

**Climate Change Town Hall:
Resources for Municipalities**
MNL Symposium Session Takeaways

Since last we gathered...

MNL's 2021 Conference and AGM coincided with the last Conference of the Parties (COP26): we know those [outcomes](#) now, along with what's in our federal and provincial 2022 Budgets.



You told us you wanted to hear more from one another about municipally-driven climate change actions already underway across Newfoundland and Labrador so that's what our **Climate Change Town Hall** at Symposium has focused on. This *Takeaways* sheet – like the [one we provided for our 2021 Conference](#) – is meant to give you some more links to programs and resources out there now to help support your own adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Where to start? A few more some suggestions...

Climate Atlas of Canada (<https://climateatlas.ca/>) – We screened their [Ferryland video](#) in the Town Hall to set up our sharing of steps towards adaptation to some of the dramatic impacts visited upon coastal community infrastructure due to increased storm action. The Atlas is “...an interactive tool for citizens, researchers, businesses, and community and political leaders to learn about climate change in Canada. It combines climate science, mapping, videography, and storytelling to bring the global issue of climate change closer to home, and is designed to inspire local, regional, and national action and solutions.” The Atlas includes information from all across the country but is a project of the [Prairie Climate Centre](#) – one of the regional Climate Services hubs existing across Canada now, funded by the [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) (CCCS) of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

CLIMAtlantic is Atlantic Canada's climate services hub. Our 2021 Conference *Takeaways* sheet introduced them but they'd still been getting themselves set up at the time. Their website (<https://climatlantic.ca/>) is up and running now and is a similarly rich and growing resource for your local climate change action research and planning support purposes. Check it out. Also, note that their Climate Specialist for Newfoundland and Labrador is based here with [econext](#) (formerly NEIA).

While we're on [econext](#), check out these new [videos](#) and the [Walking the Walk podcast series](#) they commissioned Fundamental Inc. to develop as part of their FCM *Transitions 2050* partner grant project.

The growing **Climate Caucus** (CC) municipal network – also highlighted in our November 2021 *Takeaways* – carries on with regional chapter meetings as well as periodic webinars on pertinent GHG-busting topics and pilot efforts. Keep an eye on their [calendar](#).

Finally, the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** (FCM) portal - <https://fcm.ca/en/resources> – remains a searchable go-to for all the kinds of things noted in the first *Takeaways* sheet. New content is being added all the time though so bookmark it and visit it regularly.

Don't forget our list of “Where to Start” tips in our November 2021 *Takeaways* sheet, especially resources like MNL's fillable version of the [7-Steps Vulnerability Assessment Toolkit](#).

Hot Tips from Tony and Mike...

Says **Mayor Mike Doyle** (Town of Harbour Main-Chapel's Cove-Lakeview):

"With a town population just over 1000 and a budget of just over \$900,000, it turns out climate change actions are just what we needed to make our town sustainable.

While some look at composting and recycling programs as the right thing to do for the environment, we have learned it is the right thing to do for our budget. Our local effort is projected to save our town \$25,000/year while creating new jobs, new revenue AND removing 1,430 tonnes of CO2 over five years.

Climate change has affected and eroded our shorelines. To combat this, we put in a breakwater and are working to reinforce our shoreline now with cribbing. While responding to climate changes, this project is also creating a new local marina that will reduce vehicle emissions for those currently traveling outside of the community to launch and moor their boats, only to turn around and sail back here to fish cod in our harbour! This will bring in roughly \$8,000-\$10,000 of new revenue.

If you are completing grant applications, know that climate change IS the topic of the day. Even small projects add up. Take the retrofit of our Town Hall or our Community Garden and Solar-Powered Greenhouse: They have helped our municipality act on climate change while putting change \$\$\$ back in the bank for our residents."

Curious about that online [municipal climate change leadership program](#) **Mayor Tony Keats** (Town of Dover) has been doing, taught by the University of Waterloo? It was offered through the [Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program](#) (MCIP), just one of the numerous FCM programs highlighted in our last Takeaways sheet.

Says **Mayor Tony Keats**:

"Doing our part when it comes to climate change means we need to look at mitigation and adaptation. We must take an inventory within our communities – an inventory of our existing infrastructure – and look at the preventative work needed to minimize any future climate change impacts to our municipalities. The Town of Dover is working on just this kind of living document – one that shows the need for repairs or replacements of infrastructure before major climate impacts can occur."

Have a listen to Tony's new municipal issues podcast – [The Chambers](#) – and follow his [updates](#) via Twitter.

Climate change action-oriented events to watch...

Just a few things we're aware of between now and our 2022 Conference and AGM (2-5 November, Gander)

Food security remains a particularly accessible pathway for local climate change action by households across our province. The timing of their event conflicted with our Symposium but, luckily, the [Food Producers Forum](#) are taping all of their free [Regeneration: Soil Food, Community](#) online public engagement conference (5-7 May) for later online viewing. Also, check out this recent Harris Centre [Organics Waste-to-Value Forum](#) event.

National Adaptation Strategy Symposium – 16 May 2022 – register [here](#).

This online afternoon (for those of us in NL) event is the launch of the federal engagement for a Canadian adaptation strategy. The event will feature an opening presentation by the Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister, ECCC; panels on climate change adaptation opportunities and challenges in Canada; and, a presentation on the latest climate projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the CCCS.

The **Climate Change & Resilient Infrastructure** project, funded by NRCan's [Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise \(BRACE\) Program](#) and led by Dr. Joe Daraio of Memorial University's Faculty of Engineering, was referred to in [our last Takeaways](#) e-handout. Working with Fundamental Inc., Dr. Daraio will be hosting a series of in-person regional wrap-up workshops in September-October 2022. If you'd like further information, look for Dr. Daraio at the 2022 Symposium. An MNL-hosted webinar seeking input on this initiative is also planned for late May 2022. Keep an eye out for our registration email!