



**Abstract accepted for presentation
Environmental Studies Association of Canada
Grenfell Campus, Memorial University, Corner Brook, NL
and virtually with UBC, Vancouver
June 3-5, 2019**

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Leadership and mobilization for climate change adaptation in rural communities

Many rural communities are experiencing or anticipating effects related to climate change. However, little is known about the process of climate change adaptation work in rural settings. We carried out a study on unceded Wabanaki territory in a rural region of New Brunswick. In collaboration with the regional government, which is developing a climate change adaptation plan, we administered a survey to examine the perspectives of official rural community leaders (elected or staff) toward climate change adaptation. Our results elucidate the perspectives of rural community leaders regarding the major challenges facing communities in the region related to climate change and what is required to support leaders in climate change adaptation within the broader rural community setting. As well, results provide insight into work practices of the formal leadership which may assist the regional government to design a realistic strategy for adaptation to climate change. Our work contributes to the literature on leadership for climate change adaptation in rural settings. We develop a deeper understanding of the context of this work within a network of stakeholders and communication processes that will require support for effective climate change adaptation.