

Using Environmental Grey Literature to Engage Public Participation in Decision Making: Government Transparency in Coastal Policy Development

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Peter G. Wells**

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www.eiui.ca

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“Your ‘Our Coast’ literature is sound. Distribute, distribute, etc. Talk to and engage the community, NGOs. Come visit us, talk with us — we’d be pleased to help with key local/provincial strategies.”



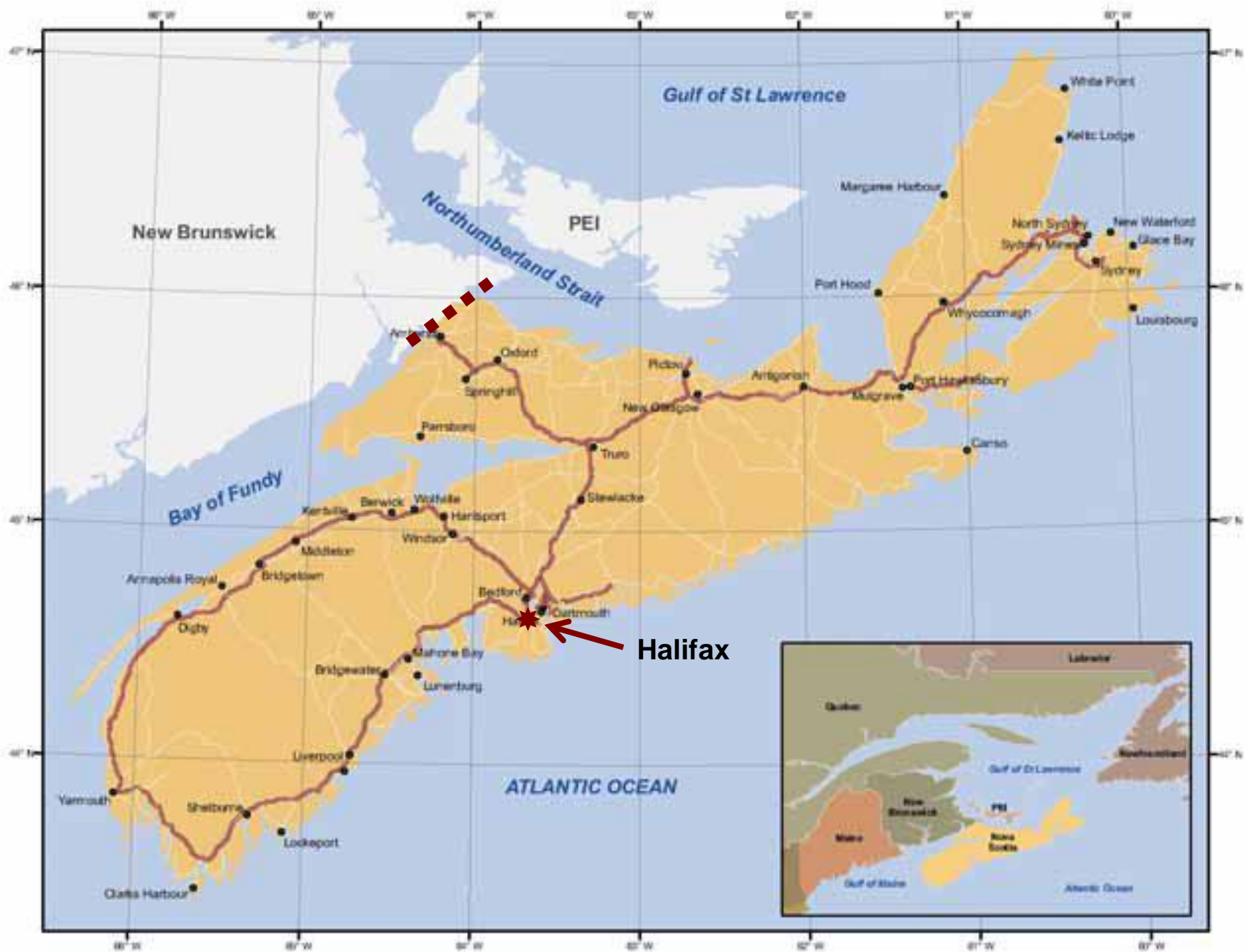
(A16, Open House, Antigonish, Nova Scotia May 2010)



“The community needs to have the final say in any development. I strongly recommend that these sessions come directly to the coastal communities so that the fishermen have a chance to ask questions and state their MANY concerns.”

W18, Open House, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, May 2010







“The *State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report* provides an overview of the condition of our coast and information on priority coastal issues. We must look at ways to protect the coast where we live, work, and play. It is vital to who we are and a way of life that is valued by Nova Scotians.”

Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

“This report is a snapshot of the current state of the province's coast, including its history. Using feedback from Nova Scotians, as well as information in the report, a coastal strategy will be developed for release in 2010.”

***Justin Huston, Chair of the
Provincial Oceans Network***





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Our Coast

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SEARCH

HOME

STATE OF THE COAST REPORT

PRIORITY COASTAL ISSUES

- > Coastal Development
- > Working Waterfronts
- > Public Access
- > Sea-level Rise and Storm Events
- > Coastal Water Quality
- > Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems

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FURTHER INFORMATION

- > Links

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Coastal Management in Nova Scotia


The Government of Nova Scotia has made coastal management a priority with the release of its **State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report**. This Report provides baseline information on our coastal areas and resources, which we will use to develop a **Coastal Strategy**. The Strategy will outline how we will take action to address the coastal issues that matter most to Nova Scotians.

Updates – [Report on Coastal Consultation now available, consultation on draft Coastal Strategy planned for 2011](http://gov.ns.ca/coast/2010consultationreport.htm). Le document « Qu'avons-nous entendu? » peut être consulté au <http://gov.ns.ca/coast/2010consultationreport.htm>

The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report

Learn more about Nova Scotia's coast and the issues that the Coastal Strategy will address.

TAKE ME THERE ➔



Priority Coastal Issues


The government is focusing its coastal management efforts on six issues:

- Coastal Development**
- Working Waterfronts**
- Public Coastal Access**
- Sea-level Rise and Storm Events**
- Coastal Water Quality**
- Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems**

What We Heard

2010 Report on Nova Scotia's Coastal Consultation

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Further Information

Learn more about the Government of Nova Scotia's approach to coastal management [here](#).



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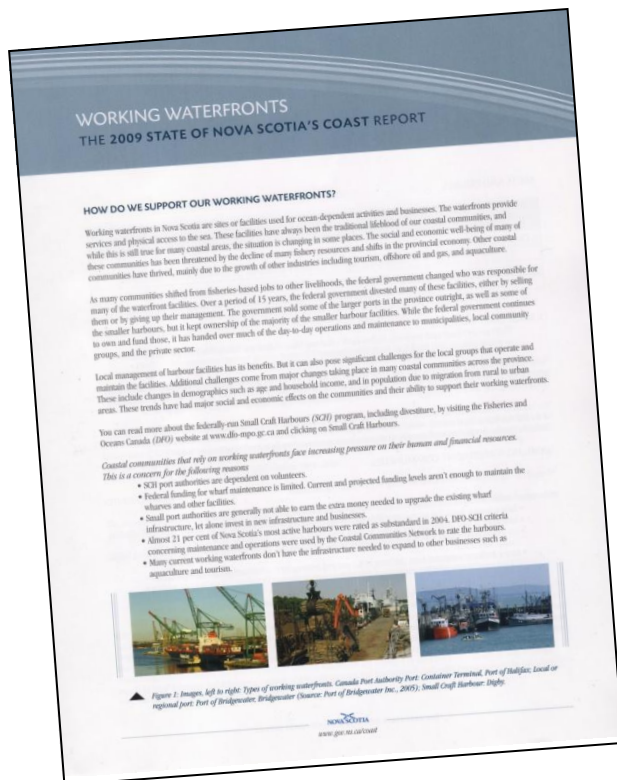
Six Priority Coastal Issues

Public Coastal Access



Six Priority Coastal Issues (2)

Working Waterfronts



Six Priority Coastal Issues (3)

Coastal Water Quality

Coastal Development

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT THE 2009 STATE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S COAST REPORT

HOW DO WE MANAGE DEVELOPMENT ALONG OUR COAST?

Coastal development is defined as the human-induced change of the landscape within sight of the coastline. This includes the building of structures that are on or near the coast. These structures and their related activities, both social and economic, can contribute to adverse effects on the coastal environment.

Nova Scotia has 13,500 kilometres of coastline. Our long coastline is highly valued for many reasons. We receive social, cultural, and economic benefits from it. Beyond its intrinsic ecological value, we also derive benefits from tourism, recreation, sport, communications, real estate, transport, renewable energy, offshore oil and gas, fisheries and aquaculture, ports, and harbours. About 70 per cent of our population lives on the coast. We need to better understand the factors that influence development near our coasts to ensure that it is done sustainably, with minimal harm to the coastal environment.

Thomas Baldock Provincial Park

Halifax

Shell's Harbour

Halifax

LESS INTENSE >

< MORE INTENSE


▲ Figure 1: Range of development intensity in coastal areas.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Development in Nova Scotia varies widely in intensity, as shown in Figure 1. About 80 per cent of the land adjacent to the coast is classified as undeveloped, as shown in Table 1. The remaining 20 per cent is classified as various land uses, including urban development at eight per cent.

DEVELOPMENT TYPE	AREA (HA)	PERCENTAGE
Undeveloped—forest	533,696	60%
Undeveloped—non-forest	130,179	14%
Urban	66,997	8%
Agriculture	56,298	7%
Infrastructure and industrial uses	21,179	3%
Managed forest stand	15,781	2%
TOTAL	886,126	100%

▲ Table 1: Coverage of different development types within two km of the Nova Scotia coastline.
(Source: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Digital Data, 1998–2000)


www.gov.ns.ca/coast

COASTAL WATER QUALITY THE 2009 STATE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S COAST REPORT

HOW DO WE PROTECT COASTAL WATER QUALITY WHILE STILL USING THE COAST?

Good quality coastal water is an important part of keeping our coasts healthy for the future. Natural marine systems, including plants, animal, and fish life need clean coastal water to survive. Humans need these marine systems to stay healthy in order for us to benefit from them. But we also need to use the water for domestic and industrial purposes, and for other activities. If we want to develop the coast in a sustainable way, we must protect coastal water.

Coastal water quality refers to the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of salt and brackish water. Brackish water is a mixture of salt and freshwater, found typically in estuaries where freshwater rivers and streams mix with the tide.

People assume that the overall quality of the province's coastal waters must be good because much of the coastline remains undeveloped or has only light residential development. When we compare the province to many places in the world, we can say that Nova Scotians enjoy relatively clean coastal waters.

However, we haven't been able to determine an overall picture of coastal water quality in the province, because there currently isn't a system in place that pulls together all this information. In many places we are not measuring the quality of our coastal waters. Existing monitoring or reporting covers only specific geographic areas or sectors, such as harbours, aquaculture, shellfish zones, and recreational beaches. These results gathered from specific monitoring are useful, and can serve as important lessons for the current and future management of activities.

Deteriorating water quality can have many ecological, social, and economic effects. These include the loss of marine plant, animal, and fish species, deteriorating shellfish quality, and restriction of recreational use. Areas of our coast are prone to coastal water quality problems, particularly in estuaries, bays, and waters next to densely populated areas. The coastline is long and many activities, both land and marine based, take place close to the shore. Figure 1 shows how the water quality of a coastal watershed can be influenced in different ways.

Figure 1: Diagram of a watershed showing activities that can influence coastal water quality.

Coastal water quality is influenced by natural geological and oceanographic processes, and by human activities. The human impacts to coastal water quality come from land, shoreline, and marine activities.


Some human activities that can affect water quality


1. LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

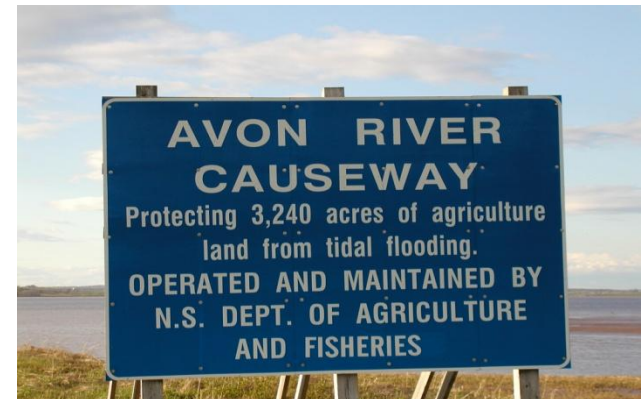
- Municipal discharge from wastewater treatment plants
- Industrial discharge
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Sewage of pollutants, nutrients, or sedimentation from residential, agricultural, and forestry activities
- Storm water drainage

2. MARINE-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Dredging and ocean dumping
- Wharves and coastal structures
- Fishing, fish processing, and aquaculture activity
- Ballast water discharged from ships
- Activities by ships
- Activities by the offshore energy industry




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Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems & Habitats

SEA LEVEL RISE & STORM EVENTS

THE 2009 STATE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S COAST REPORT

HOW DO WE PROTECT NOVA SCOTIANS FROM HAZARDS CAUSED BY SEA LEVEL RISE AND STORM EVENTS?

Like the rest of the world, sea level in Nova Scotia is rising at an accelerated rate. Much sea level has been rising globally since the peak of the last ice age 20,000 years ago. It's also rising in the province because of regional land subsidence, which is the sinking of land away from sea level.

Rise climate warming is accelerating the rate of sea level rise. The increased rate is caused by the thermal expansion of ocean water (the water volume gets larger as it warms) and the melting of land based ice or glaciers.

Researchers expect climate warming to result in more frequent and intense storms in Nova Scotia. These storms are often accompanied by storm surges, which occur when waters driven by high winds and low pressure build upshore.

Combining the relative rise in sea level with more intense storms means that storm surges will be larger. This means more risks of damage to people, property, infrastructure, wildlife, and ecosystems along the province's 13,900 kilometres of coastline.

FACTS AND FIGURES

During the twentieth century, sea level in Nova Scotia rose approximately 30 centimetres. Researchers expect an additional increase from 75 to 160 cm over the next century. The increase will depend on global greenhouse gas emission levels, ice cap melting rates, regional sea level response, and land subsidence. Researchers also expect that sea level rise will carry risks to Nova Scotians farther inland.

Figure 1: Sea-level rise at Fortress of Louisbourg (Owen Taylor et al., 2000)

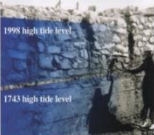
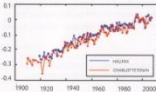


Figure 2: Historical mean annual water levels at Tadoussac and Chathamville, Quebec (Nova Scotia Environmental Data Service, 2000)



Based on averages from 1900 to 2000, the number of tropical storms in the North Atlantic has been almost twice as often in the last 11 years. This coincided in the recording-breaking storm events of 2005. Storms with extreme water levels similar to Hurricane Juan in 2003 could become more common by the end of the century.

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SENSITIVE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS

THE 2009 STATE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S COAST REPORT

HOW CAN WE PROTECT SENSITIVE AREAS WHILE WE DEVELOP AND USE THE COAST?

Nova Scotia's system of coastal ecosystems and habitats are complex because so many types are woven together to form the fabric of our coast. They are in relatively good condition as a whole compared with many other coastlines in the world, but there is not much scientific information that exists on their status. Most research points to the health status of individual ecosystems. We need to learn more about how the different ecosystem types interact with one another and how the individual systems work together as a whole. That way we can get an overall picture of the ecological health of the province.

We can discuss the status of coastal ecosystems only in general terms in the State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report. It can demonstrate some things about the levels of risk they face, but we need to improve how we monitor and evaluate their condition. That can be better understood the nature of the changes that are taking place in our coastal ecosystems.

The coastal zone in the province has 15 distinct ecosystem types (shown in Figure 1). They are important natural systems which provide a range of for residential, industrial, and recreational purposes. They provide livelihoods for those involved in agriculture, forestry, the fisheries, and tourism.

Figure 1 Types of coastal ecosystems in Nova Scotia. Most Nova Scotians recognize that consuming water of these ecosystems is both important and valuable. Figure 2 and 3 show some examples of coastal ecosystem across the province.

Figure 2 Images, left to right: Nova coastal ecosystems in Nova Scotia: Islands (Great and Sable Islands, Queens County, Cumberland County, Cape Breton County), Open water systems (Bay of Fundy, Richmond County)

LEGEND

- 1. Coastal Islands
- 2. Bay of Fundy
- 3. Boulder / Cobble Shore
- 4. Sand Shore
- 5. Shrub Scrub
- 6. Coastal Forest
- 7. Coastal Barrens
- 8. Estuaries
- 9. Mud Flats
- 10. Coastal Wetlands
- 11. Salt Marsh
- 12. Salt Pans
- 13. Open Water Systems / Bay of Fundy

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Public Launch — Media Accounts

The Chronicle Herald

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The Chronicle Herald stands for the Atlantic Provinces' progress and development and is dedicated to the service of the people that no good cause shall lack a champion and that wrong shall not thrive unopposed.

WARMING WARNING

Make coast a priority

THE planet is getting hotter. Sea levels are getting higher. Sadly, what isn't rising in tandem with the temperature and the waves is a sense of urgency to radically reform coastal policy in this province.

This summer's environmental debates have centred around the suitability of biomass for power generation and the overhaul of our forestry-management plans. But coastal policy has never been taken with the same level of seriousness. It should be. Climate change is coming to a beach near you.

Last week, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released its analysis of data compiled by more than 300 scientists in 48 countries. It proclaimed global warming to be "undeniable" and intensifying with each passing decade. (The researchers sidestepped the question of causes and of human responsibility for this phenomenon.)

"There is now evidence that over 90 per cent of warming over the past 50 years has gone into our oceans," said Deke Arndt, co-editor of the report. That finding dovetails with last week's news, delivered by Dalhousie University scientists, who discovered that phytoplankton — microscopic algae that form the base of the marine food chain — have declined 40 per cent since 1950.

Melting ice caps and warming oceans also spell higher seas, eroding shorelines, more violent storms and more forceful storm surges.

Given what we know, it is the height of folly to continue to allow haphazard development of homes and settlements too close to the shore in Nova Scotia. Coastal building permits are governed by a loose patchwork of municipal bylaws, while coastal policy touches on the turf of 15 different government departments.

Water rising as shellfish slump, coast study finds

By The Canadian Press
and DAVENE JEFFREY
Staff Reporter

A new report on Nova Scotia's coastline says the quantity of shellfish caught off the province dropped by more than half from 2003 to 2006.

The report, titled the State of Nova Scotia's Coast, said the province will suffer physically,

ipitation of those with a stake in the future of the

It also said storm worse along Nova kilometres of coast economically depressed levels rise and the al warming are f

The province's the first of its k Canada and inv

Have your say on the coast

Province urged to speed protection of shorelines as public meetings set

By CLARE MELLOR
Staff Reporter

Nova Scotia needs a coastal act by 2012 with binding laws and regu



CATCH THE WAVE

The government is seeking public input to help with the management of Nova Scotia's coastlines. Open houses will be held at the following locations from 4 to 8 p.m.:
Bridgewater: Tuesday, Bridgewater Curling Club, 90 Dominion St.

Main St.
Truro: May 18, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Cumming Hall, 62 Cumming Dr.
Antigonish: May 19, Royal Canadian Legion, 294 Main St.
Sydney: May 20, Days Inn, 480 Kings Rd.
Dartmouth: May 26, Nova Scotia Community College Waterfront Campus, 80 Macdonald Place.
Bilingual representatives will be available in Digby, Wolfville and Dartmouth.

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THE INVERNESS ORAN

16 DECEMBER 2009

The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report released

-by John Gillis

A new report by the Nova Scotia government provides an overview of the condition of Nova Scotia's vast coastline.

The report looks at a baseline to determine future trends describing physical, ecological, and socioeconomic characteristics of the coast.

The province intends to use this report and the feedback it generates to create a blueprint called the Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy.

"We are fortunate in Inverness County to have a relatively undeveloped coastline, but we should be proactive and implement sustainable practices before we jeopardize the health of our natural resources.

Ensuring a healthy coastline requires the commitment of all residents and a wide variety of groups and all levels of government," says Margaret MacDonald of the Mabou Harbour Coastal Management Plan

Committee (MHCMP). She reviewed the report after its release this week.

Six priority coastal issues are explored in detail in the report: coastal development; working waterfronts, public coastal access, sea-level rise and storm events, coastal water quality, sensitive coastal ecosystems.

Coastal Development

"The municipalities through the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* (are allowed) to develop planning strategies and bylaws to regulate land use. In spite of this, only about 45 per cent of provincial land has comprehensive municipal plans or land-use bylaws in place. Another factor affecting control over development is that approximately 86 per cent of the coastline is privately owned," the report states.

Working waterfronts: the province categorizes working waterfronts in the province into three types: A)

Canada Port Authority ports (there is one in Halifax); B) Local and regional ports of which there are 25 and C) Small craft harbours (of which there are 247 listed).

"Over a period of 15 years, the federal government divested many of these facilities, either by selling them or by handing over their management," the report notes.

Public coastal access: contrary to the belief of many, this report claims that "there's currently no federal or provincial legislation that ensures universal access to the coast. Laws deal mainly with preventing trespassing, regulating economic activities, restricting the use of vehicles, and building infrastructure such as wharves and ramps." Consequently, "these laws can all contribute to restricting public access," the report concludes.

Sea-level rise and storm events: This report projects a level of sea-level from 70-140 centimeters along Nova Scotia's coastline

for the next century due to climate change and global warming. It projects more intense tropical storms in the Northern Hemisphere. Hurricane Juan caused a total of \$130 million in losses in Nova Scotia earlier this decade.

Coastal water quality: There are many issues which could impact water quality in the coming years including inadequate septic systems and more algae blooms.

"Monitoring shows that coastal waters off parts of Cumberland, Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness, Colchester, Kings, Annapolis, and Digby counties may be at an increased risk for algal blooms," the report indicates.

Sensitive coastal ecosystems: The report recognizes that much more work needs to be done in this and other areas, but it has worked to understand and describe the coast more accurately by breaking it down into 13 coastal

ecosystem categories.

"All of six priority issues are extremely relevant to issues that we are facing in the Mabou Harbour Watershed and Inverness County as a whole. One issue that the MHCMP has been discussing at meetings is the issue of coastal development and land use planning. As we look to pursue economic interests we must also keep in mind sustainable development and maintain the ecological integrity of coastal areas. In addition, this region is experiencing a shift in demographics. This may have an effect on land-use patterns. Moore people may look to develop and sub-divide coastal properties for vacation properties which if not planned properly will stress coastal ecosystems. This is an issue that can be addressed at the community and municipal level," Margaret MacDonald added.

MacDonald says water quality and monitoring and

tracking potential sources of pollution are other priorities for the local group.

"It is unnerving to read that only 8.2 per cent of the total land mass of Nova Scotia is provincially or federally owned, and only a small portion of this is coastal area, the large portion of private ownership could have a negative impact on water quality, coastal access, and development," MacDonald added.

Jeff Lee of the Mabou Development Association says the report identifies a number of topics, some of which have already been the subject of planning and discussion locally in recent years.

"It really ties into a lot of the work we've been doing. If we can take a proactive approach I believe we'll be much better off," said Lee.

For more detailed information on anything presented in this summary report, please refer to the full report on our website at www.gov.ns.ca/coast.

ortant that Nova Scod the meetings and eir input, she said.

sultations are a part of ce's effort to produce a tategy by the end of 2010 issues like water qual- pment and dwindling res, said Justin Huston, dviser with the Fisher- uaculture Department.

e, it is too early to say e coastal strategy will e coastal act with new egulations, Huston said. nly may, I can't really t this stage, we are hear what the public rent levels of govern- is the best way for- roach this range of

e, Huston said, the ealed a report on the

(cmellor@herald.ca)

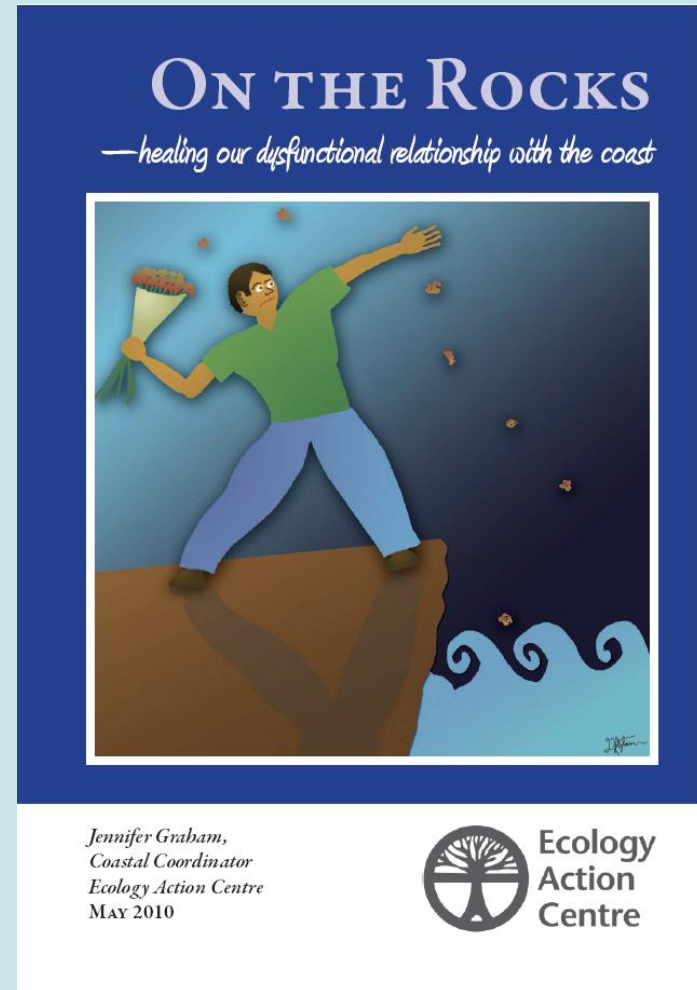
Consultation Process

A variety of mechanisms were used to receive input from the public and stakeholders

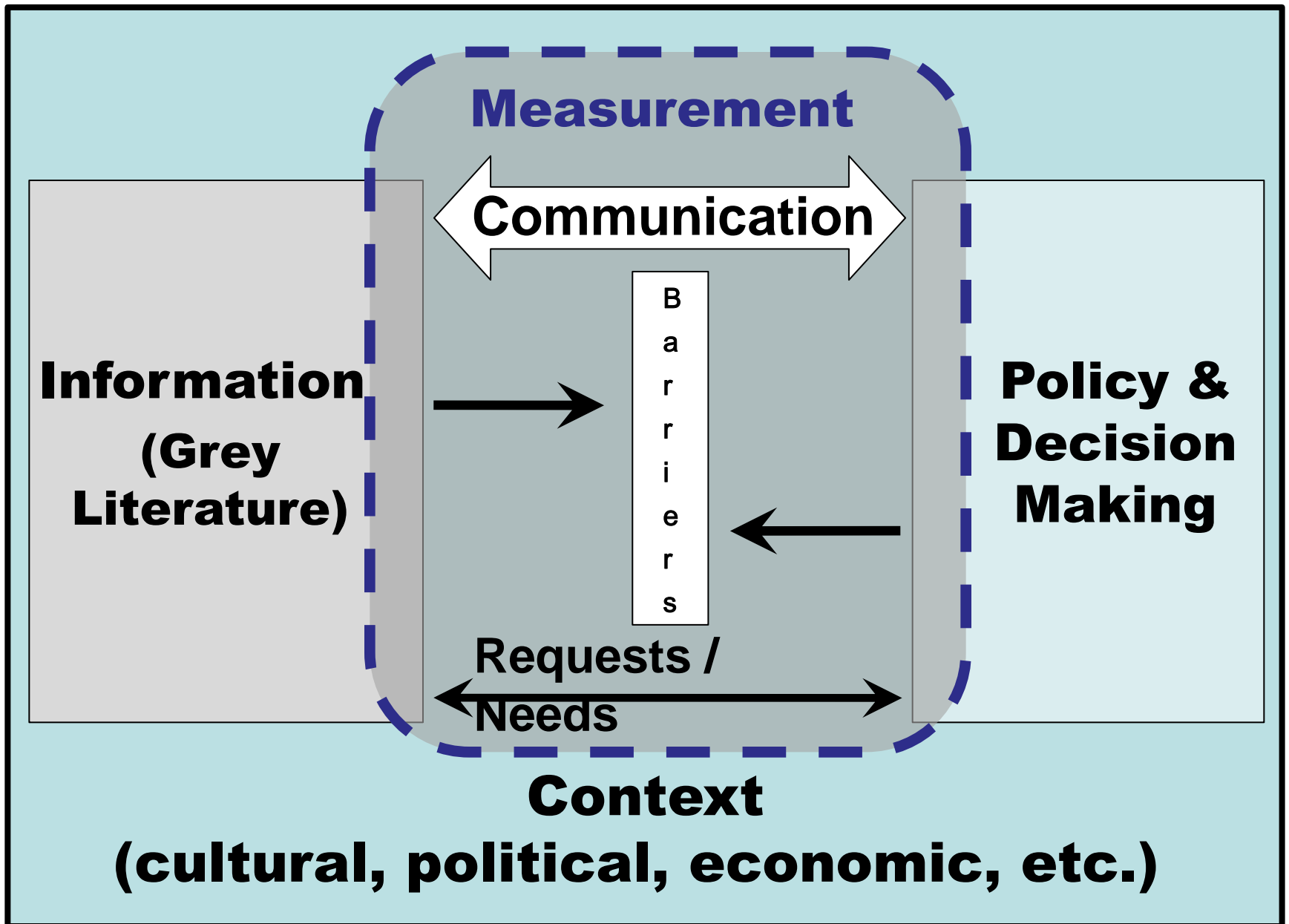
- ✗ online and written submissions
- ✗ regional open houses
- ✗ municipal workshops
- ✗ a telephone survey
- ✗ a multi-stakeholder workshop
- ✗ sector-based meetings



Public Responses and Submissions from NGOs and Advocacy Groups



Submission from
Ecology Action Centre



Stakeholder Groups

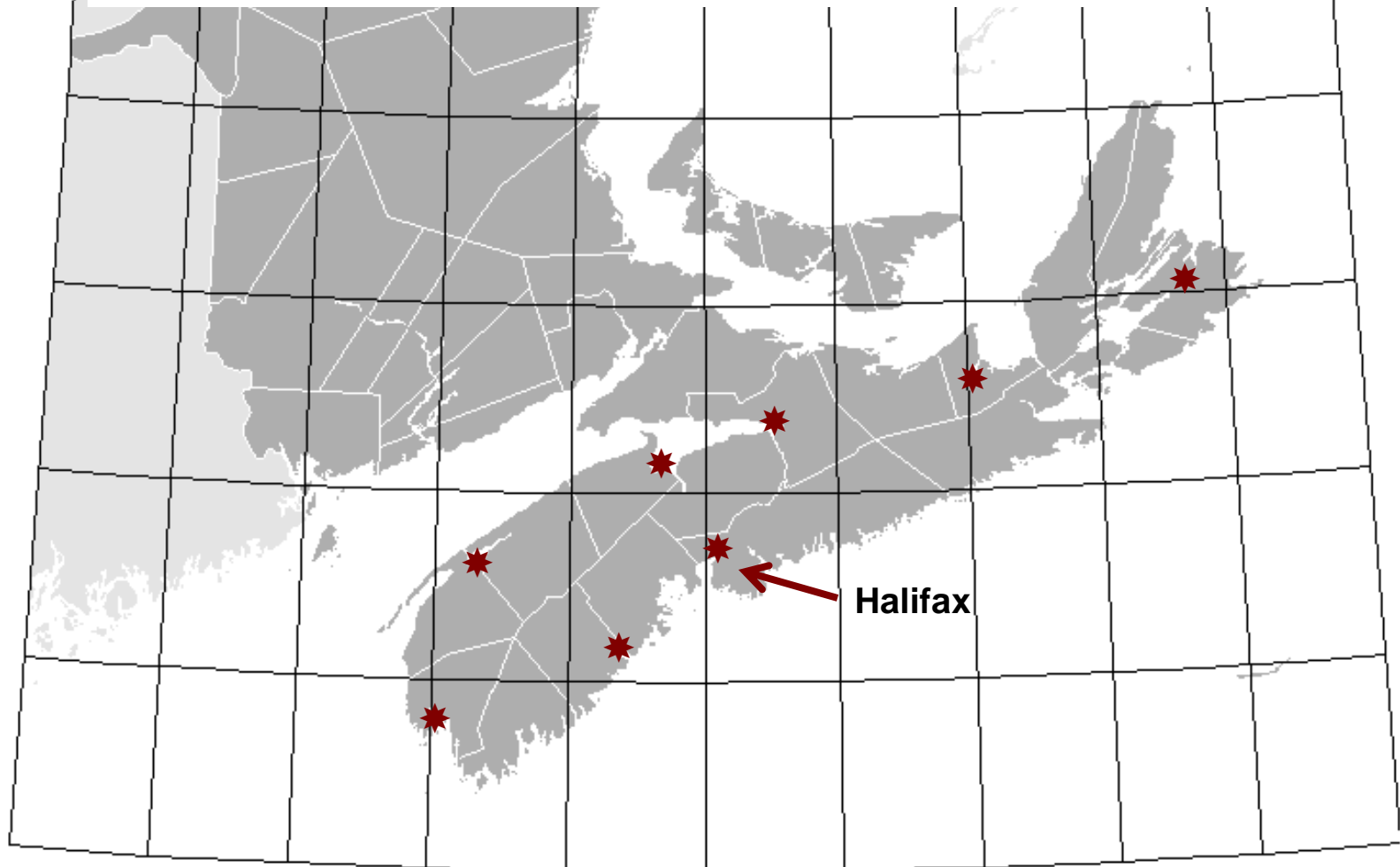
Government	Non-Governmental Organizations	Academic Institutions	Industry
Government Agencies (National & Provincial) Regional Development Agencies Intergovernmental Organizations	Community Organizations Coastal Protection Groups Wildlife Conservation Groups	Universities and Research Institutes Libraries (University, Public)	Energy (oil & gas, coal, renewable energy) Manufacturing Tourism Professional Associations

Sources of Data for the Study

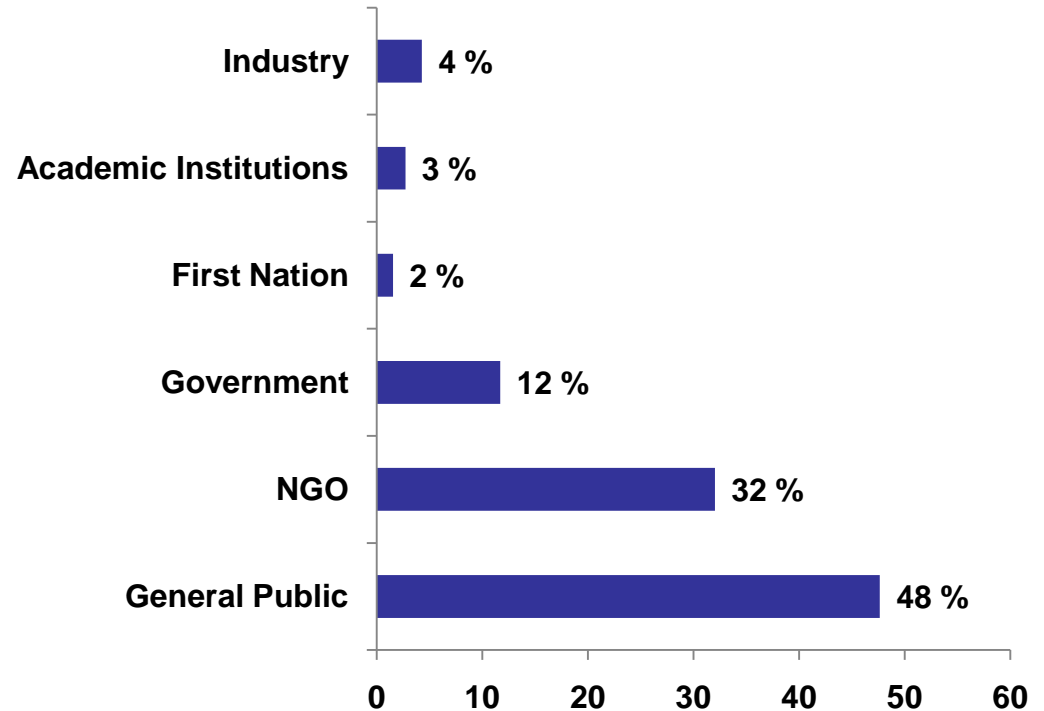


Surveys	Evidence of Alerting Systems
Open Houses (Direct observations & questionnaire)	Web Link Searches
Telephone Survey	Citation Searches
Multi-stakeholder Workshop - Questionnaire	Evidence of Availability in Libraries
Multi-stakeholder Interviews	News Media Reports
Additional Surveys	Web Site Access to the <i>Report Documents</i>

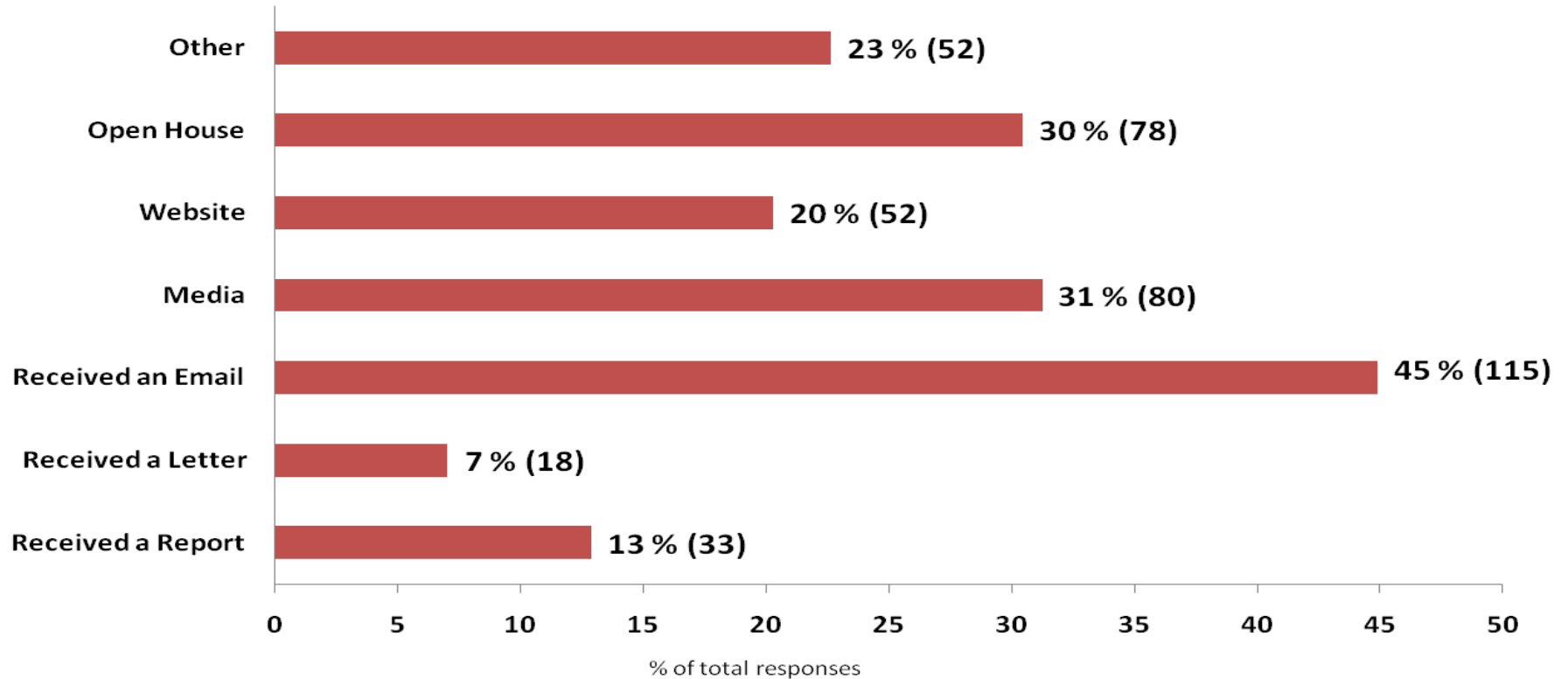
Sites of Public Consultations Throughout the Province of Nova Scotia



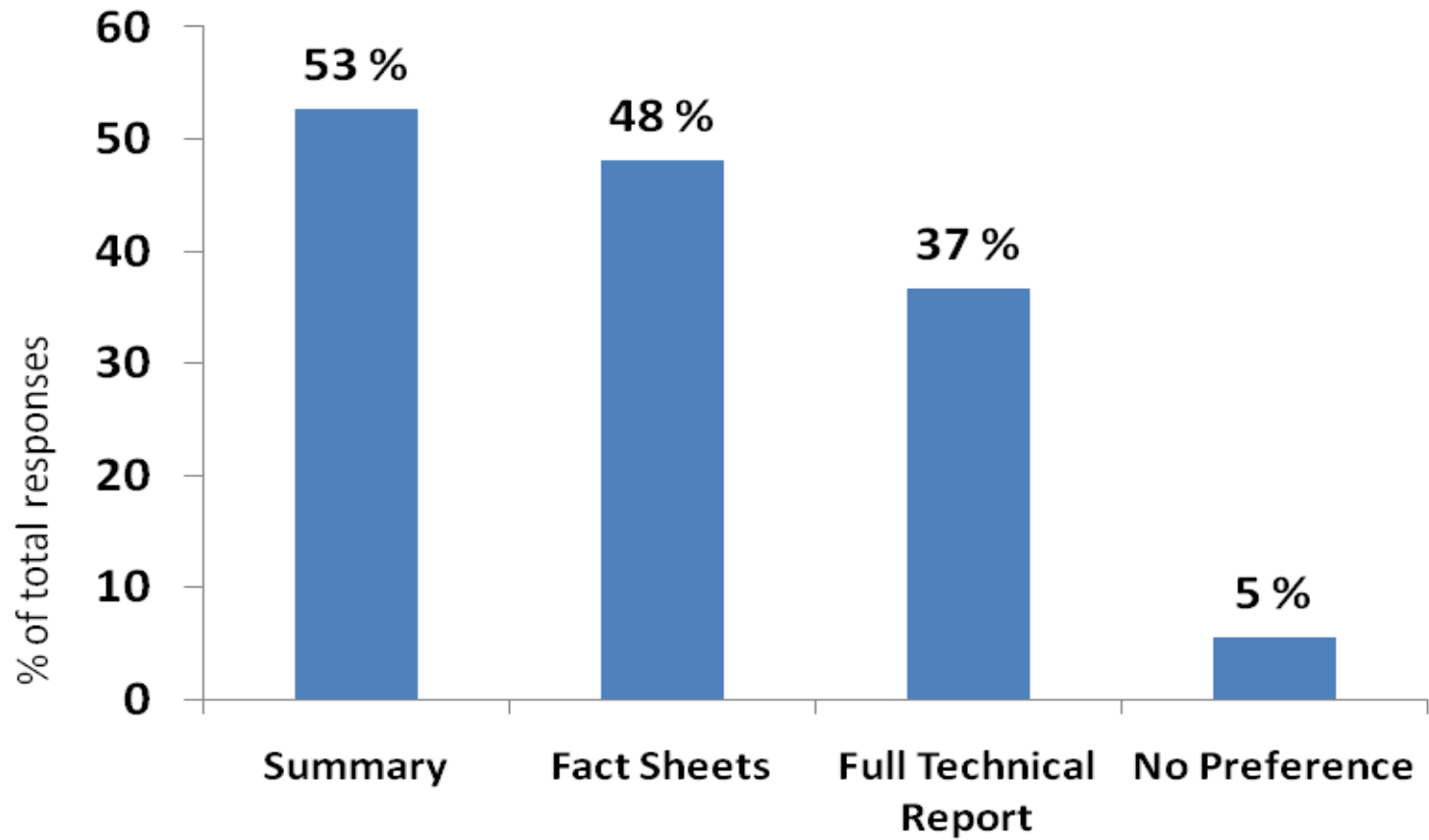
Attendance at Open Houses



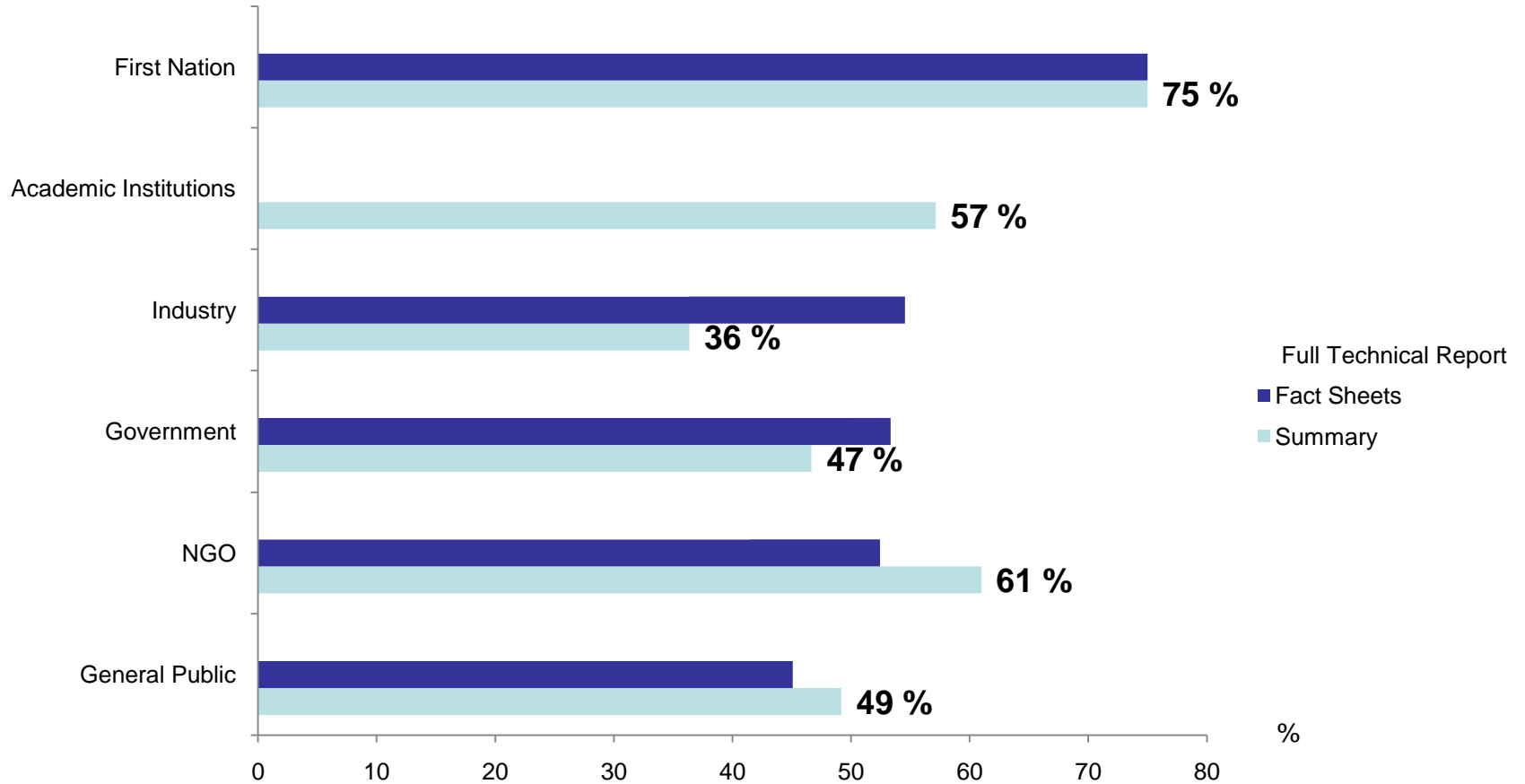
Open Houses – Awareness Methods



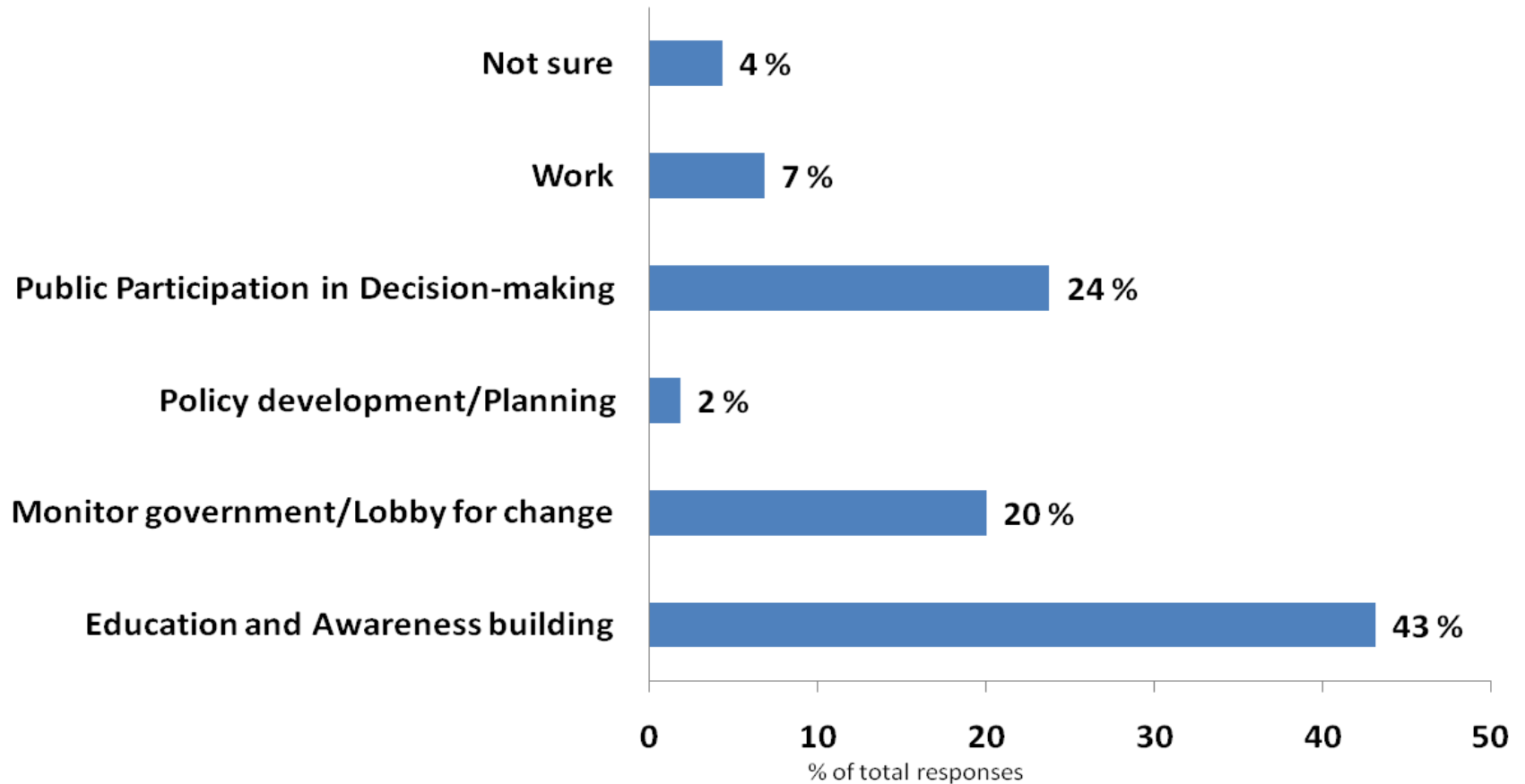
Open Houses – Preferred Version



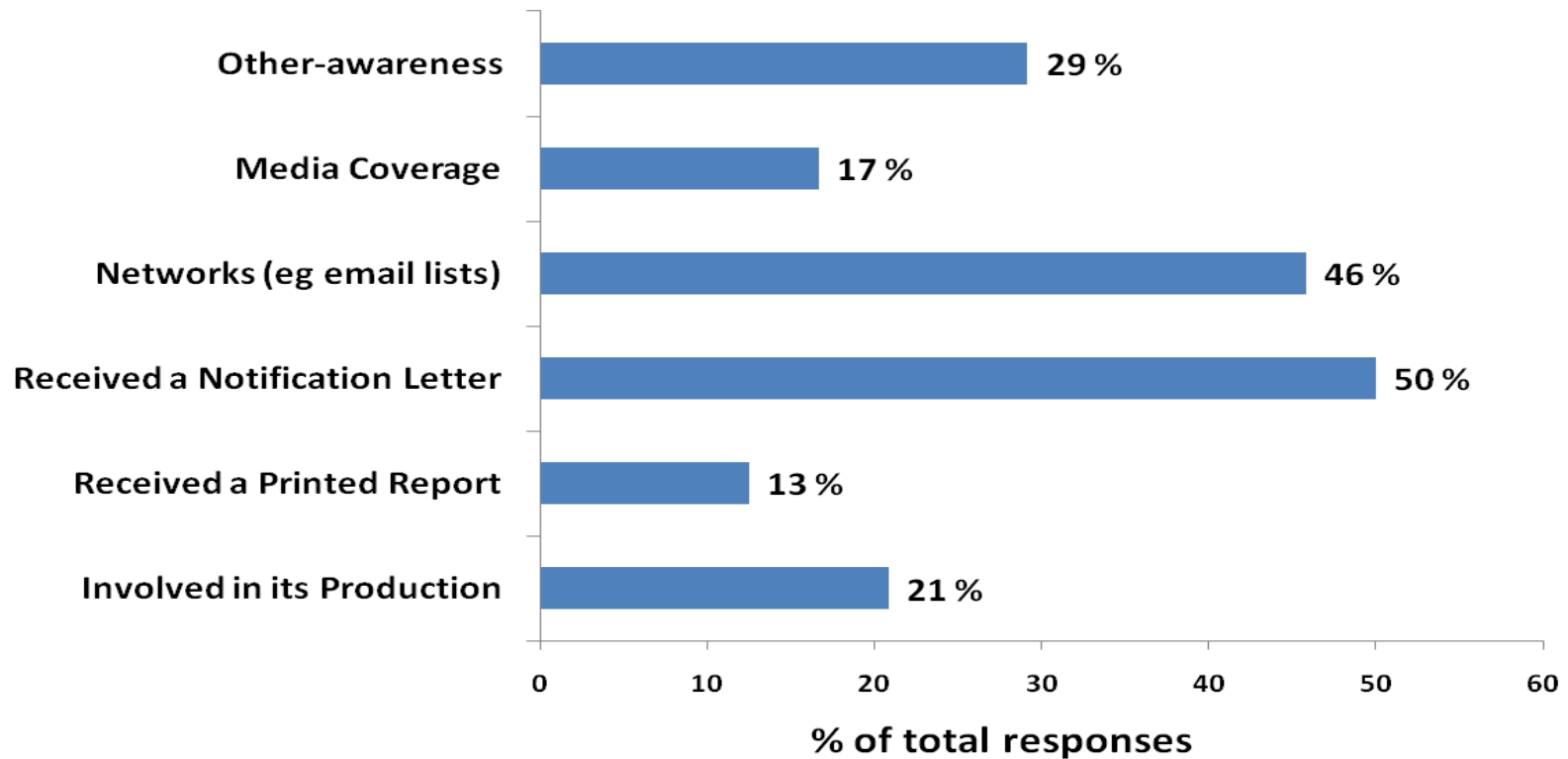
Preferred Version by Stakeholder Group (Open Houses)



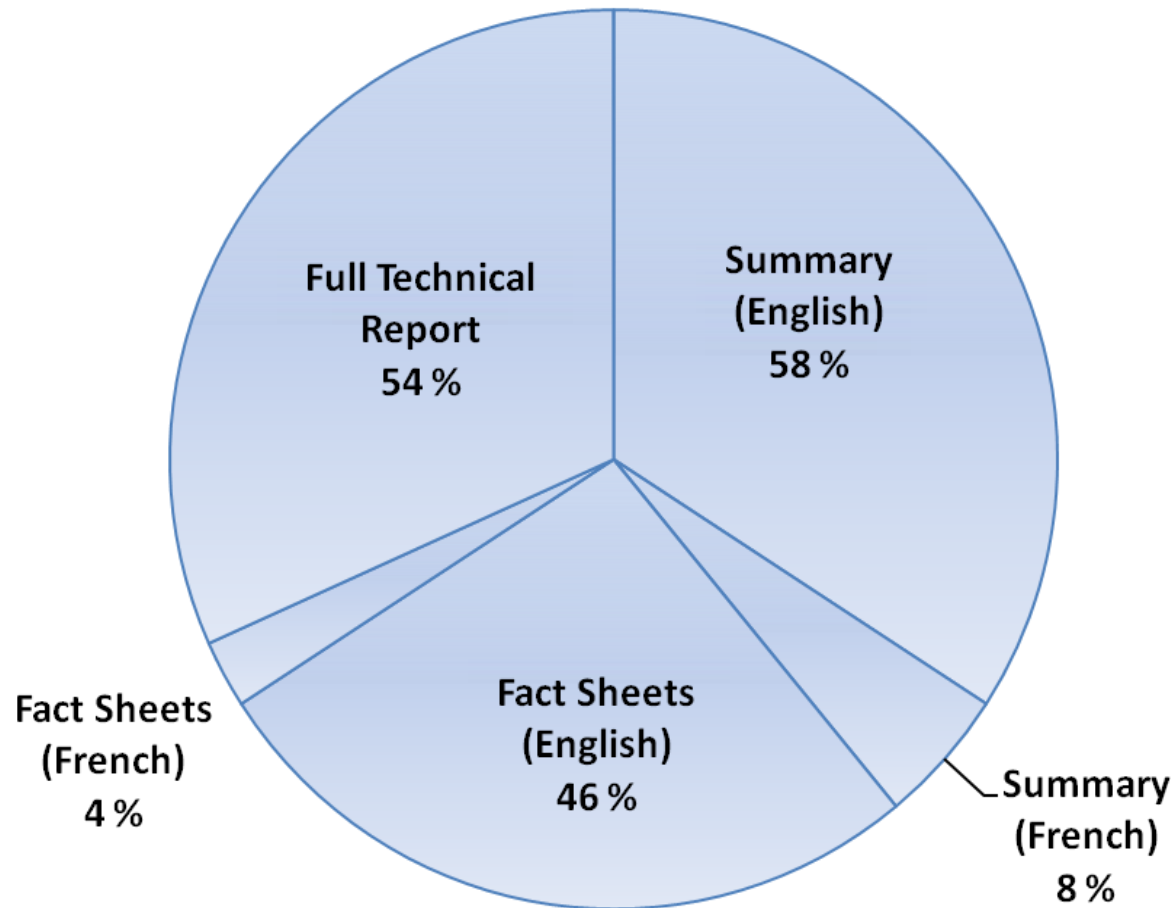
Planned Use of the Report (Open Houses)



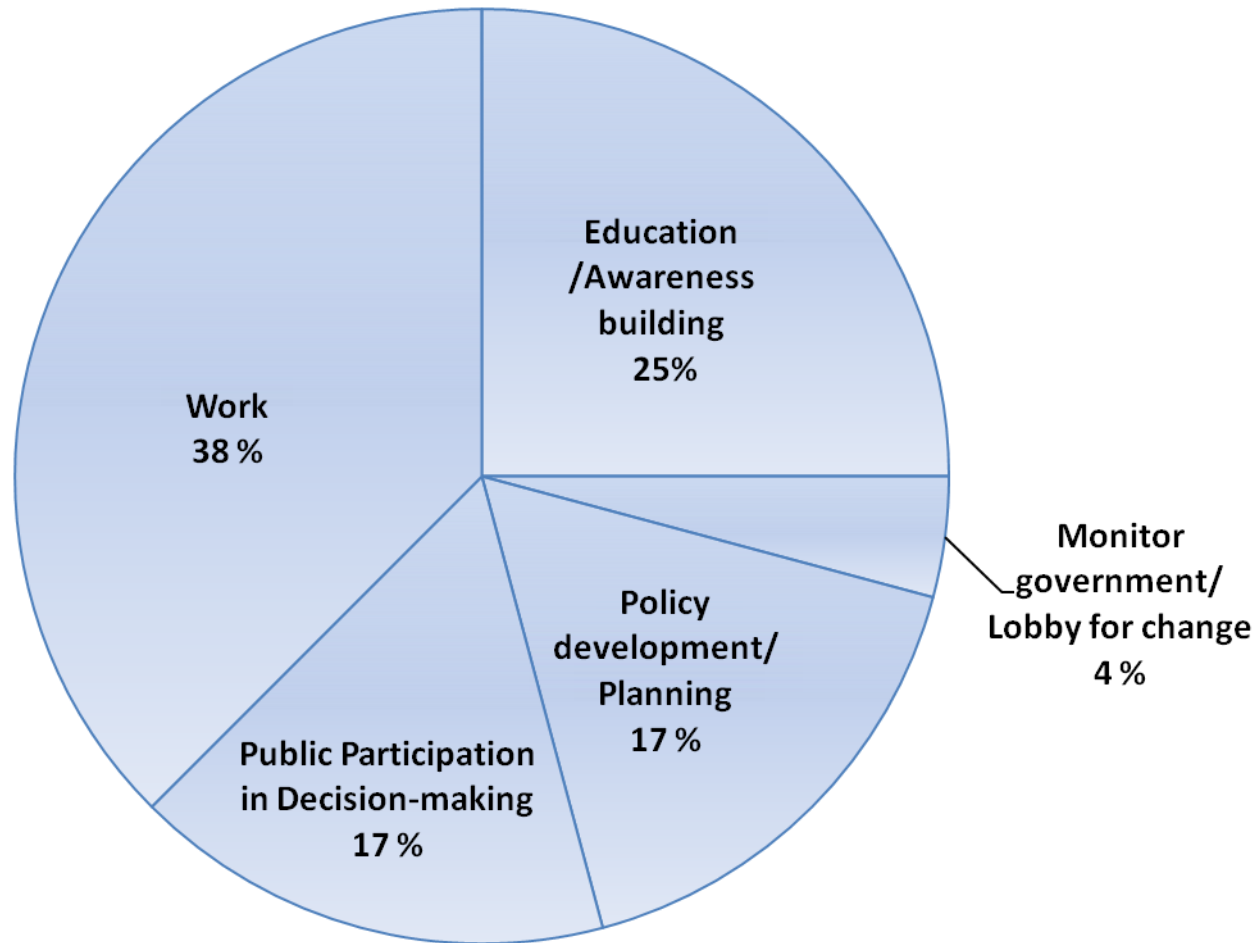
Multi-Stakeholder Meeting: Awareness Methods



Multi-Stakeholder Meeting: Preferred Versions



Planned Use of the Report (Multi-Stakeholder Meeting)



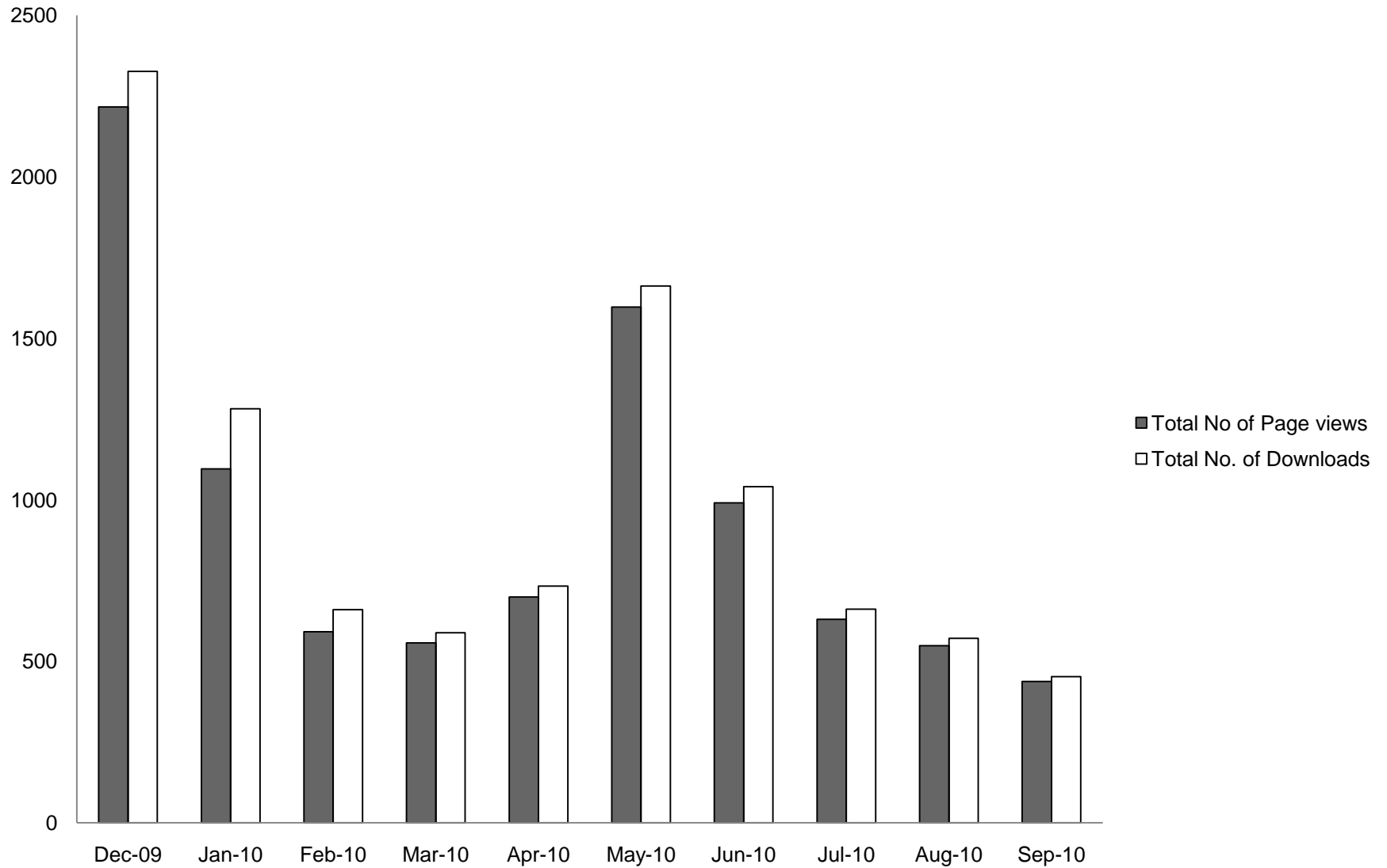
Province-Wide Telephone Survey

To gain public views about Nova Scotia's coasts a random sample of 600 residents were surveyed:



- ✗ 41 (6.8%) were aware of the *Report*
- ✗ Use of the report and preferred versions views were similar to findings from the open houses and the multi-stakeholder meeting

Web Site Statistics



Awareness – Interviewer Responses

Stakeholder Group	Prior awareness of <i>Report</i>	Aware of <i>Report</i> after release
Academic Institutions	1	1
First Nation		1
Government	2	2
Industry	2	
NGO	2	2
Total	7	6

Our Coast

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STATE OF THE COAST
REPORT

PRIORITY COASTAL
ISSUES

- › Coastal Development
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The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report

Learn more about Nova Scotia's coast and the issues that the Coastal Strategy will address.

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Priority Coastal Issues

The government is focusing its coastal management efforts on six issues:

- [Coastal Development](#)
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- [Coastal Water Quality](#)
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What We Heard

2010 Report on Nova Scotia's Coastal Consultation

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What we Heard: 2010 Report on Nova Scotia's Coastal Consultation

From May 1st to July 18th, 2010, Nova Scotians were invited to comment on the [State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report](#) and to provide input on their priorities and ideas for the future Coastal Strategy.

The consultation process included a variety of mechanisms for gathering input from the public and stakeholders including:

- online and written submissions
- regional open houses
- municipal workshops
- a phone survey
- a multi-stakeholder workshop
- sector-based meetings

Over the course of these consultations we heard from over 1,200 people, many of whom represented coastal organizations, businesses, and communities.

Feedback has been compiled into an overview report called *What We Heard*, which is now publically available. In addition, separate reports from the phone survey, multi-stakeholder workshop, and individual open houses are also available. Reports available here:

- [What we Heard: Nova Scotia's 2010 Coastal Consultation \(En Francais\)](#)
- [Phone survey report](#)
- [Multi-stakeholder workshop report](#)
- Open house reports:
 - [Bridgewater](#)
 - [Yarmouth](#)

Key Findings

Several communication methods are needed to reach diverse audiences

- ⌘ All the methods can be used, more or less simultaneously.
- ⌘ Some methods may involve direct communication, others indirect, i.e., information was transferred through networks

Several versions of the report are needed

- ⌘ Print and digital; print continues to have a role
- ⌘ Different types (technical report, summary document, fact sheets)

Key Findings (2)

Each version of the report has specific uses for specific audiences

Ø Education and advocacy are the primary expectations of use

Ø Individuals likely to use the *Report* are directly related to those with prior awareness and known interest in coastal issues.

“I’m seeing people refer to it fairly often I’d say, of course, I tend to be in the circles of people that are doing that” (A2).

Key Findings (3)

Influence of the report will require additional measurement

Ø “I've seen more positive discussions that actually something is finally getting going, getting started...” (G4).

Ø “...true usefulness of it is going to be found after the strategy work has been delivered because really this is ...the starting point for that and you can't really judge how good your starting point is until you kind of get to the end.” (N2)

Ø . “...bringing all these departments to look at the report...we felt like we had some relationship there...” (G2).

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More Information: www.eiui.ca





Our Coast
Live. Work. Play. Protect.
THE 2009 STATE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S COAST TECHNICAL REPORT

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Survey on the State of Nova Scotia's Coast

What is your connection to the coast? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation	<input type="checkbox"/> Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Prioritize the issues below by numbering them from 1 to 5 in order of importance to you. (For example, if you feel that 1 is the most important, and 5 is the least important, etc.)

Coastal Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3	4	5
Coastal Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3	4	5
Coastal Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3	4	5
Coastal Ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2	3	4	5

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you holding these open houses?
We want to learn Nova Scotia's ideas for addressing the important issues facing our Government has committed to develop a Coastal Strategy for tackling priority coastal issues: Coastal Development, Working Waterfronts, Public Coastal Access, Coastal Water Quality, Level Risk and Storm Events, Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems.

What else are you doing to gather public input?
People can provide online and written feedback (gov.ns.ca/coast). We are conducting a wide phone survey to ask citizens about their views and priorities. We're also conducting a multi-stakeholder workshop to bring different sectors together around the table to discuss our coast and the direction the Coastal Strategy should take.

How long is the public consultation period?
Public consultation will run from May 1st to June 30th.

What about Municipalities? First Nations? The Federal government?
We recognize that Municipal, First Nations and Federal governments have unique interests and mandates when it comes to the coast, and we respect that. We'll be in direct with these governments throughout the process. Our goal is to ensure that the day governments can continue to work together to address the pressing issues of our coast.

Will I be able to learn what other people are saying?
Yes, we will be drafting a "What We Heard" document summarizing the input gathered from various consultations. This document will be available online in early fall, 2010.

After public consultation, what comes next?
Using the public input, along with information gathered in the State of Nova Scotia we will begin drafting the Coastal Strategy.

Who will draft the strategy and when will it be finished?
The Coastal Strategy will be drafted by the Provincial Oceans Network which representatives from 15 Government of Nova Scotia departments and agencies have a draft Coastal Strategy for Cabinet by the end of 2010.

Why is the State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report important?
Before we start developing a Coastal Strategy that directs where we're going where we are today. The 2009 Report provides a common source of information for our coast. The Report provides baseline information on our coast and detailed information on coastal issues. The Report is actually three different products: a large simplified summary report, and fact sheets for each coastal issue.

How can I get more information?
Visit our website: gov.ns.ca/coast, or write: Coastal Coordinator, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture, PO Box 2223, Halifax, NS B3J 3C4.