

We invite you to participate in this program and lead the way for climate adaptation in Canada. *Climate impacts are already here. We do not need more studies; we need action. Participating in this project will progress your adaptation plans and get ready to fund and implement adaptation solutions with the support of your community.* Under the National Adaptation strategy, strong adaptation strategies consider land use planning and nature-based solutions to support of built infrastructure.



AIM Network has partnered with other non-profits, planning professionals and academic institutions to create a program to help municipalities with adaptation solutions. Our goal is to help municipalities demonstrate action toward climate resiliency and scope projects with a high probability of successful in funding applications. The program considers social, economic and environmental impacts, along with planning strategies. Outcomes will include updated flood forecasts for riverine flooding, land use guidelines for areas beside the river and recommendations for water management at the harbour.

The project will run until March 2027 and will be delivered to a municipal cohort in each Atlantic province.

### What is a Cohort Group?

- Municipal cohorts are groups of municipalities with shared characteristics: common geography and similar coastal climate concerns. They do not need to be the same size.
- The Newfoundland cohort is targeted for St. John's, Conception Bay South and Portugal Cove St. Philips. Cohort municipalities will participate in workshops with each other and share experience and outcomes.
- Participants should value long-term planning and be ready to commit to achieving the outcomes of the program.
- Municipalities commit to involving a team of people for the duration of the program. The team may include planners, public works or engineering, senior management, climate change specialists and community engagement staff.

### How does my community benefit?

You are a coastal community at risk from increasing impacts of climate events like increased storm surge, stronger winds, increasing of coastal erosion and long-term risk of inundation from sea-level rise. Through this program, we will help you use your own information, data and community input to produce:

- **Policy** documents to reflect clearly defined goals addressing climate risk, infrastructure resilience and social impact.
- **Community engagement** to understand community needs and concerns around adaptation policy and action.
- **GIS mapping** allowing you to visualize coastal risk with demographic and vulnerable population data, as it is available. Data will be compatible with your existing GIS systems.
- **Land use planning** that considers the uncertainties in long-term climate change predictions.
- A coastal **vulnerability assessment** using the PIEVC Protocol to support funding applications.
- **Concept designs and costs** of strategies that can be taken to capital funding applications in 2026 / 2027.
- **Training** through workshops and online training courses. There is approximately five days of training per municipality on community engagement, risk assessment, planning strategies, capital planning and financing for adaptation.
- **Capital financing plans** that identify funding sources for the project(s) from municipal sources, debt spending, reserves and federal and provincial sources, as well as options to draw private capital into adaptation funding.

### Municipal Outcomes and Actions

The program involves preparation work by our team, facilitated workshops and on-line learning. We will also provide one-on-one or small group support during the project. *We understand that municipal staff have many competing priorities, and our team of experts will take care of all of the heavy lifting*, relying on your staff for input at the workshops, reviewing documents, and participating in on-line course content. The following page shows a breakdown of project goals, activities and deliverables.

### Project Timeline and Cost

*The cost of participating in the project is \$19,000, plus \$29,000 for the detailed harbour modelling by BEHI Environmental for a total of \$48,000. These costs can be split between fiscal years of the program if required. The project will run from fall of 2024 until December 2026.*



This program is designed to build solutions that align with federal and provincial mandates along with the National Adaptation Strategy so that they become priority actions for funding. The project runs from April 2024 to December of 2026 with the following activities:

### Project Preparation

*The project team will:*

- Complete climate change forecasts for high-water levels at various locations along the harbour area that consider:
  - medium- and long-term sea level rise, wave runup and changes in storm surge levels
  - uncertainty in climate projections, from lower projections (very high likelihood) to higher projections (lower likelihood). This will allow more refined decisions on investment versus risk.
- Revise hydraulic modelling of the Waterford River:
  - Hydraulic model will consider variations in climate predictions for a range of high-water levels.
  - Consider impacts of the Newdock weir on river response
- Compile mapping for your community with:
  - Provincial flood mapping (GeoNB, PEI CHIP or CLIMAtlantic)
  - Population density based on current land use bylaws or trends
  - Socio-economic data (extent of data varies by location)
  - Infrastructure type and location in coastal risk zones
- Identify priority stakeholders for consultation, such as developers, Newdock and CN.

### Activity 1: Adaptation Governance

*The project team will:*

- Conduct a governance workshop
- Suggest policy updates to include equity statements, acknowledge maladaptation risk, set planning goals and set adaptation priority.
- Develop a governance framework for infrastructure decisions aligned with the National Adaptation strategy pillars
- Build a process to adjust climate prioritization considering adaptation pathways for the various climate change forecasts
- Present the need and value of proposed changes to council

*You will:*

- Participate in a workshop on municipal climate governance
- Review and comment on proposed policy changes and framework
- Bring proposed changes for council ratification
- Build a roadmap for future strategic plans so they consider equity, risk priority and risk mitigation in community development

**Outcomes:** Policy recommendations, adaptation framework and roadmap to support funding applications

### Activity 2: Community Engagement Sessions

*The project team will:*

- Lead a stakeholder engagement workshop
- Present mapping for coastal area of interest
- Present planning considerations in the era of climate change

*You will:*

- Attend the engagement workshop
- Assist project team with stakeholder liaison

**Outcomes:** Stakeholder risk assessment and recommendations

### Activity 3: Climate Vulnerability Assessment

*The project team will:*

- Identify climate risk elements and costs of inaction
- Conduct PIEVC Assessments for waterfront (including the Waterford River)
- Provide recommendations on risk criticality and action timelines

*You will:*

- Attend on-line video training for climate risk assessments
- Review and comment on vulnerability profiles
- Attend a one-day workshop for the PEIVC vulnerability assessment

**Outcomes:** PIEVC Assessment and Recommendations for funding applications

### Activity 4: Land Use Planning

*The project team will:*

- Meet planners to discuss existing regulations and build on successes
- Liaise with the province to understand provincial guidance and regulatory direction
- Provide on-line training for land use planning for climate change
- Provide recommendations that consider current municipal legal responsibilities respecting climate change risk
- Develop a best-practice guide for future planning activities

*You will:*

- Participate in training on climate and equity planning
- Review and comment on vulnerability profiles
- Review and comment on best-practices guide

**Outcomes:** Municipal planning strategy and roadmap, GIS Mapping

### Activity 5: Capital Plan and Financing Strategy

*The project team will:*

- Provide access to capital planning and financing on-line course
- Review existing capital projects and incorporate coastal adaptation
- Identify funding sources, risk and service trade-offs with the “do nothing” option and risk mitigation for residual climate risk
- Develop a roadmap for novel funding options, including securing private capital and understanding insurance implications
- Assess impacts to debt and reserve funds to build projects
- Develop council and public engagement material to present adaptation plans, costs, residual risks and adaptation actions

*You will:*

- Participate in online training for capital planning and financing
- Provide existing information on capital projects and financing
- Review updated five-year capital plan and financing strategy
- Provide input on trade-offs between debt, reserves and municipal revenue

**Outcomes:** Capital financing plan for adaptation projects including impacts on capital renewal, public engagement material (council presentation and fact sheets)