. Alignment with national and provincial climate adaptation strategies.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: \$33,000 + applicable tax financial contribution, \$15,000 in-kind contribution for staff time to inform the project.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: The Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network
3. Is this a New Plan or Strategy: No

If yes, are there recommendations or actions that require progress reporting?

If yes, how will progress be reported? (e.g.: through the strategic plan, through Cascade, annual update to Council, etc.)

4. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Sustainable City: Work collaboratively to create a climate-adapted and low-carbon city.

A Sustainable City: Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.

5. Alignment with Adopted Plans: Resilient St John's Community Climate Plan
6. Accessibility and Inclusion: n/a
4. Legal or Policy Implications: n/a
5. Privacy Implications: n/a
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network's project scope includes community and consultation efforts, which the City is expected to participate in.
7. Human Resource Implications: In-kind staff time will be coordinated by the Sustainability team, which will engage other departments like Public Works, Planning Engineering and Regulatory Services as the project develops.
8. Procurement Implications: None. The financial contribution would not be purchase, but a financial contribution to the project.
9. Information Technology Implications: n/a
10. Other Implications: n/a

Recommendation:

That Council approves the financial contribution to the Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network's St. John's Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Project from the sustainability budget 2024 and 2025.

Prepared by:

Edmundo Fausto
Manager, Sustainability

Approved by:

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	St. John's Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Partnership.docx
Attachments:	- NRCAN CRCC ProgramBrief_StJohns_R1.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 19, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

David Crowe - Nov 19, 2024 - 9:41 AM

Lynnann Winsor - Nov 19, 2024 - 5:13 PM