

The Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequalities and  
Community Health Project (The ENRICH)

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# THE AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN CLIMATE JUSTICE AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

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2024 PROJECT REPORT

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## Executive Summary

This project aims to address the underrepresentation of African Nova Scotians in climate change discussions and actions, despite their heightened vulnerability to its impacts. The primary goal is to collaborate with the project funder the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change and key partners—including African Nova Scotian Western Service Providers Network, the Association of Black Social Workers, CLIMAtlantic, How We Thrive, African Nova Scotian Affairs, and HalifACT—to enhance climate change preparedness across 13 African Nova Scotian communities. These efforts focus on equipping communities with the information and practical tools needed to identify and implement strategies to mitigate climate impacts.

The Nova Scotia Association of Black Social Workers, in collaboration with Community Recruiters, facilitated the engagement and recruitment of 20 participants from each of the 13 communities: Amherst, Antigonish, Dartmouth North, Glace Bay, Kentville, Lucasville, Lincolnville, New Glasgow, North End Halifax, Spryfield, Truro, Upper Hammonds Plains, and Windsor. Workshops were co-facilitated by Chaz Garraway, a Water Resources and Coastal Engineer from Toronto, and Alex Cadel of CLIMAtlantic. These three-hour workshops, conducted in all 13 communities, assessed participants' existing knowledge, built capacity, and provided practical skills aligned with the needs identified by recruitment partners.

The project will progress with the development of a policy brief informed by workshop discussions. This brief will be shared with climate policymakers at the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change. Dr. Waldron will also deliver presentations to policymakers and MLAs to advocate for policy changes. The creation of the policy brief will be a collaborative effort between workshop participants and the project team.

Participants in this project will be invited to join the third phase, the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program Online Modules, in 2025. The first phase, titled *“Building Capacity Around Climate Change Preparedness in African Nova Scotian Communities”*, took place in 2023 and engaged 12 African Nova Scotian communities: Beechville, Bridgewater, Cherry Brook, Digby, East Preston, Greenville, Liverpool, North Preston, Shelburne, Weymouth Falls, Whitney Pier, and Yarmouth. The second phase, the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program, included 13 workshops conducted this year. The third phase, the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program Online Modules will bring together workshop participants from both the 2023 and 2024 phases. This phase will feature 12 monthly modules focused on climate change and its impacts on African Nova Scotian communities. Participants, now referred to as Ambassadors, will work together to create community-specific climate resilience plans. A total of 25 Ambassadors, who have completed both the 2023 and 2024 phases, will be selected for this program, strengthening leadership and promoting long-term climate action within their communities.

# Project Goals and Objectives

Black communities face disproportionate exposure to the impacts of climate change and are often underrepresented in discussions and actions addressing these challenges. This project aimed to build capacity in 13 African Nova Scotian communities by engaging residents in workshops focused on climate change preparedness.

## Workshop Objectives

The workshops were designed to:

- Assess participants' awareness and knowledge of climate change and preparedness strategies.
- Provide opportunities for participants to share personal experiences of how climate change has impacted them, their families, and their communities.
- Facilitate discussions on the social, economic, and mental health impacts of climate change.
- Conduct interactive simulation exercises that encourage solution-oriented dialogue on addressing climate impacts, emergencies, and building climate resilience.

In this context, climate change preparedness involves enhancing community members' understanding of the factors contributing to climate impacts and devastation, while equipping them with practical guidance on preparation and mitigation strategies.

## Sharing Workshop Outcomes

The insights and outcomes from these workshops will be shared with diverse audiences in various formats, including:

- Presentations by Dr. Ingrid Waldron
- A final report summarizing key findings.
- A policy brief that outlines community members' concerns about climate impacts, as well as their suggestions for how these impacts can be addressed
- Accessible online resources and information.

## Long-Term Vision: Climate Justice Ambassadors

The project aimed to establish a community of practice made up of emerging leaders in climate action, known as African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors. These ambassadors will include participants from the 2023 and 2024 workshops, who will be officially recognized as ambassadors once they begin engaging with the modules. These ambassadors will participate in 12 monthly online modules focused on climate change and its specific impacts on African Nova Scotian communities. With the knowledge and training gained through the program, these ambassadors will be empowered to drive systemic change and address climate-related challenges across 25 underserved and underrepresented African Nova Scotian communities.

## Summary of Key Findings

In this section, we list a summary of key findings that emerged from workshop discussions across the 13 communities.

### **The Manifestations and Impacts of Climate Change in African Nova Scotian Communities**

- **Health Impacts in African Nova Scotian Communities:** Participants in the workshop acknowledged the significant impact of climate change on community health, particularly in relation to rising temperatures and veld fires. They identified several pressing health issues, including increased mental health challenges, higher rates of depression, and a rise in heat-related illnesses, particularly respiratory issues among those with asthma. Participants also noted a concerning rise in cancer cases, which they linked to changing climatic conditions. Additionally, participants recognized that warmer temperatures have facilitated the spread of new diseases and organisms previously unknown to their communities. An increase in tick populations, for example, has contributed to a rise in Lyme disease cases. These emerging health risks, along with the stresses placed on the healthcare system, underscore the urgent need for climate adaptation strategies.
- **Food Security Concerns:** Food security was another critical topic of discussion. Participants consistently linked their experiences of food insecurity to climate change, particularly highlighting how storms and hurricanes disrupt food production, preservation, and storage—often leading to power outages. They also identified other challenges, such as low income, rising grocery prices, and limited space for community gardens. For many families, obtaining sufficient nutritious food has become an increasingly difficult struggle. Participants described having to make tough choices between accessing healthy food, paying utility bills, and affording necessary medications. This has led to greater food insecurity, which is exacerbated by climate change's effects on local ecosystems. The growing unpredictability of weather events and environmental changes poses significant risks to food production and availability.
- **Climate Impacts on Local Ecosystem:** Participants also frequently mentioned the broader impacts of climate change on local ecosystems—especially wildfires, coastal erosion, and rising temperatures. These changes have prompted the migration of both native and foreign species, including wildlife, into urban areas, creating safety concerns and challenges for local communities.

### **Climate Change Vulnerability and Preparedness**

- **Vulnerable Populations:** Participants acknowledged that climate change affects everyone in the community, including local flora and fauna. The groups most at risk from climate change—particularly due to rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding—include the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and individuals without insurance or with limited incomes who are unable to adapt to these changes.

- **Infrastructure:** Communities identified inadequate infrastructure as a major barrier to effective climate adaptation. Key issues include a lack of access roads to highways, insufficient evacuation routes during disasters, and poorly maintained road networks that contribute to congestion and air pollution. The absence of sidewalks and fire hydrants raises serious public safety concerns, while inadequate drainage systems lead to severe flooding during storms. These challenges significantly hinder their ability to prepare for climate-related disasters.
- **Social Amenities:** Participants emphasized the lack of government-provided social amenities, high costs associated with climate adaptation—including insurance—and pervasive poverty as major challenges confronting their communities. Additionally, shortages of affordable housing, inadequate healthcare, and insufficient services like snow removal and garbage collection have further complicated efforts to adapt to climate change.
- **Socioeconomic Inequalities and Climate Preparedness:** Participants highlighted the interplay between climate change disasters and socioeconomic inequalities, such as low income, high unemployment, and the rising cost of living, which hinder their ability to prepare for climate-related events. They also noted that increasing populations and rising crime rates are consequences of limited job opportunities and resources, further impeding their preparedness.
- **Emergency Plans:** Participants recognized that inadequate climate preparedness and ongoing exposure to climate-related disasters are closely linked to a lack of emergency readiness. This encompasses insufficient evacuation routes, contingency plans, and procedures, as well as limited access to emergency services.

### **Solutions to Building Resilient Communities**

- **Infrastructure:** Participants stressed the urgent need for improved infrastructure within their communities, emphasizing the importance of developing multiple road networks that connect to highways and providing additional evacuation routes for climate-related disasters. They highlighted the necessity of constructing and rehabilitating essential community infrastructures, such as sidewalks, fire hydrants, and drainage systems, which currently pose hazards and leave communities vulnerable to flooding and fires.
- **Investments and Subsidies:** There was a strong call for investments and subsidies aimed at enhancing climate preparedness in Black communities. Participants urged the government to provide funding and tailored programs to help residents retrofit their homes with solar panels and air conditioning systems, making access to these resources easier.
- **Improved Services:** Improving services, including emergency response and education on climate change preparedness, was also a key concern. Participants expressed the importance of being involved in decision-making processes that impact their livelihoods and future generations. They emphasized the need for equal representation of Black communities in these processes and equal access



to information and resources, advocating for climate preparedness plans that incorporate an Afrocentric perspective.

- **Community Gardens:** Initiatives like promoting community gardens and transitioning from wood stoves to renewable energy sources, such as solar power, were highlighted as vital steps toward sustainability.
- **Strong Networks and Collaborations:** Additionally, participants underscored the importance of establishing strong networks that unite individuals, government entities, and organizations in their collective climate efforts. Key priorities include regularly checking in on one another, especially the elderly, during periods of climatic stress. By fostering these connections, communities can enhance their resilience and ensure that all members are supported in the face of environmental challenges.

### Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations offered by workshop participants and the project director and project coordinator focus on two main themes: 1) community voices and 2) climate justice.

### Community Voices

This section provides recommendations inspired by the experiences shared by African Nova Scotian community members. These recommendations reflect the strategies and approaches suggested by participants to help them prepare for climate change, address climate devastation, and build more resilient communities.

- **Infrastructure Improvements:**
  - Invest in climate-resilient housing.
  - Develop multiple evacuation routes.
  - Upgrade critical infrastructure like sidewalks, drainage systems, and fire hydrants to enhance safety and reduce vulnerabilities.
- **Government Support:**
  - Provide subsidies for retrofitting homes.
  - Strengthen social support systems.
  - Offer financial aid to low-income households.
  - Fund community-based climate adaptation projects and sustainability education.
- **Community Empowerment:**
  - Expand climate education.
  - Strengthen community networks.
  - Develop programs to address racial and socioeconomic disparities, fostering resilience through community-led initiatives and social equity investments.
- **Inclusive Decision-Making:**
  - Ensure equitable representation of Black communities in decision-making.
  - Integrate Afrocentric perspectives in climate plans, and promote community-driven solutions to support adaptation efforts.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:**

- Transition to renewable energy sources like solar power, support community gardens and green energy projects.
- Increase funding for sustainable energy in vulnerable areas.
- **Emergency Preparedness:**
  - Create emergency plans with evacuation routes and readiness centers.
  - Improve disaster readiness education.
  - Establish networks to support vulnerable populations during emergencies.

## Climate Justice

In this section, we offer recommendations for how climate policymakers, climate and environmental organizations, and other organizations can embed a climate justice framework into partnership development, policy, research, and climate change adaptation.

- Employ a climate justice framework to examine how climate change impacts and is experienced by African Nova Scotian and other underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Incorporate an intersectional analysis to unpack the ways in which climate change is experienced in different ways by different people based on the intersections of race, culture, gender, sexuality, social class, age, disability, geographic location, and other social identities and factors.
- Ensure that the communities that are most impacted by and on the frontlines of the climate crisis are included and represented in the work being done around climate change by environmental, climate, health, and other organizations.

## Background & Context

In her 2021 report *Climate Justice: Understanding the Disproportionate Exposure and Vulnerability of Indigenous, Black, and Other Underserved and Underrepresented Communities to the Climate Crisis*, Dr. Ingrid Waldron highlights that while Black communities face disproportionate exposure to climate change impacts, they are less likely to participate in climate change conversations and actions (Waldron, 2021). Addressing this gap, the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program aims to enhance climate preparedness in 13 African Nova Scotian communities through targeted workshops. Led by Dr. Waldron's initiative, the Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities, and Community Health (ENRICH) Project, a program under MakeWay, and in collaboration with partners such as the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change, African Nova Scotian Western Service Providers Network, the Association of Black Social Workers, CLIMAtlantic, How We Thrive, African Nova Scotian Affairs, and HalifACT, the project seeks to deepen community understanding of climate change impacts and provide strategies for preparation and mitigation.

### Objectives of the Project:

- **Assess Awareness and Knowledge:** Evaluate the level of understanding African Nova Scotians have about climate change impacts and preparedness.
- **Identify Resources and Experts:** Determine the resources and expertise available to these communities for addressing climate challenges and support the development of climate change preparedness plans.
- **Disseminate Findings:** Share project insights with diverse audiences through presentations by Dr. Waldron, the Clean Foundation, and the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), as well as through a final report, community-specific policy briefs, and online resources.
- **Launch the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program Online Modules:** Encourage workshop participants from 2023 and 2024 to join the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program Online Modules, the project's third phase. Starting in 2025, this program will deliver 12 monthly online modules to further enhance participants' knowledge and skills for addressing climate impacts in their communities.

Despite the critical nature of climate change, it has not been prioritized within many Black communities in Nova Scotia, even as they face significant impacts. A CBC Nova Scotia article noted that African Nova Scotian communities often reside at the urban wildlands interface, areas bordering forests that are increasingly prone to wildfires due to longer dry periods caused by climate change (Borden Colley, 2019). This project addresses these vulnerabilities by equipping communities with the knowledge and tools needed to build resilience and adapt to the challenges ahead.

## Conceptual Framework

This project and its associated workshops are grounded in a Climate Justice Framework. Climate justice is both a concept and a movement that recognizes the

unequal and disproportionate impacts of climate change on different communities. These impacts vary according to social identities such as race, socio-economic status, gender, age, disability, sexuality, geographic location, and other factors. Understanding and addressing the social dimensions of climate change is essential, as it enables a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of how its impacts are unevenly distributed. It also allows for the identification of targeted, equitable solutions.

The intersection of race with socio-economic status, class, gender, and other social identities is often overlooked in the dominant, White, Eurocentric climate change narrative. However, in recent years, there has been growing recognition that the climate narrative and movement must adopt an intersectional approach. This approach acknowledges that vulnerability to and experiences of the climate crisis stem from the unequal distribution of power and resources within society. Therefore, the climate justice movement must be rooted in inclusive frameworks that engage feminist, gendered, anti-racist, and anti-colonial perspectives. Such an approach not only highlights the power dynamics that make certain communities more vulnerable to climate change but also reveals how the crisis exacerbates existing structural inequities and poor social conditions.

There are numerous examples illustrating how factors like age, disability, income, immigrant status, gender, race, and other social identities heighten the risks and impacts of climate change on some communities while limiting their ability to respond. These include:

- Non-white or underserved and underrepresented communities are disproportionately affected by air pollution and water contamination (Nelson, 2001; Pulido, 1996; Simmons, 2020; Waldron, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2020).
- Elderly individuals, people with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses, immigrants, underserved and underrepresented communities may face greater challenges during extreme heat events or when evacuating from severe storms or wildfires (American Psychological Association, Climate for Health & EcoAmerica, 2017).
- Low-income communities are more likely to reside in subsidized housing, which is often located in flood-prone areas. These housing options may lack adequate insulation, mold prevention, or air conditioning, making it harder to cope with heatwaves or extreme weather. Low-income individuals are also less likely to afford insurance, rebuild after a disaster, or cover medical expenses resulting from climate-related events (American Psychological Association, Climate for Health & EcoAmerica, 2017).
- Immigrant communities facing language barriers often struggle to access timely information about approaching storms, wildfires, or other weather disasters, and may have difficulty communicating with first responders during evacuation efforts (American Psychological Association, Climate for Health & EcoAmerica, 2017).
- Changes in weather patterns, agriculture, and livability driven by climate change are increasingly contributing to mental health challenges, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and stress, especially among those directly affected by these changes (American Psychological Association, Climate for Health & EcoAmerica, 2017).

- For underserved and underrepresented communities, the mental health impacts of climate change are often more severe due to pre-existing inequalities, such as economic marginalization, substandard infrastructure, and limited access to healthcare (American Psychological Association, Climate for Health & EcoAmerica, 2017).
- Women are particularly vulnerable to climate-related health impacts, including higher rates of mortality among low-income women due to air pollution from household fuels, food insecurity, and the increased socioeconomic pressures placed on them. As primary contributors to food production, women are also more exposed to the unpredictable consequences of climate change, such as crop failure and reduced agricultural yields (Djoudi et al., 2016). This underscores the importance of incorporating a gender analysis in climate change and climate justice discussions.

# Workshop Methods & Approaches

In this section, we will cover participant recruitment, the design of the workshops, and the analysis of the workshop findings.

## Participant Recruitment

Thirteen African Nova Scotian community recruiters, selected in partnership with the Nova Scotia Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW), were tasked with engaging and recruiting up to 20 African Nova Scotian participants for each of the 13 workshops. These recruiters were also responsible for organizing various aspects of the workshops, including booking venues, arranging catering, ensuring the availability of necessary supplies, and collaborating with the ABSW and workshop facilitators to schedule dates and times. Workshops were held in the following 13 communities: Amherst, Antigonish, Dartmouth North, Glace Bay, Kentville, Lucasville, Lincolnville, New Glasgow, North End Halifax, Spryfield, Truro, Upper Hammonds Plains, and Windsor.

<b>Workshop/Community</b>	<b>Workshop Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Recruiter</b>
Kentville	09 June 2024	15	Lisa Diggs
Windsor	09 June 2024	20	Belinda Bezanson
Amherst	11 June 2024	19	Holy Martin
North End Halifax	22 June 2024	20	Terry Dixon
Lucasville	23 June 2024	19	Debra Lucas
Upper Hammonds Plains	24 June 2024	20	Gina Jones
Dartmouth North	25 June 2024	20	Maxine Farmer
Spryfield	11 August 2024	18	Kayla Borden
Truro	12 August 2024	20	Jo-Anne Jordan
New Glasgow	12 August 2024	20	Deanna Mohamed
Antigonish	13 August 2024	20	Juanita Byard
Lincolnville	14 August 2024	19	Kathy Rhodes
Glace Bay	15 August 2024	20	Chantel Reid Demeter
<b>Total Participants</b>		<b>250</b>	

The table above provides an overview of the 13 communities where workshops were conducted, listing the recruiter responsible for participant engagement in each community, the date of each workshop, and the number of participants who attended. In total, 250 participants took part across all 13 workshops.

## Workshop Design

Workshop co-facilitators Chaz Garraway and Alex Cadel were chosen to lead the 13 three-hour, audio-recorded workshops. These workshops, designed around a climate justice framework, aimed to assess participants' knowledge of climate change, its social, economic, and health impacts, and strategies for preparing for climate emergencies and environmental devastation. The workshops had several key objectives: to provide participants with technical and scientific information on climate change, climate projections, and the vulnerabilities of community infrastructure and local landscapes. In

addition, the workshops aimed to help participants apply this knowledge to areas of personal and community interest, empowering them to act on climate change. This included engaging with decision-makers, mobilizing their communities around climate action, establishing community-led initiatives, identifying opportunities for mitigation projects (such as energy efficiency), and offering guidance for continued learning and engagement. All workshops were audio-recorded for documentation and future reference.

### Analysis of Workshop Discussions

All audio recordings from the workshops were transcribed using Trint software and analyzed using NVivo, a qualitative analysis tool designed to manage, code, and interpret data. NVivo helps researchers identify and evaluate patterns in discussions from interviews, workshops, and focus groups, enabling them to organize and synthesize the ideas expressed by participants into coherent and meaningful narratives. A narrative analysis approach was employed, with codes generated inductively. This approach allowed the project coordinator to delve into the content, structure, and significance of the stories shared by participants. Narrative analysis values participants' lived experiences and treats storytelling as a vital source of knowledge, giving attention to their perspectives and insights.

After each workshop, the facilitator (Chaz Garraway) uploaded the audio recordings to OneDrive. The project coordinator and project administrator then transcribed the recordings using Trint software, saving each transcript separately in Microsoft Word, organized by community. The transcripts were uploaded to NVivo for coding and analysis. The initial coding categories included: a) understanding climate change (its causes and impacts), b) access to climate change information, c) awareness of weather patterns, d) climate change preparedness and barriers, e) experiences based on race, gender, and disability, and f) solutions for climate change preparedness in communities.

Once the data was coded and organized, a further round of analysis was conducted, revealing key themes. These themes included: a) the manifestations and impacts of climate change in African Nova Scotian communities, b) climate change vulnerability and preparedness, and c) solutions for building resilient communities. The data were refined and further analyzed to develop a comprehensive understanding of these themes, which are discussed in the next section of the report.

## What We Learned

Rising temperatures, floods, coastal erosion, and wildfires were the most frequently cited climate events affecting communities across the workshops we attended. Participants shared vivid memories of the devastating floods and wildfires that struck the province in 2023, leading to unplanned evacuations and significant damage to properties, livelihoods, and natural ecosystems. Health and safety concerns were also raised, particularly regarding the poor air quality caused by wildfire smoke, which worsened respiratory issues for individuals with conditions such as asthma. Furthermore, the loss of biodiversity due to wildfires, coupled with increasing safety concerns, was highlighted. Participants reported incidents of wild animals migrating into residential areas in search of food, heightening fears within communities, especially in areas where encounters with wildlife posed health risks, such as the spread of ticks and diseases.

The workshops provided valuable insight into communities' awareness of climate change, particularly its impacts from rising temperatures, flooding, coastal erosion, and wildfires. It was evident that most participants understood that climate change was already affecting their daily lives. They emphasized its effects on community health, food security, and local ecosystems. Climate-related health issues, such as heat stress, mental health challenges, anxiety, and depression, were frequently mentioned. Participants also expressed concerns about climate-induced food insecurity, particularly due to storms and floods that had disrupted local agriculture and food systems. Ongoing power outages, which increase communities' vulnerability to food insecurity, were also highlighted as a significant concern.

In addition, participants were acutely aware of the barriers to effective climate preparedness in their communities, with challenges such as socio-economic inequalities, deteriorating infrastructure, lack of social amenities, absence of emergency preparedness plans, and limited access to information. Despite these obstacles, they emphasized that their communities were not passive in the face of climate change. Instead, there was a strong drive to take proactive measures rather than simply reacting to climate impacts as they arise. Participants outlined the benefits of taking action on climate change and called for improvements in infrastructure, increased investments and subsidies, enhanced services, community gardens, local sustainability initiatives, and stronger partnerships—all aimed at building resilience in the face of the ongoing climate crisis.

This section of the report is organized into three parts, based on the key themes that emerged from the workshop discussions:

- The Manifestations and Impacts of Climate Change
- Climate Change Vulnerability and Preparedness
- Solutions to Building Climate Resilience



# The Manifestations and Impacts of Climate Change in African Nova Scotian Communities

Participants in the 13 workshop we conducted demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of climate change, its causes, and its impacts. They clearly connected the rise in greenhouse gases—primarily from human activities such as deforestation, industrial processes, transportation, and the continued use of fossil fuels—with the depletion of the ozone layer, which in turn contributes to global warming and climate change. To illustrate their understanding further, participants shared personal experiences and observations of climate change's effects in their communities. They highlighted a range of severe phenomena, including wildfires, flooding, extreme temperatures, storms, coastal erosion, and other climate-related disasters. Participants also discussed how climate change has progressively manifested in their regions, affecting their livelihoods, health, local ecosystems, and food security systems. The following sub-sections presents the key findings from each of the 13 workshops, highlighting participants' insights on climate change and its growing impact on their communities. It covers the effects of climate change on livelihoods, health, local ecosystems, and food security, providing an overview of how these challenges are unfolding across the regions where the workshops were held.

## Amherst

Amherst and Springhill are historic Black communities located in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. Amherst lies near the head of the Bay of Fundy. During the workshop, participants recognized clear signs of climate change in their community, with issues including shifting seasons, changing weather patterns, increased flooding, rising temperatures, reduced snowfall, and more frequent hurricanes and wildfires.

Some key observations shared by participants included:

**Participant 1:** *“We’re seeing less snow. Snow accumulation has decreased, and the seasons seem to be shifting. Winters feel later, and summers last longer. The warming waters are causing more hurricanes to hit land.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Our summers are more humid now. We’ve also noticed a change in the atmosphere of the oceans, and there are more natural disasters occurring.”*

**Participant 5:** *“The winters have become much milder. I don’t remember a time when I only needed my driveway plowed once, but now the temperatures stay warm well into April and May.”*

**Participant 1:** *“We’re not getting as much precipitation as we used to, and flooding is becoming more common, especially in areas with marshlands. Wildlife is also migrating closer to urban areas, and we’re seeing them more frequently.”*

Participants highlighted the environmental consequences of climate change, particularly the reduction in snowfall and the increased use of road salt.

**Participant 2:** *“Plowing less snow means we’re using more salt, which is an environmental hazard. The people who manage the river watershed are complaining because the salt is contaminating the water.”*

### Community Health Outcomes

Participants in the Amherst/Springhill workshop also highlighted several health-related concerns tied to climate change. Mental health challenges were discussed, particularly in relation to the stress caused by changing environmental conditions. Participants emphasized the strain this place on the community’s healthcare system, which is not fully equipped to deal with the emerging health threats related to climate change.

Key health concerns included:

**Participant 1:** *“We’re seeing more viruses circulating that we’re not used to, and they’re lasting longer. This is putting stress on our healthcare system, increasing costs and placing a greater burden on transportation services.”*

**Participant 3:** *“Increased humidity is causing breathing problems for many people. I don’t think our healthcare system is prepared to handle the impacts of climate change.”*

**Participant 4:** *“These challenges are physical, mental, and environmental. It’s all interconnected, and it’s taking a toll on us.”*

Participants also highlighted the issue of drying wells, which is exacerbated by warmer temperatures and contributes to a lack of potable water in many households. Mold, a byproduct of flooding, was another significant concern affecting homes and community health.

**Participant 4:** *“The wells are drying up, and many people with wells are now forced to buy water.”*

**Participant 1:** *“As the weather changes, black mold is becoming more prevalent in homes. It’s especially concerning for people with limited resources, as these issues are often ignored due to the community’s lower priority.”*

### Local Ecosystem Changes

Participants frequently mentioned the significant changes occurring in local ecosystems, including the rise in wildfires, warmer temperatures, and a loss of oxygen in the oceans. These changes have altered local wildlife habitats, leading to the introduction of new species, both land-based and marine, that were previously unknown to the community.

**Participant 1:** *“Climate change has impacted native wildlife and habitats. We’re seeing more deer and coyotes in town looking for food. Even jellyfish, which used to appear at the end of June, are now showing up earlier.”*

**Participant 3:** *“Flooding is increasing in our area, and wildlife like deer and coyotes are moving closer to urban areas. We’re seeing more wildlife in town now.”*

**Participant 5:** *“We’re also seeing new creatures in the ocean that we’re not familiar with.”*

**Participant 1:** *“The loss of oxygen in the oceans is having an impact on marine life, leading to more crayfish and lobster in our waters.”*

Participants also discussed how excessive clear-cutting has led to more wildlife encroaching on residential areas, which can cause property damage and pose safety risks.

**Participant 1:** *“Clear-cutting is forcing wildlife into urban areas. We’re seeing more deer, coyotes, and even jellyfish that weren’t around before. Wildlife in our residential community is not good as they pose a serious safety and health threat to people”*

## Antigonish

The Antigonish communities are historically significant Black communities located in Nova Scotia. The largest body of water in Antigonish is the Antigonish Harbour, which feeds into the North Atlantic Ocean. During the workshop, participants shared their experiences and emphasized that climate change is an ongoing reality in their community. Notable changes they’ve observed include rising temperatures, increased frequency of wildfires, reduced snowfall, hotter summers, and less rainfall.

Below are some of the key observations shared by participants:

**Participant 3:** *“Certainly, there are widespread fires and noticeable changes in local temperatures.”*

**Participant 2:** *“We’re seeing fewer winters.”*

**Participant 1:** *“We’ve experienced less snow, so there’s less shoveling to do for a longer period of time, though occasionally it gets worse.”*

**Participant 1:** *“Hotter summers and warmer ocean temperatures mean stronger hurricanes.”*

**Participant 1:** *“We’ve got drier springs, warmer summers, and rivers are drying up—there’s less free-flowing water.”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“The information on climate change is evident in the weather patterns—more hurricanes because the ocean is warmer, which leads to stronger storms.”*

**Participant 3:** *“There are more storms, less rain, and more hail.”*

Additionally, participants expressed concerns about the rising sea levels affecting their coastal communities. Rising sea levels lead to flooding, which can damage homes, vegetation, and wildlife habitats, making coastal communities especially vulnerable.

**Participant 3:** *“flooding is one of the most prominent issues we face here. Rising water levels threaten our homes, wildlife, vegetation, and natural habitats”*

**Participant 1:** *“The rain just sits on top of the ground, causing widespread flooding.”*

**Participant 5:** *“Wind and rain are here 3 or 4 days a week, causing power outages.”*

### Health Outcomes

Workshop participants highlighted several health impacts linked to climate change, including increased pollution, lack of fresh water, mental health challenges, heat-related illnesses, and a rise in chronic diseases such as heart problems and cancer due to extreme climatic conditions like high temperatures and wildfires.

Key health concerns discussed included:

**Participant 2:** *“There’s a significant increase in pollution which is jeopardizing our health.”*

**Participant 1:** *“We’re facing a shortage of health resources including clean water.”*

**Participant 4:** *“Less fresh water, fewer animal species, and habitat destruction contribute to poor air quality and more greenhouse gases, worsening the climate crisis. This can lead to heatstroke and mental health problems.”*

**Participant 2:** *“We’re seeing more sickness now, with immune systems compromised and a rise in cancer cases due to climate change.”*

**Participant 2:** *“People get heatstroke, and even seniors are at risk, especially during power outages and extreme weather.”*

Participants also discussed the mental health impacts of climate change, particularly the isolation caused by extreme weather events such as flooding or snowstorms. This isolation is especially concerning in areas with a high elderly population, such as Antigonish, where it can lead to depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges.

**Participant 2:** *“Isolation during extreme events can severely impact mental health, especially during evacuations or when people are stuck at home due to floods or snow. This can lead to anxiety, depression, and even physical health issues like heart problems.”*

**Participant 1:** *“Many people especially the elderly feel trapped during storms, which leads to feelings of isolation and increases anxiety and depression.”*

### Food Security

Food insecurity related to climate change was a major topic during the workshop. Participants pointed to the compounded effects of poverty, frequent power outages caused by storms, and the difficulty in maintaining food security.

Concerns raised included:

**Participant 1:** *“Food security is a growing issue in our community, especially as poverty increases.”*

**Participant 6:** *“There’s a lack of education on food preservation, and many people are unaware of how to manage food security during power outages.”*

**Participant 5:** *"Many people don't have access to enough food, and the freezing ground in winter makes it impossible to grow anything."*

**Participant 3:** *"I've lost a lot of food during storms because we often experience power outages for extended periods, forcing us to throw away food from the freezer"*

## Local Ecosystems

The impacts of climate change on local ecosystems in Antigonish were also a significant concern. Participants spoke about the effects of wildfires, coastal erosion, and rising temperatures, which are altering the region's ecosystems, causing wildlife migration, and leading to the extinction of certain species.

**Participant 1:** *"We're seeing great losses in animal habitats, plants, and local agriculture."*

**Participant 1:** *"We're witnessing animals we've never seen before, and at the same time, familiar species are disappearing."*

**Participant 1:** *"We don't see worms and bees as much anymore."*

**Participant 3:** *"Wildlife is relocating to urban areas as their natural habitats are destroyed."*

**Participant 3:** *"Certain species, like beetles, are disappearing, which could lead to further ecological damage."*

**Participant 1:** *"Wells are drying up, and we're noticing more insects and changes in animal behavior, with coyotes growing larger and birds becoming bolder."*

**Participant 4:** *"There's less fresh water available, fewer species, and more destruction of animal habitats, which affects air quality and contributes to the greenhouse gas emissions causing further environmental damage."*

## Dartmouth North

Dartmouth North is a community within the Halifax Regional Municipality, located near Albro Lake. During the workshop, participants discussed various climate-related changes they have observed in their community over time, including shifting weather patterns and extreme weather events. Observed Changes Due to Climate Change.

Participants noted several noticeable changes in local weather patterns, particularly the blending of seasons and rising temperatures:

**Participant 3:** *"The weather has become unpredictable. Seasons seem to flow into each other. Winter is no longer distinct from spring, and summer feels like it stretches into fall."*

**Participant 6:** *"Temperatures are rising."*

**Participant 8:** *"The seasons are changing; everything seems out of sync."*

**Participant 3:** *"Our weather has changed. Now, summers blend into winters, and winters stretch into spring. It's like the seasons are overlapping."*

**Participant 6:** *"We're seeing more forest fires."*

**Participant 6:** *"Rising tides are a concern."*

**Participant 1:** *"It used to be that the humidity was just a summer thing, but now it feels like it's around all year long."*

One participant shared her personal experience with changing climate patterns:

**Participant 2:** *"When I was a kid, it was always snowy at Halloween, and I'd have to wear a snowsuit. Now, the weather is warm enough to go without a jacket—it almost feels like spring during Halloween."*

In addition to these ongoing changes, participants pointed to several extreme weather events that have become more frequent and intense due to climate change:

**Participant 1:** *"We've experienced more fires, floods, and heatwaves."*

**Participant 2:** *"Rising sea levels are a growing issue."*

**Participant 6:** *"The storms are getting more intense and frequent."*

**Participant 2:** *"Natural disasters are happening more often."*

**Participant 2:** *"There are more storms and an increase in wildlife moving into urban areas."*

Participants also discussed the effects of extreme weather events like fires and floods:

**Participant 2:** *"The impact of these events, especially the fires, is that people lose their homes. It's the same with floods—the elderly, in particular, struggle. It's hard for them to cope, especially when air conditioning or basic cooling is unavailable. The cost of cooling and other support systems is another challenge."*

### Community Health Outcomes

Participants expressed growing concerns about the health impacts of climate change, particularly the challenges posed by extreme heat, wildfires, and worsening air quality. Vulnerable populations, especially the elderly, are facing significant hardships, including limited access to air conditioning, financial strain, and mental health challenges aggravated by extreme weather events. They noted that the healthcare system is overwhelmed, with many individuals, particularly seniors, going undiagnosed and struggling to obtain necessary care. Additionally, as the population continues to age, the demand for accessible healthcare services is increasing, yet these resources remain insufficient. The discussion highlighted the interconnectedness of physical and mental health issues, emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive solutions to address these growing challenges.

**Participant 1:** *"Yeah, I guess heat is definitely a concern. A lot of our family members need respite care, especially in the summer. You're right—climate change is impacting the quality of life. Just the other day, we had a really hot day, and I read about people suffering in their homes because they didn't have air conditioning. It's becoming a bigger issue, especially with the fires and the declining air quality. People were calling for help because of the smoke and heat. I think it's important we pay attention to the air quality too—it's a major factor in these health issues."*



**Participant 1:** *"I think the situation is getting worse. A lot of people are undiagnosed, and we don't have enough healthcare resources to catch up. We need more accessible solutions, but it feels like we're still waiting for improvements. If you have a doctor, you should be thankful. But even then, it's tough because healthcare providers are overburdened. Public health support for the population is becoming scarce, especially for seniors. As the population ages, more services for the elderly are needed, but they're not always available, and some people aren't getting the care they need."*

**Participant 2:** *"The impacts of climate events like fires and floods are especially hard on people who are vulnerable, particularly the elderly. It's difficult for them to cope with the heat or smoke. Finding air conditioning can be a real challenge, and when they do, it's often costly to use. And mental health is another concern—many people struggle to manage the stress and isolation during extreme weather events."*

**Participant 1:** *"Exactly. The heat, the fires, and the floods—these events have compounded problems, especially for seniors. It's not just about physical health—there's a huge mental health toll too. It's hard to manage the effects of extreme temperatures, breathing problems, and the financial burden of things like air conditioning."*

#### Food Security

Food insecurity was a significant concern raised during the workshop, with participants highlighting the compounded challenges of securing adequate food for their communities. These challenges stem from both climate change and socio-economic factors, including poverty, limited access to resources, and insufficient shelter options for those in need.

**Participant 3:** *"We're seeing a lack of resources for food and shelter. Our community is facing homelessness and food insecurity, and the situation is worsened by the limited number of shelters available."*

**Participant 1:** *"There's drying up and erosion happening, not just here, but in other places too. There are also signs of famine in some areas."*

These discussions underscore how food insecurity is becoming an increasingly pressing issue, with climate impacts and socio-economic struggles intersecting to create an urgent need for more support and resources.

#### Local Ecosystems

Participants discussed the impact of environmental changes on local ecosystems, particularly how urban development and climate-related events, such as forest fires, are disrupting wildlife habitats.

**Participant 2:** *"These forest fires and all the construction happening are pushing animals out of their natural habitats. I almost ran over a deer recently—I've never seen one like that in my life."*

**Participant 4:** *"I see a lot of raccoons in my neighborhood. They've started living around here."*

**Participant 2:** "Yeah, they (raccoons) seem much smaller now. I don't know how they're managing, but they're definitely adapting."

**Participant 4:** "They're (raccoons) probably getting smart about it—like knowing when garbage day is!"

These comments reflect growing concerns about the displacement of wildlife due to habitat loss and climate change, and how animals are adjusting to new urban environments.

## Glance Bay

Glance Bay is a historic Black community located in Northern Nova Scotia. The community is centered around two main bodies of water: the reservoir, located centrally, and Glance Bay Harbor, which flows into the North Atlantic Ocean. During the workshop, participants shared personal accounts of how climate change is affecting their community, highlighting troubling phenomena such as flooding, extreme weather events, and rising temperatures.

Participants discussed various ways they have experienced or witnessed the effects of climate change:

**Participant 1:** "We're getting flooded more often now, and it's causing issues like soil washing onto the roads and cars getting stuck. Yeah, definitely a lot of flooding."

**Participant 2:** "We had a storm last year, and we were without power for two weeks. Two weeks!"

**Participant 3:** "We're seeing more floods, especially in October. It's happening more than it used to."

## Health Outcomes

Participants also noted the significant health impacts associated with climate change, particularly in relation to air pollution, rising temperatures, and humidity. Many residents, especially those with pre-existing respiratory conditions like asthma, have been affected by these changes. There was also concern about a potential increase in cancer rates, which participants linked to environmental shifts.

**Participant 4:** "There's too much pollution in the air, and it's causing health problems. We're seeing more emergency responses to people with respiratory issues like asthma. Cancer rates are also going up, and we think climate change plays a role."

**Participant 4:** "Pollution is causing a lot of health issues, especially with air quality."

**Participant 3:** "In the summer, with the warmer air, it's harder for people with asthma. Breathing problems are worse."

Mental health was another major issue raised by participants. The stress associated with natural disasters, such as storms and flooding, has a particularly strong impact on



the mental well-being of community members, especially those in vulnerable populations like seniors.

**Participant 2:** “Storms, flooding, and hurricanes destroy homes and properties. Many people can’t rebuild because they don’t have insurance, and it’s too expensive. This leads to serious mental health effects.”

**Participant 2:** “Seniors, especially older women, are hit hard. They usually go on weekly walks to stay connected, but when there’s a storm, they can’t get outside. This isolation leads to stress and mental health issues.”

**Participant 3:** “It’s not just physical health—it’s a safety risk. People are staying indoors because of the heat, and that isolation is also affecting their mental health.”

### Food Security

Food security also emerged as a key concern. Participants noted that rising food prices and limited access to affordable, healthy food are exacerbated by climate change. These challenges further strain the community’s resilience.

**Participant 1:** “Access to affordable food is becoming harder. Food prices have gone up, and healthy options are especially expensive.”

### Kentville

Kentville and Gibson Woods are historic Black communities located in Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. The Cornwallis River flows through Kentville and connects to the Minas Basin, while the Habitant River is the largest waterway in Gibson Woods. During the workshop, participants discussed the noticeable changes in weather, such as reduced snowfall, warmer temperatures, and an increase in veld fires (wildfires).

Participants shared their observations on the changing climate in their communities:

**Participant 1:** “The evidence is clear—the weather’s warmer. Summers are hotter, and there’s more rain.”

**Participant 5:** “The weather has really changed extremes of hot and cold, with heavy rain and high temperatures.”

**Participant 3:** “We don’t see as much snow anymore. The weather is extreme now—hot, cold, and a lot of rain.”

**Participant 2:** “The worst has been the smoke from the fires. The wind blows it in, and sometimes the sun is blocked out from the smoke.”

Some participants noted that while they didn’t experience direct damage from the fires, the smoke had a significant impact.

**Participant 1:** “I wasn’t directly affected by the fires, but the smoke and haze were hard to deal with.”

Participants also shared how hurricanes, flooding, and the smoke from veld fires have affected their communities. Damaged infrastructure, including roads and agricultural fields, were highlighted as major concerns:

**Participant 2:** *"We've had some big storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes. It feels like we're seeing more of them now."*

**Participant 5:** *"There are so many natural disasters these days. Whether it's a hurricane, a tornado, or something else, it feels like we're always dealing with something."*

**Participant 4:** *"Flooding is a real problem for us."*

**Participant 1:** *"Farmers have told me that their crops have been damaged. Flooding ruins the fields, and during dry spells, they can't get enough water. It's making farming harder."*

### Health Outcomes

While Kentville and Gibson Woods did not suffer direct damage from the wildfires, the smoke from these fires has been a significant health concern. Participants noted that those with respiratory issues are especially vulnerable to smoke inhalation. There was a strong call for better awareness and information about the health risks associated with air pollution and climate-related changes:

**Participant 5:** *"How do we get the word out to everyone about the smoke, the pollution, and the breathing problems that come with it?"*

**Participant 2:** *"A lot of people don't realize what's going on with their health problems. They don't connect it to the smoke or the pollution."*

**Participant 1:** *"I've had experiences myself—when we moved into a new house, the air wasn't circulating properly. My 95-year-old mother had trouble breathing, and we had to call an ambulance. It was so hot, and the smoke didn't help. It's real. It's happening."*

### Food Security

The workshop also highlighted the significant impact of climate change on food security in the community:

**Participant 3:** *"Food security is a major concern here. Agriculture plays a huge role, but farmers are facing challenges. Some fields were flooded, while others didn't receive enough rain."*

**Participant 1:** *"Crops have been damaged by flooding, and then there were droughts, leaving not enough water for irrigation. I've seen farmers resorting to using water trucks to try and save their crops."*

### Local Ecosystems

Participants consistently expressed concerns about the impact of climate change on local ecosystems, particularly through the combined effects of rising temperatures, wildfires and flooding. These environmental changes are driving the migration of both native and non-native species into residential areas, raising significant concerns about community safety. As wildfires increase, forests and wildlife habitats are being disrupted, causing animals to move closer to human settlements and onto highways,

creating safety hazards. Additionally, flooding and wildfires are forcing further shifts in animal migration patterns, destabilizing local ecosystems.

**Participant 1:** *“I saw a report about a deer coming into town—it’s happening more often. Animals are moving closer to homes because of the changing environment.”*

**Participant 1:** *“With the increase in wildfires, it’s hard to protect the forest and the wildlife. The animals aren’t safe in the woods anymore. They end up on the highways or near residential areas.”*

**Participant 1:** *“Flooding and wildfires are forcing changes in where animals go. It’s affecting the whole ecosystem.”*

## Lucasville

Lucasville is an African Nova Scotian community located in the western part of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). The closest body of water to the community is Webber Lake. During a recent workshop, community members shared their experiences of how climate change has affected their daily lives, describing a range of weather-related impacts such as hotter summers, milder winters, increased flooding, and more frequent and severe weather events like blizzards, hurricanes, wildfires, and heatwaves. Participants explained how they’ve noticed significant changes in the climate over the years. Many recalled colder, snowier winters in their youth, which have now been replaced by milder winters and hotter summers. One participant described the shift:

**Participant 4:** *“I was born in '89, and I remember a lot of snowy days and really cold weather. It doesn’t seem like it gets as cold or snowy now.”*

**Participant 4:** *“You’re right. With all the hot days we get, we’re also seeing more forest fires and flooding, like we had last year.”*

**Participant 3:** *“We never had that kind of heat before. The climate is changing.”*

**Participant 4:** *“Yeah, these changes are really new to us. We’ve had more blizzards, hurricanes, heatwaves, heat domes, flooding, wildfires, and power outages. These aren’t experiencing our ancestors had to deal with, but they’re part of our reality now.”*

**Participant 5:** *“We’re seeing temperature changes, poor air quality, heatwaves, floods, and even forest fires. The ice caps are melting, and fresh water is becoming scarcer.”*

**Participant 1:** *“The climate is definitely changing.”*

A particularly pressing issue discussed during the workshop was the May 2023 wildfire, which forced several members of the Lucasville community to evacuate their homes. Many residents, especially those living on Lucasville Road, were displaced for several days. For many, this was their first experience with wildfires and evacuation procedures. Some participants expressed concerns about the lack of preparedness in the community for such emergencies:

**Participant 4:** *“When we had the wildfire, a lot of people were caught off guard. The evacuation process was confusing, and we weren’t really prepared for what to do. There’s a real need for better planning and resources when these types of events occur.”*

Additionally, power outages, often triggered by severe winter storms, have been a major concern for community members. Some residents—especially seniors or those with health issues—are vulnerable during extended outages, as they lack backup heating or cooling systems, such as wood stoves.

**Participant 4:** *“We have frequent power outages when it snows or when there’s ice on the power lines. This is particularly dangerous for people who don’t have a secondary heat source, like a wood stove. In the summer, we also face challenges without cooling systems. We need designated safe spaces for people to go during emergencies.”*

### Health Outcomes

Participants also spoke about the toll that climate change has taken on their health, particularly for people with respiratory issues, seniors, and those with limited financial means to invest in air conditioning or other climate control measures.

**Participant 4:** *“There are a lot of people here dealing with asthma and respiratory issues, and the pollution from cars on the roads only makes it worse.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Lack of access to healthcare is another barrier. Some people don’t have doctors, which makes it harder to get the help they need during these extreme weather events.”*

Mental health was also a significant concern. Several participants noted that climate-related stresses—such as the impacts of heatwaves, flooding, and displacement—can exacerbate anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. However, stigma around mental health issues makes it difficult for some to seek help:

**Participant 2:** *“One of the biggest barriers to addressing mental health here is the stigma. People don’t want to admit they’re struggling with depression or anxiety, especially when it’s linked to the climate crisis.”*

**Participant 4:** *“The climate has changed significantly over the past decade, with events such as blizzards, hurricanes, wildfires, and power outages becoming more frequent. These changes have led to both economic stress and health impacts, including physical and mental health challenges. These are experiences that are new for most of us, though not necessarily for our ancestors, who did not face the same climate extremes.”*

### Local Ecosystems

Loss of local ecosystems was another key concern raised during the workshop. Participants expressed worries about the impact of climate change on local wildlife and the broader environment, including the loss of habitat for animals.

**Participant 1:** *"We're seeing the loss of habitats and wildlife, which is a big issue for us. On top of that, food and housing costs are rising, making it even harder for families to cope."*

## Lincolntonville

Lincolntonville, Upper Big Tracadie, and Sunnyville are historic Black communities located in Guysborough County, with Guysborough Harbour situated between Sunnyville and Lincolntonville, leading into the North Atlantic Ocean. During the workshop, participants shared their concerns about the impacts of climate change on their community, noting several observable environmental changes. These included rising temperatures, increased frequency of hurricanes, unpredictable weather patterns, shifting wildlife and ecosystems, changes to coastal areas, and unusual seasonal patterns.

Key Concerns from Participants included:

**Participant 5:** *"It's been extremely hot this year."*

**Participant 4:** *"Temperatures are definitely changing."*

**Participant 3:** *"And there are new bugs appearing with these temperature shifts."*

**Participant 4:** *"We're also seeing more hurricanes than before."*

**Participant 4:** *"Did you hear about the tornado in Country Haver yesterday? Or was it something else?"*

**Participant 1:** *"The situation is getting bigger than just us. We're facing coastal flooding and even house flooding now. The whole community is affected."*

**Participant 1:** *"If the coast goes underwater, our hospital, banks, everything will be flooded. We'll have no money, no gas... we'll be stuck. If that happens, everyone will need to relocate."*

**Participant 8:** *"I've noticed it at work too. I teach at a school, and when I first started, we'd only cancel school for snow days. But now, in the past few years, we're getting school closures in September and October due to hurricanes."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"The humidity has been crazy."*

**Participant 1:** *"Rainfall patterns are changing too. We're seeing more intense hurricanes and storms."*

**Participant 3:** *"There's definitely more storms. Hurricanes are becoming more frequent, and the seasons feel out of balance. We're still wearing sandals in November and eating kale in July. And with the rise of 5G, there are even more strange shifts—more birds, but they're not migrating like they should. It's either too hot or too humid or just too cold. The rainfall patterns are unpredictable too—floods one minute, droughts the next. And wildlife is getting more invasive, moving into our living spaces."*

## Health Outcomes

Participants expressed deep concern about the environmental and health risks tied to industrial activities like clear-cutting and chemical dumping. These activities degrade

local water and soil quality and are linked to serious health issues such as cancer, depression, and anxiety. The worsening environmental conditions, including extreme weather and heatwaves, are adding stress to the community's mental health.

**Participant 4:** *"We're really worried about the rise in health issues and diseases affecting our community."*

**Participant 1:** *"Clear-cutting by big companies is contributing to cancer and other health problems. But they try to deny it, claiming it's not the case. We should be using wind energy, especially since we have the wind here all the time. Why aren't we taking advantage of it?"*

**Participant 8:** *"Some of these industrial practices, especially from chemical plants, are devastating the environment. The pollution they dump harms water and soil quality and increases health risks like cancer. While it may not be a direct result of climate change, it's still contributing to the bigger problem, particularly through the greenhouse gases they emit, which further exacerbate climate change."*

**Participant 2:** *"When things go wrong, like this past weekend with the heat, it really takes a toll on mental health. People start feeling depressed. All the dryness, the uncertainty about whether it will rain, it can drive people to a breaking point."*

**Participant 1:** *"The socio-economic and environmental impacts are deep. People are losing their income, struggling with food insecurity, and being displaced. A lot of folks don't know where to go or how to rebuild their lives. All of this adds to the mental health challenges, leading to depression and anxiety."*

## Food Security

There were increasing concerns about food insecurity, with many struggling to afford basic necessities due to rising food prices. The local food bank, open only once a week, has seen a surge in demand. Some community members are considering wild meat, such as deer and rabbit, as alternatives, but there are significant concerns about potential diseases carried by wildlife. The damage to ecosystems due to climate change is impacting food sources, further exacerbating food insecurity.

**Participant 2:** *"People are really struggling to get by, especially with food prices going up at the grocery store. It's becoming harder for a lot of people to afford basic necessities. Our local food bank is only open on Thursdays, but even then, demand is high. People are starting to talk about going back to eating wild meat, like we used to—deer and other game that were part of our winter food supply. But the problem now is that we don't know what kind of diseases these animals might carry, which makes it risky."*

**Participant 1:** *"Climate change is having a big impact on everything—our ecosystems, the way we eat, and the way we live. It's affecting those who are already struggling the most."*

**Participant 1:** *"Even nature is being affected. Our apple trees are being destroyed. They still grow apples, but they're not edible anymore. And don't get me started on the number of spiders now. It's just one more thing to deal with."*



## Local Ecosystems

The community discussed significant shifts in local ecosystems, including changes in wildlife behavior. Bears, for example, are no longer hibernating as usual and are waking up earlier in the season. This behavior could be due to hunger or changing seasonal patterns caused by climate change. There are also concerns about the health risks of consuming wild meat, as participants are unsure of the diseases that these animals might carry. Additionally, wildlife such as raccoons, coyotes, bobcats, and porcupines are becoming more common in urban areas and are less fearful of humans.

**Participant 2:** *"We've been noticing more wildlife living closer to us, not just in the woods anymore. Bears, for example, aren't hibernating through the winter like they used to; they're waking up earlier than usual. I'm not sure if it's because they're hungry or if it's due to the changing seasons and weather. It makes you wonder if they're confused by the shifts in the environment. We also talked about how, in the past, we'd rely on wild meat like deer and rabbit for our winter food. But now, it's become a little risky to eat that meat because we don't know what kind of diseases these animals might be carrying."*

**Participant 3:** *"Is it a kind of migration, maybe? Certain birds are migrating differently now, and we're seeing changes in fish patterns too—like when they come to spawn. Even whales and other marine life seem to be shifting their behaviors. It's all connected."*

**Participant 2:** *"I remember when we used to have so many rabbits around here. But now, those populations are disappearing. You don't see them anymore, though the ravens are still around."*

**Participant 3:** *"Yeah, animals are living much closer to us now. We're seeing more raccoons, coyotes, bobcats, and porcupines. They're not afraid of us anymore. They've become so accustomed to human presence."*

**Participant 1:** *"Yeah, and don't forget all the different kinds of bugs that are showing up now too. We don't even know how to deal with them anymore."*

## New Glasgow

New Glasgow is a town in Nova Scotia, located in Pictou County, with the East River of Pictou as its nearest body of water. During a recent workshop, participants shared their experiences of climate change, focusing on issues such as flooding, severe storms, hurricanes, rising temperatures, forest fires, coastal erosion, and rising sea levels. Many also noted the increasing overlap of seasons over the years.

Participants highlighted the significant changes they've witnessed in local weather patterns:

**Participant 4:** *"The evidence is clear in the storms we're seeing. The weather is definitely changing."*

**Participant 1:** "We're getting more storms, more flooding in town, and even forest fires. It's something we didn't expect."

**Participant 4:** "The winters are lighter, but the storms are bigger."

**Participant 2:** "Hurricanes weren't something we used to get here, but now they're passing through. It's not what we were ever supposed to experience."

Several participants noted that the weather seems out of sync with the traditional seasons.

**Participant 2:** "remarked that even August weather doesn't feel the same as it used to, with strange rainstorms and unusual temperature shifts."

**Participant 3:** "The oceans are rising, sea levels are increasing, and the glaciers and permafrost are melting. It's happening right before our eyes."

Participants shared personal experiences with extreme weather events:

**Participant 1:** "We've had power outages for days. It's hard to imagine, but it's becoming more common."

**Unidentified Participant:** "There are also job closures due to weather events, which leads to lost wages. You feel the pressure to go to work, even in unsafe conditions."

### Health Impacts

The changing climate is having noticeable health effects, particularly on mental and physical well-being:

**Participant 1:** "Mental health issues are on the rise. When things go wrong, like losing your roof, and you can't get insurance or the work is too expensive, it's overwhelming."

**Participant 4:** "I think about all the poisonous chemicals around us and wonder if that's why so many people are getting cancer or developing breathing problems."

**Participant 2:** "There's also an increase in mental health struggles. Climate change is putting more strain on people, both financially and emotionally."

**Unidentified Participant:** "It's not just the physical effects; people feel like they have no access to services, like cell phones or medical help, and that adds to the stress."

### Food Security

Food insecurity was another key concern raised by workshop participants. Extreme weather events are making it harder for people to maintain reliable access to food. Power outages during storms often result in food spoilage due to the lack of refrigeration, leading to unnecessary waste.

**Participant 3:** "When the power went out for nine days, we lost everything in our freezer. It's heartbreaking to lose all that food."



## Local Ecosystems

Changes in local ecosystems were also discussed, particularly the migration of new species into the area. Some participants noticed animals and plants that had not previously been seen in the region, which they believe is a direct result of climate change.

**Participant 3:** *"We've got green crabs showing up now. It's a species we didn't see here before. And we're seeing animals we've never seen in these seasons."*

**Participant 1:** *"I've noticed more birds in the wintertime. It used to be that you wouldn't see many birds during the colder months, but now they're here."*

**Participant 2:** *"I've never seen birds in the winter, and even the skunks are sticking around longer. It's definitely different."*

## North End Halifax

The North End is an urban community located in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), with Halifax Harbour as its closest body of water. Many North End residents are descendants of Africville, an African Nova Scotian community that was demolished by the Halifax government in the 1960s. Africville's residents were victims of environmental racism, and the effects of that history continue to be felt in the North End today. In a recent workshop, participants shared their concerns about the impacts of climate change, particularly increasing temperatures, flooding, storms, and coastal erosion in the area.

Participants discussed how recent weather events, including severe flooding, have affected the North End:

**Participant 1:** *"We've personally been impacted by the floods. It's important to be prepared and know how to mitigate these effects."*

**Participant 2:** *"I've never seen floods like the one in Bedford. It's shocking. When you see things like that happening in the city, you realize climate change is real, but it's hard to know where it will happen next."*

**Participant 3:** *"People are losing their homes. I know a family who built a house for their daughter, but it got washed out, and they lost their six-year-old child, along with the neighbor's child."*

**Participant 1:** *"The water temperature is rising, too."*

**Participant 1:** *"Things have definitely changed. Winters are later, and we're seeing extreme weather—heatwaves, hurricanes, floods, more humidity, and even more cold at times."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"The melting of the ice caps, changes in weather patterns, coastal erosion, and the rising water temperature are all signs of the climate crisis. Wildfires have even forced evacuations in places like Churchill Falls, Labrador—things we never thought we'd see."*

Another major concern for North End Halifax residents is the health of the oceans, which is being affected by the warming of the Earth. The melting of glaciers, rising water temperatures, and coastal erosion are all impacting marine ecosystems and aquatic life.

**Participant 3:** *"By the time fish get to us, they're smaller and less abundant. Years ago, I could buy a dozen mackerel for five bucks—big, healthy fish. Now, you can't even catch 20 fish without getting fined. It's a loss for the community and for the economy."*

**Participant 1:** *"The erosion of coastal land is also a growing concern. It's something that's happening right before our eyes."*

**Participant 2:** *"Coastal erosion is something we need to address before it becomes an even bigger problem."*

### Health Outcomes

Participants in the workshop also discussed the health challenges they face due to climate change, including rising temperatures and extreme weather conditions. Mental health issues, respiratory problems, and an increase in heat-related illnesses were all cited as major concerns.

**Participant 3:** *"Climate change impacts all aspects of our health. The hotter weather brings more respiratory problems, especially for those with asthma, and mental health issues are on the rise. And we're seeing more cancer cases, too, which I believe are linked to the environmental changes."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"The spread of diseases, like Lyme disease, is another big issue. The rise in tick populations due to warmer temperatures is a health risk we didn't have to deal with before."*

**Participant 3:** *"Acting on climate change isn't just about the environment—it's about creating a healthier future for our community."*

### Food Security

Food insecurity is another growing concern in the North End, linked to the broader issues of climate change and its impacts on local ecosystems. Participants discussed how changing conditions affect food access, particularly through disruptions in the fishing industry and increased reliance on food banks.

**Participant 2:** *"The fishing industry, once a source of food and livelihood, is struggling. Decreasing fish populations are contributing to food insecurity."*

**Participant 3:** *"Food insecurity is becoming more visible. More people are going to food banks now, and they're only open on certain days. It's a clear sign that many people are struggling to put healthy meals on the table."*

**Participant 2:** *"I go to the food bank myself. I see the impact. People are just trying to feed their families."*

**Participant 3:** *"It's hard to provide a healthy meal when the cost of living is rising, and resources are more limited."*

### Local Ecosystems

Participants also highlighted the ongoing threats to local ecosystems, including the decline of fish populations and the erosion of coastlines.

**Participant 3:** "We're facing many issues, from financial strain to educational gaps, but coastal erosion is one of the most pressing. It's something we need to pay more attention to."

**Participant 2:** "The erosion of our coastlines is a direct result of climate change, and it's having a significant impact on our community. We need solutions to address it."

## Spryfield

Spryfield is an urban community located in southern Halifax regional municipality (HRM). The closest body of water to this community is Kidston Lake. During the workshop, participants are concerned about the long-term effects of rising temperatures, shorter winters, and more extreme weather events, such as floods and wildfires.

**Participant 1:** "The temperature is definitely increasing. Our winters are getting shorter, and summers are lasting longer. It's less likely to go below zero anymore, and we're seeing more extreme weather events—more floods, wildfires, and changes in the environment. We used to have snow by December, but now we're lucky if we get it. The changes in the seasons are hard to ignore."

**Participant 2:** "Personally, I haven't been impacted by flooding, but we had one member in our group who had to deal with it, and it was really difficult for them."

**Participant 3:** "There's clear evidence that the Earth is warming. The glaciers are melting, and it's getting hotter overall. Winters are shorter, and our summers are growing longer. With all this change, we're seeing more flooding and wildfires."

**Unidentified Participant:** "Winters are definitely shorter and not as harsh as they used to be. We don't get snow in December like we used to. Flash flooding has become a big issue over the last couple of years, especially in the valley and around Sackville. And of course, the wildfires. We all remember last year when fires were burning, and it's just getting warmer and warmer. It feels like we're all just going along with it, like nothing's really changing, but it is."

## Health Outcomes

Participants discussed a range of health issues they believe are linked to climate change, including a rise in skin cancer, respiratory problems, and other climate-related diseases.

**Participant 1:** "Health issues are also on the rise, like skin cancer and lung diseases, partly due to things like wildfire smoke."

**Participant 3:** "These environmental shifts are causing health problems—higher rates of skin cancer and lung diseases due to the smoke from wildfires. It's all interconnected, and we need to act together as a community."

In addition to physical health challenges, participants also pointed to the mental health toll of climate-related events.

**Participant 1:** *“There’s financial stress, and many people get displaced from their homes due to flash flooding or wildfires. That displacement leads to mental and emotional stress. Plus, rising insurance rates add another layer of anxiety.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Our biggest concern is how many people are getting sick, regardless of whether they were healthy before. It’s affecting everyone. And then there’s the mental health aspect—feeling defeated and not yourself. Environmental factors play a big role in that.”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“This is about the socio-economic environment. There’s financial stress for many, especially with rising costs and housing instability. These factors lead to emotional and mental health struggles.”*

### Food Security

At the Spryfield workshop, participants raised concerns about the impacts of climate change on food security, particularly the rising cost and declining quality of food available to families. In addition to increased food prices, participants noted that healthy food options are becoming scarcer, and when fresh produce is available, it often spoils quickly.

**Participant 7:** *“Healthier food is more expensive, while unhealthy food prices are almost the same. It’s becoming harder to make the right choices.”*

**Participant 5:** *“The fresh produce doesn’t even last me two days before it’s rotten.”*

**Participant 4:** *“It’s not just flooding, but erosion that’s affecting our ability to grow food. My backyard is falling apart—there’s no way to build anything there anymore.”*

Participants also highlighted how climate impacts, including flooding and land erosion, exacerbate food insecurity.

**Participant 3:** *“Food security is a bigger issue than flooding for us. When floods happen, there’s no access to food because crops get destroyed. Plus, there are people in our community who are already struggling to feed their families.”*

**Participant 4:** *“The price of groceries keeps going up. It’s a huge problem for many people here.”*

**Participant 3:** *“Access to food banks is becoming harder. They’ve become stricter on who can access them, and many people who need food are being left behind.”*

### Local Ecosystems

Participants in Spryfield also discussed changes in local ecosystems, particularly the behavior of wildlife in the community. Some species have become more accustomed to human presence, in part due to habitat disruption caused by climate change, construction and urbanization. This shift poses a safety risk, especially for families with young children.

**Participant 9:** *"I've seen raccoons that aren't afraid of people anymore. They come right up to you. It's not safe, especially for kids."*

This increasing interaction between humans and wildlife highlights the broader environmental shifts that are affecting daily life in the community.

## Truro

Truro is a historic Black community located in Colchester County, Nova Scotia, near the Salmon River, which flows into Cobequid Bay. During a recent community workshop, participants expressed growing concerns about the increasing frequency of flooding in the area, which they attribute to climate change. Many participants shared personal experiences of flooding, noting that Truro's location on a floodplain makes the community especially vulnerable to these events. The discussion revealed the significant impact that flooding is having on homes, neighborhoods, and residents' daily lives.

Below are some key insights from workshop participants about the challenges they are facing due to these environmental changes.

**Participant 1:** *"This community is built on the floodplain. Over time, the area has become more prone to flooding, and the land seems to be sinking."*

**Participant 3:** *"We had flooding in our basement. It was like water was rushing down the walls and chimney, even though it was a new house."*

Participants also pointed out that climate change is manifesting through more frequent extreme weather events, such as floods, heatwaves, hurricanes, and wildfires. These events are becoming more intense and more frequent, and they affect everyone, but particularly underserved and underrepresented communities.

**Participant 1:** *"The weather is getting worse. We've had more flooding, hurricanes, higher winds, and longer heatwaves."*

**Participant 2:** *"Global warming is real. Before, we didn't have hurricanes like this. Now, they happen more often and affect us directly."*

**Participant 1:** *"We're seeing more intense thunderstorms, and the damage from storms is getting worse. The community is now experiencing weather events we never used to have."*

## Health Outcomes

The discussion also touched on the health risks associated with the changing climate. As temperatures rise and more extreme weather events occur, residents are facing health issues such as heatstroke, respiratory problems, and mental health challenges. Participants highlighted the rise in Lyme disease, which is becoming more common

among both animals and people. The growing deer population, coupled with climate-induced habitat changes, is contributing to the spread of Lyme disease.

**Participant 3:** *“One impact we’re seeing from this is the rise in Lyme disease. I took my dog to the vet recently, and they told me that the number of dogs diagnosed with Lyme disease has quadrupled in the past year. This is something we need to address, especially since Lyme disease can affect both animals and people.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Another health risk we’re seeing is related to the habitat disruption caused by development. For example, the deer tick problem has worsened. There are more deer per square mile in Nova Scotia now, partly because we’ve encroached on their natural habitats. As a result, these animals are coming into our communities, bringing ticks and other diseases with them.”*

**Participant 2:** *“So, in addition to the rise in Lyme disease, there’s also the impact of air quality and new environmental illnesses. These issues are especially affecting Black communities, many of which are located in areas that are vulnerable to climate change and poor environmental conditions. We need to focus on addressing these health risks, but also on making sure that people can access the care they need to stay healthy.”*

### Food Security

Food security is a major concern for the community, particularly as extreme weather events continue to disrupt local food production. Participants at the workshop pointed out that flooding, hurricanes, and other environmental factors are not only damaging food supplies but also driving up costs, making it increasingly difficult for families to maintain a healthy diet. Many participants shared personal experiences of how these challenges are affecting their ability to access affordable food and medicine.

**Participant 1:** *“I’ve had to stop buying steak because it’s too expensive. I find myself thinking twice about buying even the basics like macaroni or vegetables.”*

**Participant 1:** *“Hurricanes have destroyed my garden and apple trees. Now, we’ll struggle to grow our own food, and with grocery store prices rising, how will we feed ourselves if we can’t afford the food we need?”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“The same goes for healthy food. As we get older, we need better nutrition, but it’s costly, and there’s not enough support to make it affordable. This is a huge issue, especially in Black communities where resources are already limited, and healthcare disparities are more pronounced.”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“As we age, we need more medication and healthier food, but both are expensive. Many seniors simply can’t afford it.”*

**Participant 3:** *“A lot of seniors can’t afford the medications they need because they don’t have enough coverage. They’re forced to choose between paying for meds or buying food.”*

### Local Ecosystems

Workshop participants also expressed concerns about local wildlife and the broader ecosystem. Climate change is disrupting natural habitats, and many animals are being forced into urban areas in search of food and shelter.



**Participant 3:** *"There's more wildlife around now than ever before,"*

**Participant 1:** *"Foxes, raccoons, even bears – they're all over the place, and it's becoming a safety concern."*

The overpopulation of wildlife, along with the encroachment of human development into natural habitats, is leading to increased conflict between animals and humans.

**Participant 3:** *"I've seen raccoons the size of small dogs. They're everywhere, and people are getting chased by deer."*

These changes are not just an inconvenience, but a sign of deeper environmental imbalances caused by climate change.

## Upper Hammonds Plains

Upper Hammonds Plains is an African Nova Scotian community located in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). The area is surrounded by several bodies of water, with Pockwock Lake being the largest. During a recent workshop, community members shared their experiences and concerns about the impacts of climate change.

**Participant 31:** *"We've been noticing more hurricanes and shifting weather patterns. The seasons seem out of sync now. Remember when we were younger, we could wear our Sunday best to church in April or May for Easter? Now, the weather is so unpredictable—you're not sure whether to wear a coat or go outside without one."*

**Participant 31:** *"We've had stronger winds, more floods, and even heatwaves. Just last week, we felt the effects firsthand."*

**Participant 17:** *"Are you saying winters are warmer now?"*

**Participant 7:** *"No, there's still cool air, but it feels different."*

**Participant 21:** *"It's the humidity. It's worse than it used to be."*

**Participant 7:** *"We're seeing a lot more thunderstorms, and of course, hurricanes."*

**Participant 4:** *"The rising sea levels are a major concern."*

**Participant 13:** *"It's even snowing in the summer now."*

**Participant 6:** *"As temperatures continue to rise, we'll face even more extreme events. The need for support will only grow."*

In the past year, workshop participants acknowledged facing record-breaking floods and wildfires, both of which caused significant damage to the community. The floods inundated buildings and washed away roads, displacing residents for several days. Prior to the floods, the community had already been evacuated due to wildfires. Some residents had to drive through smoke and flames, while others were stuck in traffic for hours (Ryan, 2023). These extreme weather events have had lasting effects, causing property damage, destroying vital infrastructure, and leaving vulnerable residents, especially seniors with limited internet or cell phone access, feeling isolated and at risk.

**Participant 17:** "Do you remember the floods in our community last year? Even the church was flooded, and so many homes were affected. It was devastating—everything was submerged."

**Participant 31:** "One of my biggest concerns is the graveyard down here. I'm not trying to be disrespectful, but during the last flood, parts of the road were washed away. I'm not sure how much water reached the Walley residence, but I know some made it to Earl's house. The entire road was flooded on both sides, and in some areas, the shoulder of the road was completely washed away. Near the center of town, parts of the road cracked and were damaged. I live at the very top of the hill, and if this continues, erosion could make it impossible to get out.

There's only one way in and one way out, and if the road gets blocked, we'd be trapped. That's a major concern."

**Participant 12:** "The evacuation was poorly organized and dangerous in many ways. We had to leave our homes for eight days with little to no communication. There was also a lack of support from the government, and many people couldn't get their medications or access essential supplies. It was a really difficult experience."

**Participant 4:** "During the wildfires, we had to rely on emergency response teams to evacuate. It was total chaos."

**Participant 12:** "The rising water levels and changing temperatures are only making things worse. We saw the same pattern with the wildfires last year—the hotter, drier conditions led to more fires. Now, we're seeing the same thing with the floods."

### Health Outcomes

The extreme weather events have also taken a toll on the physical and mental health of the community. Participants reported health issues such as heat rashes, sunburns and mental health challenges, which they hadn't experienced before.

**Participant 17:** "I've never had heat rash before, but now I get it all the time."

**Participant 4:** "Same here—heat rash and sunburn. It's like the sun is more intense now."

**Participant 20:** "People are also experiencing respiratory issues, especially those with pre-existing conditions, because of pollution and poor air quality."

**Participant 9:** "Pollution makes things worse for people with respiratory issues. The air quality is just getting worse."

**Participant 17:** "Are things improving? No, they're getting worse. We're traumatized by everything that's happening—the floods, the fires... we've been through so much."

### Food Security

Participants in the workshops highlighted how climate change, particularly through storms and hurricanes, disrupts food production, leads to power outages, and contributes to food insecurity. Several factors, including low incomes, rising grocery prices, and limited space for community gardens, make it increasingly difficult for families to obtain enough food.



**Participant 12:** *"The rising food prices and the disruptions caused by storms are really hard. And on top of that, evacuation systems are inadequate. It's all connected."*

### Local Ecosystems

Climate change is also affecting local ecosystems, with visible impacts on wildlife behavior. For example, animals like bears are being seen more often in the community, likely due to the loss of their natural habitats. The community also reports an increase in the number of pests and bugs, which were not as prevalent in the past.

**Participant 17:** *"The bears are moving into our community. It's like they have nowhere else to go, and they're trying to feed their families. The loss of trees is making it worse."*

**Participant 7:** *"The number of bugs is insane. I've been bitten more times this year than I ever have before."*

### Windsor

Windsor and Five Mile Plains, located in the West Hants District of Nova Scotia, are experiencing increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events, including flooding, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, and tornadoes. Windsor, situated alongside the Avon River, is particularly prone to flooding, as the river feeds into the Minas Basin. Five Mile Plains faces challenges with its one-way roads, such as Green and Pleasant Street, which cross flood zones, making evacuation difficult and dangerous. Both communities have witnessed a rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather, with participants highlighting issues such as late snowfalls, heavy rainfall with lightning, and stronger storms. Additionally, there is concern over deteriorating infrastructure, leaving these communities more susceptible to flooding and erosion. The consequences of these extreme conditions include property damage, loss of wildlife, frequent power outages, and a growing sense of isolation, particularly during wildfires. As the climate crisis intensifies, participants are increasingly worried about the future and the ability to adapt to these worsening conditions.

**Participant 3:** *"Flooding. Drought. Fire."*

**Participant 8:** *"Forest fires, yeah."*

**Participant 3:** *"It's more extreme. Last year, every time it rained, there seemed to be dozens of lightning strikes. And that was even before..."*

**Participant 1:** *"Extreme weather events."*

**Participant 3:** *"Yes. Last summer, we even had a tornado."*

**Participant 8:** *"Flooding, droughts, washouts... the extreme weather, winds, and storms we've been having."*

**Participant 10:** *"We're having more hurricanes. Everything is eroding, and there's a lack of upkeep on the infrastructure."*

**Participant 10:** *"There's a lot of snow, hurricanes, and late snowfalls. Climate change is happening. Flooding, droughts, and extreme weather events are*

*becoming more common. We're seeing evidence of this in the changing seasons, air quality, and precipitation."*

**Participant 5:** *"There's more flooding, more hurricanes, and erosion. The infrastructure is falling apart."*

**Participant 7:** *"We're having more wildfires, and they're getting worse. People are getting trapped, especially if they live in more remote areas."*

**Participant 6:** *"We're dealing with strong flooding, the loss of homes, impacts on wildlife, and frequent power outages."*

### Health Outcomes

Alongside climate-related disasters, the community is grappling with ongoing pollution, particularly air pollution from trucks and industrial emissions. This is exacerbating health conditions such as asthma, COPD, and mental health challenges. Participants emphasized the need for climate justice, advocating for vulnerable groups like seniors, children, and those with respiratory issues. Pollution is not only affecting physical health but also contributing to mental health distress, with the noise and vibrations from trucks further adding to the community's challenges.

**Participant 3:** *"Climate justice—standing up for the right to a clean environment."*

**Participant 6:** *"Those most at risk from climate change are seniors, people with health conditions, asthma, and mental health issues."*

**Participant 1:** *"And the pollution from the trucks, right?"*

**Participant 6:** *"Pollution, gas emissions, water quality issues, flooding, and inadequate lighting."*

**Participant 11:** *"Air pollution, noise pollution, and the vibrations from the trucks are all contributing to health issues."*

# Climate Change Vulnerability and Preparedness

Workshop participants acknowledged that climate change impacts all community members. They emphasized that inadequate infrastructure, lack of government-provided social amenities, pervasive poverty, and socioeconomic inequalities hinder effective preparedness. Additionally, gaps in emergency plans, limited access to information, and insufficient community involvement in decision-making processes further contribute to the community's vulnerability to climate-related challenges. The following sub-sections present these issues in detail reflecting participants' insights on climate change vulnerability and preparedness in their communities.

## Amherst

Participants at the workshop emphasized that climate change disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, including those in low-lying areas, underserved and underrepresented communities (like African Nova Scotians), seniors, youth, the homeless, and those with limited financial resources. These groups face significant challenges in preparing for climate-related disasters due to factors such as inadequate income, poor access to resources, and systemic inequalities linked to race, gender, and disability. Participants also identified key barriers to adaptation, including insufficient infrastructure (e.g., poorly maintained roads, lack of evacuation routes), limited social amenities (such as affordable housing and healthcare), and high costs of insurance. Moreover, there was a strong emphasis on the lack of emergency preparedness, with insufficient evacuation plans and inadequate information on how to respond to climate impacts. The need for targeted support, education, and more inclusive decision-making processes was highlighted as critical for improving community resilience.

### Vulnerable Populations

Participants highlighted that while climate change affects everyone, certain groups face disproportionate risks. These include people living in low-lying areas, those with lower socioeconomic status, elders, youth, the homeless, and underserved and underrepresented groups such as African Nova Scotian communities. Limited financial resources and lack of assets make it harder for these groups to prepare for and mitigate climate-related disasters.

**Unidentified Participant:** *“Most at risk are other minorities and possibly lower socioeconomic status in low-lying areas. I don’t think many people who live in underserved and marginalized communities are prepared.”*

**Participant 5:** *“So, you’ve got people living on the streets.”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“There’s a lot of seniors out there.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Seniors, babies, and everybody.”*

**Participant 6:** *“Those whom I would say were already poor.”*

### Intersectionality

Discussions emphasized how overlapping factors such as race, gender, income, immigrant status, age, disability, and geography shape vulnerability to climate impacts. Intersectionality plays a critical role in determining individuals' and communities' adaptive capacities.

**Participant 3:** "Imagine your elderly mom is dependent, and a huge storm hits while you're out of town. Who helps her? Especially if roads are blocked."

**Participant 1:** "Factors like race, gender, and economic status play huge roles in preparedness. Without resources or financial support, adaptation becomes impossible."

**Participant 3:** "If your basement floods, and you can't afford repairs, what are your options, especially with kids at home?"

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Participants noted the interplay between socioeconomic challenges and climate preparedness. Issues such as low income, high unemployment, and rising costs hinder preparedness and exacerbate vulnerabilities.

#### Notable Challenges:

- Limited financial resources to rebuild homes, secure emergency supplies, or invest in flood prevention tools like sump pumps.
- Rising crime rates and population pressures stemming from limited job opportunities.
- Insufficient access to resources, grants, and education.

#### Comments:

**Participant 3:** "If you don't have education or access to reliable resources, you can't prepare effectively."

**Participant 4:** "When major floods occur, roads close, and even emergency staff can't get to hospitals."

**Participant 2:** "If climate events last more than 72 hours, people aren't ready to handle it."

### Infrastructure

Inadequate infrastructure emerged as a significant barrier to climate adaptation. Participants identified several weaknesses, including:

- Poor road networks leading to congestion and restricted evacuation routes.
- Lack of sidewalks, fire hydrants, and proper drainage systems, contributing to public safety risks and flooding.

### Social Amenities

Participants highlighted the lack of essential social services and amenities, noting their critical role in effective climate adaptation. Challenges noted include shortages of affordable housing; inadequate healthcare access and services like snow removal and garbage collection; and high costs of insurance, leaving many uninsured in disaster-prone areas.

**Participant 3:** "Most people aren't prepared for climate events lasting over 72 hours, especially in rural areas where access to services is already limited."

**Participant 1:** "Insurance companies discriminate against areas prone to disasters, leaving people uninsured and unprotected."

## Emergency Preparedness

A lack of emergency readiness was identified as a critical gap in climate resilience. Participants noted: insufficient evacuation routes and contingency plans; limited access to emergency services during disasters; and a need for dedicated emergency readiness centers.

**Participant 3:** *“We need emergency readiness centers to provide resources and immediate support during crises.”*

## Lack of Information

Participants expressed concerns about the lack of reliable information and education regarding climate change. Limited involvement in decision-making processes further complicates community preparedness.

**Participant 3:** *“The biggest threat we see is the lack of information—how to prepare, what to do afterward, and how to overcome barriers.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Without access to the same resources, communities can’t achieve an equal level of preparedness.”*

## Antagonish

Workshop participants highlighted that climate change disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups such as the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and those with limited financial resources or insurance. Rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding pose significant risks, exacerbated by intersecting factors like race, income, disability, and geography. Participants noted that systemic inequities, such as lack of affordable housing and insurance, hinder climate adaptation and preparedness.

Socioeconomic challenges, including low incomes and rising living costs, further strain resources, especially in rural and undeserved/underrepresented communities. Infrastructure gaps, including poorly maintained roads, insufficient evacuation routes, and inadequate drainage systems, were identified as major barriers to resilience. Participants also emphasized the need for better emergency plans, targeted policies, and increased access to climate education and decision-making to ensure vulnerable populations are better supported in the face of climate change.

## Vulnerable Populations

Participants emphasized that climate change affects everyone in their community, including local flora and fauna. However, specific groups are particularly at risk due to rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding. These include the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and those without insurance or financial means to adapt to climate-related challenges.

**Participant 3:** *“Yeah, everyone. Every living creature.”*

**Participant 2:** *“But then again, I guess people that don’t have the money, are they more at risk?”*

**Participant 1:** “Rural communities, people in poverty, minorities. Specifically African Nova Scotian and Indigenous communities. And children of generations to come.”

**Participant 2:** “Homeless people, seniors, and animals are also vulnerable. They’re bearing the brunt of it.”

### Intersectionality

Climate vulnerability is shaped by intersecting factors such as race, gender, income, disability, and geography. Participants highlighted how systemic inequities, including lack of insurance, affordable housing, and preparedness, exacerbate climate impacts.

**Participant 3:** “I live in a predominantly white community that doesn’t even believe in climate change. There’s a conflict between the culture and their demands on resources.”

**Participant 1:** “Race and income play a role, especially when people can’t afford insurance or necessary home repairs to deal with flooding or storm damage.”

**Participant 4:** “The government should invest in creating jobs and training people in affected communities to adapt and rebuild sustainably.”

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Participants noted how low incomes, unemployment, and rising living costs hinder climate preparedness. Increased population density and crime rates further strain resources.

**Participant 1:** “Homelessness, food insecurity, loss of habitats, and lack of clean water are all major issues.”

**Participant 2:** “We lack the resources to make meaningful changes. We have the right mindset but need funding and education to act.”

### Infrastructure

Participants identified insufficient infrastructure as a significant barrier to climate adaptation. Challenges include:

- Poorly maintained roads and insufficient evacuation routes.
- Lack of sidewalks and fire hydrants, which increases public safety risks.
- Inadequate drainage systems, leading to severe flooding during storms.

### Social Amenities

The absence of essential social amenities and financial support limits communities' ability to adapt. Issues include:

- Limited affordable housing and healthcare.
- High costs of insurance and climate adaptation measures.
- Insufficient services like snow removal and garbage collection.

**Participant 3:** “The government should freeze car insurance rates for disaster-prone areas.”

**Participant 6:** “Policies are needed to support the elderly, disabled, and low-income individuals who can’t afford to rebuild or insure against climate impacts.”



## Emergency Preparedness

Participants expressed concerns over inadequate emergency plans and limited access to emergency services.

**Participant 1:** *“Our community lacks effective evacuation routes and contingency plans. Being in rural areas, we often face isolation during disasters.”*

**Participant 2:** *“There’s no alert system tailored for our community, which leaves us unprepared and feeling neglected.”*

## Lack of Information

Participants stressed the need for better communication and education on climate risks. They called for government support to improve community awareness and involvement in decision-making processes.

**Participant 1:** *“We don’t get the same level of alerts as other areas. It feels like our rural Black communities are overlooked.”*

## Dartmouth North

Workshop participants highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, including seniors, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, individuals with disabilities, the homeless, and those with limited financial resources. Rising temperatures, heatwaves, flooding, and wildfires were identified as particularly devastating, especially for groups without access to air conditioning or insurance.

Participants also noted how systemic disadvantages—such as low income, race, and lack of representation in decision-making—exacerbate vulnerabilities. Inadequate infrastructure, such as poorly maintained roads, insufficient evacuation routes, and lack of social amenities like affordable housing and healthcare, further hinder climate adaptation. Emergency preparedness gaps were also discussed, with concerns over the lack of contingency plans, evacuation procedures, and timely communication.

Participants emphasized the need for better education and information distribution, particularly for those without internet access, to improve disaster readiness and ensure that underserved and underrepresented groups are adequately supported.

## Vulnerable Populations

Workshop participants emphasized that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including seniors, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, individuals with disabilities, the homeless, and those with limited economic resources. Rising temperatures, heatwaves, flooding, and wildfires were identified as particularly devastating for these groups, often exacerbated by barriers such as lack of access to air conditioning or insurance.

Participants highlighted the heightened risk faced by underserved and underrepresented communities, economically disadvantaged individuals, and residents of rural areas, noting that low-income households often struggle to adapt or recover. The discussion also acknowledged the intersection of age, income, and location in shaping vulnerability, with particular concern for the elderly, children, and those with health issues.

These groups include:

- Elderly individuals (especially those with respiratory issues or limited access to air conditioning).
- Youth and children, particularly in economically disadvantaged families.
- Black communities in coastal and low-income areas.
- Individuals without insurance or with limited incomes who struggle to adapt to climate impacts.

**Unidentified Participant:** *"With the floods and the heat, it's very hard, especially for the elderly or those with breathing problems. They might not have air conditioning, and even if they do, the cost is often too high. That's a big issue."*

Participants also recognized other intersecting vulnerabilities:

- Homeless populations.
- Persons with disabilities.
- Low-income and economically disadvantaged communities.

**Participant 4:** *"Heatwaves often disproportionately affect low-income individuals, leading to tragic outcomes. We need more targeted support for these groups."*

### Intersectionality

Participants discussed how systemic disadvantages—such as lack of financial resources, racial disparities, and underrepresentation in decision-making—amplify the impacts of climate change on underserved and underrepresented communities.

**Participant 4:** *"As a community, we face disadvantages in terms of income and race. We're often excluded from decision-making spaces where proactive solutions are developed. This lack of representation means our needs are overlooked."*

Other factors affecting resilience include:

- Gender disparities.
- Immigrant status.
- Geographical location (e.g., rural vs. urban access to resources).

**Participant 3:** *"Income, race, gender, and disability all play a role in determining a community's ability to prepare for and recover from climate disasters."*

### Infrastructure

Inadequate infrastructure was identified as a major barrier to climate adaptation. Key concerns include:

- Poorly maintained road networks causing congestion and pollution.
- Insufficient evacuation routes and access roads during emergencies.
- Lack of sidewalks and fire hydrants, compromising safety.
- Inadequate drainage systems, leading to flooding.



## Social Amenities

Participants highlighted several social and financial obstacles to climate preparedness:

- High costs of climate adaptation (e.g., solar panels, insurance premiums).
- Limited access to affordable housing.
- Shortages in healthcare, garbage collection, and snow removal services.
- Unreliable insurance policies, with some companies refusing to compensate for climate-related damages.

**Participant 1:** *"Insurance policies often fail after disasters, leaving homeowners without support. If natural disasters increase, will these policies remain reliable?"*

## Emergency Preparedness

A significant gap in emergency planning was noted. Challenges include:

- Lack of contingency plans and evacuation procedures.
- Limited access to emergency services and community support networks.
- Insufficient communication and education on disaster readiness.

**Participant 3:** *"There's a lack of community networking to check on vulnerable populations, like seniors or those without transportation, during disasters. We need more action plans in place."*

## Lack of Information

Participants noted a lack of awareness and education around climate change and its implications for their community. Key points included:

- Limited knowledge about the link between climate change and food security.
- Insufficient resources for older adults and those without internet access to receive timely weather updates and disaster warnings.
- Underrepresentation of Black and immigrant communities in climate change conversations.

**Participant 1:** *"Not everyone has access to the internet or knows how to use it. This makes it hard to get timely warnings about storms or disasters. We need other ways to distribute information."*

## Glance Bay

Participants in the Glance Bay workshop highlighted that vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and those with limited financial resources or insurance, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, including rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding. They emphasized the intersectionality of vulnerabilities, noting that factors like race, income, age, disability, and immigration status intensify these risks, with underserved and underrepresented communities often lacking the resources or preparedness to cope. Socioeconomic inequalities, including high unemployment, poverty, and inadequate access to housing and healthcare, further exacerbate these challenges. Poor infrastructure, such as outdated road networks, lack of sidewalks, and inadequate drainage systems, was also identified as a major barrier to climate adaptation. Participants expressed concerns about slow emergency response times,

inadequate evacuation plans, and the lack of accessible information on climate change. They called for more proactive planning, better community involvement in decision-making, and enhanced educational efforts to improve disaster preparedness and resilience.

### Vulnerable Populations

Participants highlighted that climate change affects every aspect of their community, including local flora and fauna. However, certain groups are disproportionately impacted by rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding. These include the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and individuals with limited financial resources or insurance coverage.

Participants emphasized the pervasive impact of climate change:

**Participant 1:** *"Yeah, everyone. Every living creature."*

### Intersectionality

Participants stressed the intersectionality of challenges, stating that factors such as race, income, age, disability, and immigration status intensify vulnerabilities. For example, elderly or disabled individuals may struggle to evacuate during emergencies or access medical appointments, highlighting gaps in support systems. Participants noted that underserved and underrepresented communities often lack resources and preparedness, leaving them exposed to climate-related disasters.

**Participant 3:** *"Issues such as race, gender, immigration status, age, and disability—significantly increase vulnerabilities within our community during climate-related disasters. For instance, individuals with immigrant status face challenges accessing government benefits, placing them at heightened risk. Similarly, seniors and people with disabilities encounter unique obstacles during emergencies, such as difficulty evacuating, attending vital medical appointments, or accessing essential health services. These barriers underscore the need for targeted strategies to support these at-risk groups effectively"*

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Participants discussed how socioeconomic inequalities exacerbate climate vulnerabilities. High unemployment, poverty, and rising costs of living hinder the ability to prepare for climate-related disasters. They also noted that a lack of affordable housing, healthcare, and access to essential services further complicates adaptation efforts. The intersection of systemic racism and inequality in healthcare and social services was also raised as a critical issue.

**Participant 6:** *"Lack of affordable housing and rising crime rates are consequences of limited job opportunities and resources."*

**Participant 2:** *"Racial inequities affect access to healthcare, education, and disaster preparedness resources."*

Discussions at the Glace Bay workshop shed light on racial inequities in disaster preparedness. Participants reported slow emergency responses and inadequate

support following severe flooding. They felt their community lacked government attention, advanced planning, and resources. Suggestions included organizing government-led information sessions, establishing warming centers, and providing financial aid for disaster recovery.

**Participant 3:** *"Our ability to be resilient is limited. After storms, especially for underserved and underrepresented groups, the response is slow, and the answers are unclear."*

### Infrastructure

Participants identified poor infrastructure as a significant barrier to climate adaptation. Key concerns included inadequate road networks, lack of sidewalks, insufficient drainage systems, and absence of fire hydrants. For example, one Glace Bay resident recalled that their community has not had sidewalks since 1954, which poses safety risks and impedes disaster readiness.

**Participant 11:** *"We haven't had a sidewalk since 1954."*

**Participant 11:** *"No fire hydrants—it's a safety issue, especially with wildfires increasing."*

### Emergency Preparedness

The community expressed concerns over inadequate emergency plans, including insufficient evacuation routes, delayed response times, and a lack of contingency strategies. Participants emphasized the need for proactive planning to address these gaps and improve resilience during disasters.

**Participant 1:** *"Emergency response times are delayed, and centers open too late. We need advanced planning."*

**Participant 3:** *"Communities need to know their role and how to respond effectively during disasters."*

### Lack of Information

Participants pointed to a lack of accessible information on climate issues and limited community involvement in decision-making processes. They emphasized the importance of creating safe spaces for education and discussion to improve preparedness and foster resilience.

**Participant 3:** *"Our community is unprepared because of limited education and involvement in planning processes."*

### Kentville

Participants in the workshop emphasized that climate change impacts everyone, but vulnerable groups such as the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and those with limited incomes are particularly at risk. They noted how factors like age, income, and race intersect to worsen the effects of climate change, though more detailed strategies are needed to address these intersections. Socioeconomic challenges, such as rising living costs and high unemployment, were seen as major barriers to climate preparedness, particularly for underserved and underrepresented

groups. Inadequate infrastructure, including poor roads, insufficient evacuation routes, and inadequate drainage, further hinders the community's ability to respond to climate disasters. The lack of government-provided social amenities and complex support systems also create challenges, especially for seniors and low-income individuals. Emergency preparedness is a key concern, with many participants noting insufficient evacuation plans and poor access to emergency services. Additionally, there is a significant lack of accessible information on climate change, which leaves many, especially seniors, unprepared and in need of more community-based resources to navigate climate-related challenges.

### Vulnerable Populations

Participants highlighted that climate change impacts everyone in the community, including local flora and fauna. The groups most at risk due to rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding include the elderly, youth, Black communities in coastal areas, and those without insurance or with limited incomes, who struggle to adapt to these changes.

**Participant 1:** *“Animals... and then these underserved and underrepresented groups...”*

**Participant 5:** *“Yes, we discussed the impact on animals, underserved and underrepresented groups, and others.”*

### Intersectionality

Participants acknowledged that various factors—such as age, income, and race—intersect to exacerbate the effects of climate change. However, they agreed that more specific details on how these factors interact could strengthen climate adaptation strategies.

**Participant 5:** *“We acknowledged that these factors all contribute to the challenges posed by climate change, but we didn't dive into the specifics. We already understand how these issues intersect.”*

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Participants highlighted the intersection of climate change and socioeconomic inequalities, including low incomes, high unemployment, and the rising cost of living. These factors hinder their ability to prepare for climate-related disasters. Additionally, increasing populations and rising crime rates are linked to limited job opportunities and resources, further impeding preparedness.

**Participant 1:** *“The cost of living keeps rising—electricity rates increase by 6.9% every year. People can barely keep up with basic expenses, let alone climate preparedness.”*

**Participant 5:** *“Planning ahead could help, but governments are reactive. We need political leaders to prioritize proactive climate policies.”*

**Participant 5:** *“Costs are a major barrier for underserved and underrepresented groups, especially seniors. Even when incentive programs are available, the paperwork is often too complex for them to navigate without assistance.”*

**Participant 5:** *“Everything costs money. Even basic improvements, like energy-efficient upgrades, are out of reach for many.”*

**Participant 1:** “Old houses don’t have AC, and the cost of installing it is prohibitive. If people can’t afford upgrades, they’re left in vulnerable situations during extreme heat events. Burning wood for heat also harms the environment.”

### Infrastructure

Inadequate infrastructure was identified as a major barrier to climate adaptation. Key issues include:

- Limited access roads to highways
- Insufficient evacuation routes during disasters
- Poorly maintained road networks contributing to congestion and pollution
- Lack of sidewalks and fire hydrants, raising safety concerns
- Inadequate drainage systems, leading to severe flooding during storms

These infrastructure gaps hinder the community’s ability to prepare for climate-related disasters.

**Participant 5:** “The sewer system needs improvement. There’s a collection area, but it’s poorly managed, causing strong odors, just like it used to before they cleaned it up.”

**Participant 5:** “We also talked about issues with roadways, water supply, fire hazards, droughts, and trees.”

### Social Amenities

Participants emphasized the lack of government-provided social amenities, and the high costs associated with climate adaptation (e.g., insurance). These challenges are compounded by pervasive poverty, inadequate healthcare, and insufficient services such as snow removal and garbage collection.

**Participant 5:** “We discussed that early planning could help, but towns and governments tend to be reactive rather than proactive. We want to see that change, but political action is needed.”

**Participant 5:** “Underserved and underrepresented groups, especially seniors on fixed incomes, face difficulties making their homes more energy-efficient or even maintaining necessities. Programs exist to help, but for seniors and underserved and underrepresented people, it’s often necessary to have assistance with filling out paperwork due to the complex red tape.”

**Participant 1:** “The government offers incentives, but income thresholds can still exclude many people from receiving help. It’s not just about income—many need assistance understanding how to apply for grants and navigate the system.”

**Participant 5:** “Education is key. People need to know how to fill out forms and apply for help, but where do we even start?”

### Emergency Preparedness

Participants recognized the lack of preparedness for climate-related disasters, including insufficient evacuation routes, contingency plans, and access to emergency services. These gaps make it difficult for communities to respond effectively when disasters occur.

## Lack of Information

A recurring theme was the lack of information on climate change and the absence of safe community spaces to discuss climate-related issues. Many community members are unprepared due to limited access to education and decision-making processes.

**Participant 1:** *“Some seniors aren’t educated enough about climate change, and not everyone is computer literate. Many people don’t understand the terminology being used today.”*

**Participant 5:** *“Maybe community navigators could help. These individuals should be part of the community, not just working in offices. Many seniors are uncomfortable with technology, but they still need to access vital information.”*

**Participant 1:** *“It’s frustrating for seniors who don’t know how to use a computer to access government services. We need better communication channels.”*

## Lucasville

The Lucasville workshop brought together community members to address the critical issues related to climate change and the pressing infrastructure needs that hinder effective climate preparedness. Participants shared their concerns about the escalating impacts of climate change, particularly the strain on transportation, environmental health, vulnerable populations, and inadequate infrastructure, which all contribute to the community's inability to effectively respond to climate-related disasters. Throughout the workshop, there was a clear call for urgent action from government agencies and development organizations to address these gaps.

### Vulnerable Populations

A key theme that emerged during the workshop was the disproportionate vulnerability of certain groups within the community to the impacts of climate change. Participants highlighted the risks faced by seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and low-income families. The community's inadequate infrastructure and limited services exacerbate these challenges, making it even harder for these groups to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters.

**Participant 4:** *“Everyone is at risk, but especially the elderly, children, and those with health conditions.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Everyone... I mean, everyone is at risk.”*

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

The workshop also addressed the intersection of socioeconomic inequality and climate vulnerability. Participants discussed how limited resources exacerbate the community's difficulty in adapting to climate change, including:

- **Limited Resources for Climate Adaptation:** Low-income households are particularly hard-hit by the high costs of insurance, inadequate housing, and limited access to climate-related resources, making it difficult for them to prepare for or recover from disasters.



- **Rising Crime and Unemployment:** The lack of job opportunities and affordable housing has contributed to social disintegration, which in turn undermines the community's ability to prepare for climate events.
- **Health Impacts:** Vulnerable groups, including seniors and individuals with respiratory conditions like asthma, are disproportionately affected by pollution from traffic and the lack of cooling or heating systems during power outages.

### Infrastructure

The community of Lucasville, once a quiet residential area, is now grappling with significant infrastructure challenges, particularly related to traffic congestion and the lack of adequate road infrastructure. With more than 10,000 vehicles passing through the community daily, the strain on local roads is becoming unsustainable. Key issues include:

- **Safety Concerns:** The heavy traffic poses significant risks to pedestrians, particularly children and seniors. Participants expressed concerns about accidents and exposure to air pollution.
- **Limited Escape Routes:** The community is heavily dependent on a single road for both access and evacuation, which poses a serious risk in the event of an emergency, such as a wildfire. Although a secondary road has been promised for years, it has yet to be constructed, leaving the community vulnerable.
- **Quality of Life:** The lack of basic infrastructure such as sidewalks severely restricts residents' mobility. Many feel trapped in their homes, unable to safely walk to essential services like schools, healthcare facilities, and grocery stores.

Participants also pointed out broader infrastructure deficiencies, including:

- **Poor Road Networks:** Roads are congested and poorly maintained, contributing to traffic problems and air pollution.
- **Inadequate Drainage Systems:** The community's drainage systems are insufficient, leading to frequent flooding during storms, which compounds safety concerns.
- **Lack of Emergency Infrastructure:** The absence of fire hydrants and proper evacuation routes makes it difficult to respond effectively to disasters.

**Participant 1:** *"We can't even get off our own road, and during an emergency, we're trapped."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"We need more than just a road. We need a secondary road, public transportation, and a functional sewer system to meet the demands of our growing community."*

### Emergency Preparedness

Participants expressed significant concerns about the community's readiness for emergencies. Several critical gaps in emergency preparedness were identified:

- **Insufficient Evacuation Routes:** The community relies on a single access road, which poses a major risk in an emergency. Despite years of advocacy, the promised secondary road has not been constructed.



- **Poor Communication:** During emergencies, residents reported a lack of timely and accurate information, leaving them in the dark about evacuation procedures and other critical updates.
- **Inadequate Support During Emergencies:** The community expressed frustration over the lack of government support during evacuation efforts, noting that some residents were unable to access medications or emergency supplies, while others faced difficulties securing alternative heating or cooling sources during power outages.

**Participant 1:** *"We got no escape routes. So, it's one way in, and one way out."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"Last year, during the wildfire, we were left waiting for hours with little to no communication."*

**Participant 1:** *"We can't go that way because of the traffic congestion on the road. We're essentially trapped, especially in an emergency when we need to evacuate. The government promised 20 years ago to build a secondary road to Lewisville, but that promise has never been fulfilled. If this road doesn't get built, we shouldn't be expected to bear the burden of more traffic. When there's an accident on the highway, everyone reroutes through Lucasville, causing massive backups. Last time, the road was backed up for over 4.5 hours. This situation is not sustainable."*

### Social Amenities

In addition to infrastructure and emergency preparedness, participants identified the lack of essential social amenities as a significant barrier to climate adaptation. These include:

- **Affordable Housing:** The severe shortage of affordable housing forces many families into substandard living conditions, which makes it harder for them to prepare for or recover from climate impacts.
- **Healthcare Access:** Inadequate healthcare facilities exacerbate the health challenges faced by community members, especially those with climate-sensitive conditions like asthma or cardiovascular disease.
- **Public Transportation:** Without reliable public transportation options, residents are forced to rely on private vehicles, further contributing to traffic congestion and pollution. The absence of sidewalks and safe walking paths limits residents' mobility, particularly for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

**Participant 4:** *"Again, public transportation is a must."*

**Participant 4:** *"There's issues with people who have asthma and have to cope with all the pollution from the cars that go up and down this road."*

### Lack of Information

A recurring theme in the workshop was the frustration expressed by community members regarding the lack of information about climate change, its impacts, and development projects that affect the community. Participants felt excluded from decision-making processes and stressed the need for better communication from local authorities:

**Unidentified Participant:** *"We don't even know what's being built in our community, and when we ask, we're not given answers."*

## Lincolnvile

The Lincolnvile community workshop focused on the pressing issues surrounding climate change impacts, infrastructure needs, and emergency preparedness.

Participants discussed how climate change affects everyone in the community, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations, socioeconomic inequalities, infrastructure gaps, and the lack of information that exacerbates these challenges. The workshop underscored the need for a more proactive, community-driven approach to address these issues.

### Vulnerable Populations

Participants acknowledged that climate change affects all residents, including local ecosystems, but particular groups within the community are especially vulnerable. There was strong concern about the long-term impacts on future generations, particularly children and seniors, who will bear the brunt of climate-related challenges.

**Participant 2:** *"Our poor kids, they're the ones who will pay the most for what we're not addressing now."*

**Participant 6:** *"The younger generation is going to have to deal with the aftermath for years."*

**Participant 3:** *"This affects not just us, but the lands, the communities, and the children growing up here."*

**Participant 5:** *"We've lived through the worst, but the younger ones are going to face even bigger challenges."*

**Participant 2:** *"Even young people now are dealing with heart problems from the stress and cold they've never had to endure before."*

**Participant 10:** *"It affects everyone."*

The community expressed deep concern about how the changing climate impacts vulnerable groups, who are less equipped to cope with these changes due to limited resources and support systems.

### Intersectionality

A key issue raised during the workshop was the intersectionality of climate impacts, particularly how low-income individuals, seniors, and underserved and underrepresented communities are disproportionately affected. These groups often lack access to vital resources such as renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar panels and heat pumps) and the information needed to adapt to climate change.

**Participant 6:** *"We need things like solar panels and heat pumps, but they're not accessible to everyone, especially seniors and those making less than \$25,000."*

**Participant 12:** "Minorities and immigrants are often underrepresented in these discussions. They don't have the same level of access to support or resources as others."

The discussion highlighted the need for inclusive solutions that ensure equitable access to climate adaptation tools and information for all community members.

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Participants discussed the direct link between socioeconomic inequalities and the community's ability to prepare for and respond to climate change. The workshop highlighted several critical areas where these inequalities are most evident:

- **Loss of Income and Displacement:** The impact of climate change on local industries, such as agriculture and fishing, has led to income loss and displacement. Many families have struggled to find new sources of income or secure stable housing.
- **Public Health:** The mental and physical health impacts of climate change, including stress from displacement and exposure to extreme weather events, were a major concern.

**Participant 1:** "Climate change has caused loss of income and forced people to move without knowing where to go. This uncertainty contributes to mental health issues, including depression and anxiety."

**Participant 1:** "The mental health toll is huge, especially as people deal with the stress of displacement and uncertainty."

### Infrastructure

A recurring theme in the workshop was the need for improved infrastructure to handle the impacts of climate change. Participants noted several key areas where the community is currently lacking the necessary infrastructure to cope with these challenges:

- **Snow Removal:** The lack of adequate snow plowing equipment was identified as a critical issue, especially during winter months when roads can become impassable, leaving residents stranded.
- **Access Roads:** The community's reliance on a single road for both access and evacuation was a major concern. Participants emphasized the vulnerability this creates, especially in the event of an emergency.

**Participant 1:** "We need more snowplows to keep our roads open, especially in emergencies."

**Participant 14:** "We only have one exit. If anything goes wrong, we have no way out."

### Social Amenities

The community also expressed frustration with the lack of essential social amenities, which complicate their ability to prepare for and respond to climate change. Key issues raised included:

- **Resource Availability:** There was a strong call for communities to have more control over local resources and decision-making. Participants felt that relying on external government agencies has not been effective, especially when local needs are not being met.
- **Waste Management and Pollution:** Participants pointed out the increasing problem of illegal dumping, inadequate waste management systems, and the strain on landfill sites. The municipality's failure to provide basic services like garbage bins was also raised.

**Participant 1:** *"We lack resources to take action in our community. We need more local control to address these issues effectively."*

**Participant 4:** *"There's garbage on the side of the roads, and no garbage bins to dispose of it. The municipality has a responsibility to ensure proper waste disposal."*

**Participant 2:** *"Illegal dumping is becoming a big issue. The municipality needs to do more to prevent it and hold people accountable."*

**Participant 4:** *"The landfill site is overloaded, and garbage isn't being separated properly like it used to be, which impacts our environment."*

### Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness was one of the most critical issues discussed during the workshop. Participants highlighted several gaps in their current ability to respond effectively to disasters:

- **Lack of Evacuation Plans:** The community expressed concerns about the lack of evacuation plans, especially for seniors and other vulnerable individuals. The reliance on a single road for evacuation puts everyone at risk during emergencies.
- **Lack of Resources and Education:** The community feels ill-prepared for climate-related emergencies due to insufficient resources and a lack of education on disaster preparedness.
- **Emergency Alerts:** The increasing reliance on social media for emergency alerts was noted as a challenge for seniors who may not have access to or proficiency with these platforms.

**Participant 1:** *"We fall short when it comes to emergency evacuation procedures. There's no plan in place to help seniors during emergencies."*

**Participant 2:** *"We have no resources or education to deal with coastal flooding, house flooding, or storm damage."*

**Participant 2:** *"We talked about how emergency alerts come through social media, but for seniors, that's not feasible. How do we reach the most vulnerable in times of crisis?"*

**Participant 4:** *"Seniors need more direct methods of communication, especially when evacuation plans are triggered."*

### Lack of Information

Participants also expressed frustration over the lack of access to information regarding climate change, its impacts, and local preparedness initiatives. Many felt excluded from decision-making processes and unaware of ongoing efforts or available resources.

**Participant 1:** "The current issue is a lack of preparation and education. We're not prepared for emergency situations, and we don't have the information we need to take action."

**Participant 2:** "The landfill sites in Lincolnville and Cape Breton are poorly managed. There's a lack of resources and preparedness, and the community isn't properly informed about these issues."

## New Glasgow

The New Glasgow community workshop focused on the intersection of climate change and its disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, infrastructure needs, social amenities, and the community's preparedness for future climate-related events.

Participants discussed how systemic challenges, including poverty, mental health, and environmental racism, exacerbate the risks posed by climate change. The session highlighted significant gaps in emergency preparedness, communication, and the community's ability to respond to climate events.

### Vulnerable Populations

Participants identified a range of vulnerable populations in New Glasgow who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change. These groups include the elderly, individuals with disabilities, people with mental health issues, low-income families, and underserved and underrepresented communities such as Black residents and the homeless.

**Participant 1:** "We're all at risk now, but the children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable. Climate change will affect the next generation the most."

**Participant 2:** "Our elderly, people with disabilities, those with mental health issues, and low-income individuals are the most vulnerable."

**Participant 4:** "People who are isolated, including the elderly and those living in rural areas, are also at high risk."

**Participant 1:** "We're seeing the impact on underserved and underrepresented communities. Those already disenfranchised are the ones suffering the most."

**Participant 3:** "The elderly are at extreme risk, especially those with health problems. People of color also face compounded vulnerability due to systemic inequities."

**Participant 1:** "Mental health issues are another key vulnerability. People with mental health challenges, addictions, and disabilities are often left behind in preparedness efforts."

The workshop underscored the need for targeted interventions to protect these populations, whose challenges are often compounded by factors like poverty and lack of access to essential services.

## Socioeconomic Inequalities

The intersection of socioeconomic inequality and climate preparedness was a central theme. Participants noted that low-income communities, people of color, and other underserved and underrepresented groups are disproportionately affected by both climate change and the lack of resources available to address it.

**Participant 1:** *"Our current issues—homelessness, mental health, food insecurity, and housing—are all exacerbated by climate change. The community is already struggling, and it's harder to prepare for climate impacts when you're living day to day."*

**Participant 4:** *"We just don't have the funding or resources to keep up with what's needed. We need grants and other forms of financial assistance to help us prepare."*

**Participant 3:** *"The economic strain makes it even harder to take steps for climate resilience. When people are living paycheck to paycheck, how can they afford emergency kits or prepare for the next storm?"*

Additionally, environmental racism was a key concern, with participants pointing out the disproportionate impact of nearby businesses, including auto repair shops and waste facilities, on the community's health and environment.

**Participant 4:** *"This is environmental racism. Businesses in our neighborhood are polluting, and there's no accountability. The community is suffering, and it's affecting our health, our environment, and our climate preparedness."*

These discussions pointed to the urgent need for systemic changes to address both environmental and socioeconomic inequalities.

## Infrastructure

Participants expressed concern about the state of local infrastructure, which is inadequate to handle the growing threats posed by climate change. Key issues included poor communication systems, inadequate housing, and insufficient emergency services and resources.

**Participant 1:** *"Our communication systems are in disrepair. In an emergency, we don't have the capacity to connect with those in need, especially vulnerable populations."*

**Participant 2:** *"There's a real issue with failing infrastructure, especially in terms of communication and housing. We need homes that are designed to withstand climate change, but that's not what we have now."*

**Participant 1:** *"Our community isn't designed for the challenges we're facing. We have poor air quality and inadequate drainage, which causes flooding and contributes to pollution."*

**Participant 4:** *"The industry and businesses in the area also contribute to air pollution. It's all interconnected, and we need to address these layers of environmental impact."*



The need for improved infrastructure was clear, with a focus on climate-resilient housing, better drainage systems, and more reliable communication networks to ensure the community is prepared for future disasters.

### Social Amenities

Community members discussed the lack of basic social amenities, particularly those that contribute to financial security and health. Many expressed concerns about the challenges of maintaining homes and dealing with unexpected expenses, such as insurance costs for repairs.

**Participant 1:** *"People are dealing with poor mental health, and then they also face the stress of not being able to afford necessary home repairs, like roofing. The cost of insurance is too high, and when people do make claims, their premiums go up."*

**Participant 2:** *"We need better access to resources, especially financial support for home maintenance and repairs."*

**Participant 3:** *"Insurance premiums keep rising, and it doesn't matter if you have a claim or not. It's unaffordable for many in our community."*

Additionally, participants expressed frustration with waste management issues, particularly the illegal dumping of garbage in certain parts of the community.

**Participant 1:** *"There's a mechanic next door who dumps things on the property. The pollution from their work site is affecting my home, and I can smell emissions throughout the day."*

**Participant 11:** *"The presence of garbage dumps around us, especially near businesses, is a big issue. It impacts our environment and exacerbates the effects of climate change."*

These issues highlighted the broader social and economic inequalities that impact the community's ability to adapt to and cope with climate-related challenges.

### Emergency Preparedness

Participants expressed serious concerns about the lack of preparedness for climate-related emergencies, particularly for vulnerable individuals like the elderly and homeless. The absence of a formal communication plan or a clear system for identifying and assisting those in need during emergencies was a significant gap.

**Participant 1:** *"We don't have a solid communication plan. When a disaster strikes, how are we going to reach those who are most vulnerable, especially the elderly and those without shelter?"*

**Participant 2:** *"We don't have a plan in place, and that's a huge problem. We weren't prepared when Fiona hit, and we had no way to check on our most vulnerable residents."*

**Participant 1:** *"When you're struggling day-to-day, how do you plan for a disaster? Some people don't even react when they hear about storms. For some, every day is an emergency."*



These comments underscored the need for a comprehensive emergency plan that includes resources for vulnerable populations, as well as improved communication systems to ensure that everyone has access to critical information.

### Lack of Information

A key theme that emerged was the community's struggle to access accurate and timely information. Many participants were concerned that the information being disseminated was not reaching those who need it most, particularly vulnerable populations who may not have the capacity to process or act on the information they receive.

**Participant 2:** *"People don't always receive the information they need, and even when they do, it's not always clear or understandable."*

**Participant 2:** *"We lack the resources and the infrastructure to properly distribute information, especially related to food insecurity and other critical issues."*

This lack of information was seen as a major barrier to climate resilience, with participants calling for improved communication strategies that consider the needs of all community members.

## North End Halifax

The End Halifax community workshop focused on identifying key challenges in addressing climate change, particularly in vulnerable communities. The discussion emphasized the intersection of climate risks with socioeconomic inequalities, infrastructure challenges, and gaps in preparedness for emergencies. Participants highlighted how underserved and underrepresented groups, especially people of color, low-income families, and newcomers, are disproportionately affected by climate change, poor infrastructure, and inadequate social amenities. The session called for more robust public policies, better emergency planning, and improved information sharing to ensure community resilience.

### Vulnerable Populations

Participants identified several groups as being particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. These include people of color, low-income families, underserved and underrepresented communities, and those living in inadequate housing.

**Participant 1:** *"We are all at risk, but the next generation, especially people of color, are the most at risk. Many can't afford basic cooling measures like air conditioners, making them vulnerable to extreme heat."*

**Participant 2:** *"Vulnerable communities are the first to be affected by extreme weather and often lack access to basic necessities like food during emergencies."*

**Participant 2:** *"We need comfort and emergency centers for the most vulnerable, including medical and safety services. These groups are often left behind during disasters."*

The workshop participants emphasized that the most vulnerable are often the least prepared, due to financial constraints, lack of infrastructure, and systemic marginalization.

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Participants highlighted how climate change exacerbates existing socioeconomic inequalities. Issues such as housing, employment, food insecurity, and gentrification were identified as major barriers to climate resilience, especially for underserved and underrepresented communities.

**Participant 4:** *"Employment, food security, and housing are some of the most pressing issues in the community. These factors prevent us from adequately preparing for climate change."*

**Participant 3:** *"We face serious housing problems, high unemployment, rising violence, and racism. These issues make it harder for people to focus on climate preparedness."*

**Participant 2:** *"Homelessness, expensive housing, and lack of food sources are common in low-income communities. Meanwhile, newcomers are sometimes pushing out long-standing residents, disrupting cultural identities."*

**Participant 3:** *"Financial problems, education disparities, and coastal erosion are just some of the ongoing challenges we face. Rising oil and gas prices are also contributing to the strain on families."*

**Participant 1:** *"Overpopulation is another issue that complicates climate preparedness. There are just too many people living in areas with insufficient resources."*

These comments underscored the need to address the systemic inequalities that prevent underserved and underrepresented groups from adequately preparing for and responding to climate impacts.

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure gaps were a major concern, particularly regarding transportation, emergency preparedness, and housing. The community expressed the need for significant investment in resilient infrastructure to support climate adaptation.

**Participant 1:** *"We need to upgrade our transportation systems and water storage capacities for emergencies. Our current infrastructure is lagging behind what's needed to handle climate events."*

**Participant 2:** *"There's no clear evacuation plan, and bike lanes are not sufficient for safe transportation in emergencies. We need to have serious discussions with residents about how to improve."*

**Participant 1:** *"With new condos being built, there are widespread demolitions, but there's no conversion of that land for the community's benefit. We need to focus on public infrastructure, not just private development."*

The lack of community-centric infrastructure and the prioritization of private developments were seen as exacerbating the vulnerability of residents to climate-related events.

### Social Amenities

The community raised concerns about the lack of public housing, inadequate social services, and insufficient resources for underserved and underrepresented groups. Access to affordable housing and support during emergencies were among the key challenges discussed.

**Participant 2:** *"The housing problem won't go away on its own. We need public housing, and the government isn't doing enough. They often sell land to contractors but require them to provide only a small percentage of affordable units, and those are frequently inaccessible."*

**Participant 1:** *"We have a lack of maintenance policies, and many areas in the north are lacking basic amenities. Housing for low-income families is in short supply, and there aren't enough daycares or workshops for children. We need more promotion of existing resources."*

**Participant 3:** *"We're not self-sufficient. We rely too much on the government for support in our homes and schools, particularly in the Black community."*

**Participant 1:** *"There's also a lack of resources for financial support during emergencies, which leaves vulnerable populations even more exposed when disasters strike."*

These issues illustrate the systemic neglect of low-income, underserved and underrepresented communities in terms of social infrastructure and the need for more equitable distribution of public resources.

### Emergency Preparedness

Participants emphasized the lack of preparation for emergencies, particularly for vulnerable populations. There was a general consensus that the community is not adequately equipped to respond to climate events due to insufficient planning and resources.

**Participant 2:** *"There's no preparation before an emergency happens, and we lack preventive measures. We need a comprehensive emergency plan that addresses the unique needs of our community."*

**Participant 2:** *"The lack of representation in the community, especially in businesses and government, means that policies are not shaped by the people who actually live here. Business owners don't reflect the community's demographics, which affects decision-making."*

The lack of comprehensive emergency plans and community representation was seen as a significant barrier to effective disaster response.

### Lack of Information

A significant barrier identified during the workshop was the lack of accessible information, which exacerbates the challenges of preparedness, especially for

underserved, underrepresented and vulnerable groups. Participants noted that vital information is not always shared effectively or in a way that people can act upon.

**Participant 2:** *"Not enough information is being shared with the community, and even when it is, it's not always clear or actionable."*

**Participant 2:** *"We lack the resources and information needed to support vulnerable, emerging, and underserved/underrepresented groups during emergencies."* **Participant 3:** *"We also lack education. We're not self-sufficient, and we rely too much on government support."*

**Participant 2:** *"There is a lack of education and shared knowledge on how to solve local problems. This needs to change if we are to better prepare for climate events."*

The lack of shared knowledge and inadequate access to educational resources were seen as major obstacles to fostering community resilience in the face of climate change.

## Spryfield

The Spryfield community workshop focused on the challenges faced by residents in adapting to climate change and the need for greater resilience in the face of environmental, social, and economic pressures. The discussion highlighted several key issues, including vulnerability among certain populations, infrastructure shortcomings, socioeconomic inequalities, and inadequate resources for emergency preparedness. Participants emphasized the urgent need for increased investment in community resources, social programs, and education to build a more resilient and sustainable future for the area.

### Vulnerable Populations

The workshop underscored that a variety of groups in the community are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. These include youth, minorities, and low-income families, who are most at risk due to a lack of access to education, resources, and support systems.

**Participant 1:** *"The youth and the next generation, particularly in low-income communities, are the most vulnerable. They are the ones who will bear the brunt of the challenges we're not addressing now."*

**Participant 3:** *"Minorities and low-income communities are at risk, partly because of insufficient investment in those areas. Without access to proper education and opportunities, they will continue to be left behind."*

**Participant 1:** *"It's not just one group—it affects everyone, but these vulnerable groups are especially at risk when it comes to food and water security, which are directly linked to climate change impacts."*

These comments reflect widespread concern that the lack of systemic investment in education and resources leaves vulnerable groups ill-prepared for climate-related challenges.

## Socioeconomic Inequalities

Socioeconomic inequalities were a major focus, with participants pointing to financial stress, lack of job opportunities, and the rising cost of living as contributing factors that undermine the community's preparedness for climate impacts.

**Participant 3:** *"There's a lot of financial stress in the community due to rising costs and low wages. When people are struggling just to get by, they're not able to focus on long-term climate preparedness."*

**Participant 1:** *"Lack of generational wealth is a huge issue. Without wealth passed down, families have to start from scratch. Racism and barriers to wealth-building for Black and immigrant families are factors that add to this."*

**Participant 5:** *"The price of groceries keeps going up. It's hard to focus on climate preparedness when people are just trying to afford basic necessities."*

**Participant 2:** *"Better job wages need to match inflation if we're going to ensure people have the financial stability, they need for both everyday life and long-term resilience."*

Participants also highlighted the increasing challenges of food insecurity, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing, all of which contribute to an environment of vulnerability that is exacerbated by climate change.

**Participant 3:** *"There's a significant issue with substance abuse and poverty here. When people don't have enough to do, and unemployment is high, it contributes to social issues and makes the community less resilient to climate challenges."*

**Participant 4:** *"Medication costs are also a huge issue. People are forced to choose between paying rent and buying medication, which worsens their overall health and resilience."*

The community's financial struggles were compounded by health issues, including an increase in cancer and other diseases, which some participants attributed to environmental pollution and poor water quality.

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure limitations were a central topic, particularly concerns about the capacity of the community to handle emergencies. The main issues highlighted included limited access points for evacuation and inadequate resources to meet the growing population's needs.

**Participant 3:** *"The biggest concern I have is that, in the event of an emergency—like a wildfire—we have very limited ways of getting out of the community. With only two access points, Herring Hole Road and Dunbrack, our evacuation routes are a serious issue."*

**Participant 3:** *"The infrastructure just isn't equipped to handle the growing population here. There are already congestion issues, and with more people moving in, the stress on housing and roads is only going to increase."*

**Participant 3:** *"We need more resources here in Spryfield—it's getting overcrowded, and the infrastructure isn't keeping up with the growth."*

Participants expressed a clear need for better transportation routes, infrastructure upgrades, and a more comprehensive approach to handling population growth and emergency preparedness in the community.

### Social Amenities

The availability and access to social programs and essential services were another key point of discussion. Participants noted that more people are relying on social support programs due to rising costs and economic stress. There were also concerns about the affordability of insurance and other essential services.

**Participant 2:** *"More folks are depending on social programs, but the support systems are stretched thin. Costs are rising, and that puts a lot of strain on the most vulnerable."*

**Participant 3:** *"Insurance costs are increasing, but for some, their insurance doesn't even cover essential needs. That's something people are facing as they try to stay afloat."*

The increasing reliance on social programs and the strain on those services were seen as signs of deeper systemic issues, including rising costs and a lack of adequate public services to meet growing needs.

### Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness was identified as a critical gap in the community. There were concerns about the lack of comprehensive plans and resources to support residents during extreme events. Participants emphasized the need for better planning and education.

**Participant 1:** *"One of the biggest barriers to climate resilience here is the lack of preparation—both in terms of materials and planning. We need to educate people and involve them more in practical initiatives, like community gardens or greenhouses, to start addressing food security locally."*

**Participant 3:** *"We don't have the infrastructure or the resources to deal with emergencies, and we don't have a solid evacuation plan. That's something that needs to be addressed urgently."*

The need for stronger community-level planning, including emergency response strategies, was a significant theme, especially in light of the area's vulnerabilities to climate-related events like wildfires or flooding.

### Lack of Information

The lack of access to crucial information was identified as another key barrier to community resilience. Participants noted that there is often a lack of educational resources, which makes it harder for residents to understand and prepare for climate change impacts.



**Participant 1:** *"Education is a huge barrier. People don't know enough about how to grow their own food or how to make their homes more energy-efficient. We need more accessible resources to help them prepare."*

**Participant 4:** *"We also need more community-driven education—people need to understand the risks they're facing and what they can do to reduce them."*

The need for greater community engagement and educational initiatives to inform residents about climate risks and resilience strategies was seen as a critical need.

## Truro

The community workshop in Truro/Colchester focused on the pressing challenges residents face in adapting to climate change. Discussions highlighted the need for greater resilience in the face of environmental, social, and economic pressures. Several key issues were raised, including vulnerability among specific populations, deficiencies in infrastructure, socioeconomic inequalities, lack of resources for emergency preparedness, and insufficient access to information. Participants emphasized the need for increased investment in community resources, social programs, and education to foster a more resilient and sustainable future for the region.

### Vulnerable Populations

A major theme of the workshop was the vulnerability of specific groups, including seniors, children, minorities, and low-income families, to climate change impacts. These populations often lack access to critical resources, such as healthcare, emergency services, and climate-related education.

**Participant 1:** *"The next generation, especially in low-income communities, is the most vulnerable. They will face the consequences of the climate challenges we're not addressing now."*

**Participant 2:** *"We need more compassion for older people, especially when climate events affect them. Many seniors are isolated and aren't checked on during extreme weather events like heatwaves or storms."*

**Participant 3:** *"Children, seniors, and underserved/underrepresented groups are particularly at risk, especially when it comes to basic needs like food and water security, which are directly impacted by climate change."*

These comments reflect widespread concern that vulnerable groups are unprepared for the growing climate-related challenges, in part due to the lack of systemic investment in education and resources.

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

Socioeconomic inequalities were highlighted as key factors that undermine the community's ability to respond to climate impacts. Participants pointed to rising costs, financial stress, and limited job opportunities as major barriers to climate resilience.



**Participant 1:** *“The cost of living is skyrocketing, and people are struggling just to make ends meet. They’re not able to focus on long-term climate preparedness when basic necessities are a priority.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Lack of generational wealth is a significant issue. For Black and immigrant families, systemic racism and barriers to wealth-building create extra challenges.”*

**Participant 3:** *“The price of groceries is rising fast. It’s difficult for people to focus on sustainability when they’re struggling to afford the basics.”*

The community also faces significant challenges in food insecurity, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing. These factors create an environment of vulnerability, which is worsened by climate change.

**Participant 4:** *“There’s a major issue with substance abuse and poverty here. When people don’t have stable jobs and financial security, it creates social problems, and the community becomes less resilient to climate challenges.”*

**Participant 5:** *“Medication costs are a huge burden. People are forced to choose between paying rent and buying medication, which worsens their health and overall resilience.”*

These financial struggles are compounded by environmental pollution and poor water quality, which have led to rising health issues, including an increase in diseases like cancer.

#### Infrastructure

Infrastructure limitations were a central concern in the workshop, particularly regarding the community’s ability to handle emergencies. The discussion highlighted inadequate evacuation routes, outdated infrastructure, and a lack of resources to meet the growing population’s needs.

**Participant 1:** *“Our evacuation routes are a huge concern. There are only two access points for emergencies, and if something like a wildfire were to occur, it would be impossible for everyone to get out safely.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Our infrastructure just isn’t designed to handle the growing population. Roads are congested, and housing is becoming increasingly scarce.”*

**Participant 3:** *“We need more investment in infrastructure. The town is growing, but the infrastructure can’t keep up, and that will only get worse if the population continues to increase.”*

Participants emphasized the urgent need for better transportation, infrastructure upgrades, and more comprehensive planning to address population growth and emergency preparedness.

#### Social Amenities

Access to social services and support programs was another key topic. As the cost of living rises, more people are relying on social programs, but the services are often

overstretched. There were concerns about the affordability of insurance and other essential services.

**Participant 1:** *“More people are depending on social programs, but the support systems are stretched thin. Costs are rising, and that puts a lot of strain on the most vulnerable.”*

**Participant 2:** *“Insurance costs are going up, but for many, it doesn’t cover essential needs. This is a serious issue for those trying to stay afloat.”*

The increasing reliance on social services and the strain on those resources highlight deeper systemic issues, including the rising costs of living and a lack of adequate public services to meet growing needs.

### Emergency Preparedness

The community workshop revealed a critical gap in emergency preparedness. Participants raised concerns about the lack of comprehensive plans, resources, and strategies to support residents during extreme weather events.

**Participant 1:** *“One of the biggest barriers to resilience here is the lack of preparation. We need to educate people on climate risks and involve them in initiatives like community gardens to help address food security locally.”*

**Participant 2:** *“We don’t have the infrastructure or resources to deal with emergencies, and we don’t have a solid evacuation plan. This needs to be addressed urgently.”*

Stronger community-level planning, including effective emergency response strategies, was identified as a pressing need to mitigate the impacts of climate change, especially in the face of events like flooding and wildfires.

### Lack of Information

A recurring concern in the workshop was the lack of access to crucial information about climate change and resilience. Many residents do not have the education or resources to understand the risks they face or how to prepare effectively.

**Participant 1:** *“Education is a huge barrier. People don’t know how to grow their own food or how to make their homes more energy-efficient. We need more accessible resources to help them prepare.”*

**Participant 3:** *“We also need more community-driven education. People need to understand the risks they’re facing and what they can do to reduce them.”*

There is a clear need for greater community engagement and educational initiatives to inform residents about climate change risks and resilience strategies.

## Upper Hammonds Plains

The community workshop in Upper Hammonds Plain addressed the challenges faced by residents in adapting to climate change and the urgent need for greater resilience in response to environmental, social, and economic pressures. The discussion centered on several critical issues, including the vulnerability of specific populations, deficiencies in infrastructure, socioeconomic inequalities, inadequate resources for emergency preparedness, and a lack of information. Participants stressed the importance of stronger community engagement, investment in resources, and better planning to enhance resilience for the future.

### Vulnerable Populations

A central theme of the workshop was the vulnerability of specific populations, including seniors, children, minorities, low-income individuals, and those with disabilities. The impacts of climate change were seen as disproportionately affecting these groups due to limited access to resources, education, and support systems.

**Participant 7:** *“Minorities, homeless people, and those living by the water are particularly at risk. With rising sea levels, communities living near the coast are facing increased threats.”*

**Participant 17:** *“The trauma experienced by children in Cape Breton during recent floods is a reminder of how climate change can impact vulnerable groups, particularly in low-income communities.”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“We need to recognize the intersectional nature of vulnerability. Indigenous communities, African American communities, and people with disabilities are all at greater risk.”*

**Participant 4:** *“In addition to these groups, seniors and youth are highly vulnerable, as they may not be equipped to cope with extreme weather events or changes in the environment.”*

These comments reflect a widespread concern about how climate change disproportionately impacts underserved and underrepresented communities, with specific attention to those already dealing with systemic inequalities.

### Intersectionality

The workshop also explored the intersectionality of vulnerabilities, noting how economic pressures amplify the risks posed by climate change. Many participants shared that individuals on fixed incomes, already struggling with basic needs, find it even harder to plan for future climate impacts due to the rising cost of living.

**Participant 27:** *“People are already struggling with food insecurity and rising costs. With the climate crisis, they’re forced to make difficult choices, like choosing between paying for medication or buying extra food.”*

**Participant 17:** *“Systemic racism, a lack of education, and limited access to technology further complicate the ability of underserved and underrepresented communities to respond to climate change. Financial limitations make it even harder for residents to invest in necessary adaptations.”*

These insights underscore the need for a more inclusive approach to climate

preparedness that considers both environmental and social factors in the community.

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

The workshop emphasized how socioeconomic inequalities hinder the community's ability to prepare for and respond to climate change. Participants discussed the financial challenges, lack of resources, and rising costs that limit access to the materials and funding needed for effective climate adaptation.

**Participant 7:** *“Overpopulation is a big issue. The community is small but overcrowded, and it’s difficult to meet everyone’s needs, especially when climate impacts make resources even scarcer.”*

**Participant 6:** *“The rising costs of materials and transportation, combined with inflation, make it harder to get the supplies we need to repair homes or prepare for extreme weather.”*

**Participant 8:** *“Access to funds and grants should be made easier for residents, especially for those trying to make their homes more resilient to climate change.”*

These discussions highlight the economic barriers that prevent many community members from taking proactive measures to adapt to climate change, emphasizing the need for accessible funding and financial support for climate resilience.

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure challenges were a significant concern, particularly the community’s limited capacity to manage emergencies and the growing demands placed on its systems. Issues such as insufficient evacuation routes, inadequate water pressure, and poorly maintained infrastructure were highlighted as urgent problems.

**Participant 4:** *“There’s too much construction and not enough planning for exits. We need more exit routes for the community, especially in case of a crisis.”*

**Participant 7:** *“The lack of proper infrastructure, including sidewalks and drainage systems, is a safety issue. There’s not enough water pressure, and during a fire, we don’t have the resources to respond effectively.”*

**Participant 12:** *“As the weather becomes more extreme, we need to ensure that our structures are resilient. This includes improving evacuation routes and addressing the growing population’s needs.”*

**Participant 6:** *“Public health and safety are at risk. We need to address the lack of infrastructure that compromises our ability to protect the community during a disaster.”*

Participants agreed that improving infrastructure to handle extreme weather events, population growth, and emergency preparedness is a critical priority for the community.

### Social Amenities

The availability of social amenities, including public services and insurance, was another key topic of discussion. Participants expressed concerns about the lack of

accessible services and the affordability of insurance, which can be a major barrier to climate resilience.

**Participant 2:** *“There’s no public transportation, and services are lacking. Government investment in the community is insufficient to meet the growing needs of residents.”*

**Participant 4:** *“Insurance companies have a significant impact. Many homes aren’t covered adequately, and residents are left to rely on government assistance, which is not always timely.”*

**Participant 6:** *“When insurance companies pull out of high-risk areas, like those near water, it leaves residents without options to protect their homes and property.”*

The growing reliance on social services, coupled with the lack of government support, underscores the need for more investment in social amenities and public infrastructure to ensure the community’s long-term resilience.

### Emergency Plans

The lack of comprehensive emergency plans was identified as a major gap in the community’s preparedness. Participants expressed concerns about the absence of clear evacuation plans, inadequate resources for crisis situations, and the need for proactive advocacy to ensure that the community’s needs are addressed.

**Participant 4:** *“There is no clear evacuation plan in place. We’ve been advocating for better evacuation routes and emergency response plans, but we’re not seeing enough action.”*

**Participant 6:** *“We need to think ahead and prepare for stronger storms or wildfires. The current infrastructure and planning aren’t enough to handle what’s coming.”*

Participants emphasized the importance of proactive emergency planning, including clear evacuation routes, better coordination among local authorities, and stronger community preparedness strategies.

### Lack of Information

The lack of access to timely and accurate information about climate change and its impacts was a recurring theme. Participants noted that many residents are unaware of the risks they face or the resources available to help them adapt.

**Participant 31:** *“The development that’s taking place is a big concern. Trees are being cut down, and there’s no communication between developers and the government about how these changes will affect the environment.”*

**Participant 4:** *“We don’t have an alert system, and not everyone has access to a cell phone. There’s a lack of government communication during disasters, and people aren’t getting the information they need.”*

**Participant 17:** *“There’s no education about climate change, especially in schools. People don’t know what to do when disasters happen or who to contact for help.”*

The need for better communication, access to information, and climate education was seen as a critical issue to address in order to improve the community’s resilience to climate change.

## Windsor

The community workshop in Windsor and Five Mile Plains focused on the challenges posed by climate change and the barriers to climate resilience in these areas. Participants highlighted the vulnerability of specific populations, deficiencies in infrastructure, socioeconomic inequalities, and the critical need for improved emergency planning and communication. The discussion emphasized the intersection of environmental, social, and economic factors in shaping the community’s resilience to climate change.

### Vulnerable Populations

The vulnerability of specific groups within the Windsor/Five Mile Plains community was a key focus of the workshop. The elderly, young children, people with health conditions, and those living in high-risk areas such as low-lying coastal zones were identified as being at particular risk due to the health impacts of climate change, including respiratory issues and other climate-related health conditions.

**Participant 1:** *“The elderly, especially those living in basement apartments, are particularly vulnerable due to the impacts of severe weather events.”*

**Participant 3:** *“Young children and seniors are at higher risk due to health issues like hypertension, diabetes, and respiratory problems. These health issues are compounded by climate change.”*

**Unidentified Participant:** *“Anyone living at sea level or in areas prone to flooding is at high risk, especially vulnerable groups like seniors and children.”*

**Participant 10:** *“Mental health issues are also a concern, as the stress from climate impacts can have long-term effects on both adults and children.”*

These comments highlight the increased risk to vulnerable groups, particularly those already experiencing health disparities, as climate change exacerbates existing issues.

### Intersectionality

The workshop also explored the intersectionality of climate vulnerability, particularly in relation to race, socioeconomic status, and other social determinants of health. Several participants pointed out how systemic disadvantages—such as being part of underserved and underrepresented groups—make certain communities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.



**Participant 13:** *“Factors like race put us at a disadvantage, and communities like ours are often overlooked when it comes to receiving support and resources.”*

This remark reflects broader concerns about the lack of attention given to underserved and underrepresented communities, which face compounded risks due to systemic inequities in areas like housing, healthcare, and economic opportunity. These insights underscore the importance of addressing both social and environmental factors in climate adaptation and resilience planning.

### Socioeconomic Inequalities

The workshop highlighted how socioeconomic inequalities exacerbate the community’s ability to prepare for and respond to climate impacts. Several factors contribute to the community’s heightened vulnerability, including low incomes, high unemployment, and rising living costs.

- **Low Incomes and Limited Job Opportunities:** Many residents experience economic instability, which prevents them from investing in climate preparedness measures, such as home repairs or disaster mitigation. Without access to adequate resources, the community struggles to adapt to the increasingly severe effects of climate change.
- **Overpopulation and Crime Rates:** Some participants observed that overpopulation, combined with economic disadvantage, has led to rising crime rates. This adds further stress to the community, making it even harder for residents to focus on resilience and adaptation efforts.

These interconnected challenges highlight the urgent need for comprehensive economic and social policies that address both immediate financial hardships and long-term climate resilience.

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure challenges were a major theme of the workshop. The community’s lack of adequate roads, flood defenses, and emergency access routes were cited as critical vulnerabilities, particularly in extreme weather events. Poorly maintained infrastructure further complicates the community’s ability to respond effectively to climate impacts.

**Participant 7:** *“We can’t even fix the bridge at Panuake Rd. This is a key access point, and if we don’t address it, we’ll be trapped during emergencies.”*

**Participant 1:** *“There’s only one access route in some areas, and when flooding occurs, emergency services can’t get through. We need multiple routes for evacuation.”*

**Participant 13:** *“Poor infrastructure is a huge problem. Flooding, narrow roads, and insufficient drainage systems make it difficult for our community to stay safe during storms.”*

**Participant 6:** *“We also have issues with traffic safety. Narrow roads, lack of sidewalks, and pollution all contribute to an unsafe environment for pedestrians and drivers alike.”*

Participants emphasized the need for broader investments in resilient infrastructure, including better drainage, safer roads, and improved flood defenses to protect the community from the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

### Social Amenities

Several social amenities and government support issues were raised during the workshop, particularly regarding the rising costs of insurance, the lack of affordable housing, and insufficient public services.

- **High Costs of Insurance:** The rising costs of insurance, especially in flood-prone areas, are a major barrier to climate resilience. Many residents are unable to afford coverage for climate-related damage, leaving them vulnerable to property loss.
- **Poverty and Housing Issues:** Participants highlighted that poverty, unemployment, and limited affordable housing options force many community members to live in high-risk areas. Financial constraints limit their ability to adapt to climate change by investing in necessary infrastructure or relocating to safer areas.
- **Inadequate Healthcare and Public Services:** The lack of adequate healthcare services, especially those addressing climate-related health risks like respiratory care during wildfire seasons or heatwaves, was a significant concern. In addition, basic public services such as snow removal and garbage collection were seen as insufficient for addressing climate adaptation needs.

These challenges illustrate the deep socio-economic barriers that hinder the community's ability to adapt to climate change and the need for greater government investment in social services and infrastructure.

### Emergency Preparedness

A major concern raised during the workshop was the lack of comprehensive emergency planning and communication. Participants highlighted gaps in government response, particularly with regard to evacuation procedures and emergency alerts.

**Participant 1:** *“There’s no clear access to emergency services. We need better evacuation routes and more organized emergency response systems.”*

**Participant 3:** *“During recent flooding, emergency alerts were poorly timed and unclear. People didn’t know whether they should evacuate or stay put. We lost lives because of delayed responses. Proper communication could have saved lives.”*

Participants emphasized the need for clear, timely emergency alerts and more robust evacuation plans to ensure the community is better prepared for future disasters.

### Lack of Information

The lack of access to accurate, timely information was identified as a key issue, particularly in terms of government communication and climate adaptation resources.

**Participant 12:** *“During a recent flooding event, we didn’t receive the proper emergency notifications in time. It’s essential that the government improve its communication systems so we’re not left in the dark when it matters most.”*

**Participant 6:** *“There’s a lack of information about who to contact during emergencies and how to prepare for climate-related events. We need better communication from government officials and agencies.”*

These comments underscore the community’s frustration with the lack of reliable information and highlight the need for improved communication systems to support climate resilience efforts.

# Solutions to Building Climate Resilience

Participants emphasized the urgent need for improved infrastructure within their communities, coupled with calls for increased government investment and subsidies. They also advocated for enhanced services, including equitable representation and better access to resources in decision-making processes. In addition, they highlighted the value of community-driven initiatives, such as urban gardens and renewable energy projects, as well as the creation of robust support networks to assist residents during climate-related challenges. The following section provides a detailed overview of the solutions proposed by participants for building resilient and sustainable communities.

## Amherst

The Amherst workshop highlighted the community's strong commitment to addressing climate change through proactive measures, education, and collaboration. The participants expressed a desire for greater investment in infrastructure and services to support climate preparedness, including the creation of emergency readiness centers and the provision of government grants. Education and communication were seen as vital tools for ensuring that community members are well-prepared for the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, participants recognized the strength of local support networks and the importance of sharing resources and information within the community. The overarching message from the workshop was the need for continued government support and investment in local climate initiatives, which would ultimately help foster a safer, more resilient community for current and future generations.

### Benefits of Climate Action

Participants identified multiple benefits of climate action, particularly in terms of health, longevity, and preparedness for future generations.

**Participant 1:** *"Acting on climate change today will lead to a healthier lifestyle and a better future for generations to come. Proactive measures like environmental assessments, solar streetlights, and solar panels in the community can play a role."*

**Participant 3:** *"By being proactive, we can promote healthier lifestyles and prepare for what's ahead. It's about sharing knowledge with the community about what to do to prepare for climate-related challenges."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"Being proactive and prepared—showing people what that looks like—is key. We often talk about winterizing cottages, but we also need to think about storm-proofing our homes and sharing resources."*

**Participant 4:** *"Climate action will also improve physical health, contributing to a longer life."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"We need to stop things from getting worse and ensure that our community is safe and resilient to the impacts of climate change."*

There was a shared understanding that climate action can foster better physical health, longevity, and community resilience. Participants emphasized that education and preparation are crucial in mitigating the effects of climate change on both individuals and the broader community.

### Infrastructure Needs

Participants recognized the need for significant infrastructure investments to build climate resilience, particularly in terms of preparedness and community support.

**Participant 2:** *"Financial resources are critical to support climate preparedness in our community. Grants and funding can help us improve our infrastructure and access to resources."*

**Participant 1:** *"We need to ensure our community has access to the necessary resources for disaster readiness, such as an emergency center, workshops, and climate change sessions. Government assistance in these areas is crucial."*

There is a strong call for infrastructure investments that help communities prepare for climate-related events and increase public awareness. Participants suggested that creating centers for emergency readiness and providing financial support for community projects would significantly enhance preparedness.

### Investments and Subsidies

Participants discussed the need for financial investments, such as government grants, to support climate action and community preparedness.

**Participant 2:** *"Financial support is vital for our community. We need grants for climate adaptation projects and to help fund workshops, education sessions, and awareness campaigns."*

Community members expressed the need for subsidies and grants that would enable local governments and organizations to fund climate preparedness initiatives, including educational programs and infrastructure improvements.

### Improved Services

The community expressed the need for more services to help individuals prepare for and respond to climate change.

**Participant 3:** *"We need more workshops and educational sessions. Information needs to be distributed through various channels, like pamphlets, TV, radio, mail, and word of mouth, to ensure everyone is informed."*

**Participant 4:** *"We need a clear plan— a safety plan that helps the community prepare for climate impacts."*

**Participant 2:** *"It's important that we contribute to making our community better for future generations. We need to ensure that our children grow up in a safer, more sustainable environment."*

Improved services, including educational programs, pamphlets, and safety plans, were identified as crucial components in enhancing community preparedness. Participants

stressed the importance of ensuring that these services are widely accessible, especially in rural and remote areas.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

While community gardens were not directly discussed, there was a strong focus on local sustainability and resilience. The idea of local food resources and self-sufficiency was touched upon through discussions of community support and resources.

**Unidentified Participant:** *"My mom lives in a rural area and provides food for community food pantries. Access to resources like that is crucial in times of need, and we need to encourage these types of local support systems."*

The need for local solutions to food security, such as food pantries and community gardens, was briefly mentioned, underscoring the importance of self-sufficiency and mutual support in rural communities.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration and information-sharing to address climate change effectively.

**Participant 3:** *"We need to keep people informed. Sharing information about what's already being done in the community and what individuals can do is key. Workshops, climate change sessions, and information on government grants can all play a role."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"There's great community support here. People help each other, like when power goes out or someone needs resources. This kind of collaboration is crucial for addressing climate change impacts."*

A strong network of local collaboration and information-sharing was highlighted as essential for building community resilience. Participants noted that mutual support and community-driven efforts are integral to managing climate change challenges.

## Antigonish

Participants in the Antigonish discussions revealed a strong commitment to addressing climate change, focusing on actions that will reduce their environmental impact, improve health, and create a more sustainable future for generations to come. The community is already engaged in several important actions, such as recycling and reducing waste, but recognizes that more is needed, particularly in terms of infrastructure, financial resources, and education. Moving forward, there is an opportunity to expand these efforts through better collaboration with local organizations, the implementation of sustainable initiatives like community gardens, and a greater focus on building resilience to climate impacts through strong networks of support. By working together, this community can build a more resilient, sustainable future for all.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants emphasized the wide-ranging benefits of addressing climate change, including economic savings, improved public health, and environmental sustainability.



**Participant 3:** *"Addressing climate change has economic benefits. We won't have to spend as much on healthcare, and we can preserve our ecosystems."*

**Participant 2:** *"Preserving ecosystems can lead to new solutions, like cures for diseases."*

**Participant 1:** *"It's about improving health and leaving the world in better condition for future generations."*

**Participant 3:** *"We're leaving a world for our children—a world that's healthier, more sustainable."*

The community acknowledges that by protecting the environment, they can improve the quality of life for future generations, leading to healthier communities and a better economy

### Community Action

Communities have already taken action to reduce their environmental impact, and participants shared several ways in which they are contributing to sustainability.

**Participant 2:** *"We recycle, especially refundable materials, and some of us compost. We try to reuse items like butter dishes and mason jars. We burn less garbage than we did in the past."*

**Participant 2 (cont.):** *"We've worked to prevent illegal dumping in our community and raise awareness that these practices should not happen in our backyards."*

**Participant 4:** *"We work to reuse and recycle. We've been doing this for years, and now we are looking at how we can do more."*

However, the discussion also pointed out that more could be done in terms of community-wide sustainability efforts, such as planting trees and increasing education on climate change.

**Participant 2:** *"We need to plant more trees. We've never really talked about climate change in our education group, but we've discussed its impacts, like poverty and food insecurity. By framing these issues through the lens of climate change, we can access more funding to address them."*

The community recognizes that addressing climate change requires not just small actions, but also a shift in focus—examining ongoing issues like food insecurity and housing through a climate perspective.

Furthermore, participants suggested practical measures that individuals can take to improve climate resilience and prepare for climate-related events.

**Participant 3:** *"We need to reduce, reuse, and recycle more. Health check-ins are important, especially for vulnerable groups like seniors."*

**Participant 2:** *"During severe weather, such as heavy snow, some members of the community, like my mother, may need assistance. It's essential to check in on them to reduce stress and anxiety."*

The importance of a "community navigator" who could assist with climate-related challenges, like housing, food insecurity, and health concerns, was also emphasized.

### Infrastructure Needs

Participants identified urgent needs for infrastructure improvements to better cope with climate-related disasters. Key concerns included the development of robust road networks, additional evacuation routes, and the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, such as sidewalks, fire hydrants, and drainage systems.

**Participant 3:** *"There is a need for better infrastructure that connects our communities to highways and ensures safe evacuation routes in times of climate-related disasters."*

Upgrading these foundational structures would enhance the community's resilience and safety during extreme weather events.

### Investments and Subsidies

Participants called for targeted investments and subsidies to improve climate preparedness, particularly in Black communities. They advocated for government funding and programs to help residents install renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels, and implement cooling systems like air conditioners.

**Participant 1:** *"We don't have the resources to make large changes, but we're doing our part. We have the right mindset."*

**Participant 2:** *"We like the idea of electric cars, but they're too expensive. We just need more financial support to make these changes."*

Affordable access to renewable energy solutions was recognized as essential for enabling sustainable practices within the community.

### Improved Services

The need for improved services, including better emergency response and climate education, was a major concern. Participants stressed the importance of involving communities in decision-making processes that impact their futures.

**Participant 3:** *"It's crucial that our community is represented in decision-making. We need equal access to information and resources related to climate preparedness."*

**Participant 2:** *"We should be part of the conversation and ensure our needs are heard in climate-related plans."*

Incorporating an Afrocentric perspective into climate preparedness plans was also discussed to ensure all communities are equally represented.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Sustainable initiatives, like community gardens and transitioning from traditional heating methods to renewable energy sources, were highlighted as important steps for reducing environmental impacts.

**Participant 4:** *"Promoting community gardens and shifting from wood stoves to solar energy are great ways to build sustainability."*

Such initiatives not only promote environmental sustainability but also strengthen food security and reduce the community's reliance on external resources.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

The importance of building strong networks and collaborations was another key takeaway. Participants stressed the need to foster connections between individuals, local organizations, and government agencies to address climate challenges more effectively.

**Participant 2:** *"Our community could benefit from better organization. We don't have a formal climate change group, but we can work together with other community groups to broaden our efforts and collaborate more."*

Key priorities for strengthening community resilience include checking in on vulnerable community members, particularly the elderly, during times of climatic stress.

## Dartmouth North

The Dartmouth North workshop highlighted the need for proactive climate action through community mobilization, government accountability, and the creation of inclusive resources. Participants stressed the importance of accessible information, cooperative initiatives, and financial investments to support community preparedness. Effective communication, infrastructure improvements, and the establishment of local hubs for collaboration were all identified as key strategies for climate resilience. The community recognized that, by working together and pooling resources, they can build a more resilient, sustainable, and prepared community for future climate challenges.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

The participants emphasized the need for climate action to improve both community resilience and overall well-being. There was a clear understanding that being proactive in addressing climate change could lead to long-term health benefits and a more sustainable environment.

**Participant 3:** *"We need to be proactive and hold the government accountable for providing resources to those most affected. This includes providing solutions, strategies, targets, and health benefits."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"We need to make people more aware and mobilize them. It's critical to provide the information that helps everyone understand what's happening in the community. We need to ensure that people are aware of climate change impacts and prepared to respond."*

The overall sentiment was that acting on climate change today would help secure a better future for the community by improving health outcomes, preparedness, and quality of life.

### Community Action

Community involvement and cooperation were central themes in the discussion. Participants highlighted the importance of working together and supporting each other during extreme weather events.

**Participant 2:** *"Being prepared means having a plan or a mitigation strategy. We need to work on developing positive neighborly relationships so that we can support each other. Wellness checks and a centralized source for information are crucial."*

**Participant 1:** *"We could encourage cooperative initiatives where resources are pooled together. Even if we don't have a lot individually, working together can amplify our impact."*

The participants stressed the importance of building stronger community ties and ensuring that everyone has access to necessary resources and information, particularly during emergencies.

### Infrastructure Needs

Participants discussed the need for improved infrastructure, both physical and financial, to ensure the community can adequately respond to climate-related challenges. There was a strong focus on increasing access to resources and providing a more organized framework for community action.

**Participant 8:** *"We need to think about infrastructure not just as physical structures, but also in terms of finances and resources. This could include creating community hubs or think tanks where we can have sessions like this and share ideas."*

**Participant 8:** *"We also need a contingency plan. Churches, schools, and community centers should be accessible during disasters to support the most vulnerable members of our society."*

Participants also suggested creating infrastructure for communication, such as phone hotlines and information lines, to ensure that the community is well-informed during times of crisis.

### Investments and Subsidies

There was a significant emphasis on the role of government support in helping the community adapt to climate change, especially through financial investments and subsidies.

**Participant 8:** "We need government projects for new ideas, including subsidies for solar panels, transportation, and other green initiatives. For example, why hasn't there been more exploration of fossil-fuel-free transportation systems?"

**Participant 3:** "We need financial aid for those hardest hit by climate change. This should include emergency funds, similar to the COVID-19 relief funds, to ensure that resources are allocated to those most in need."

Participants recognized that financial support from the government is essential to help communities implement climate solutions and build long-term resilience.

### Improved Services

Participants emphasized the need for more accessible and frequent communication about climate change, its impacts, and the available resources for addressing it.

**Participant 8:** "We need more accessible services like phone hotlines or an information line to provide information during emergencies."

**Participant 1:** "We could organize regular meetings, either in person or online, to share knowledge about disaster preparedness and climate change mitigation strategies. These could include webinars or town hall meetings for the community."

**Participant 2:** "There should be a one-stop-shop for information on what resources are available to community members, ensuring that no one is left out, especially those who don't have access to the internet."

Communication strategies need to be inclusive of all community members, ensuring that both digital and non-digital channels are used to distribute critical information.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Although community gardens were not explicitly discussed in this workshop, the participants mentioned the importance of local sustainability and resource-sharing as part of a broader climate resilience strategy.

**Participant 1:** "By encouraging cooperative initiatives and resource pooling, we can support each other. Even small efforts like community gardens can contribute to greater self-sufficiency and resilience."

This conversation points to the value of local initiatives that can help reduce the community's reliance on external resources, such as food production and sharing.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Participants recognized that a strong, collaborative network is essential for effective climate action. The community needs to work together to pool resources and share information.

**Participant 1:** "We need to create stronger connections within the community and with the government. If we work together, we can develop and implement strategies that address both immediate and long-term challenges."

**Participant 8:** *"It's important to develop a sense of community support where everyone can rely on each other. If we work together, we can face climate challenges with more strength and solidarity."*

**Participant 1:** *"Working together makes us stronger. If we bring together different strands, we can create a stronger rope to tackle these challenges."*

A cooperative, collective approach to climate action was seen as essential for building community resilience, fostering trust, and enabling communities to better respond to climate impacts.

## Glance Bay

The Glance Bay/New Waterford workshop highlighted the community's commitment to sustainability, equity, and resilience. While participants identified several challenges, including insufficient funding and gaps in services, they also proposed actionable solutions, such as investing in sustainable infrastructure, expanding community gardens, and building strong networks. Moving forward, these initiatives will help create a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future for the community.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants emphasized the importance of climate action not just for immediate benefits but also for preserving the environment for future generations.

**Participant 1:** *"It's about making people more aware, improving health, and preserving the planet for the youth. We must keep our oath alive for them."*

This commitment reflects a desire to create a sustainable future while addressing health and environmental concerns.

### Community Action

The discussion highlighted the importance of collective action and inclusivity in tackling climate challenges.

**Participant 3:** *"Am I concerned about the future? Yes, because I see that not everyone is willing to ensure equity in services. We need more allies—people who look like me and those who don't—to amplify our voices and make real change."*

Participants acknowledged the importance of inclusivity in decision-making and urged for increased collaboration within and beyond the community.

### Infrastructure Needs

Participants called for robust infrastructure to address climate impacts, such as flooding and rising water levels, and improve community resilience.



**Participant 3:** "Flooding is a big concern. We need better drainage systems and more vegetation to combat rising water levels, protect homes, and improve air quality."

Investment in sustainable infrastructure, such as eco-friendly buildings, was seen as a vital step forward.

### Investments and Subsidies

The need for targeted funding and subsidies to address both physical and mental health challenges exacerbated by climate change was emphasized.

**Participant 3:** "There isn't enough funding for mental health support during disasters. We need psychologists, emergency lists, and clear action plans to support vulnerable community members."

**Participant 2:** "We've tapped into grants for eco-friendly housing projects, but there's more work to be done to ensure sustainability in all aspects of our lives."

Participants stressed that funding should prioritize sustainability and address racial inequities in resource distribution.

### Improved Services

The workshop highlighted gaps in services, particularly for vulnerable populations, and the need for advanced disaster preparedness plans.

**Participant 2:** "During emergencies, some people don't have internet or phone access. Older people might be stranded, unable to clear walkways or open doors. We need emergency contact lists and better accessibility plans."

Participants also noted that organizations need to address racial inequalities to ensure equitable service delivery.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Community gardens emerged as a key strategy to enhance food security, mental health, and self-sufficiency.

**Participant 9:** "Community gardens can support us year-round. In the winter, we can freeze vegetables to distribute when fresh produce isn't available. It's about creating practical solutions that benefit everyone."

**Participant 3:** "We can use vegetation to mitigate flooding and erosion, grow our own food, and plant more trees to become more self-sufficient."

Such initiatives not only address climate challenges but also foster a sense of community and resilience.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Participants emphasized the importance of building networks to provide mutual support during crises.

**Participant 3:** *"We need a buddy system and a strategic plan for the community. This includes affordable food delivery, snow clearing, and carpooling during emergencies."*

**Participant 1:** *"Advocating for seniors, cleaner living, and wellness checks is practical for us and good for our well-being."*

Creating these networks would ensure that the community is better prepared for disasters and able to support its most vulnerable members.

## Kentville

The Kentville workshop highlighted the community's proactive approach to addressing climate change through education, collaboration, and practical solutions. By improving infrastructure, increasing access to funding, and fostering strong networks, the community aims to build resilience and sustainability. Moving forward, addressing systemic barriers and ensuring inclusivity will be key to creating lasting change.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants highlighted the health and safety advantages of addressing climate change.

**Participant 5:** *"Climate action brings health benefits and helps keep animals safe on our highways."*

These remarks reflect the community's recognition of how climate action improves both public health and local ecosystems.

### Community Action

The workshop underscored the importance of community-driven initiatives, including green spaces, emergency preparedness, and cleanup campaigns.

**Participant 5:** *"Oak Park has a green space, and Gibson Woods now has an emergency generator to provide power for the community during disasters."*

**Participant 5:** *"We could plan a community cleanup campaign to get everyone involved in addressing climate change."*

These actions showcase proactive efforts to foster resilience and sustainability at the local level.

### Infrastructure Needs

Participants discussed challenges in accessing government incentives and grants for sustainable infrastructure and emphasized the need for education and guidance.

**Participant 1:** *"The government provides incentives for certain programs, but many people don't know how to apply for them. Education on navigating these processes is essential."*

The discussion revealed a gap in resources and support for those who do not meet specific income thresholds, highlighting the need for more equitable funding programs.

### Investments and Subsidies

The group emphasized that securing government grants and subsidies requires both awareness and education.

**Participant 1:** *"Someone has to teach us how to write grant applications. Without this education, many people don't know where to start."*

They also noted that income thresholds often exclude middle-income earners who still struggle to afford sustainable upgrades, such as replacing wood-burning stoves.

### Improved Services

Participants called for accessible services tailored to meet the community's unique needs, particularly for seniors and those with limited technological skills.

**Participant 5:** *"Seniors and others who lack experience with technology need support, such as computer courses or navigators to help them access services."*

Improving digital literacy was seen as critical for ensuring everyone could benefit from available resources.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Community gardens were identified as a potential solution for increasing food security, fostering self-sufficiency, and strengthening community ties.

**Participant 5:** *"If we build community gardens, we could organize harvest days where people can collect produce. But first, we need access to land."*

Challenges around land ownership and accessibility were acknowledged as barriers to implementing this idea.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Participants stressed the importance of collaboration and education to address barriers and create a cohesive community response to climate change.

**Participant 2:** *"Overcoming barriers requires knowing where and how to access information. We need community facilitators and navigators to guide us."*

**Participant 5:** *"We should have regular family, municipal, and climate change meetings and create maps showing vital places like comfort centers."*

The group also proposed leadership development initiatives to empower community leaders to work effectively with residents.

## Lucasville

The Lucasville workshop highlighted the intersection of climate action, equity, and systemic barriers in a historically Black community. Participants called for infrastructure improvements, equitable subsidies, and enhanced community services to address these challenges. Moving forward, building strong networks and fostering collaboration will be key to empowering Lucasville residents to create a sustainable and resilient future.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants emphasized the long-term significance of climate action, particularly for future generations.

**Participant 3:** *"Acting now is important for our future generations. We might not be here to see it, but it's vital."*

**Participant 1:** *"To save the planet, we need a balance to maintain integrity for our children, grandchildren, and all generations."*

The consensus was that climate action is essential to preserve the planet and ensure a sustainable future for the next generations.

### Community Action

The workshop revealed concerns about the community's limited engagement with climate change but also highlighted small-scale initiatives and the need for government support.

**Participant 4:** *"Switching to alternative options like electric bikes and cars is a start, but we need grants to make these accessible."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"Encouraging people to switch to alternatives like electric bikes or heat pumps is a step forward."*

Participants acknowledged that while individual actions are valuable, systemic support and community-wide initiatives are necessary for impactful change.

### Infrastructure Needs

Infrastructure improvements were a key topic, with a focus on equitable development.

- **Participant 4:** *"Our community needs a sewer system before sidewalks. These basic services should take priority."*
- **Participant 3:** *"Funding for sidewalks and improved mental health care is essential to climate resilience."*

Participants stressed the need for infrastructure investments that address the unique needs of historically Black communities.

### Investments and Subsidies

The discussion highlighted disparities in access to government funding for sustainable upgrades and called for targeted support.

**Participant 4:** *"The government should provide heat pumps and solar heating for free to Black families. Our communities lack the economic benefits enjoyed by wider communities."*

**Participant 3:** *"Heat pumps are more efficient and environmentally friendly than wood stoves or natural gas, but they remain inaccessible to many."*

Participants emphasized that equitable access to subsidies and grants is crucial to enabling community members to adopt sustainable practices.

### Improved Services

Lucasville residents called for improved services, particularly affordable housing, land trusts, and public transit.

**Participant 4:** *"We need a say in decision-making to avoid being dismissed as a historical Black community. Affordable housing and sewer systems are critical for our community."*

**Participant 3:** *"Better transit options, carpooling programs, and services for those with breathing difficulties are necessary improvements."*

Participants also raised concerns about the lack of mental health resources and called for more outreach groups and access to healthcare.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Collaboration and resilience-building were identified as critical to overcoming barriers.

**Participant 5:** *"We need to complete the vulnerable person registry to ensure no one is left behind in emergencies."*

**Participant 3:** *"Connecting people to government funding and support is essential. Without help, communities can only do so much."*

The group advocated for ongoing engagement and collaboration with stakeholders to address systemic challenges and build community resilience.

## Lincolnton

The Guysborough County workshop emphasized the intersection of community empowerment and climate action. Participants called for systemic support in the form of funding, education, and resources tailored to Black communities. By fostering collaboration and building local capacity, the community can take meaningful steps toward resilience and sustainability.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants noted that acting on climate change could lead to improved preparedness and education.

**Participant 4:** *"Reducing the impact or effects of climate change will help us better prepare and educate ourselves."*

There was a shared understanding that taking proactive measures would not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but also empower the community through knowledge and skills.

### Community Action

Community action discussions highlighted the importance of teamwork, addressing pollution, and holding local authorities accountable.

**Participant 2:** *"We talked about pollution and the need for more recycling. Illegal dumping in Black communities is a big issue, and municipalities should be held accountable while providing more resources."*

**Participant 2:** *"Carpooling is another way we can reduce our carbon footprint, but teamwork and community involvement are key."*

Participants emphasized the need for the community to unite and actively participate in climate action initiatives.

### Infrastructure Needs

The discussion on infrastructure centered on the need for tools, resources, and funding to support climate adaptation.

**Participant 1:** *"Give us tools to address climate change. We need support to learn and adapt."*

**Participant 3:** *"Any kind of change requires funding. Use it to encourage learning and action."*

Participants called for government investment in infrastructure tailored to the specific needs of Black communities.

### Improved Services

Improving services, particularly emergency response and education, emerged as a critical concern.

**Participant 5:** *"We need resources, skills, knowledge, and funding to combat climate change effectively. Our community has no voice at decision-making tables."*

**Participant 1:** *"The community is unprepared for emergencies. We need evacuation plans, shelters, and resources for transportation, housing, and food."*

Participants stressed the importance of equitable representation in decision-making processes and the inclusion of Afrocentric perspectives in climate preparedness plans.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Community gardens and greenhouses were proposed as practical steps toward self-sufficiency and resilience.



**Participant 6:** "We could create community gardens and greenhouses to grow our own food. Training and resources are essential for this."

**Participant 8:** "We need money, knowledge, and skills to make this happen. These initiatives can help combat climate change locally."

Participants recognized the potential of community gardens to address food security while fostering environmental sustainability.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

The workshop underscored the need for stronger networks and collaborative efforts to address climate challenges effectively.

**Participant 3:** "The government and climate experts need to support us and educate us."

**Participant 1:** "Provide funding, training, and education to empower our community."

With an aging population in Guysborough County, participants highlighted the importance of targeted education and resources to raise awareness and enable meaningful action.

## New Glasgow

The New Glasgow workshop underscored the importance of acting on climate change through proactive measures, community engagement, and improved infrastructure. Participants advocated for investment in warming centers, food security initiatives, and tailored emergency response plans. By fostering collaboration and drawing on the strengths of their community, they aim to build resilience and address the unique challenges of the African Nova Scotian population in the face of climate change.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants highlighted the necessity of shifting from reactive to proactive strategies to mitigate climate change's impact.

**Participant 1:** "We ought to be proactive rather than reactive, though we're already reactive at this point."

**Participant 4:** "Acting on climate change ensures security for our families, air, and lands."

**Participant 3:** "The benefits include health and knowledge—knowledge is key."

Participants agreed that climate action fosters awareness and knowledge while contributing to healthier and more secure communities.

### Community Action

The discussion emphasized the need for community engagement and communication to drive climate action.

**Participant 2:** "We haven't done much prior to now, but tonight marks a step forward."

**Participant 1:** "We need to develop communication plans to ensure everyone, including people with cognitive challenges, gets the message and understands it."

**Participant 1:** "We can build on existing emergency response plans and tweak them to meet our community's specific needs."

Participants noted the importance of utilizing and improving existing systems rather than creating new ones, focusing on accessibility and inclusivity.

### Infrastructure Needs

Participants stressed the importance of community infrastructure, such as warming centers and transportation plans, to prepare for extreme weather events.

**Participant 1:** "We need warming centers and a transportation plan to ensure people can access these centers during emergencies."

**Unidentified Participant:** "Designated warming centers with manual generators should be ready, especially for our aging population."

Investments in infrastructure and ensuring access to these resources were deemed critical for community resilience.

### Investments and Subsidies

The need for funding to support climate action was a recurring theme.

**Participant 2:** "We need grant dollars to make these ideas a reality."

**Unidentified Participant:** "Investments in warming centers and emergency response infrastructure will greatly benefit our aging population and vulnerable community members."

Participants recognized the importance of financial support from governments and other organizations to address climate challenges effectively.

### Improved Services

The workshop identified gaps in emergency response and proposed solutions to tailor existing plans to the community's needs.

**Participant 2:** "Rather than creating new emergency response plans, we should refine the existing ones to better address our goals as a community."

**Participant 2:** "There needs to be a way to know who is in the community and their needs, particularly concerning food security."

Participants emphasized that emergency plans should involve collaboration with local institutions like hospitals, fire departments, and community organizations.

## Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Food security emerged as a significant concern, with participants proposing the establishment of community gardens and education on food preservation.

**Participant 2:** *"Bringing back community gardens and teaching canning or preserving food is something our seniors can pass down to us."*

**Participant 3:** *"Community centers could also serve as greenhouses or food hubs to support local food security."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"We need to maintain green spaces and ensure they're accessible to address both climate change and food needs."*

These initiatives were seen as practical steps toward self-reliance and building community resilience.

## Strong Networks and Collaborations

Participants called for greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the community and beyond.

**Participant 1:** *"We need to connect with other communities and access funding and information to tailor solutions to our needs."*

**Participant 2:** *"Neighborhood watches could strengthen community ties and support emergency preparedness efforts."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"Residents should be checked on and supported before and after emergencies to ensure readiness and recovery."*

There was a strong emphasis on fostering Afrocentric approaches to climate action while leveraging existing networks and governmental support.

## North End Halifax

The North End Halifax workshop reinforced the need for long-term, community-driven climate action. By integrating sustainable practices into housing and infrastructure, fostering government transparency, and addressing systemic inequalities through an Afrocentric lens, participants identified actionable steps to create a healthier, more resilient community for future generations.

## Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants discussed the long-term benefits of climate action for current and future generations.

**Participant 1:** *"I want to make a better place."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"The benefits are for the next generation, the youth, and the elders—making a healthy place for those coming after we are gone."*

**Participant 2:** *"It's about preserving and preparing for the future."*

The group emphasized the importance of incremental but consistent steps toward sustainability, creating a healthier environment, and ensuring survival for generations to come.

### Community Actions

There was a shared sense of responsibility to take immediate action for the sake of future generations.

**Participant 1:** *"We're making a healthier place for our younger generations coming after us."*

**Participant 3:** *"Our kids today are hopefully learning more about climate action than we did."*

Participants highlighted the need for current generations to lead by example, fostering awareness and resilience among youth.

### Infrastructure Needs

The discussion centered on reimagining housing and community spaces with sustainability in mind.

**Participant 1:** *"Housing initiatives should incorporate green spaces, solar or wind energy, and accessibility. These should cater to individuals, families, and larger communities, with centers and services that enhance our quality of life."*

Participants saw sustainable housing as a key starting point for broader climate action, integrating green technology and community-friendly designs.

### Investments and Subsidies

Participants called for more government involvement and funding to address community needs and disaster preparedness.

**Participant 1:** *"The government should provide more resources and come to the community to see firsthand what we are going through."*

**Participant 1:** *"Workshops like this and accessible spaces are vital for people to get information and prepare systematically."*

Transparency and direct engagement with residents were deemed essential to ensure that investments and resources effectively meet the needs of the community.

### Improved Services

The workshop identified systemic barriers and proposed solutions to address them effectively.

**Participant 3:** *"Leadership must play its part to help those who can't help themselves."*

**Participant 3:** *"Key issues include lack of information, racial and disability data collection, inadequate evacuation routes, and institutionalized racism. We also need more Afrocentric approaches and youth education."*

Participants emphasized the importance of building and investing in community centers as hubs for education, preparedness, and support.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Though not elaborated upon during the workshop, community gardens were mentioned as a potential avenue for fostering food security and green spaces within the community.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Collaboration within and beyond the community was seen as vital to driving climate action.

**Participant 1:** *"We need volunteers, leadership, and churches involved in creating strong networks."*

The importance of leveraging existing resources, such as churches and local leaders, was highlighted as a way to build resilience and foster a sense of collective action.

## Spryfield

The Spryfield workshop highlighted the need for more community-driven action on climate change. While there have been some initiatives, such as electric vehicle charging stations, there is a strong desire for more sustainable energy infrastructure, educational resources, and community engagement. Participants identified the importance of solar and wind energy, greenhouses for food security, and increased funding for programs that support climate resilience. By fostering stronger networks, advocating for greater investments, and prioritizing education, Spryfield can work toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

The conversation highlighted the long-term advantages of climate action, especially in terms of environmental sustainability for future generations.

**Participant 3:** *"But you're saving the environment. Yeah. For your grandkids. You're investing in there for that. Electric cars, for example, save the environment in the long run."*

Participants acknowledged that while the immediate benefits might not be felt, taking action today will safeguard the future, particularly for younger generations.

### Community Action

Participants discussed the current state of community engagement in climate action and identified areas where Spryfield could improve its efforts.

**Participant 1:** "There hasn't been much community action in Spryfield. We do have an electric car charging station, but there aren't many other climate initiatives, like solar panels or wind energy."

**Participant 1:** "The government is cutting back on benefits for home improvements like solar panels, and we don't have solar fields or windmills in the community. Spryfield can definitely do better in terms of community action."

While there have been some initiatives, such as the electric charging station, participants expressed the need for more community-wide efforts and support to transition to sustainable energy solutions.

### Infrastructure Needs

There was a strong call for increased investment in renewable energy infrastructure and sustainable living solutions.

**Participant 3:** "We don't have any solar fields or wind farms here. We need to look into becoming more energy independent."

**Participant 5:** "If every home had two solar panels, it could power a whole family's needs. Why aren't we investing in things like that?"

**Participant 7:** "Funding is a huge issue. We need more support for these initiatives and to improve resources for the community."

Participants expressed the need for greater investment in sustainable energy solutions such as solar panels, wind farms, and other green technologies to reduce the community's reliance on non-renewable resources.

### Investments and Subsidies

Participants discussed the challenges related to the lack of resources and funding for sustainable initiatives and programs.

**Participant 6:** "We need to provide information and examples that apply to our community, especially for youth engagement. But funding is a major issue. Nonprofits can only do so much without money."

**Participant 1:** "It's important to give communities their own voice. If we're not speaking to people in ways they understand, it makes it harder for them to engage with climate issues."

**Participant 4:** "Education is essential. We need to build awareness about sustainable practices and how to prepare for climate challenges."

The need for more educational resources and community-based initiatives was identified as a key factor in encouraging local residents to adopt sustainable practices and advocate for more government support.

### Improved Services

The importance of providing more educational opportunities and resources for community engagement in climate action was highlighted.



**Participant 6:** *"We need to make things fun for youth and engage them in climate action. We need more funding to support programs that make a tangible difference."*

**Participant 4:** *"We need better education about sustainable practices and how to prepare for climate challenges."*

Participants emphasized the need for accessible educational resources to inform and motivate the community, especially youth, to take action against climate change.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

A community garden and greenhouse were seen as essential for improving food security and promoting sustainable local food systems.

**Participant 13:** *"We need greenhouses for growing food locally. This would help with food security and create more sustainable food sources."*

Participants identified the potential for community gardens and greenhouses as a way to reduce food insecurity and promote sustainable agriculture practices within Spryfield.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

The workshop emphasized the importance of collaboration and building stronger networks to tackle climate change effectively.

**Participant 6:** *"Nonprofits are doing great work, but they need more funding to continue their efforts."*

**Participant 3:** *"We need more education and community involvement, especially in initiatives like community greenhouses. Organizations like CMT have been helpful in other communities, and we can do the same here in Spryfield."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"Get involved with CMT and other organizations to educate yourself on these issues."*

Participants recognized the importance of local organizations, such as CMT, in fostering community mobilization and education. They encouraged everyone to get involved and support these efforts to build a more resilient community.

## Truro

The Truro workshop underscored the need for more proactive climate action at the community level. Participants called for greater investment in sustainable infrastructure, such as solar panels, greenhouses, and flood mitigation efforts. While there were some individual actions, such as recycling and composting, the community expressed a strong desire for larger-scale initiatives and more government support. The need for better communication, education, and collaboration between residents, local authorities, and organizations was a key theme, with many participants advocating for stronger community involvement and a more unified approach to addressing climate change and its impacts.

## Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

The conversation acknowledged the importance of taking action on climate change, both for current and future generations. Participants understood that while immediate benefits might be unclear, the long-term advantages include sustainability, environmental preservation, and reduced exposure to climate risks.

**Participant 4:** *"If we start growing our own vegetables now, we can help mitigate future food shortages caused by climate change. We should take advantage of more sunny days by installing solar panels."*

Participants recognized that addressing climate change through local initiatives, such as community gardens and renewable energy, could help reduce vulnerabilities, particularly in food security and energy supply.

## Community Actions

Participants discussed the current state of community climate action and identified gaps in engagement and awareness.

**Participant 1:** *"We haven't really taken any significant action yet. There are no community gardens or climate action projects that I know of."*

**Participant 2:** *"I recycle and compost, but I wonder what more we can do. People are becoming more aware, but there isn't enough information on the impact of our actions."*

While some individual efforts, like recycling and composting, are taking place, there is a general sense of urgency to move beyond personal actions and implement larger community-based solutions, including garden initiatives and broader climate education.

## Infrastructure Needs

The workshop highlighted concerns around infrastructure, particularly in relation to climate emergencies like flooding, and the lack of resources to handle such events.

**Participant 1:** *"The flooding impacts are overwhelming. If it's your first time experiencing it, you don't know where to go for help. Seniors especially struggle with this."*

**Participant 2:** *"After a flood, the insurance process is confusing, and it's difficult to get the support needed to repair damage."*

Participants emphasized the need for better communication and resources to guide residents through climate emergencies, as well as the importance of government support for home repairs following extreme weather events.

## Investments and Subsidies

A key concern discussed was the lack of government funding for community-based climate solutions, especially following events like flooding.

**Participant 4:** *"We need grants and financial support to help fund solar panels, greenhouses, and other sustainable initiatives."*

**Participant 2:** *"There's a lot of talk about climate change, but little action from local authorities. We need the government to be more proactive in supporting climate adaptation measures."*

Participants called for increased funding and subsidies from local and provincial governments to support climate resilience projects, including solar energy, community gardens, and flood mitigation efforts.

### Improved Services

The need for better services to address climate challenges was expressed, particularly in the areas of community engagement and food security.

**Participant 4:** *"Better communication is needed to unite the community and help people understand the importance of collective action."*

**Participant 2:** *"The lack of food security, especially during extreme weather events like flooding, is a big issue. We need resources to prepare for these emergencies and ensure access to food."*

There was also a call for more educational services to inform the public about sustainable practices and emergency preparedness. Participants expressed frustration with the lack of town support for growing food locally and the insufficient guidance on how to create and maintain community gardens.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Community gardens were identified as a potential solution to food insecurity, but participants discussed various challenges in their implementation.

**Participant 4:** *"If we build a greenhouse here, we can start growing our own vegetables and make our community more self-sufficient."*

**Participant 2:** *"There is a lack of town support for our community garden. The information sessions we've had weren't helpful, and the boxes are often overfilled or not maintained properly."*

While the desire to establish more community gardens and greenhouses was strong, challenges such as insufficient support, unclear guidelines, and theft of produce hindered progress. Participants advocated for better town involvement, clearer instructions for gardening, and improved access to resources.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Participants emphasized the importance of building stronger community networks and collaborating with local authorities and organizations to implement climate solutions.

**Participant 3:** *"We need to get more people involved in climate action. Rather than telling us what to do, let's ask the community what they want and what will work for them."*

**Participant 2:** *"The town needs to listen to us. We want to take charge of our community gardens, but we need support, not just from local authorities, but from each other."*

There was a strong call for greater collaboration between community members, local government, and organizations. Many felt that the town was not doing enough to support climate initiatives, particularly community gardens, and that residents needed to take a more active role in making their voices heard.

## Upper Hammonds Plains

The Upper Hammonds Plains workshop reinforced the critical role of community-driven actions in addressing climate change. Participants identified a range of actionable steps, from infrastructure improvements and advocacy to increased community education and collaboration. The workshop also emphasized the need for government investment, particularly in environmental protection, and the importance of building resilience through strong local networks and preparedness plans. By focusing on sustainable practices, advocating for systemic change, and empowering future generations, the community is working toward a healthier, more resilient future.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

The discussion began with a strong consensus on the long-term benefits of climate action, especially for the health and wellbeing of future generations.

**Participant 15:** *"That helps your future."*

**Participant 4:** *"Benefits. Yeah, it improves our community's health."*

**Participant 4:** *"Helps future generations."*

**Participant 11:** *"Future generation and improves community health. It could help us live longer."*

**Participant 17:** *"For the next generation to follow. We start doing things now, right?"*

**Participant 3:** *"Acting on climate change helps us to be more aware and prepared to make a difference."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"It improves health for current and future generations. It leaves a good example for the next generation."*

Participants emphasized that proactive climate action contributes to both community health and future preparedness, ensuring a better life for the next generation.

### Community Actions

The participants shared several actions already underway within the community to address climate change:

**Participant 1:** *"Advocacy is key. We're still having meetings and demanding change."*

**Participant 17:** *"We're advocating for changes in the way we deal with our environment."*

**Participant 3:** *"People who act on climate change are usually more prepared. Better air quality plays into health too."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"We've had community clean-ups and information sessions. These are examples of taking action."*

**Participant 17:** *"Keep calling the MLA offices and the government to make a change."*

There was a strong emphasis on advocacy, including continued outreach to government representatives and public action to create awareness. The community also highlighted the importance of staying informed and mobilized.

### Infrastructure Needs

The workshop highlighted critical infrastructure needs for climate resilience, particularly around evacuation routes and proactive disaster preparedness:

**Participant 4:** *"We've advocated for more exits out of the community, as a preventative measure, but no one listened. Our advocacy around wildfire response has been reactive."*

The community emphasized the importance of both preventive and reactive measures in response to climate threats.

### Investments and Subsidies

A key discussion point was the need for increased government investment in environmental protection:

**Participant 4:** *"It's important to protect the forest to protect the water. We're not doing enough to protect our environment."*

Participants called for more investment in safeguarding natural resources, particularly forests, which are vital for water conservation and broader environmental health.

### Improved Services

There was a strong call for more education and community engagement to support climate action:

**Participant 17:** *"We need to rally communities to get involved. We must have a strategic plan and get educated on these issues."*

**Participant 20:** *"We need more community sessions so that people get the information they need."*

**Participant 17:** *"More community sessions and community action are essential."*

The need for more informational sessions to educate residents on climate change was emphasized, with participants stressing that an informed community is more likely to engage in meaningful action.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Community gardens were mentioned as an important potential solution for local food security and green space development.

**Participant 2:** *"Community gardens could be a way forward."*

Though not elaborated upon, the community recognized the role of gardens in fostering environmental sustainability and improving local food systems.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

A significant portion of the discussion centered on the need for strong networks and collaborations within and beyond the community to effectively respond to climate challenges:

**Participant 2:** *"We need to make it easier to educate the community."*

**Participant 7:** *"We should check on our seniors during incidents to make sure they are okay."*

**Participant 31:** *"We need an emergency evacuation plan, including lists of people needing assistance and their medical needs."*

**Participant 17:** *"We can leverage existing community resources and expertise from other communities for mobilization."*

**Participant 4:** *"Alerting neighbors is important. You need a system in place to make sure everyone is informed."*

Participants highlighted the importance of having systems in place to support vulnerable populations, such as seniors and people with disabilities, and the necessity of collaboration with other communities and local organizations.

## Windsor

The Windsor/ workshop revealed a community eager to take action on climate change but in need of better infrastructure, communication, and government support. While some local initiatives are underway, participants expressed the need for stronger collective efforts, including the creation of community associations, more workshops, and increased financial investment from the government. A key takeaway from the workshop was the importance of collaboration—both within the community and with other communities—along with the need for consistent communication with government officials.

### Benefits of Acting on Climate Change

Participants identified multiple long-term and health-related benefits to addressing climate change, highlighting the importance of creating a sustainable future for both people and the environment.

**Participant 4:** *"The benefits include a healthier and longer life."*

**Participant 9:** *"We need to set visions and goals for the future for our kids. It's about making a change."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"A healthier Earth, with better safety and less pollution."*



**Unidentified Participant:** *"Acting on climate change leads to better health, and supports agriculture, livestock, wildlife, and water sources like lakes."*

These responses reflect the community's recognition that immediate climate action can improve environmental health, promote sustainability, and ensure future generations inherit a healthier planet.

### Community Actions

While some community efforts are taking place, such as clean-up initiatives and local infrastructure projects, participants felt that more collective action was needed.

**Participant 3:** *"We haven't done much as a community yet, though we do have community clean-ups."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"There's been a successful bridge repair project on Panuake Road, and community clean-ups have taken place."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"As far as I know, we haven't implemented anything more substantial."*

There is a strong desire within the community for more collective, organized climate action, including greater community involvement in long-term sustainability projects such as renewable energy solutions and community gardens.

### Infrastructure Needs

A major concern raised was the lack of infrastructure investments and government support for climate resilience projects. Participants discussed the need for improved access to essential services and the necessity of government involvement in addressing local concerns.

**Participant 2:** *"Government funding is essential. We need better access to the highway, and more government representation to address our concerns. More workshops, surveys, and community meetings are necessary to stay informed."*

**Participant 12:** *"We need workshops, surveys, and community groups to keep everyone informed. Communication with the government is vital."*

**Participant 1:** *"Governments should meet regularly with communities to ensure that the agenda is being carried out. This will help the community stay focused on issues and create partnerships with other communities."*

Participants called for more frequent interaction between government representatives and the community, with an emphasis on information-sharing and prioritizing local climate action.

### Investments and Subsidies

Participants emphasized the importance of government support to foster local climate initiatives. Financial investments and incentives are seen as crucial to sustaining community-driven projects.

**Participant 2:** *"We need incentives for volunteers and individuals in the community who are already dedicating their time to climate-related projects. Fuel cards or other small perks could help encourage more participation."*

**Participant 1:** *"A Community Action group should be established to lobby for government funding and raise awareness of community concerns."*

There is a strong consensus that the community needs more financial support for climate initiatives, as well as incentives for volunteers who are essential to the success of local projects.

### Improved Services

A recurring theme in the discussion was the need for improved services to support climate resilience. This includes better communication, the creation of community associations, and greater government involvement in local issues.

**Participant 12:** *"We need to establish better communication with the government, and create community associations that can provide incentives to maintain involvement."*

**Participant 2:** *"A Community Action group could act as a platform to push the agenda forward, bridging the gap between the government and the community."*

**Participant 1:** *"Governments should work closely with communities to ensure that their concerns are addressed, and that effective climate actions are being taken."*

Participants noted the importance of communication channels that connect the community with government bodies and provide a way to ensure climate-related priorities are acted upon effectively.

### Community Gardens and Local Sustainability

Participants discussed the potential benefits of creating community gardens as a sustainable solution to food security, local engagement, and climate adaptation.

**Participant 12:** *"A community garden could be a great start. Native wildflowers and other sustainable gardening practices could help improve local biodiversity."*

**Unidentified Participant:** *"Community gardens provide a way for people to grow their own food, which can be crucial during climate emergencies."*

A community garden was suggested as a model for sustainable local food production, though participants acknowledged the challenges of maintaining such initiatives without sufficient support.

### Strong Networks and Collaborations

Community collaboration was identified as a crucial element of successful climate action. Participants emphasized the need for both local networking and stronger partnerships with other communities and organizations.

**Participant 12:** *"The community needs to work together. Climate change affects everyone, and we must unite to address it."*

**Participant 4:** *"Communities should stay focused on the issues, link up with other communities, and share what they are doing to address climate challenges."*

**Participant 13:** *"We need to use existing supports like the Nova Scotia Brotherhood and Sisterhood, which are looking for young people to get involved."*

There was a strong focus on the need for shared goals and collective action. Establishing stronger networks within and outside the community, as well as involving young people, was viewed as critical for addressing long-term climate challenges.

# Key Findings

African Nova Scotian participants who participated in the 13 workshops held across Nova Scotia in 2024 shared their lived experiences with climate change disasters, highlighting their far-reaching impacts on health systems, food security, livelihoods, biodiversity, and agriculture. They also provided actionable recommendations to strengthen resilience and foster equitable climate preparedness. The key findings and recommendations presented in this section reflect the workshop discussions shared by participants, supplemented by the authors' insights.

## Environmental and Ecosystem Changes

- Participants observed notable shifts in weather patterns, including rising temperatures, reduced snowfall, and an increase in wildfires, hurricanes, and flooding due to rising sea levels.
- Coastal erosion and habitat loss are disrupting ecosystems, with participants noting changes such as wildlife migration and the emergence of new species in the region.
- Concerns were raised about how these environmental changes are impacting community well-being, agriculture, and biodiversity.

## Extreme Weather Events and Impacts

- Participants highlighted the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including floods, wildfires, and winter storms, which disrupt infrastructure, livelihoods, and lead to evacuations.
- Prolonged power outages during storms heighten risks for vulnerable populations, particularly seniors and those with health issues.
- The cumulative effects of wildfires, rising temperatures, and coastal erosion were identified as key contributors to ecosystem degradation and species extinction.

## Disproportionate Vulnerability to Climate Change

- Certain groups, such as the elderly, youth, Black coastal communities, and those without financial resources or insurance, face heightened risks from climate impacts.
- Vulnerability is shaped by intersecting factors like race, gender, income, immigrant status, age, disability, and geography, which collectively determine adaptive capacity.
- Systemic inequalities, including poverty, unemployment, and environmental racism, exacerbate climate vulnerabilities and limit access to resources and services.

## Health and Mental Well-being Impacts

- Participants linked climate change to worsening health outcomes, including respiratory illnesses, heat-related conditions, and chronic diseases exacerbated by wildfires and extreme heat.
- Mental health challenges, such as anxiety and depression, are widespread, especially among seniors and those affected by displacement or isolation during extreme weather events.
- Lyme disease was noted as an emerging health issue, attributed to changes in wildlife populations and habitats.

- The costs of adapting or recovering from climate-related disasters further strain both physical and mental health.

#### Food Security Concerns

- Rising food prices, limited access to affordable fresh produce, and increased spoilage due to power outages were identified as major issues.
- Participants expressed concerns about declining fish stocks and wildlife diseases, which impact local food sources.
- Food insecurity is compounded by socioeconomic factors, including poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient shelter options.

#### Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness Gaps

- Participants cited inadequate infrastructure as a critical barrier to climate adaptation, including poor road networks, insufficient evacuation routes, and a lack of sidewalks, fire hydrants, and drainage systems.
- Gaps in emergency preparedness, such as unreliable communication networks, limited access to emergency services, and a lack of contingency plans, hinder effective disaster response.

#### Socioeconomic and Systemic Challenges

- Financial barriers, such as the high costs of living, insurance, housing, and climate adaptation measures, limit community preparedness.
- Systemic inequities, including underrepresentation in decision-making processes, lack of government investment, and environmental racism, amplify the impacts on marginalized underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Challenges such as unemployment, rising living costs, and insufficient healthcare and social services exacerbate vulnerabilities.

#### Education, Communication, and Decision-Making

- Participants stressed the importance of accessible, accurate information about climate risks. Current communication strategies were deemed inadequate, particularly for reaching the most vulnerable populations.
- Limited community involvement in decision-making processes was a recurring concern. Participants called for equal representation, Afrocentric perspectives, and better access to resources in climate preparedness planning.

#### Calls for Systemic Change and Community Support

- Participants advocated for government investment in infrastructure, affordable housing, healthcare, and climate-resilient services.
- Community-driven initiatives, such as renewable energy projects and community gardens, were highlighted as essential for sustainability and food security.
- Strong community networks are needed to support vulnerable populations during climatic stress, particularly seniors and those with limited resources.

## Climate Justice

This section outlines key recommendations for policymakers, climate and environmental organizations, and stakeholders to integrate a climate justice framework into their work, focusing on the needs of underserved and underrepresented communities, particularly African Nova Scotians, in addressing climate change.

### **Adopt a Climate Justice Framework:**

- Assess the specific impacts of climate change on African Nova Scotian and other underserved and underrepresented communities.

### **Use Intersectional Analysis:**

- Recognize how climate change affects people differently based on factors like race, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, age, and geographic location.

### **Ensure Representation:**

- Prioritize the inclusion of communities most affected by climate change, especially those on the frontlines, in climate-related research, policymaking, and decision-making processes.

### **Integrate Anti-Oppression Work:**

- Incorporate anti-racism and anti-oppression efforts into climate justice initiatives, recognizing the value of African Nova Scotian traditional knowledge and lived experiences.

### **Build Meaningful Partnerships:**

- Establish strong relationships with African Nova Scotian communities and involve them in research, policy, and climate justice projects.

### **Tailor Climate Messaging:**

- Create climate communications that address the unique needs and priorities of African Nova Scotian communities.

### **Expand Research on Climate Impacts:**

- Conduct studies on the social, economic, and health impacts of climate change specifically in African Nova Scotian communities to fill existing research gaps.

### **Support Structural Change:**

- Advocate for the dismantling of colonial and oppressive power structures, promoting transitions to more equitable and inclusive systems.

### **Increase Green Energy Funding:**



- Push for more funding for green energy projects in vulnerable communities to reduce fossil fuel dependence and enhance sustainability.

**Invest in Infrastructure:**

- Prioritize infrastructure improvements that enhance safety and resilience to climate impacts in underserved and underrepresented communities.

**Fund Community-based Adaptation Projects:**

- Support local climate adaptation initiatives and provide access to sustainability education to empower communities.

**Address Disparities in Disaster Preparedness:**

- Develop programs that tackle racial and socioeconomic disparities in disaster readiness, ensuring all communities are adequately prepared for climate crises.

**Ensure Equitable Representation in Decision-Making:**

- Guarantee that Black communities are included in climate action planning and decision-making processes, incorporating Afrocentric perspectives.

**Advocate for Equitable Investments:**

- Push for targeted investments to address the unique challenges of underserved and underrepresented groups, ensuring no community is left behind in climate efforts.

**Develop Comprehensive Emergency Plans:**

- Create detailed disaster preparedness plans, including evacuation routes and communication systems, to ensure timely responses during emergencies.

**Improve Community-wide Disaster Readiness:**

- Strengthen disaster preparedness through education, training, and coordinated communication strategies, ensuring all communities are equipped for climate-related events.

By implementing these recommendations, we can create a more just and resilient society that ensures vulnerable communities are effectively supported in the face of climate change.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the following provides an overview of the key themes highlighted by participants who attended the 13 workshops on the African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program in African Nova Scotian Communities in 2024

### *The Manifestations and Impacts of Climate Change in African Nova Scotian Communities*

Participants in the 13 workshops demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of climate change, attributing its causes to human activities such as deforestation, industrial processes, and the burning of fossil fuels, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Drawing on their personal experiences, they described the severe impacts of climate change, including wildfires, flooding, extreme temperatures, storms, and coastal erosion.

Discussions during the workshops highlighted the specific ways in which climate change affects their communities, particularly the health challenges experienced by African Nova Scotian populations. Participants identified significant health concerns linked to climate change, including the mental health toll caused by rising temperatures and wildfires. Many reported increased struggles with anxiety, depression, respiratory illnesses, and heat-related conditions. Additionally, they noted the spread of diseases like Lyme disease, carried by ticks, as a consequence of warmer temperatures, along with an alarming rise in cancer cases and other emerging health risks. These findings underscored the urgent need for climate adaptation strategies tailored to Black communities.

Food security emerged as another critical area of concern. Participants described how unpredictable weather patterns and environmental disruptions are threatening local food systems. Climate change was reported to interfere with food production, preservation, and storage, with storms and hurricanes often causing power outages that disrupt food supplies. Rising grocery prices, low incomes, and limited access to community garden spaces further exacerbated food insecurity. Many participants shared stories of the difficult choices they face between purchasing nutritious food, paying bills, and affording necessary medications, highlighting the ongoing struggle to maintain proper nutrition.

Concerns were also raised about the impact of climate change on local ecosystems. Participants observed significant changes in their environments, including the effects of wildfires, coastal erosion, and rising temperatures. They also noted the migration of native and foreign species into urban areas due to these environmental changes, which poses safety risks and adds to the challenges faced by their communities.

The workshops revealed a strong call for urgent action to address the interconnected impacts of climate change on health, food security, and ecosystems. Participants advocated for targeted support to help their communities adapt and build resilience to these growing challenges.

### *Climate Change Vulnerability and Preparedness*

Participants in the workshops recognized that climate change affects all members of their communities, impacting both human populations and local ecosystems, including flora and fauna. However, they identified several factors that exacerbate vulnerability and hinder preparedness efforts. These included inadequate infrastructure, insufficient government-provided social amenities, pervasive poverty, and persistent socioeconomic inequalities. Certain groups were noted as being particularly vulnerable to climate-related challenges such as rising temperatures, wildfires, and flooding. These groups include the elderly, youth, Black communities residing in coastal areas, and individuals with limited incomes or without insurance, who often face significant barriers to adaptation.

Inadequate infrastructure was cited as a critical barrier to effective climate adaptation. Specific issues highlighted included the lack of access roads to highways and insufficient evacuation routes during emergencies. Poorly maintained road networks were also identified as contributing to traffic congestion and air pollution. The absence of sidewalks and fire hydrants was seen as a major public safety concern, while inadequate drainage systems were blamed for severe flooding during storms. These deficiencies were reported to severely undermine the community's ability to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters.

Economic and social barriers were also emphasized as significant challenges to climate adaptation. Participants pointed to a lack of government-provided social amenities and the high costs associated with climate adaptation measures, such as insurance. These challenges were further compounded by widespread poverty, low incomes, and high unemployment, which collectively reduce individual and community resilience. Other concerns included shortages of affordable housing, inadequate healthcare services, and gaps in essential services like snow removal and garbage collection. Rising populations and increasing crime rates, driven by limited job opportunities and strained resources, were noted as additional impediments to preparedness efforts.

The lack of comprehensive emergency preparedness emerged as another pressing concern. Participants identified gaps in evacuation routes, contingency plans, and access to emergency services. They also noted inadequate education on climate change issues and a lack of safe community spaces for coordinating disaster responses. Frustration was expressed over the insufficient involvement of community members in decision-making processes. Participants called for greater representation and enhanced education to address these gaps and improve planning and response strategies. Addressing these interconnected challenges—ranging from infrastructure issues to economic barriers and emergency preparedness—was seen as essential to reducing climate vulnerability and enhancing resilience within their communities.

### *Solutions to Building Climate Resilience*

Participants emphasized the urgent need to improve community infrastructure and called for increased government investments and subsidies to address existing vulnerabilities. They advocated for enhanced services and equitable representation in

decision-making processes to ensure fair access to resources and opportunities. Improving infrastructure was a key priority. Participants stressed the importance of constructing multiple road networks that connect to highways and developing additional evacuation routes to address climate-related disasters. They also emphasized the need to rehabilitate and construct essential community structures, such as sidewalks, fire hydrants, and drainage systems, which currently pose safety hazards and leave communities vulnerable to flooding and fires.

Participants strongly supported targeted government investments and subsidies to enhance climate preparedness in Black communities. They urged the implementation of funding programs to assist residents in retrofitting their homes with solar panels and air conditioning systems, ensuring that these resources are accessible and affordable. Improvements to emergency response services and educational initiatives focused on climate change preparedness were also identified as critical priorities. Active involvement in decision-making processes was highlighted as essential. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring equal representation of Black communities in discussions that directly impact their futures. They advocated for climate preparedness plans that integrate Afrocentric perspectives and emphasized the need for equal access to information and resources as a crucial step toward equity in climate adaptation efforts.

Community-driven initiatives were also recognized as essential components of sustainability and resilience. Participants recommended the promotion of community gardens and the transition from wood stoves to renewable energy sources, such as solar power, as practical steps toward reducing reliance on non-renewable resources while fostering environmental sustainability. Additionally, they stressed the importance of building strong networks to unite individuals, government entities, and organizations in collective climate efforts. Regular check-ins with vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly, were identified as vital during periods of climatic stress. By addressing these priorities—improved infrastructure, targeted government support, inclusive decision-making, and community-driven initiatives—participants underscored the potential to create more resilient, sustainable, and equitable communities.

### *Advancing Climate Justice: Building Resilience for African Nova Scotian Communities*

Addressing the unique vulnerabilities of African Nova Scotian communities requires a climate justice approach that emphasizes equity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Participants highlighted that, unlike other communities benefiting from substantial government support and investment, they continue to endure the lingering effects of colonialism, institutional racism, underdevelopment, and environmental racism. While understanding climate change through scientific models is essential, it is equally critical to consider the historical and social realities that shape these communities' climate preparedness. A climate justice framework provides the necessary lens to contextualize climate change within the lived experiences of African Nova Scotian communities. This framework recognizes structural inequalities—such as race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status—and social disparities, including the unequal distribution of resources, as consistently mentioned across the 13 workshops.

Participants expressed the pressing need for their voices to be heard, emphasizing the importance of centering their perspectives and prioritizing infrastructure equity. The recommendations in this report reflect their lived experiences and focus on addressing their specific challenges. Participants stressed the urgent need for infrastructure improvements, such as developing evacuation routes, rehabilitating sidewalks and drainage systems, and constructing climate-resilient housing. These measures are crucial for enhancing safety, reducing vulnerabilities, and addressing the historic neglect of these underserved communities. A climate justice approach also advocates for equitable government programs to tackle systemic inequities that exacerbate climate vulnerabilities. Participants underscored the importance of retrofitting homes, implementing fair insurance policies, providing financial aid for low-income households, and expanding access to affordable housing, equitable healthcare, and responsive emergency services. These initiatives, as articulated by participants, aim to dismantle longstanding socioeconomic barriers, thereby strengthening community resilience and adaptive capacity.

Community-led initiatives were repeatedly identified as critical for fostering resilience in Black communities. Participants called for strengthening local networks to provide inclusive support during climate events, expanding education on sustainability and climate risks for youth and community members, and addressing racial and socioeconomic disparities in disaster preparedness programs. By supporting community-driven efforts, participants believe this approach promotes autonomy and long-term resilience, empowering them to lead their climate adaptation strategies. Equitable representation in decision-making processes was highlighted as another crucial factor in addressing the unique challenges faced by Black communities. Participants advocated for the integration of Afrocentric perspectives and community-driven solutions into climate action plans. They emphasized that including underserved and underrepresented voices ensures climate solutions are relevant, effective, and accessible to those most impacted.

Additionally, participants stressed the importance of transitioning from traditional energy sources to renewable alternatives, such as solar power, and fostering local food production through community gardens. These sustainability initiatives reduce dependence on non-renewable resources, empower communities, and align with both provincial and federal environmental and economic goals. Prioritizing vulnerable populations during emergencies emerged as a key priority. Participants highlighted the need for comprehensive emergency plans that incorporate education and tailored communication strategies to enhance disaster readiness. They also emphasized establishing support networks to assist vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and individuals with limited mobility, during crises within their communities.

In conclusion, a climate justice approach acknowledges the disproportionate impacts of climate change on African Nova Scotian communities and underscores the necessity of tailored, equitable solutions. By centering community voices, promoting inclusion, and addressing systemic inequities, these recommendations chart a clear path toward a resilient future. Through community empowerment, Afrocentric decision-making, and

targeted investments in infrastructure and sustainability, governments can help build a more equitable and climate-resilient future for African Nova Scotians, who have long endured the consequences of inadequate climate preparedness.

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# Appendices

## Appendix A: Workshop Outline & Questions

### **Opening Session - 20 minutes**

- Introduction and Welcome (5 minutes)
  - Welcoming of participants.
  - Introduction of the workshop.
  - Workshop Objectives
    - Workshop facilitators to state the following workshop objectives:
      - Provide a general introduction to climate change and its impacts
      - Engage participants in a discussion on their awareness about climate change
  - Workshop Goals
    - Workshop facilitators to state the following workshop objectives:
      - Build capacity of the community's understanding of climate change and its impacts through conversations, outreach and knowledge transfer

### **Pre-evaluation Questionnaire (10 minutes)**

### **Icebreaker (5 minutes)**

- Participants sit in two rows facing each other, every 30 seconds participants in one row shift over a seat and each person will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the person sitting in front of them by
  - Saying who they are
  - Why they signed up for the workshop
  - What about climate change they are most looking forward to learn about and why.

### **Education Session - 1 hour 5 minutes**

### **Breakout Session 1 (20 minutes)**

- Participants are divided into groups no larger than 5 and will be guided through a group exercise focused on discussing questions from the list below and summarizing their key points on a large piece of paper.
- Participants will be asked to choose the most interesting prompts and discuss as many as possible during the 15 minutes.
- Last 5 minutes reserved for full group reflection, for each group to

share the key findings from their discussion.

**Questions:**

- How do you understand the concept of Climate Justice?
- What is the evidence that shows the climate is changing?
- What are the impacts of climate change (e.g. temperature increases, drought, extreme weather) What is your opinion on arguments that humans are causing climate change?
- Which communities or groups are most vulnerable to or at risk from climate change hazards and why?
- What are the benefits of acting on climate change?
- Are you aware of how the climate is changing in your region?
- Has your community taken steps to address and better understand climate change impacts and if so have they been successful? If not, why not?
- What sources of information, people and experts have you and your community used to understand the impacts of climate change /Are they informative?

**Climate Change Presentation (20 minutes)**

**Breakout Session 2 (25 minutes)**

- o Part 1: Participants are divided into different groups no larger than 5 and will be guided through a group exercise of discussing questions from the list below and summarizing their key points on a large piece of paper. Participants will answer the five questions listed below.
- o Questions:
  - What are the current issues and threats in need of attention in your community and Nova Scotia?
  - What impacts do you see in your community? Have they gotten worse or are they improving? Are you concerned about future implications?
  - Have you experienced climate change? If so, describe the experience and impacts on you, your family, and/or your community?
  - What are the current issues and threats in need of attention around climate change?
  - What are the socio-economic, environmental, public health and safety impacts on the community (e.g., drought, water availability, fire hazards)?
- o Part 2: Based on the answers given by participants for the above questions, new groups will be created, and participants will have the opportunity to participate in each group to discuss the following

questions geared towards a specific topic or interest related to climate change:

- What barriers exist to taking community action against climate threats?
  - How can we overcome the barriers?
  - What are the barriers to helping your community become climate ready and what help do you need to move beyond the barriers and face climate change challenges head on?
- What can governments and climate experts do to help you and your community address climate change impacts across your community?
- What immediate action can your community take to address climate change impacts?
- What is the role of individuals in taking steps towards facing climate change challenges?
- How do factors like race, gender, income, immigrant status, age, disability and where you live play a role in your community's ability to address climate change impacts.
- How do factors like race, gender, income, immigrant status, age, disability and where you live play a role in your community's ability to engage in climate change preparedness
- What are the key adaptation solutions to help reduce community impacts?
- Should adaptive management be used as a tool in addressing climate change issues and resolving threats?
- Does adaptive management make sense and has your community taken steps (or should take steps) to have this approach applied across your community.
- What other measures can residents, families and communities take to reduce climate change impacts through simple steps (e.g. energy efficiency, water conservation, carpooling) to be taken as part of an adaptation plan.

### **Summary of Part 1 & 2**

- Facilitators will guide a summary discussion with all participants about some of the key findings and topics that come up from these discussions

LUNCH/DINNER - 30 MINUTES

### **Case Study Review - 45 minutes**

#### **Case Study Review (15 minutes)**

- Facilitators will lead a review of an example of a climate change

preparedness project or program in Nova Scotia

### **Project Design Exercise (30 minutes)**

- o Based on the previous discussions and interests from the participants, the facilitators will create 3-4 groups, each with a different focus related to climate change. Participants will be given the choice to join whichever group they are most interested in. Facilitators will lead a project design exercise, walking participants through the steps needed to create and design a climate change plan from initial idea to concept. This exercise will serve to equip participants with the necessary skills needed to plan a climate change related project for their community and provide experience in working in teams, understanding the knowledge and information needed and an example to follow for future projects.

### **Closing Session - 20 minutes**

#### **Personal and Group Reflection (5 minutes)**

- o Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the expectations, thoughts and ideas written at the start of the workshop and have an opportunity to discuss with others if they choose to share.
- o Participants will be asked to share with their group the following questions:
  - What gives you hope for the future?
  - What are you most looking forward to doing after having completed this workshop?
  - What are the biggest takeaways for you?

#### **Post Workshop Questionnaire (10 minutes)**

#### **Closing Remarks (5 minutes)**

- o Facilitators will provide next step information for participants who are interested in learning more about climate change, access to local, regional and global resources and contact information to local subject matter experts.
- o Closing of the workshop

## Appendix B: Workshop Pre & Post Evaluation Questions

### PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY

#### The African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program

Dear workshop participant,

Before the workshop begins, we would like to assess your expectations for the workshop. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Thank you!!

#### I FEEL THAT THE WORKSHOP :

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
1	will be useful in clarifying the link between climate change vulnerability and impacts and other social injustices in the African Nova Scotian community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	will allow me to interact with other participants from my community and understand their different experiences with how climate change and other social injustices have impacted them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	will help me understand the kinds of climate preparedness supports that are needed to address climate impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



	in my community and the broader African Nova Scotian community						
4	will help me understand the role that climate change organizations and climate policymakers and decision makers should play in addressing climate change impacts in my community and other African Nova Scotian communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	will provide me with information on the supports and resources available to address climate change impacts in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	will help me better understand the steps I can take in addressing climate impacts in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	will help me to feel more empowered to support members of my community in preparing them for climate impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	will provide valuable information I will want to share with others in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**I HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF:**

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
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9	the factors that cause climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	how climate change is experienced and impacts communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	how factors like race, gender, age, disability, income, where people live, and other issues play a role in how different communities are impacted differently and unequally by climate change impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	available supports and services that can support me and others in with the health/mental health effects of climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Other supports and services at community-based organizations and other organizations that can support me and others with the impacts of climate change in our community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**POST-WORKSHOP SURVEY**

**The African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program**

Dear workshop participant,

Now that the workshop has finished, we would like to hear your opinions about today’s event. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Thank you!!

<b>I FEEL THAT THE WORKSHOP</b>							
		<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
1	will assist climate policymakers to more meaningfully incorporate African Nova Scotian people's experiences, priorities, challenges, and opportunities related to climate change impacts and climate preparedness into climate policy and decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	will result in the provision of better climate change readiness and preparedness supports for my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	helped me understand the link between climate change vulnerability and impacts and other systemic inequalities facing my community and other African Nova Scotian communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	helped me understand the steps I need to take to prepare my family and community for the impacts of climate change.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	made me more aware of the supports and other resources available to me to engage in a climate change preparedness plan to address the impacts of climate change in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	provided me with more insight into the role that race, gender, culture, age, disability, income, where people live and other social factors play in how	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	different communities are impacted differently and unequally by climate change impacts						
7	clarified the role that climate change organizations and climate policymakers and decision makers need to play in assisting my community and other African Nova Scotian communities in developing a climate change preparedness plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	provided valuable information that I would like to share with others in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**BASED ON TODAY'S WORKSHOP, I HAVE AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF:**

		<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
9	the factors that cause climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	how climate change impacts African Nova Scotian and other marginalized communities in specific ways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	how other social justice struggles are connected to climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	available supports and services that can support me and others in my community to prepare for and address climate change impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13	Other supports and services at community-based organizations and other organizations that can support my community in preparing for and addressing climate change impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**ABOUT YOU !**

14	Gender Identity	Please specify:				
15	Age Group	<30 <input type="checkbox"/>	31-45 <input type="checkbox"/>	45-60 <input type="checkbox"/>	>60 <input type="checkbox"/>	
16	Residence	Halifax Regional Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Which city/town?	Other region in Nova Scotia <input type="checkbox"/> Which one?			

**What were the highlights of the workshop?**

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**What needs to be improved for this workshop?**

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