



# Climate-Ready NL

## *Updates from the Field*

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7 May 2026

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MNL Community Collaboration and Development Officer

*Lead – Climate-Ready NL*

**Evan Cox, President**

*Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services*

# climate **READY** NL



Made possible through  
funding from the  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities'  
Green Municipal Fund and the  
Government of Canada



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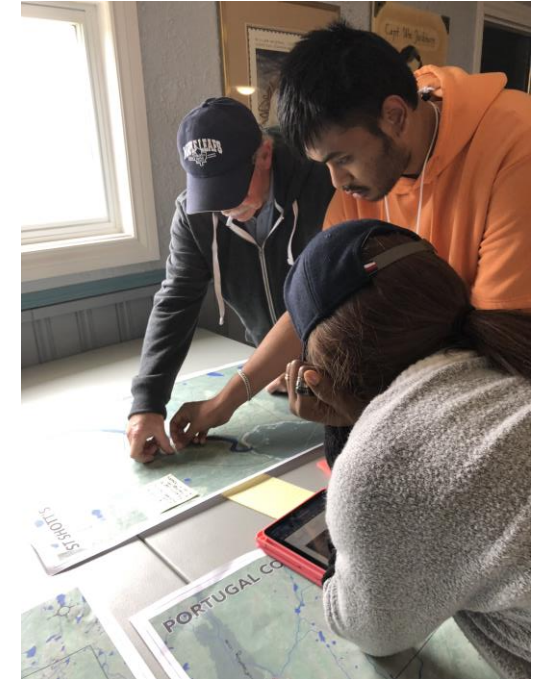
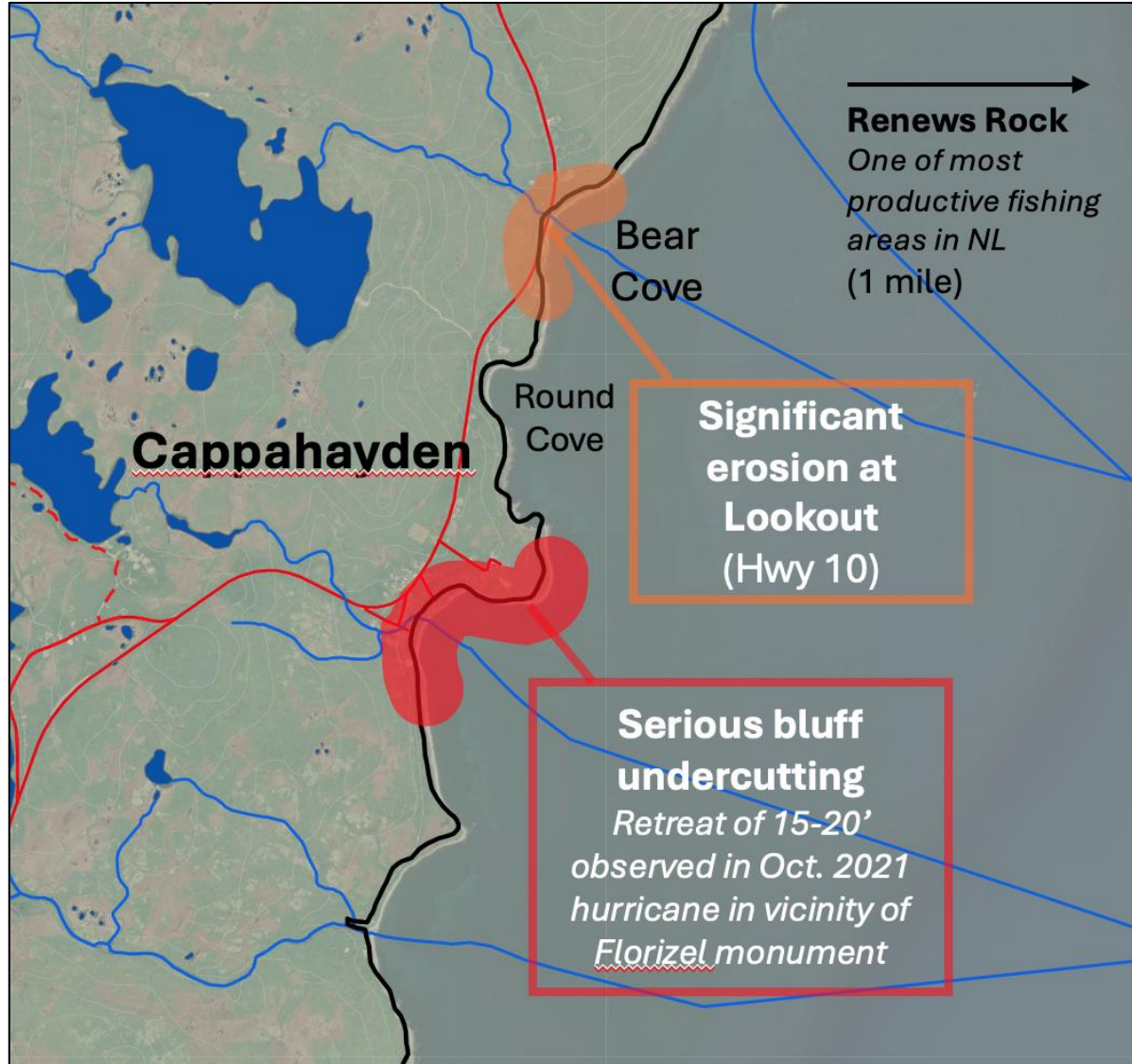
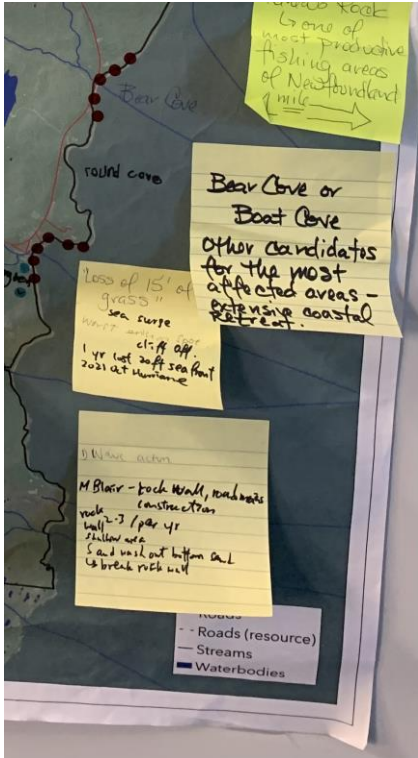


# Climate-Ready NL

- 1 Sector-Wide Climate Adaptation Campaign**
- 2 Climate-Informed Emergency Planning**
- 3 Nature-based Adaptation Options**

*Our Newfoundland and Labrador municipal sector-representing team*

# CLIMATE HAZARD MAPPING



# TIMELINE

**Activity 1**  
Sector Campaign:  
*Climate Hazard Mapping*  
*Climate data*



*We are here*



**Activity 2**  
Climate-Informed  
Emergency  
Planning



$\frac{3}{4}$   
50



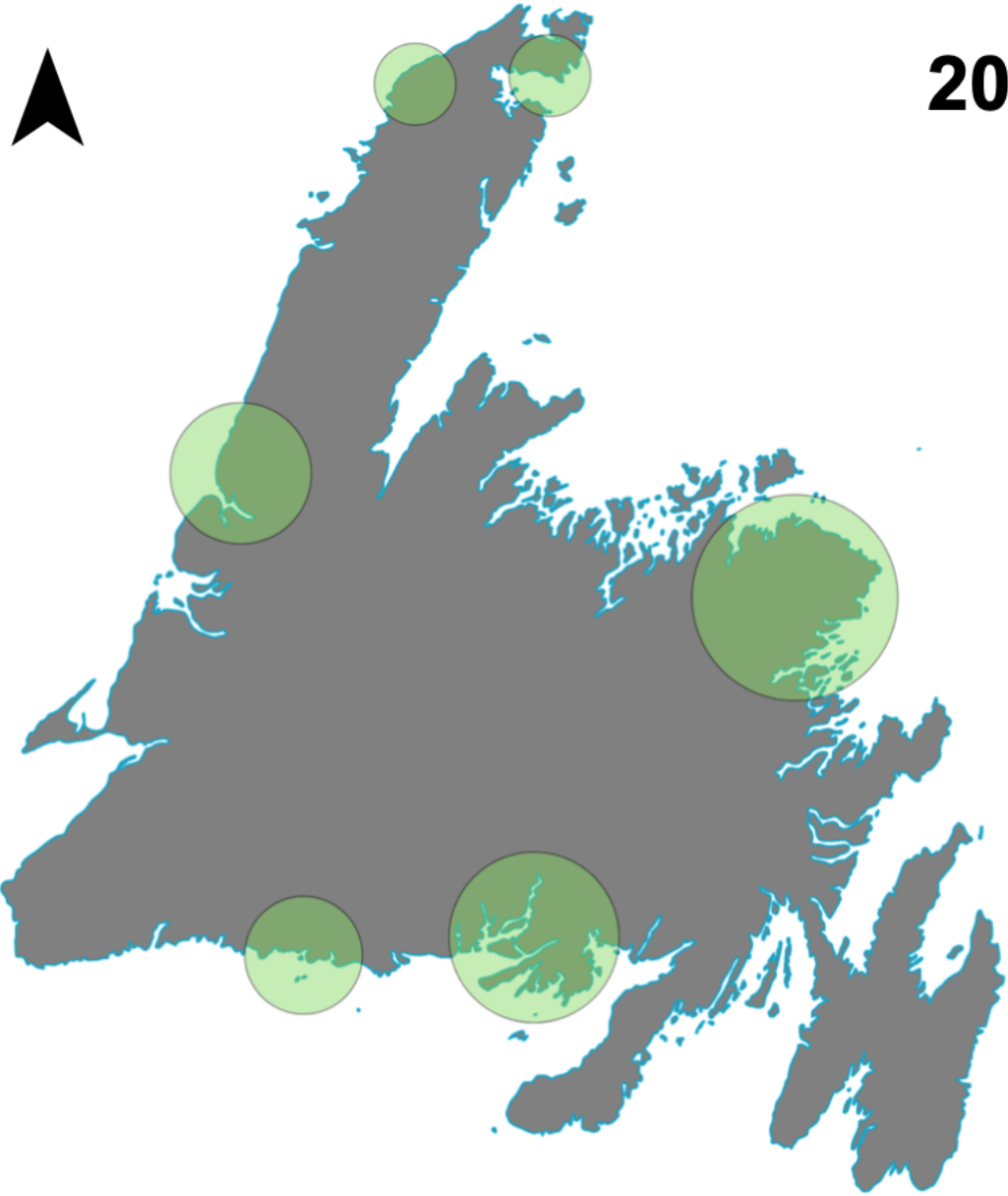
**Activity 3**  
Watershed-Scale &  
Nature-based  
Adaptation Options



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15



# 2025 Field Season Coverage



## Legend



Regional clusters of field activities



Coastline



Landmass

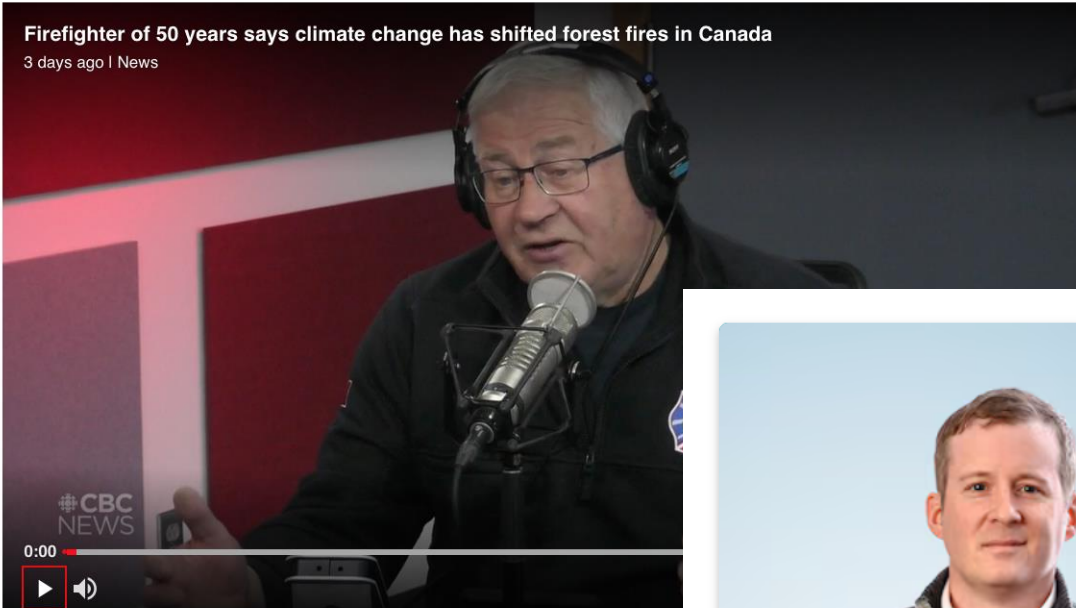
*Labrador fieldwork  
will commence in 2026.*

## Emerging Themes

### Wildfire and Drought

Warmer and drier summers have lengthened the wildfire season. Residents report more extreme heat days, longer dry spells, much less snowpack and lower water levels, in some cases affecting **town water supplies**. Most towns expressed interest in developing a **fire break**.

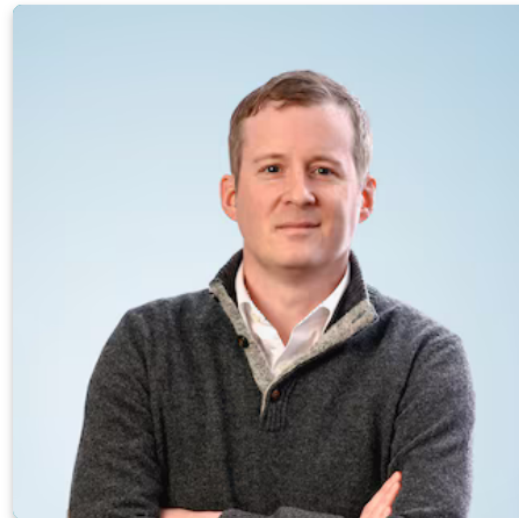




## Firefighter of 50 years says climate change has shifted forest fires in Canada

3 days ago | News | 1:02

Fire crews continue to monitor wildfires in Labrador on Monday, while other communities across the province remain under a fire ban. One of those towns is Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, where fire Chief Fred Hollett says he's seen the season change dramatically over his five decades on the job.



[Listen to more episodes of The Signal >](#)

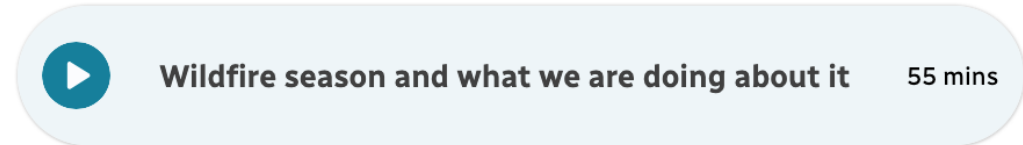


The Signal | Wildfire season and what we are doing about...

CBC News NL - Newfoundla... 55 views • 6 hours ago

On Demand

## The Signal with Adam Walsh



June 5, 2025

Today on the show we talk about wildfire season in Newfoundland and Labrdor. We talk about the current state of wildfires, the intensity and their frequency, and what people and communities are need to do to prepare and adapt.

### GUESTS

Kathleen Parewick Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador community collaboration and development officer; Fred Hollett, fire chief of Portugal Cove-St. Phillip's; Therese Greenwood, author and survivor of the Fort McMurray wildfires back in 2016; Duane Antle, fire chief for the town of Come By Chance and president of the NL Association of Fire Services; Amy Coady, Grand Falls-Windsor councillor and president of MNL; Ron Barron, mayor of Wabush; Myrna Goosney, town manager of Glenburnie-Birchy Head-Shoal Brook

## Emerging Themes

### Heavy Rainfall and Overland Flooding

Rain events are becoming more intense and unpredictable. There are more frequent accounts of flooding following major storm events. Heavier downpours, rain-on-snow events, and blocked or undersized culverts are often leading to road washouts and property damage.



## Emerging Themes

### Coastal Erosion and Storm Surges

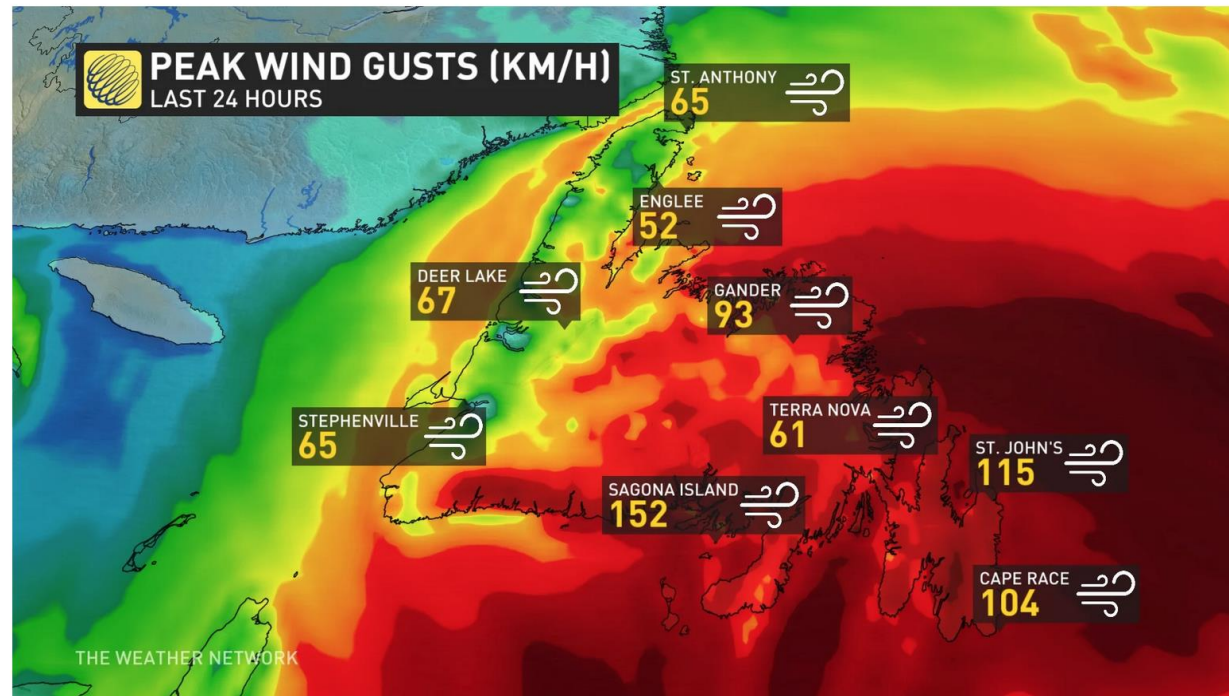
Sea-level rise, stronger wave action, greatly reduced ice extent and shorter periods of frozen ground are reshaping the island's shorelines. Some degree of coastal erosion was present in every town visited this field season, as were protective installations such as berms, armourstone, gabion walls, cribbing and breakwaters.



# Emerging Themes

## Storms and Extreme Weather

Residents reported **stronger winds**, intense storms and more damaging hurricanes, regularly noting associated flooding and **infrastructure loss**. Named events varied by region, season and wind direction e.g. Hurricane Fiona affecting the southwest portion of the Island (September 2022); towns in the Gambo area hit hard by a January 5, 2025 storm.



Peak wind gusts from the weekend storm (updated January 5)

## Emerging Themes

### Slope Instability and Landslides

Instability associated with steep slopes, heavy precipitation events, development-related undercutting and vegetation loss was documented. Roughly a third of the towns visited had a history of dangerous slope movement.



# Emerging Themes

## Emergency Response and Preparedness

All these small towns depend on volunteer firefighters. Their fire departments provide many critical emergency services but are not trained or equipped to fight wildfires. Towns relying on a single access road know they face additional risks in the event of a major emergency. In addition to better equipment, training, and periodic emergency exercises, more reliable communication systems are required.



# Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada

- A “*place-based knowledge mobilization network*”
- Federally-funded - \$11.7M over four years (2025-29)

**Engage • Connect • Accelerate**

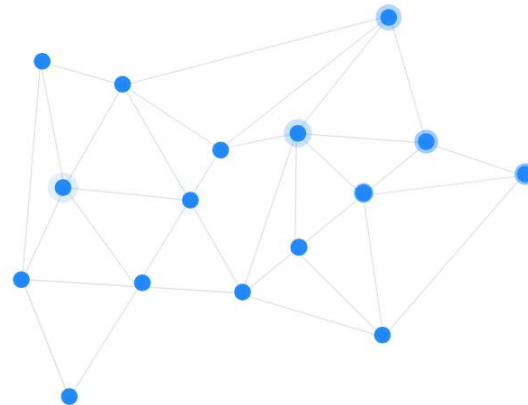


## A platform created to connect the dots.

Canada is increasingly experiencing severe wildfires from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Addressing this challenge requires a multifaceted strategy that incorporates the acceleration of technology implementation and innovation, respects and integrates Indigenous knowledge and practices, and promotes adaptive forest management. The Wildfire Resilience Consortium of Canada (WRCC) is a purpose-built, not-for-profit organization that aims to unify these elements to create a transformative approach to wildfire management for the country and beyond.

Through the place-based knowledge mobilization network, the technology and innovation accelerator and a core focus on Indigenous fire stewardship and long term land management, WRCC will be the bridge that leads us to enhanced resilience against wildfires. The WRCC's approach is holistic, collaborative, and adaptive, ensuring that Canada is better prepared for and resilient to the growing wildfire threat.

 [See Our Strategic Plan](#)



<https://wrcc-crffc.com/about>

# 2024-2032 opportunities



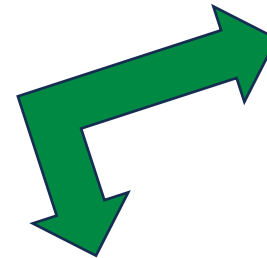
<https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/local-leadership-climate-adaptation>

## \$530M – 1,400 communities



### Climate-Ready Plans and Processes

Helping municipalities develop comprehensive climate adaptation strategies



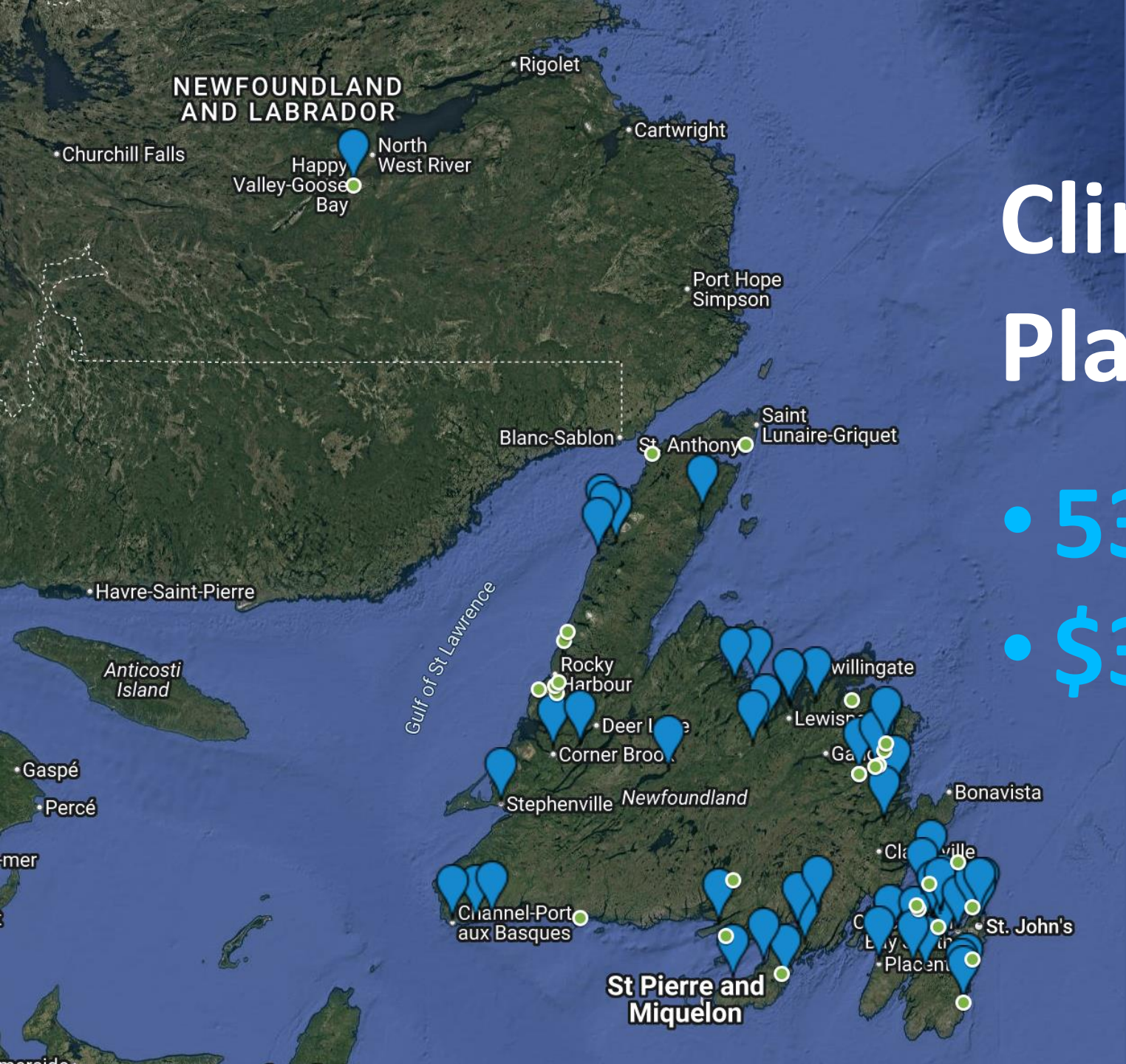
### Feasibility study: Adaptation in Action

Funding for climate adaptation through municipal services



### Implementation projects: Adaptation in Action

Empowering municipalities to thrive in a changing climate

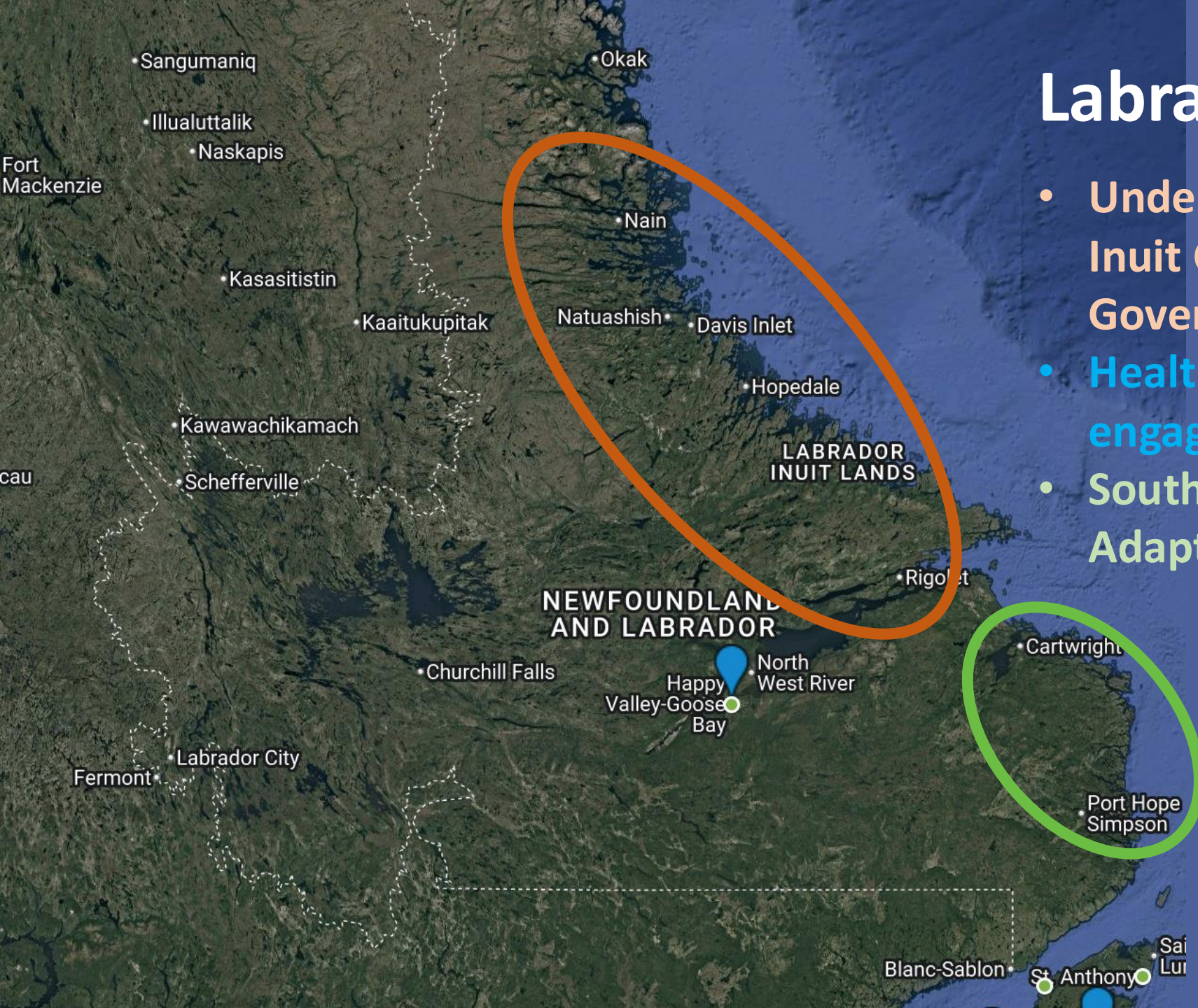


# Climate Ready Plans & Processes

- 53 NL recipients
- \$3.5M

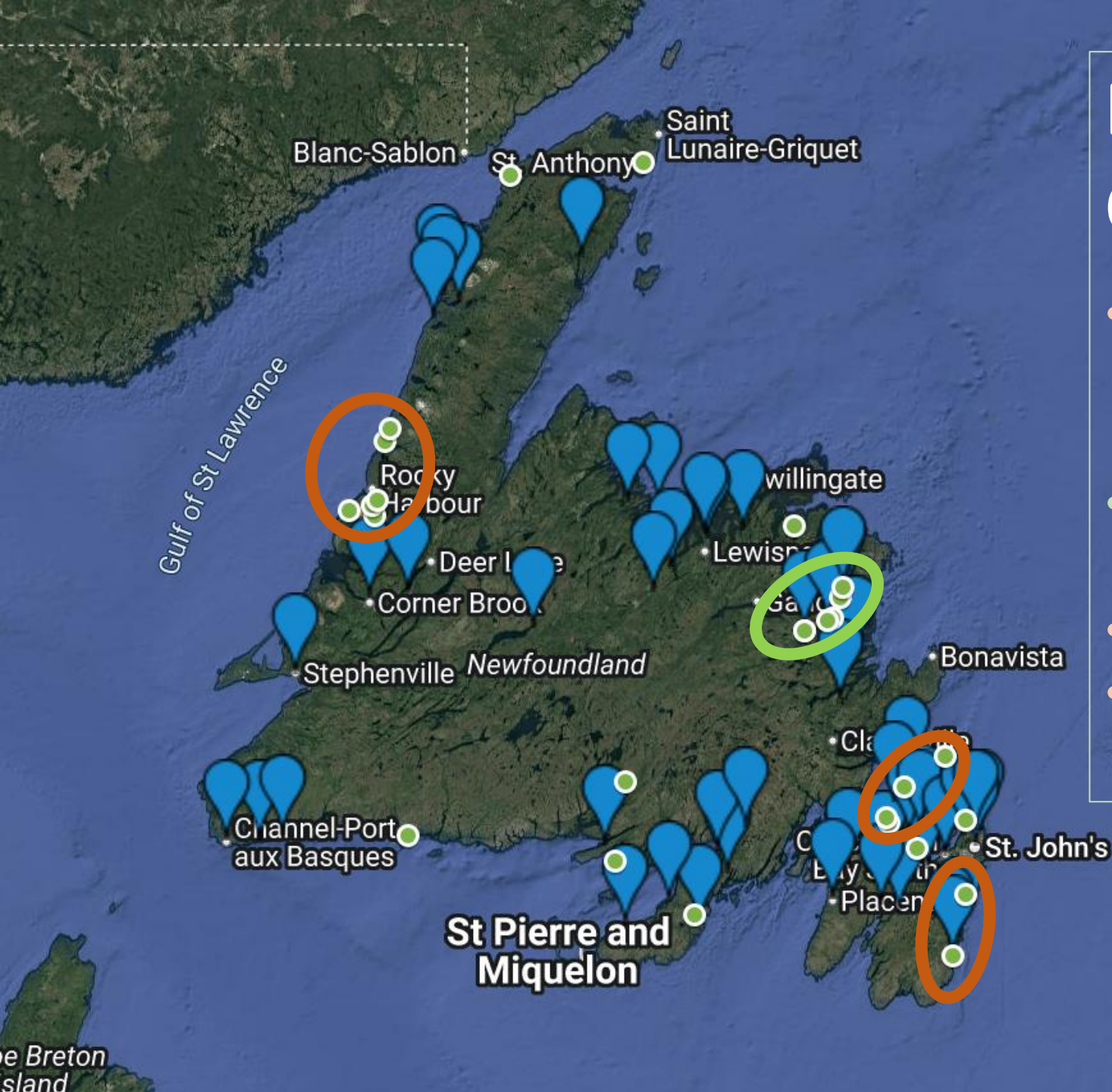
# Labrador Activities

- Understanding Nunatsiavut's Inuit Community
- Government Fire Services
- Healthy Waters Labrador engagement
- South Coast (Nature-Based Adaptation Stream)



# Emerging Regional Conversations

- Understanding Fire and Emergency Preparedness in Gros Morne
- Youth-engaged climate observations
- Trinity-Conception region
- Avalon Southern Shore



# Nature-based climate solutions?

Using the restoration, conservation and management of wetlands, grasslands, shorelines and forests, to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

# 3

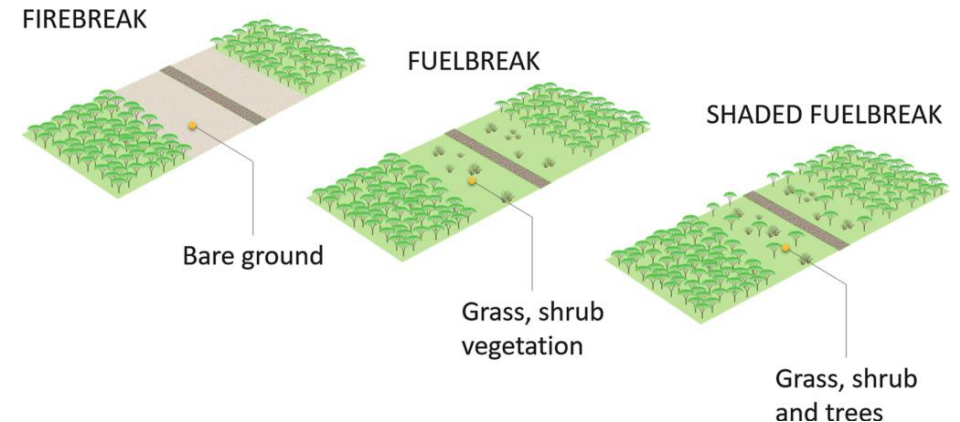


**Erosion or slope movement**  
→ assess drainage and vegetation



**Flooding**  
→ Enhance and conserve natural drainage and wetlands

**Fuel Breaks**  
→ Manage and/or modify vegetation



# Climate-informed emergency planning?

Ensure identified and emerging climate risk and hazard scenarios are reflected in local/regional emergency plans, mutual aid arrangements, training, equipment and other first response resources.

# 2

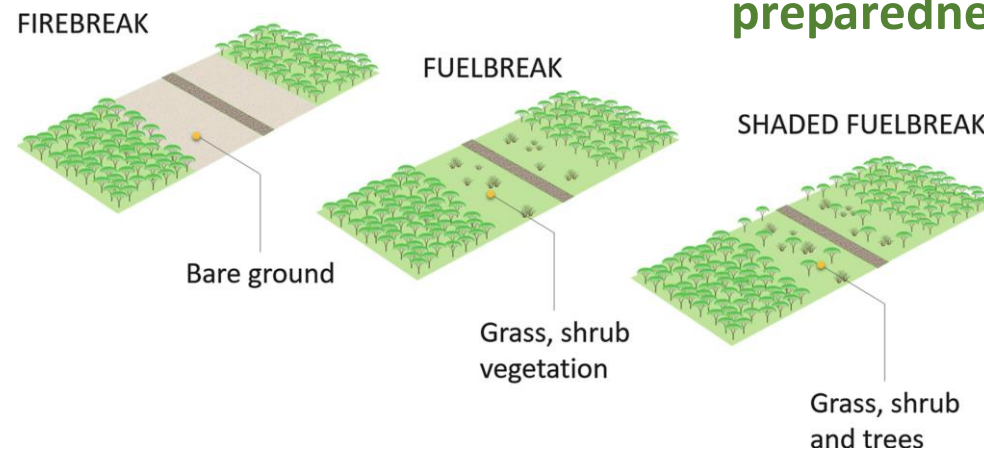


**Extreme weather, flooding, erosion, slope movement...**

- Communications
- Infrastructure failure
- Access affected
- Power outages
- Vulnerable populations

## **Wildfire**

- Household, community and landscape-scale preparedness



## NLAFS Roles:

- Directors (and/or delegates) co-create framework
- Train-the-Trainer web meetings
- Undertake periodic touchpoint activities with participating fire departments in region
- Guidance and troubleshooting in support of regional emergency cooperation

**Evolving emergency planning environment**

- New partners and resources
- Climate-informed guidance

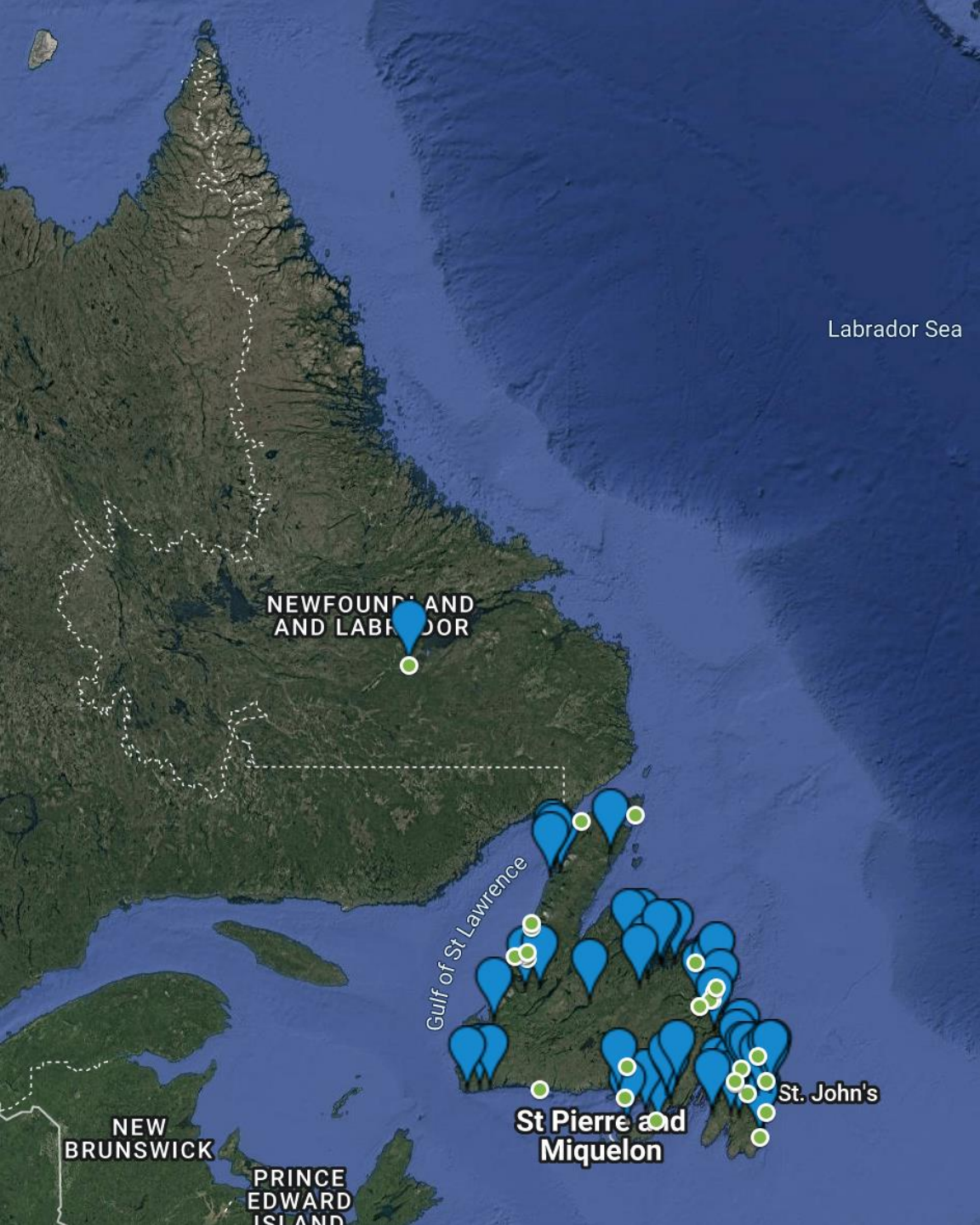


# 2

**Regional connections**

- Operational issues and capacity
- Firefighter networking





## Food for thought...

Have you started?

How prepared are you?

Is there a common challenge  
you'd like to dig into with others  
in your region?

# *Thank-you!*

**A** Arnold's Cove Fire Department  
Aspen Cove Fire Department  
Avondale Volunteer Fire Department

**B** Baine Harbour Volunteer Fire Department  
Bay de Grave Regional Fire Department  
Bay Roberts Fire Rescue  
Baytona Volunteer Fire Department  
Birchy Bay Volunteer Fire Department  
Bishop's Falls Fire Rescue  
Bonavista Volunteer Fire Department  
Botwood Fire Department  
Boyd's Cove Fire Department  
Branch Volunteer Fire Department  
Brown's Arm Fire Department  
Buchans Volunteer Fire Department  
Burgeo Fire Department  
Burin Volunteer Fire Department  
Burlington Volunteer Fire Department

**C** Campbellton Fire Department  
Carbonear Volunteer Fire Department  
Carmanville Volunteer Fire Department  
Cartwright Volunteer Fire Department  
Channel-Port aux Basques Volunteer Fire Department  
Charlottetown Volunteer Fire Department  
Clarenville Volunteer Fire Department  
Coachmans Cove Fire Department  
Codroy Valley Volunteer Fire Department  
Come By Chance Fire Department  
Comfort Cove-Newstead Fire Dept  
Conne River Fire Rescue  
Cow Head Volunteer Fire Department

**D** Deer Lake Fire Rescue

**E** Eastport Peninsula Fire Department  
English Harbour East Fire Department

**F** Fire and Emergency Services Churchill Falls  
Fogo Island Fire Services  
Forteau Fire Department  
Fortune Volunteer Fire Department

**G** Gambo Fire Department  
Gander Bay Fire Department  
Garnish Volunteer Fire Department  
Gillams Fire Rescue  
Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department  
Glovertown Fire Rescue  
Goulds Volunteer Fire Department  
Grand Bank Fire Department  
Grand Falls-Windsor Fire Department  
Greenspond Volunteer Fire Department

**H** H.I.S.(Hughes Brook,Irishtown-Summerside) Fire/Rescue  
Hants Harbour Volunteer Fire Department  
Happy Valley - Goose Bay Fire/Rescue  
Harbour Breton Volunteer Fire Department  
Harbour Grace Volunteer Fire Brigade  
Harbour Main - Chapels Cove - Lakeview Volunteer  
Fire Department  
Harbour Mille-Little Harbour East Fire Department  
Hare Bay / Dover Fire Department  
Heart's Delight-Islington Volunteer Fire Department  
Holyrood Fire Department  
Howley Volunteer Fire Department

**K** Kings Cove and Area Volunteer Fire Department

***Thank-you!***

**L** Labrador City Fire Department  
Lamaline Volunteer Fire Department  
Lawn Volunteer Fire Department  
Lethbridge & Area Volunteer Fire Department  
Lewistown Regional Fire Rescue  
Little Burnt Bay Fire Department  
Lord's Cove Volunteer Fire Dept  
Lumsden Volunteer Fire Department

**M** Main Point-Davidsville Volunteer Fire Department  
Marystown Volunteer Fire Department  
Massey Drive Volunteer Fire Department  
Mount Carmel Volunteer Fire Department  
Mount Moriah Volunteer Fire Department  
Musgrave Harbour Volunteer Fire Department  
New-Wes-Valley Fire Rescue

**N** Norris Arm North Volunteer Fire Department  
Norris Point Volunteer Fire Department  
North Harbour Volunteer Fire Department  
North Shore Volunteer Fire Department  
Northern Arm Volunteer Fire Department  
Northern Bight Fire Department

**O** Old Perlican Volunteer Fire Department

**P** Peterview Volunteer Fire Department  
Placentia Volunteer Fire Department  
Point Leamington Volunteer Fire Department  
Point May Fire Department  
Port au Choix Vol. Fire and Regional Rescue  
Port au Port Regional Volunteer Fire Department  
Port Blandford Volunteer Fire Department  
Portugal Cove - St. Philip's Volunteer Fire Department  
Pouch Cove Volunteer Fire Dept.

***Thank-you!***

**R** Raleigh-Ship Cove Volunteer Fire Department  
Ramea Volunteer Fire Department  
Random East Volunteer Fire Department  
Random West Volunteer Fire Department

**S** Seaside Volunteer Fire Department  
South Side Fire Department  
Spaniard's Bay Fire Department  
Springdale Fire Rescue  
St. Alban's Fire Rescue Department  
St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department  
St. Bernard's-Jacques Fontaine Volunteer  
Fire Department  
Stephenville Crossing Volunteer Fire Department  
Summerville-Princeton-Southern Bay

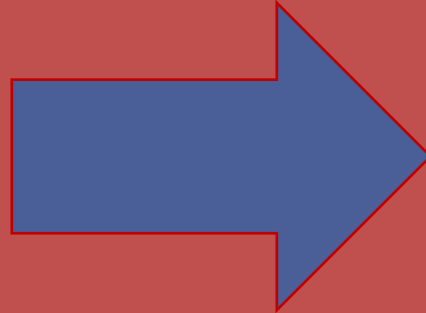
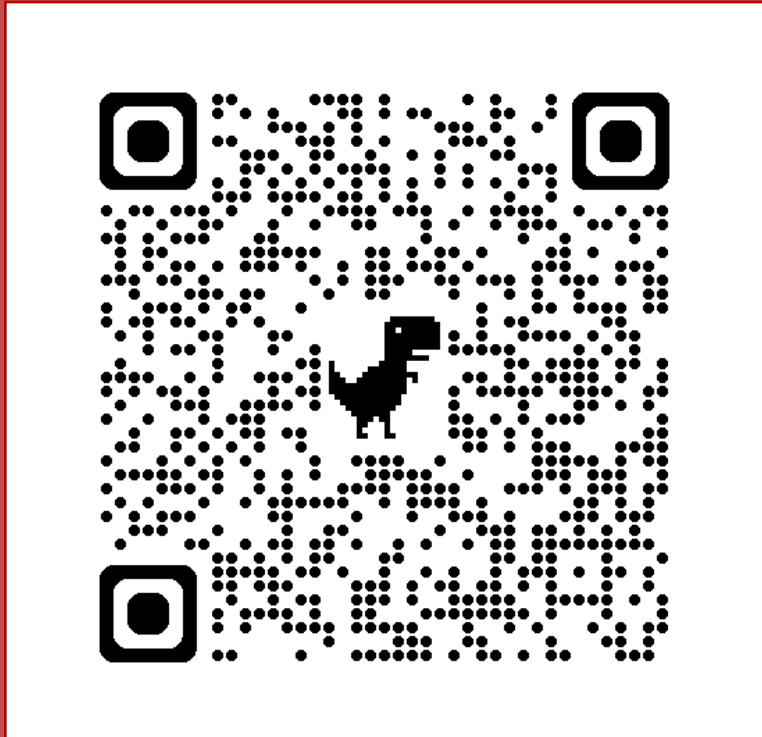
**T** Terrenceville Volunteer Fire Department  
Three Islands Regional Central Station  
Tizzard's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department  
Torbay Volunteer Fire Department  
Trinity and Area Volunteer Fire Department  
Trinity Bay North Volunteer Fire Department  
Trout River Volunteer Fire Department  
Twillingate Volunteer Fire Department

**V** Victoria Volunteer Fire Department

**W** Wabush Volunteer Fire Department  
Whitbourne Fire Rescue  
Witless Bay Volunteer Fire Department

***Thank-you!***

# NLAFS Survey - Part 1 due this week!



Grab this QR Code and check that your Fire Chief has it done!

## 2026 NL Fire Department survey – Pt. 1 (Fire Chief or designate)

Thank you for taking time to fill out this survey regarding your Fire Department.

The **Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services (NLAFS)** recognizes that first responder **recruitment and retention** is on the minds of most fire department leaders. We are asking each fire department across Newfoundland and Labrador to participate in this survey in order to better understand those circumstances. This will be a two-step process entailing department-level responses by Fire Chiefs or their designates to this **first questionnaire** (Part 1), and a **second questionnaire** designed for and completed by individual firefighters (Part 2).

By participating in this survey, you will contribute to building the knowledge that your association needs to identify the current firefighting challenges and opportunities in our province, so we can better advocate on behalf of your fire departments and firefighters.

Information collected here will remain anonymous and will only be reported in aggregate form (i.e. you will not be identifiable as an individual in any results).

We thank you for your time and your service to our communities.

Should you have any questions about this survey or how any results will be shared, or if you would prefer to complete a hardcopy version of this survey, please contact:

**NLAFS Recruitment & Retention Committee**  
Email: [randr@nlfireservices.com](mailto:randr@nlfireservices.com)

**Please submit by:** Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Please be aware that some questions in this survey may touch on sensitive topics and could be triggering or upsetting. Your participation is voluntary, and your comfort is important, so feel free to skip any questions that you prefer not to answer.

Please reach out to **LifeWise First Responders WarmLine** if you require any supports.  
12 noon -12 midnight (11:30am—11:30pm Labrador), seven days a week.  
1-709-237-4180  
<https://lifewisenl.ca/services>



**Dr. Kathleen Parewick**

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(709) 728-8393

*Reach out if you'd like  
your town to join our  
Climate-Ready network!*



**Municipalities**

Newfoundland and Labrador