

Mission Statement

Flood Risk in Nova Scotia is on the Rise

Floods are the most commonly occurring natural disaster in Canada and pose a threat to critical infrastructure, properties, and in extreme cases, can even put lives at risk (PSC, 2021). Nova Scotia is vulnerable to both inland and coastal flooding events, both of which are increasing in frequency and severity as a result of climate change (Warren & Lemmen, 2014). Sea level rise will further exacerbate effects on coastal communities, which comprise 70% of Nova Scotia's population (Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2009).

In Nova Scotia, extreme precipitation events, melting of snowpack, river ice jams, tidal events, and storm surges, or a combination of factors may result in flooding (GOC, 2010). Inland flooding occurs when a body of water takes on more volume than it typically confines, leading to the excess being redirected over the surrounding landscape. While flooding is a natural phenomenon in Nova Scotia, flooding becomes an issue when it damages property, infrastructure, or negatively impacts human lives.

Flood Ready NS aims to prepare Nova Scotians in the event of extreme weather with the best available information regarding flood risk in their areas. It will enable the user to determine how vulnerable their area is to flooding so they can make informed decisions about flood-proofing property and planning alternate routes to critical infrastructure in the event of road washouts. This resource is invaluable to community planners as well as it highlights areas where infrastructure improvements and reinforcements should be targeted.

Further, Flood Ready NS connects users to existing flood safety information from the provincial and federal governments, including steps that can be taken before, during, and after a flood to minimize damage and danger. Users are also connected to resources offering assistance to those impacted by flooding which may be able to mitigate some of the financial burden.