

# Preface

In late 2010 and early January 2011, Atlantic Canada experienced a series of severe winter storms with high winds and surge that caused important damage in several coastal communities. Some people experienced flooding, while others coastal erosion. Subsequently, in 2011, a large multisite longitudinal project was initiated to (1) better understand people's experiences with storms and (2) co-construct with these communities adaptation plans for the future, thus improving their resilience to climate change. Interviews were conducted in 2011–2012 and again in 2014 as a follow-up to examine changes in perception over time. This brief seeks to present the findings from the second set of interviews in 2014 compared to the initial findings. Based on in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus groups in 10 studied communities in Québec and New Brunswick, it was discovered that people felt resilient, but at the same time vulnerable to storms and other extreme events. While they may have been involved in the longitudinal project, the lessons learned extracted from the findings show that much more remains to be done in order to ensure that communities are prepared for future environmental and climate changes. As this project used a participatory action research approach, this brief conveys the importance of integrating local actors from various sectors and their existing knowledge when developing adaptation plans and proactive coastal management strategies.

St. Catharines, Canada  
St. Catharines, Canada  
Rimouski, Canada

Liette Vasseur  
Mary J. Thornbush  
Steve Plante

<http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-63491-3>

Adaptation to Coastal Storms in Atlantic Canada

Vasseur, L.; Thornbush, M.J.; Plante, S.

2018, XII, 91 p. 2 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-63491-3