



Sea Level Rise Adaptation Primer (& Update)

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Scope of Work:
Research Project, Climate Change
Adaptation, Policy Analysis

Partners:
EBA Engineering, a Tetra Tech
Company; Sustainability Solutions
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The Arlington Group was retained by the Ministry of Environment to prepare a Primer on sea level rise adaptation tools. The Primer is a nationally relevant document with extensive documentation of the legislative and policy tools local government decision makers have at their disposal to adapt to sea level rise in Canada's six provinces with southern coastlines. The 21 tools explored are grouped into Planning Tools, Regulatory Tools, Land Use Change or Restriction, Structural (Flood Protection Works), Non-Structural (Soft Armouring). Each tool contains a discussion of its advantages and disadvantages, enabling legislation, implementation methods, as well as environmental, economic and social considerations. Included are hybrid tools like living shorelines and its emerging B.C. application, Green Shores, which provide a mix of soft armouring and structural applications with a strong perspective on environmental stewardship.

The Primer explores the relationship of different tools to four overriding strategies: 'Avoid', 'Adapt', 'Protect', and 'Retreat' and addresses the critical role of public education and consultation in the success of any strategy. The Primer was released early in 2013 and is posted on the Ministry of Environment website at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/adaptation/sea_level.html. The Project team included engineering and environmental consultants in B.C., Quebec and Atlantic Canada. An updated version of the Primer coupled with companion materials to enable wider dissemination of the adaptation tools is nearing completion.