

Climate Change Projections for Newfoundland and Labrador Late 20th Century to Mid 21st Century

Summary Presentation June 2013

OFFICE OF
CLIMATE CHANGE
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
& EMISSIONS TRADING



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1. Introduction

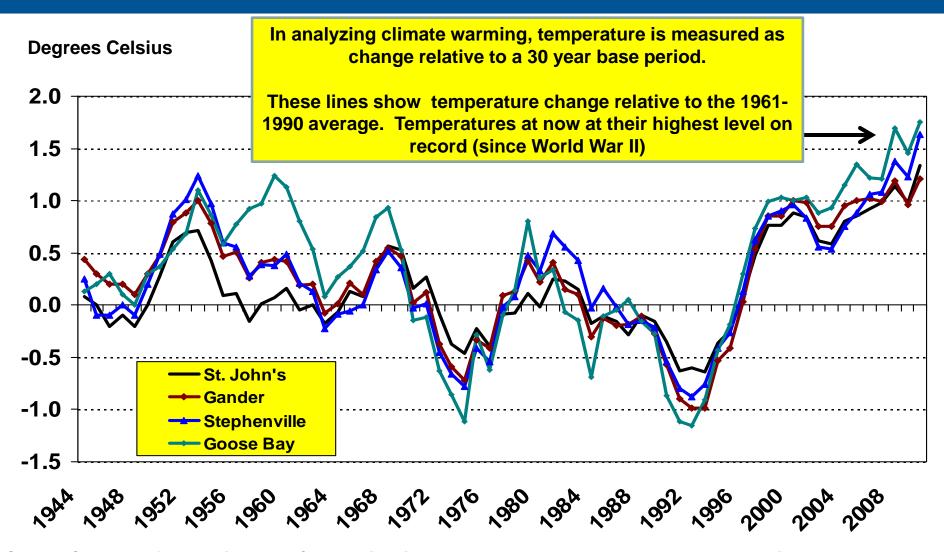


Climate change is happening

- Atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases is growing
 - Approaching dangerous levels
- Global temperatures are rising
 - Temperatures at highest level in 4,000 years or about the time
 the Egyptian pyramids at Giza were built
- Provincial temperatures are rising (see next chart)
 - Warmest years on record have occurred in the past 15 years
- Increasing number of hurricanes and tropical storms hitting the province (see chart below)
 - Storms, like Hurricane Igor (2010) and Tropical Storm Leslie
 (2012), are causing infrastructure damage and significant costs

Temperatures in the province are rising and are at record levels

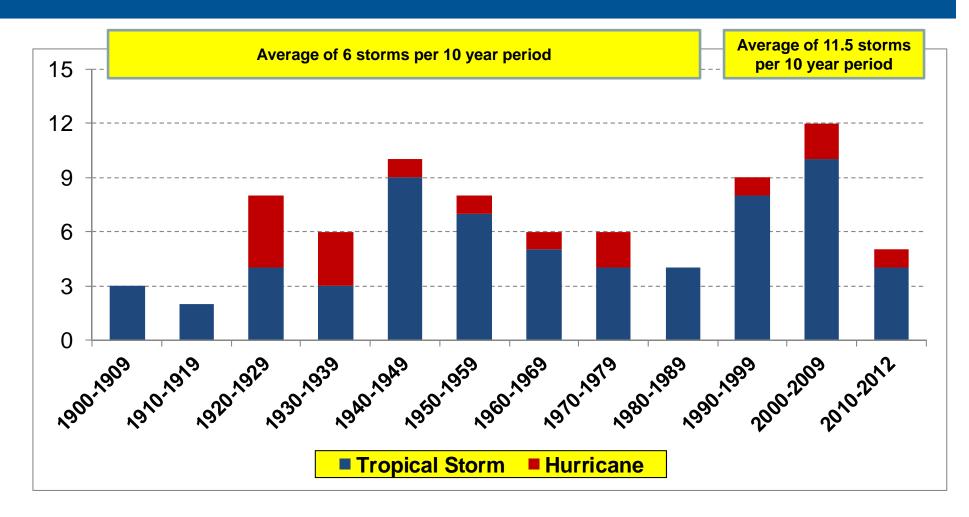




Source: Calculated from Environment Canada historical data. Actual temperature levels vary by location; however, deviation from the 1961-1990 average is similar for each location.

We are subject to twice as many tropical storms and hurricanes now than in the past





Includes tropical storms and hurricanes that made landfall in the province registered by the Canadian Hurricane Center, Environment Canada. Hurricanes include those that made landfall only.



What is the study about?

This study examined weather changes – temperature,
 precipitation and extreme weather events – for Newfoundland and Labrador

Measures change from the end of the 20th century (1968-2000)
 to the mid 21st century (2038-2070)

 These projections were developed by down-scaling global climate projection models



Why did we do this project?

- Climate change is happening
- Changes will be significant over time, and will impact on different interests in different ways
- Governments, businesses, individuals and communities need information to plan
- Better information leads to better planning and better decision making
- And better decision making reduces risks and costs



2. Approach to the Study

Regional climate projection models are available for North America



- Regional climate models are down-scaled from global climate projection models
 - 50 km by 50 km projection area
- Models project temperature and precipitation change
 - No projections for wind, fog or sea surge
- Many sub-national jurisdictions and regions in North America have developed down-scaled climate projections



A comprehensive set of projections

- Projections developed for Newfoundland and Labrador
- Used 7 regional simulations from 4 global climate models
- Used 18 weather stations for temperature and precipitation
- Used 19 weather stations for extreme precipitation events
- Projected 19 temperature and precipitation variables
- Projected extreme precipitation for 3 intervals for 6 return periods
- Site-specific data available
- Projections produced by Dr. Joel Finnis, a Climatologist at Memorial University, Newfoundland and Labrador



26 regionally dispersed weather stations included in the project

| Projections | Newf | Labrador | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | Bay d'Espoir | Grand Falls-Windsor | Cartwright |
| | Corner Brook | Plum Point | Churchill Falls |
| Temperature and | Daniel's Harbour | Port aux Basques | Goose Bay |
| Precipitation | Deer Lake | St. Anthony | Hopedale |
| | Exploit's Dam | St. John's | Nain |
| | Gander | Stephenville | Wabush |
| | Argentia | Port aux Basques | Battle Harbour |
| | Burgeo | St. Alban's | Churchill Falls |
| Extreme | Comfort Cove | St. Anthony | Goose Bay |
| Precipitation | Daniel's Harbour | St. Lawrence | Mary's Harbour |
| Events | Deer Lake | St. John's | Nain |
| | Gander | Stephenville | Wabush |
| | LaScie | | |



Climate variables included in project

| Projections | Newfoundland | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| Temperature (8) | Daily mean Daily minimum Daily maximum | Heating degree days Cooling degree days Growing degree days | | Number of days with frost Maximum heat wave duration | |
| Precipitation (11) | Mean daily Mean intensity of events Number of events with 10+ mm | Maximum 3-day Maximum 5-day Maximum 10-day 90th percentile of events | | Maximum number of consecutive dry days Mean dry spell Median dry spell Standard deviation – dry spell | |
| Extreme Precipitation (3 x 6) | Intervals 6 hours 12 hours 24 hours | Return perion 2 years 5 years 20 years | ods 25 years 50 years 100 years | | |

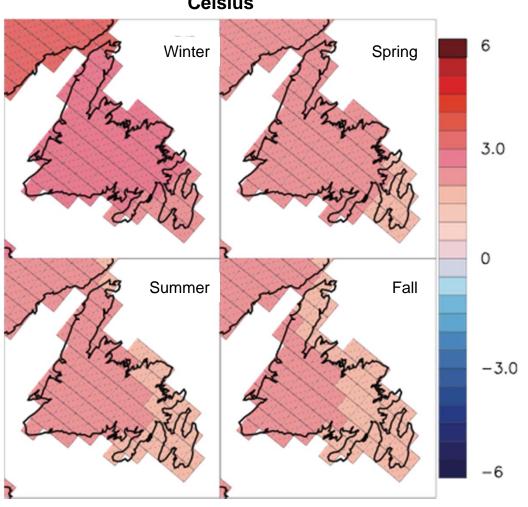


3. Key Findings: Temperature and Precipitation



Temperatures are projected to rise by between 2° and 3° C by mid 21st century





Small temperature changes are significant. For example, scientists estimate that the temperature during the last Ice Age was only 5.5°C lower than present temperatures.

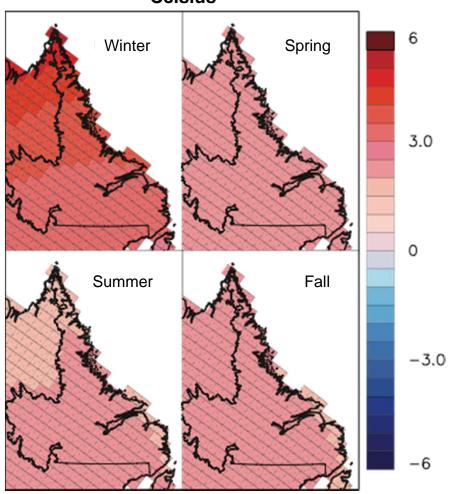
During the winter season, average daily temperature is expected to rise by about 3°C in all regions on the island.

During the spring, summer and fall seasons, temperature growth will be relatively stronger on the central and western half of the island.



Temperatures are projected to rise by between 3° and 4° C by mid 21st century





Small temperature changes are significant. For example, scientists estimate that the temperature during the last Ice Age was only 5.5°C lower than present temperatures.

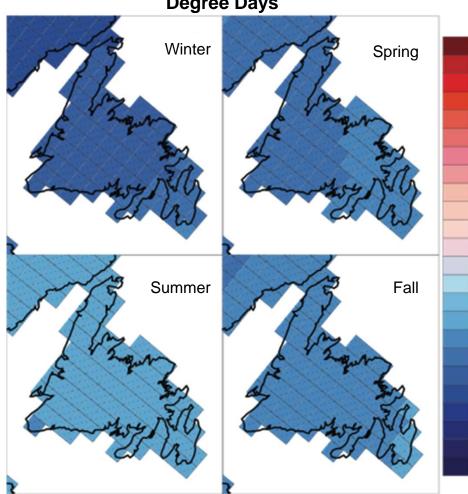
During the winter season, average daily temperature is expected to rise by over 3°C in all regions, particularly northern Labrador.

During the spring, summer and fall seasons, temperature growth will be about 3°C in all regions, with slightly less temperature growth along the southeast coast and Straits.

Temperature rise will result in fewer "heating degree days", meaning less demand for energy to heat buildings



Change in Heating Degree Days



"Heating degree day" (HDD) reflects the demand for energy to heat a building, calculated as the difference between mean temperature and 16°C for those days when the mean temperature is less than 16°C.

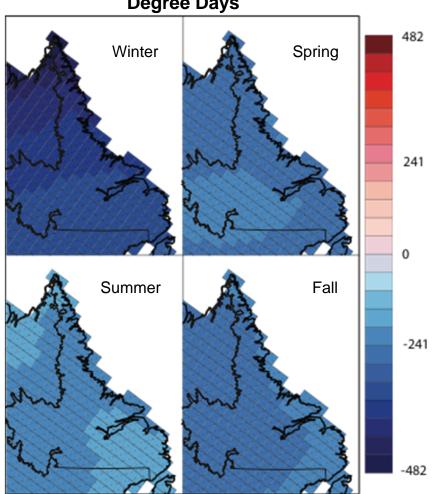
In winter, HDDs are expected to decline by almost 500 by mid century, or by about 12% from current levels on the island.

HDDs are expected to decline in the spring and fall as well, by about 13% in most locations.

Temperature rise will result in fewer "heating degree days", meaning less demand for energy to heat buildings



Change in Heating Degree Days



"Heating degree day" (HDD) reflects the demand for energy to heat a building, calculated as the difference between mean temperature and 16°C for those days when the mean temperature is less than 16°C.

In Labrador, HDDs are expected to decline by almost 500 by mid century in winter, or by about 12% from current levels.

HDDs are expected to decline in the spring and fall as well, by about 10% to 12% in most locations.

HDDs expected to decline by between 33% to 50% in summer.

Temperature rise will mean fewer days with frost, meaning a shorter winter

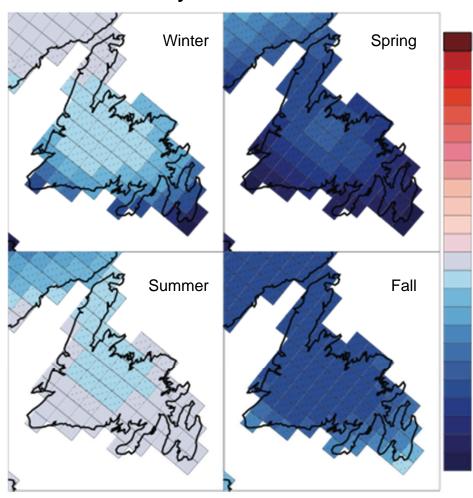
19

9.5

-9.5



Change in Number of Days with Frost



Frost days can be used as a proxy for winter length and severity.

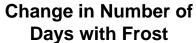
The number of days with frost is expected to decline by between 25 (3.5 weeks) and 32 (4.5 weeks) on the island.

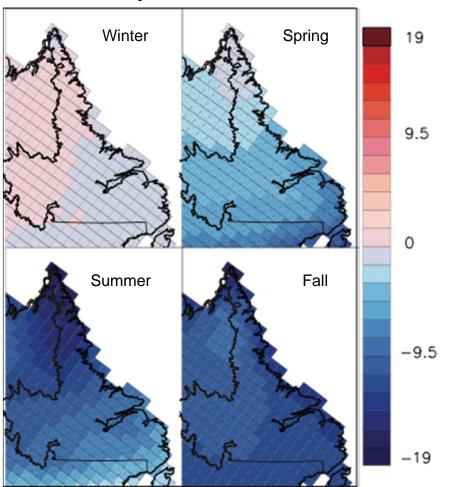
Most changes will occur in the spring and fall months.

During winter, the southern areas of the island will experience the most change (about a 15% decline in frost days).

Temperature rise will mean fewer days with frost, meaning a shorter winter







Frost days can be used as a proxy for winter length and severity.

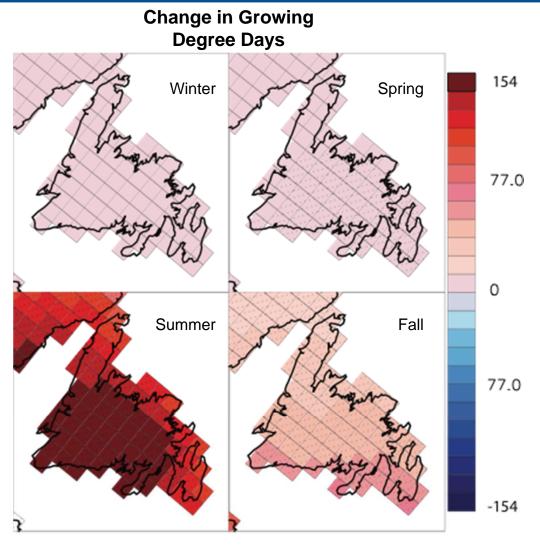
In Labrador, the number of days with frost is expected to decline by between 21 (3 weeks) and 28 (4 weeks).

The number of days with frost will decline, in particular, during the summer and fall months.

There will be relatively less decline in the spring, and virtually no change in the number of days with frost during the winter months.

Temperature rise will result in more "growing degree days", meaning longer growing seasons





"Growing degree day" (GDD) reflects the availability of heat for outdoor growing, calculated as the difference between mean temperature and 10°C for those days when the mean temperature is higher than 10°C.

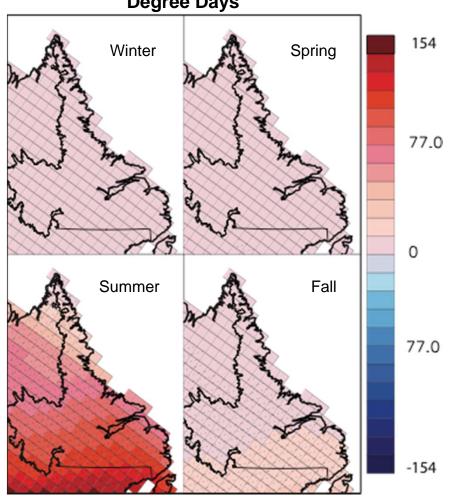
GDDs are expected to increase by about 30% to 35% in the summer months, with the most absolute change occurring in central and western areas of the island.

There is relatively little change in the winter and spring months, with some growth in GDDs during the fall months.

Temperature rise will result in more "growing degree days", meaning longer growing seasons



Change in Growing Degree Days



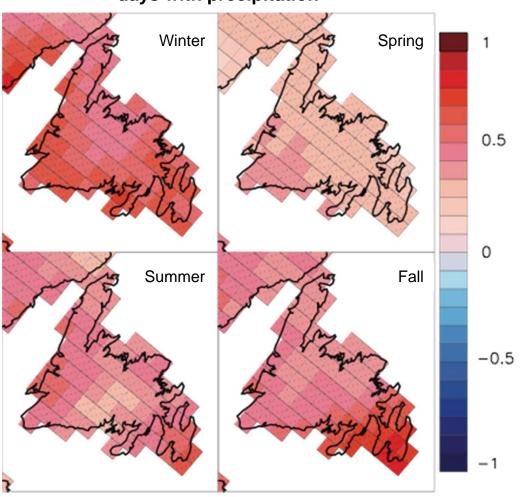
"Growing degree day" (GDD) reflects the availability of heat for outdoor growing, calculated as the difference between mean temperature and 10°C for those days when the mean temperature is higher than 10°C.

In Labrador, GDDs are expected to increase by about 30% to 35% in the summer months, particularly in southern regions.

There is relatively little change in the remaining three seasons, and the absolute number of GDDs remains low in these seasons.

Precipitation events, on average, will be Labrador more intense particularly during fall and winter

Change in mm/day for those days with precipitation



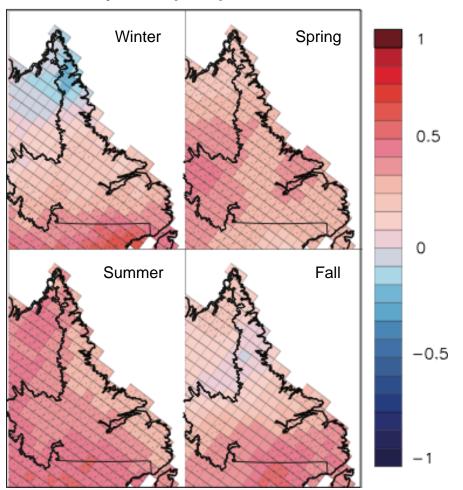
The average amount of precipitation per precipitation event is expected to increase by about 5% across all seasons and all regions of the island.

The absolute level of precipitation is expected to increase the most during the winter months and during the fall months for the Avalon Peninsula.

The absolute level of precipitation is expected to increase the least during the spring months.

Precipitation events, on average, will be Labrador more intense particularly during fall and winter

Change in mm/day for those days with precipitation



The average amount of precipitation per precipitation event is expected to increase by about 5% across all seasons and all regions of Labrador.

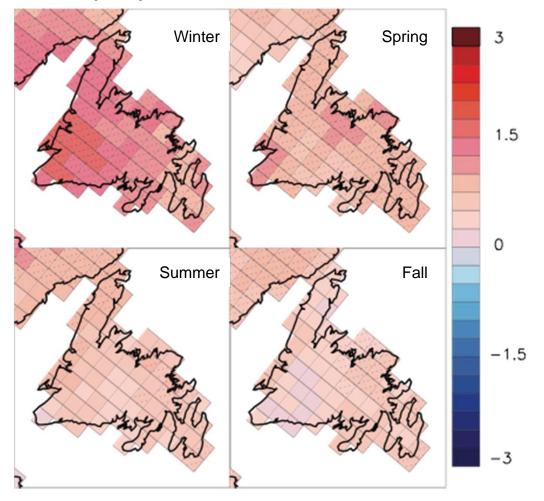
In Labrador, the absolute level of precipitation is expected to increase the most during the summer months and during the fall and winter months for more southerly regions.

The absolute level of precipitation is expected to decrease during the winter months north of Saglek Bay.

There will be more days with high levels of precipitation (10 mm or more)



Change in number of days with precipitation of 10 mm or more



Higher levels of precipitation can lead to increased risk of flooding and erosion.

The number of precipitation events with 10 mm or more varies by location on the island. For example, St. John's currently sees 59 events while St. Anthony experiences 45 events.

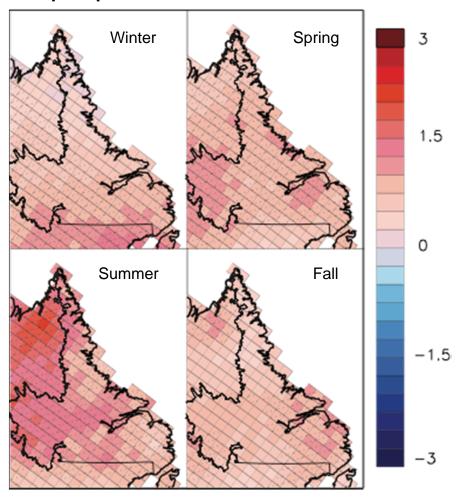
By mid century, it is projected that the number of events will increase by about 3-4 per year.

Winter is expected to see more growth in these events than other seasons.

There will be more days with high levels of precipitation (10 mm or more)



Change in number of days with precipitation of 10 mm or more



Higher levels of precipitation can lead to increased risk of flooding and erosion.

In Labrador, the number of precipitation events with 10 mm or more varies by location. For example, Cartwright currently sees 38 events while Wabush experiences 30 events.

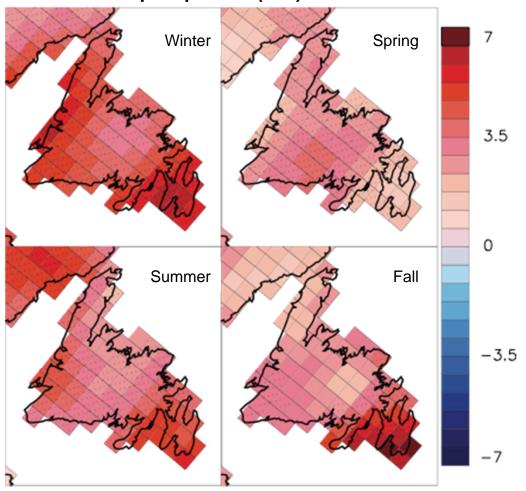
By mid century, it is projected that the number of events will increase by about 3 to 4 per year.

Summer is expected to see more growth in these events than other seasons.

Maximum precipitation over a 3-day period is expected to increase in all seasons



Change in maximum 3-day precipitation (mm)



High levels of precipitation over several days impacts reservoirs, soil-moisture capacity and water bodies, even if precipitation intensity is low.

The Avalon Peninsula is expected to see the most increase in precipitation over 3 days during the summer, fall and winter seasons.

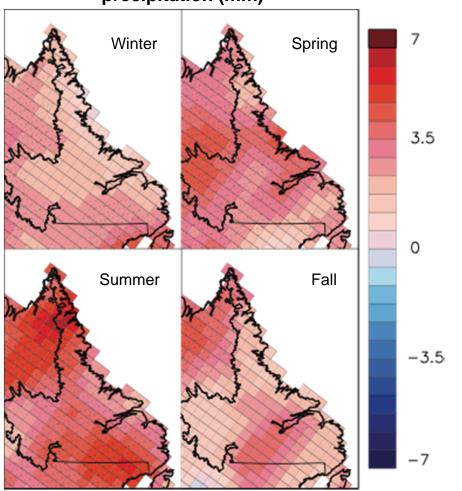
The west and south coasts are also expected to see growth in 3 day precipitation during all seasons.

Similar trends exist for 5-day and 10-day precipitation.

Maximum precipitation over a 3-day period is expected to increase in all seasons



Change in maximum 3-day precipitation (mm)



High levels of precipitation over several days impacts reservoirs, soil-moisture capacity and water bodies, even if precipitation intensity is low.

In Labrador, the largest increase in 3 day precipitation is expected to occur during the summer months and, to some extent, during the spring.

There is expected to be relatively little change during the fall and winter months.

Similar trends exist for 5-day and 10-day precipitation.

Other changes will be observed but with less significance



"Cooling degree days" are expected to increase during the summer, but the change is expected to be small

 This measure reflects the demand for energy to cool a building, calculated as the difference between mean temperature and 16°C for those days where the mean temperature is higher than 16°C

No significant increase in the incidence of heat waves

 Heat waves are defined as events of 6 or more days with a maximum temperature of 5°C above normal

Droughts are not a concern for the province

- The maximum number of days between precipitation event and the average dry spell is not expected to change by any noticeable amount.
- Droughts are measured as the longest stretch of days without precipitation



4. Implications: Temperature and Precipitation

All sectors and all regions of the province will be affected



 Eight examples are provided to show potential implications, using different locations from around the province, as follows:

| Theme | Location |
|--|--------------------------|
| Infrastructure | St. John's |
| Coastal erosion | Stephenville |
| Agriculture and forestry productivity | Grand Falls-Windsor |
| Energy demand in an isolated community | Nain |
| Winter tourism | Gander and Corner Brook |
| Aquaculture | Bay d'Espoir |
| Aquatic invasive species | Bay d'Espoir |
| Geographic Range and Incidence of Human Diseases | Deer Lake to St. Anthony |

Example #1: Impacts on transportation infrastructure from higher levels of precipitation



| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21 st century | Uncertainty estimate |
|------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | | Maximum 3-day precipitation (mm) | | |
| St. John's | Spring | 76.2 | + 1.6 | +/- 1.7 |
| | Summer | 58.9 | + 4.5 | +/- 6.2 |
| | Fall | 75.0 | + 5.8 | +/- 3.9 |
| | Winter | 86.8 | + 5.8 | +/- 4.3 |

- Maximum potential rainfall over 3 days in <u>St. John's</u> is expected to increase by 7% to 8%
- There is the potential for more flooding from higher rainfall, and the potential for higher amounts of snowfall from winter storms
- This could have implications on transportation infrastructure planning (e.g., culvert size, snow clearing equipment)

Example #2: Coastal erosion resulting from stronger storms



| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21 st century | Uncertainty estimate |
|--------------|--------|--|--|----------------------|
| | | Number of precipitation events > 10 mm | | |
| Stephenville | Spring | 8.8 | + 1.0 | +/- 0.7 |
| | Summer | 10.9 | + 0.9 | +/- 0.6 |
| | Fall | 13.5 | + 0.5 | +/- 0.7 |
| | Winter | 14.1 | + 1.6 | +/- 0.7 |

- The Stephenville area is susceptible to coastal erosion
- The rate of coastal erosion is impacted by storm frequency and intensity
- Number of precipitation events with 10+ mm per year expected to increase from 47.3 to 51.3 by mid century
- When combined with higher levels of precipitation per event, there is the potential for higher rates of coastal erosion in the area

Example #3:



Agriculture and forestry productivity will improve, but also bring invasive species and pests

| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21 st century | Uncertainty estimate | |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| | | Number of growing degree days | | | |
| Grand Falls- Windsor | Spring | 23.8 | + 10.1 | +/- 7.5 | |
| | Summer | 534.7 | + 145.2 | +/- 50.6 | |
| | Fall | 98.5 | + 39.1 | +/- 19.0 | |

- Growing degree days correlates to the amount of heat available for industries such as forestry and agriculture
- In <u>Grand Falls-Windsor</u>, the number of growing degree days will increase by about 30% by mid century
- This will mean longer and more productive agriculture and forestry seasons, and a shift in vegetation types
- It may also mean a later start to the big game hunting season, the presence of new species, and increases in pests (e.g., spanworm)

Example #4: Reduced demand for energy in an isolated community



| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21st century | Uncertainty estimate |
|----------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Number of heating degree days | | |
| Nain | Fall | 1315.8 | - 199.4 | +/- 69.5 |
| | Winter | 2856.2 | - 356.8 | +/- 125.3 |
| | Spring | 1925.5 | - 203.4 | +/- 56.3 |

- Heating degree days correlates to the amount of heat available necessary to heat buildings in cold weather
- In <u>Nain</u>, the number of heating degree days is expected to decrease by about 12% by mid century
- This will mean that homeowners and commercial building owners will require less energy to heat buildings (heating oil, wood, electricity)

Example #5: The winter tourism season may shorten



| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21 st century | Uncertainty estimate |
|--------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | | ° Celsius | | |
| Gander | Winter | - 5.55 | + 2.69 | +/- 1.30 |
| Corner Brook | Winter | - 4.89 | + 2.84 | +/- 1.29 |

- The average winter temperature in <u>Gander</u> and <u>Corner Brook</u> is expected to be at least 2.7°C warmer by mid century
- Warmer winters will reduce the period of snow cover, potentially shortening snowmobile and skiing seasons
- However, due to increased temperatures, this may also mean that the summer tourism season may start earlier and extend later into the fall months

Example #6:



Warmer temperatures may increase aquaculture productivity but also bring risks to fish health

| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21 st century | Uncertainty estimate |
|--------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | | ° Celsius | | |
| Bay d'Espoir | Spring | 2.63 | + 2.12 | +/- 0.33 |
| | Summer | 14.92 | + 2.04 | +/- 0.36 |
| | Fall | 7.32 | + 2.01 | +/- 0.51 |

- The average temperature from spring to fall at <u>Bay d'Espoir</u> is expected to grow by over 2°C by mid century
- Warmer temperatures could result in warmer coastal waters resulting in improved aquaculture productivity in the early spring and early summer
- However, during later summer and the fall warmer coastal waters may result in decreased aquaculture productivity
- Warmer temperatures could also result in the increased detection of infectious pathogens and diseases harmful to fish health

Example #7:



Warmer temperatures may increase the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive

| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21st century | Uncertainty estimate | |
|--------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | ° Celsius | | | |
| Bay d'Espoir | Spring | 2.63 | + 2.12 | +/- 0.33 | |
| | Summer | 14.92 | + 2.04 | +/- 0.36 | |
| | Fall | 7.32 | + 2.01 | +/- 0.51 | |

- The <u>south coast</u> of the island is a high marine traffic area and a known area of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Newfoundland & Labrador
- Potentially warmer coastal waters may allow improved conditions for the survival and reproduction of AIS (e.g. tunicate species)
- AIS can potentially change the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems and/or negatively affect the fishing and aquaculture industry

Example #8:



Rising temperatures may increase the incidence of human illness from infectious diseases

| Location | Season | Late 20 th century | Change to mid 21st century | Uncertainty estimate | |
|------------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | ° Celsius | | | |
| Deer Lake | Summer | 14.98 | + 2.10 | +/- 0.41 | |
| Daniel's Harbour | | 13.18 | + 2.16 | +/- 0.53 | |
| Plum Point | | 12.96 | + 2.13 | +/- 0.58 | |
| St. Anthony | | 12.32 | + 1.91 | +/- 0.60 | |

- The average summer temperature on the <u>Northern Peninsula</u> is expected to grow by about 1.9 to 2.2 °C by mid century
- This may result in variations to patterns of diseases caused by bacteria,
 viruses and other pathogens carried by mosquitoes, ticks, and animals
- For example, the incidence of Lyme disease may increase as warmer temperatures expand the range of the species of ticks known to transmit the disease



5. Key Findings and Implications: Extreme Precipitation Events



Defining Extreme Precipitation Events

- Climate change will result in more intense extreme events
- <u>Extreme precipitation events</u> examine the frequency and intensity of precipitation events
- For example, if the models project that 100 mm of rain will fall over a 24 hour period once every 100 years, this means that there is a reasonable probability that a storm with 100 mm of rain will occur once every 100 years
- These projections are used for infrastructure design (roads, drainage system, etc.)

What are the main findings from projections of extreme precipitation?



- Extreme precipitation events will increase for all locations
- In most cases
 - 1-in-100 year storms are projected to become 1-in-50 or 1-in-25 year storms
 - 1-in-50 year storms are projected to become 1-in-25 or 1-in-20 year storms
 - 1-in-20 year storms are projected to become 1-in-5 or 1-in-2
 year storms
- Newfoundland is expected to get more intense events than Labrador

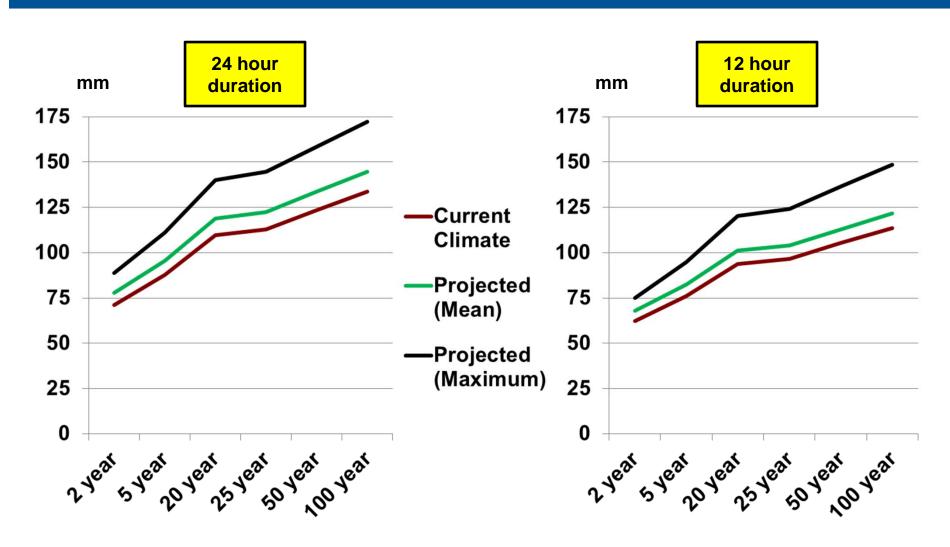


19 locations are included in this study

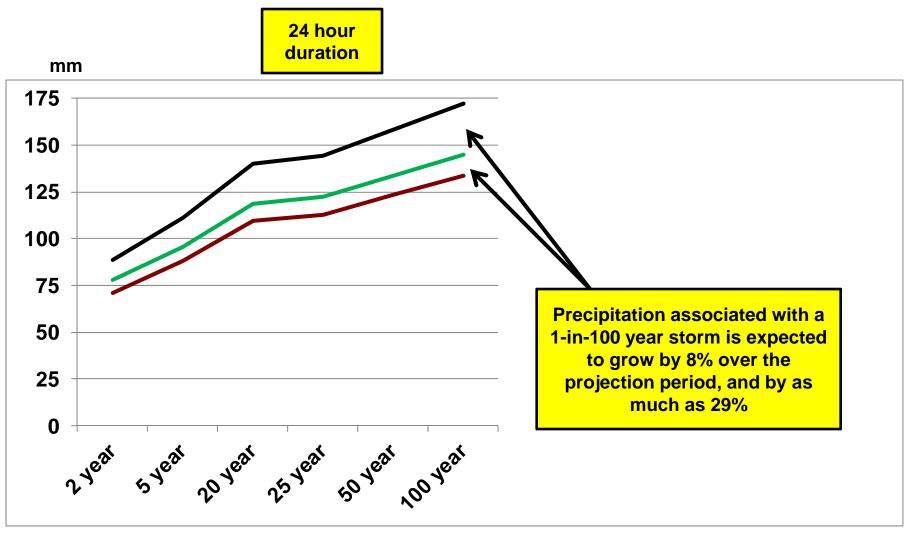
- First example (St. Lawrence) includes details on how to use the information
- Charts for the all locations are located in the Annex to this presentation
- Data for all locations is available at <u>www.turnbackthetide.ca</u>

Extreme Weather Precipitation St. Lawrence

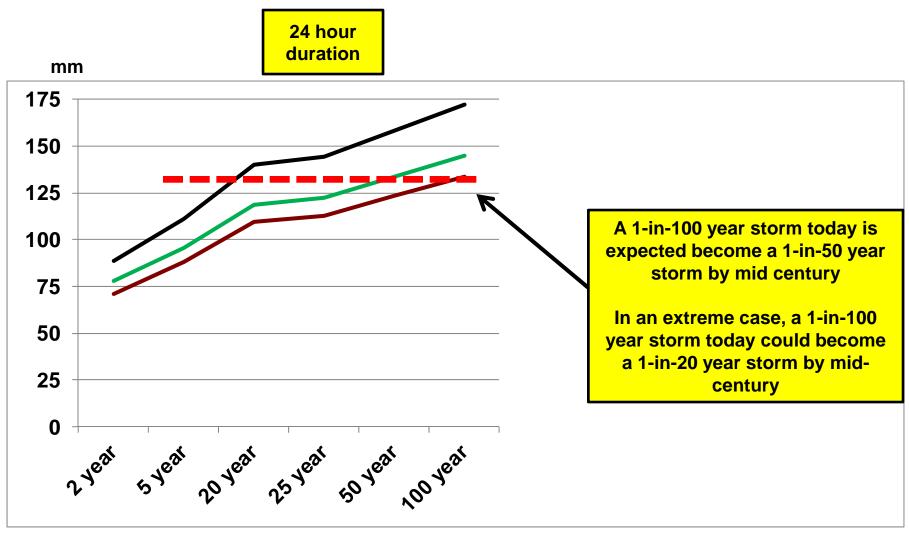




How to use this information Extreme Weather Precipitation – St. Lawrence



How to use this information Extreme Weather Precipitation – St. Lawrence





Example #9: Planning for extreme weather events

| Period | St. Lawrence | 2 year | 5 Year | 20 Year | 25 year | 50 year | 100 year |
|-------------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| | | mm | | | | | |
| 24 hours | Current | 71.2 | 87.9 | 109.6 | 113.0 | 123.4 | 133.7 |
| | Projected mean | 77.8 | 95.7 | 118.9 | 122.5 | 133.7 | 144.7 |
| 12 hours | Current | 62.3 | 76.1 | 93.9 | 96.7 | 105.3 | 113.7 |
| | Projected mean | 68.1 | 82.5 | 101.1 | 104.0 | 113.0 | 121.8 |

- For 1-in-2 and 1-in-5 year storms, precipitation is expected to increase by about 9% in <u>St. Lawrence</u>
- Currently, a 1-in-100 year storm is expected to bring 133.7 mm of precipitation over a 24 hour period – by mid century, a 1-in-50 year storm is expected to bring this level of precipitation
- These changes may impact on future municipal zoning regulations, and may result in increased culvert sizes on municipal roads



6. Key Conclusions

Conclusions



- Climate change is happening
- Projections show that temperatures are rising, precipitation is increasing and extreme weather events are becoming more intense
- Changes to our climate will affect all sectors, from agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, to infrastructure, health, and tourism.
- It is important that we improve our understanding of what we can expect to happen, so we can better plan for the future.
- Climate change projections can support better planning and decision-making by all levels of government, industry, businesses, communities and non-governmental organizations.
- This will allow for new opportunities to be identified and to increase resilience, thereby reducing risks and costs.



7. Contact Information



Further Reading and Contact Information

- Graphics published at http://maps.gov.nl.ca/water/
- Technical report published at <u>www.turnbackthetide.ca</u>
- Data for individual weather stations available in Excel format at www.turnbackthetide.ca
- For further information, please contact

Patricia King
Senior Statistician
Office of Climate Change, Energy Efficiency
and Emissions Trading
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Telephone (709) 729-1485

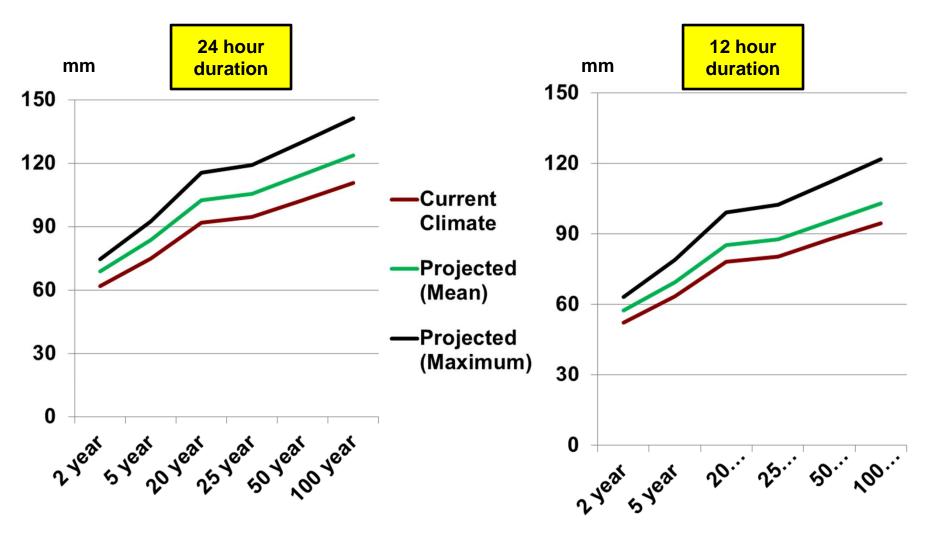
Amir Ali Khan, Ph.D, P.Eng Manager, Hydrologic Modelling Section Water Resources Management Department of Environment and Conservation Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Telephone (709) 729-2295



Annex – Extreme Precipitation Events (all locations)

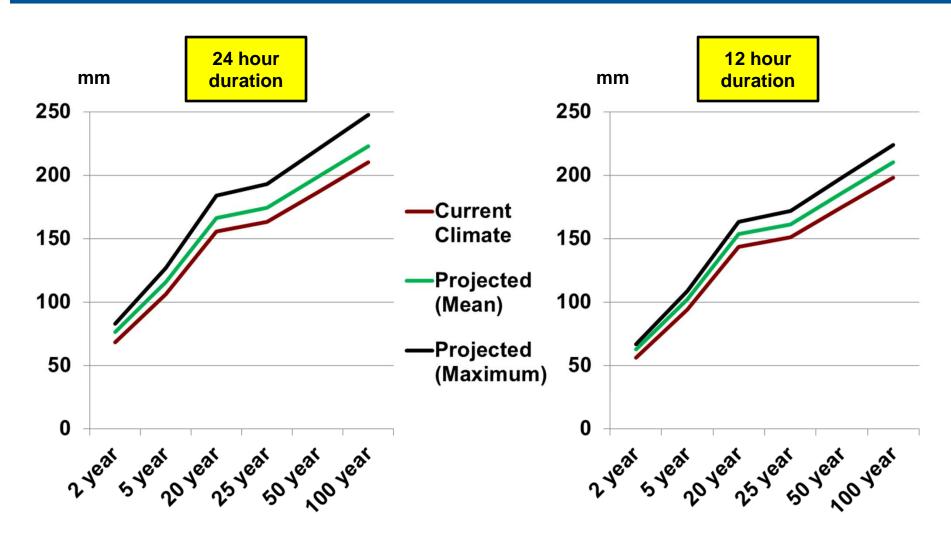
Extreme Weather Precipitation St. John's





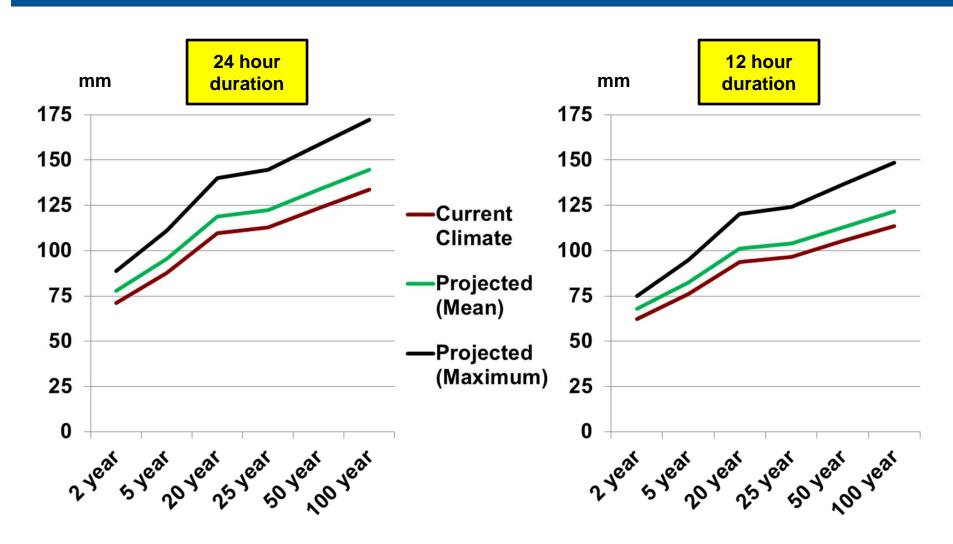
Extreme Weather Precipitation Argentia





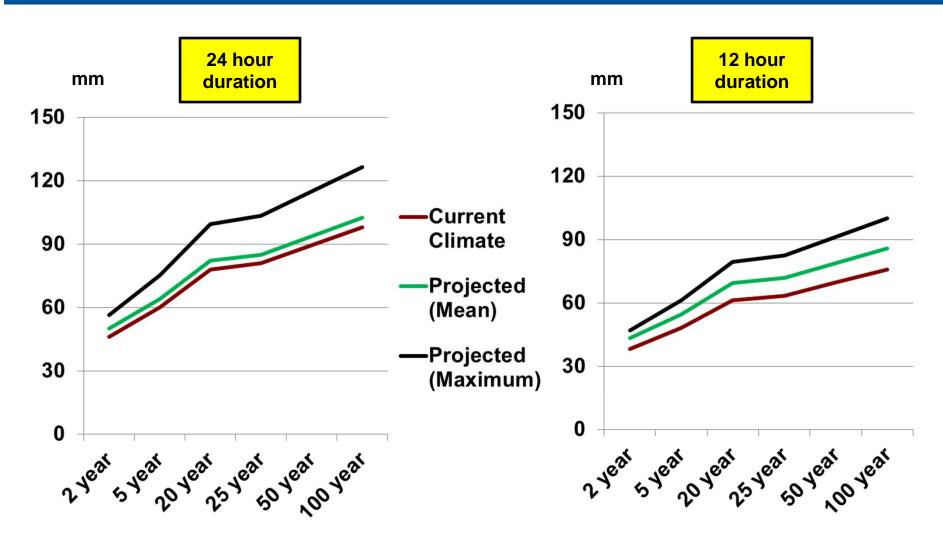
Extreme Weather Precipitation St. Lawrence





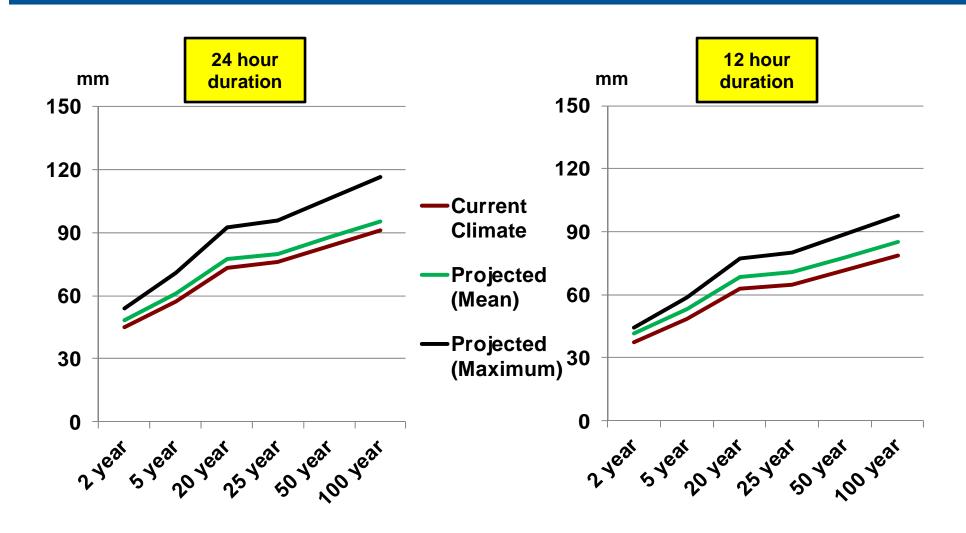
Extreme Weather Precipitation Gander





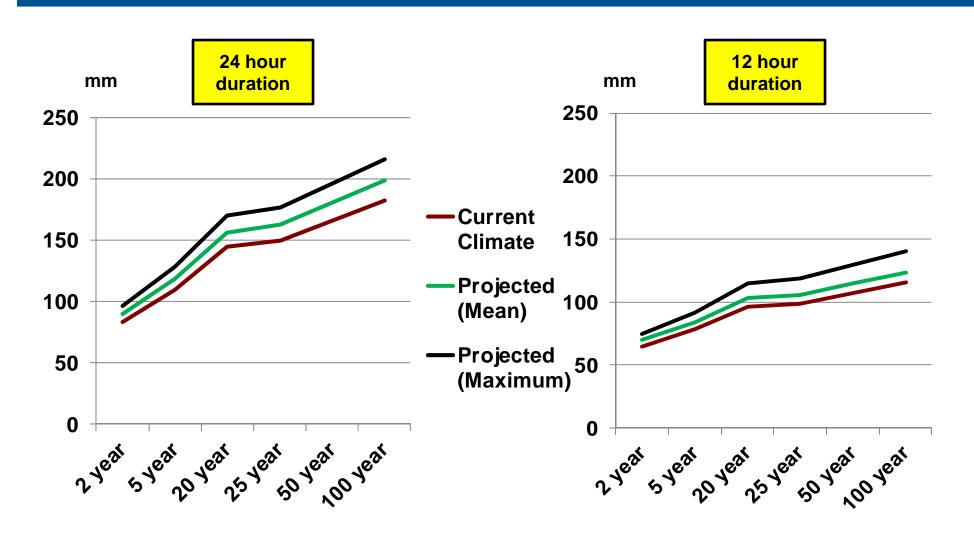
Extreme Weather Precipitation Comfort Cove





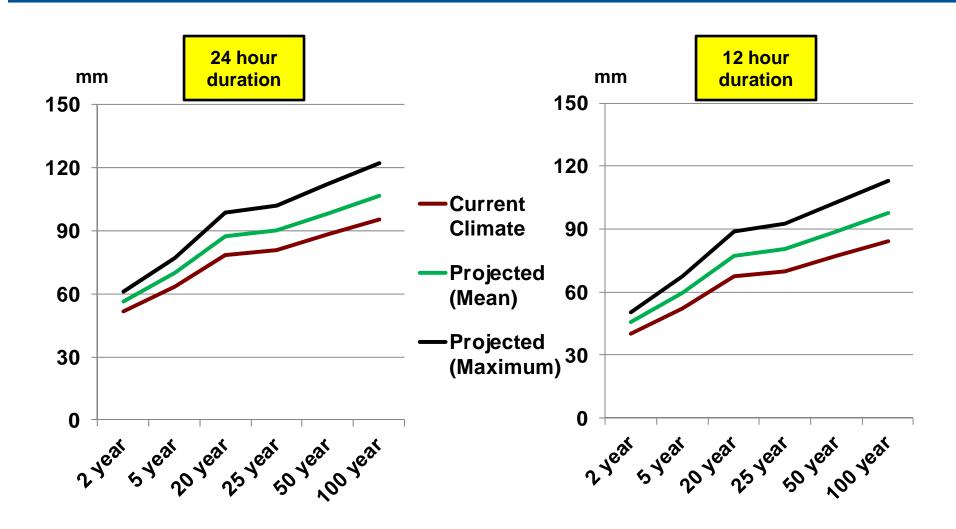
Extreme Weather Precipitation St. Alban's





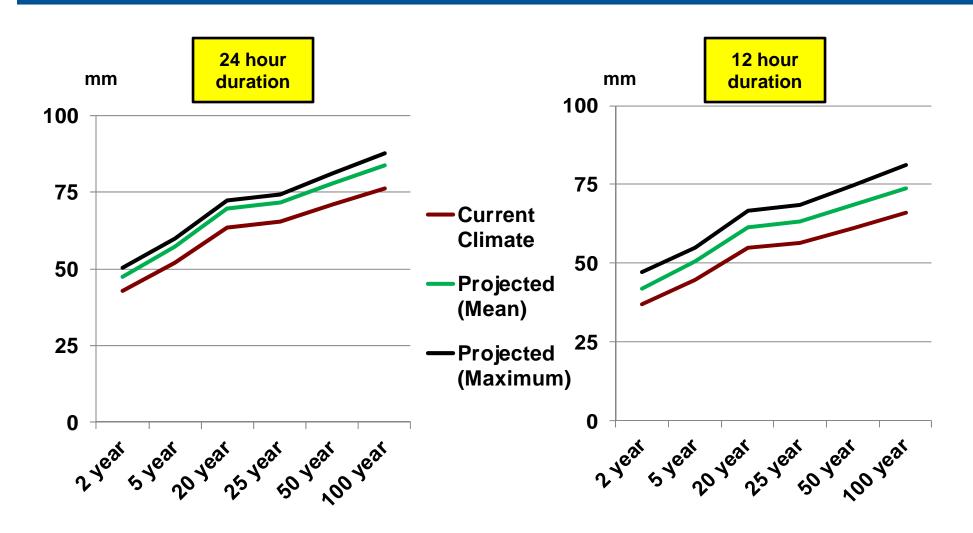
Extreme Weather Precipitation LaScie





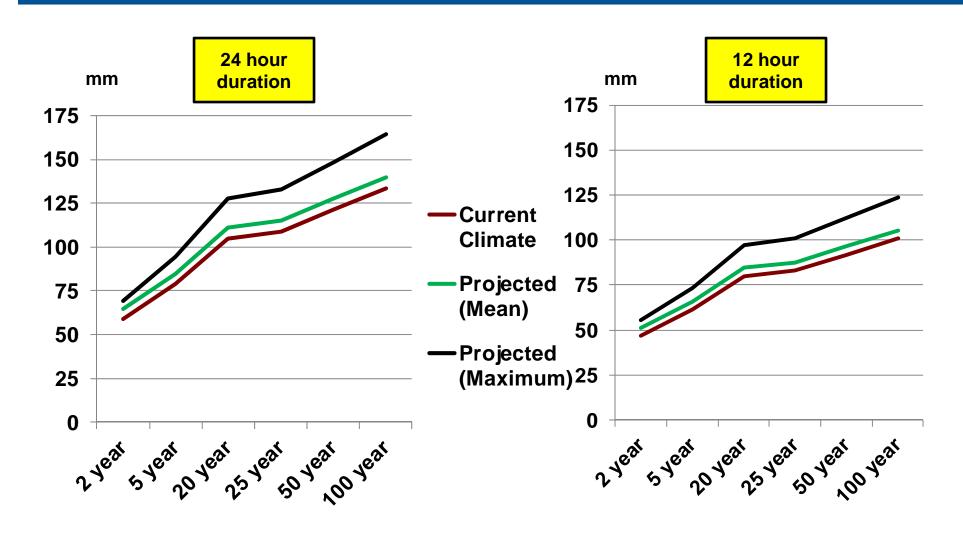
Extreme Weather Precipitation Deer Lake





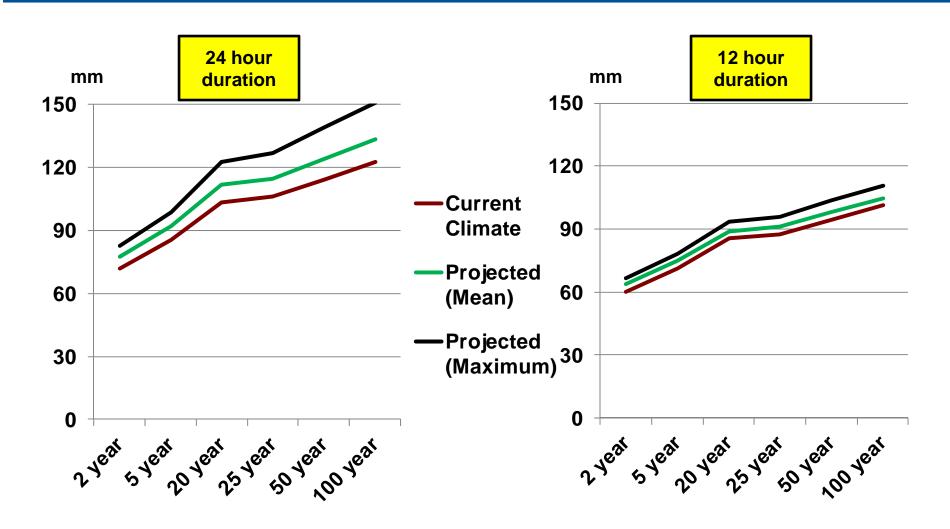
Extreme Weather Precipitation Stephenville





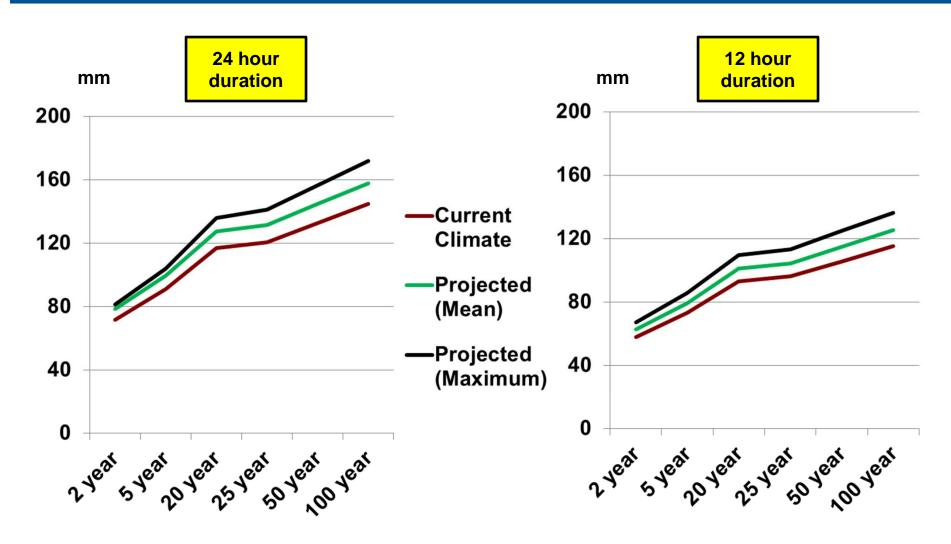
Extreme Weather Precipitation Burgeo





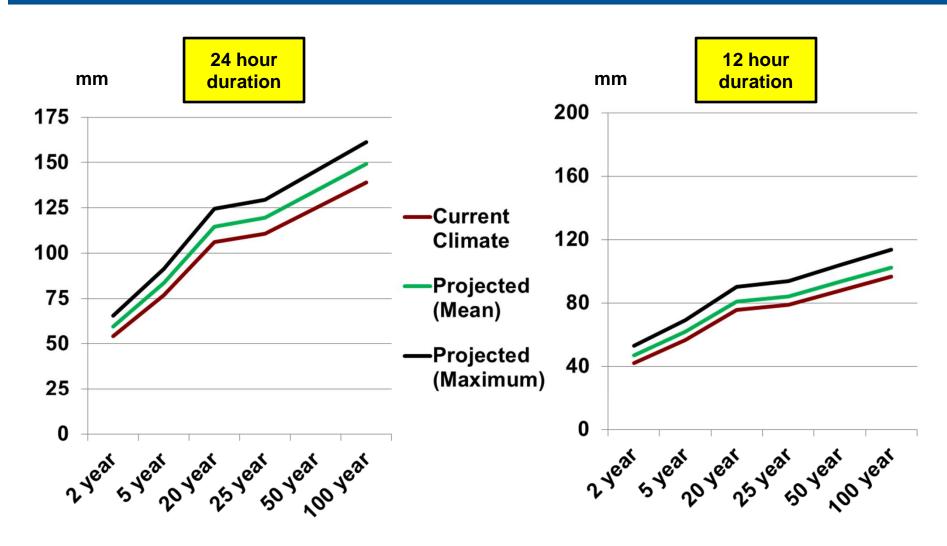
Extreme Weather Precipitation Port aux Basques





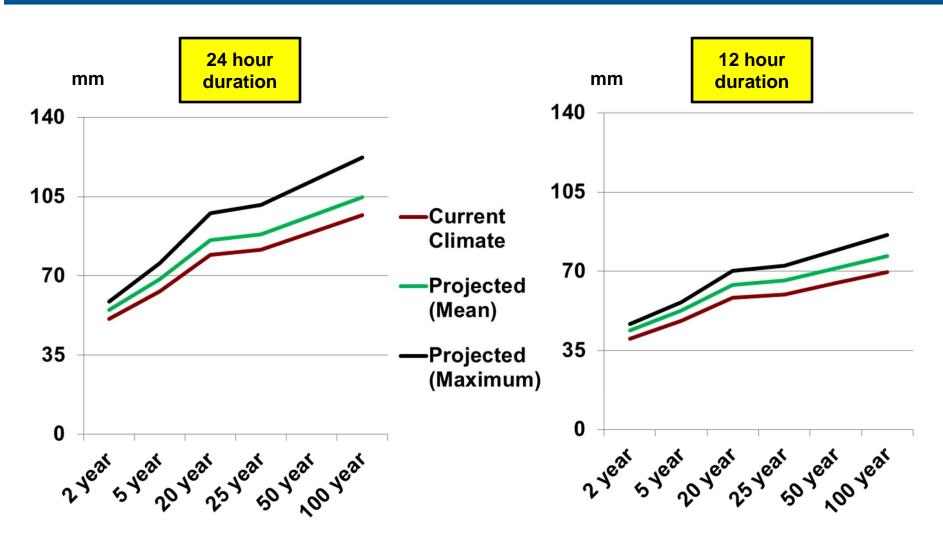
Extreme Weather Precipitation Daniel's Harbour





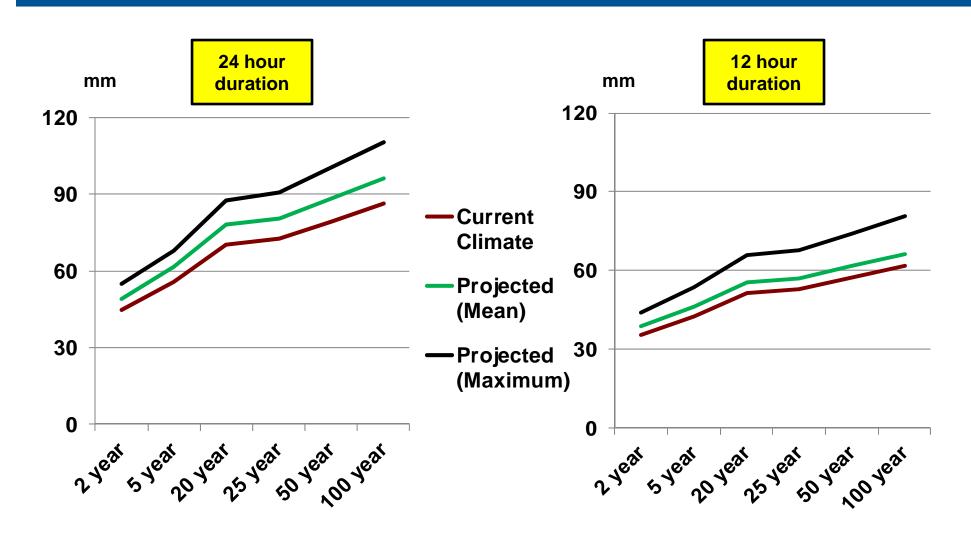
Extreme Weather Precipitation St. Anthony





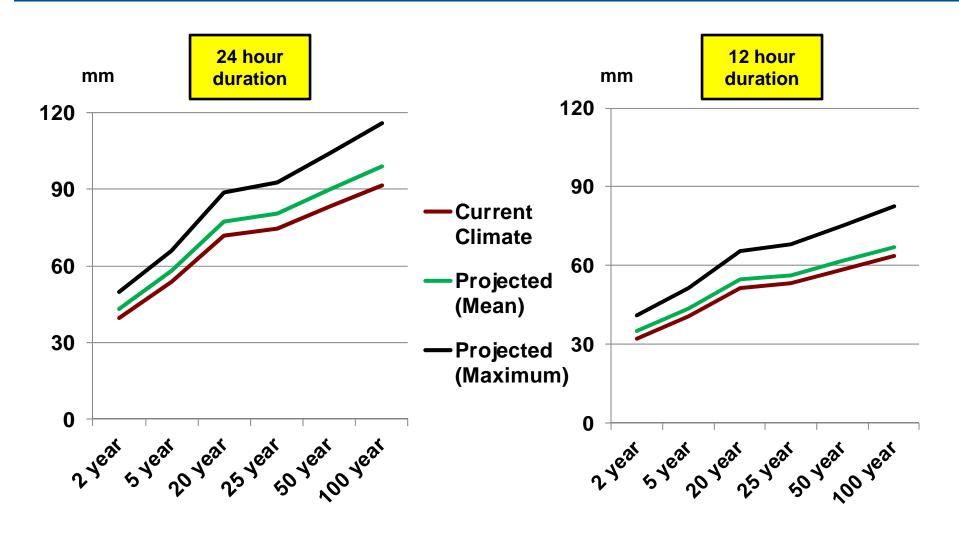
Extreme Weather Precipitation Battle Harbour





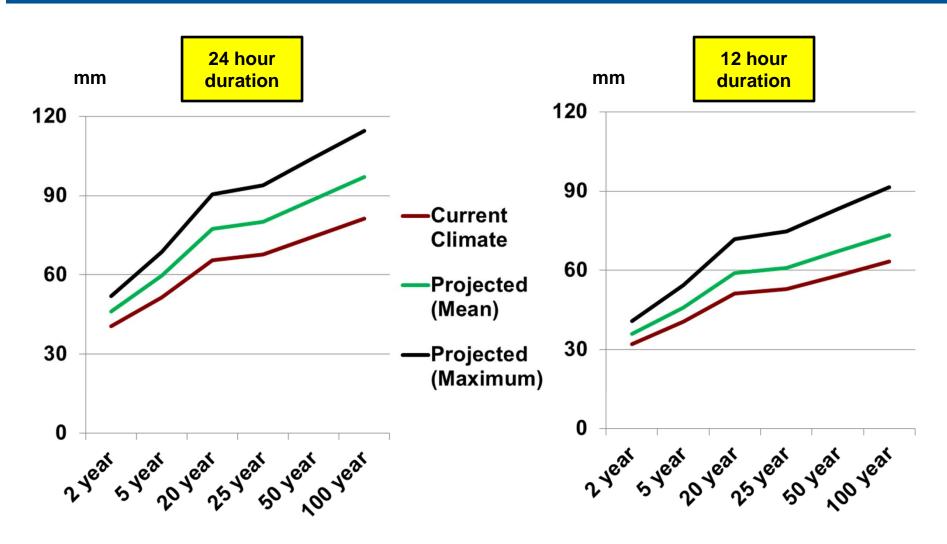
Extreme Weather Precipitation Mary's Harbour





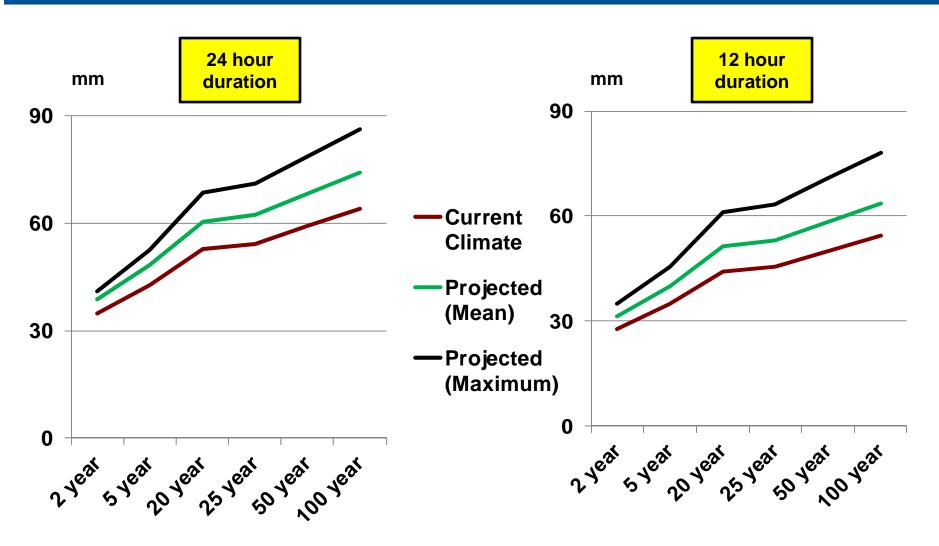
Extreme Weather Precipitation Goose Bay





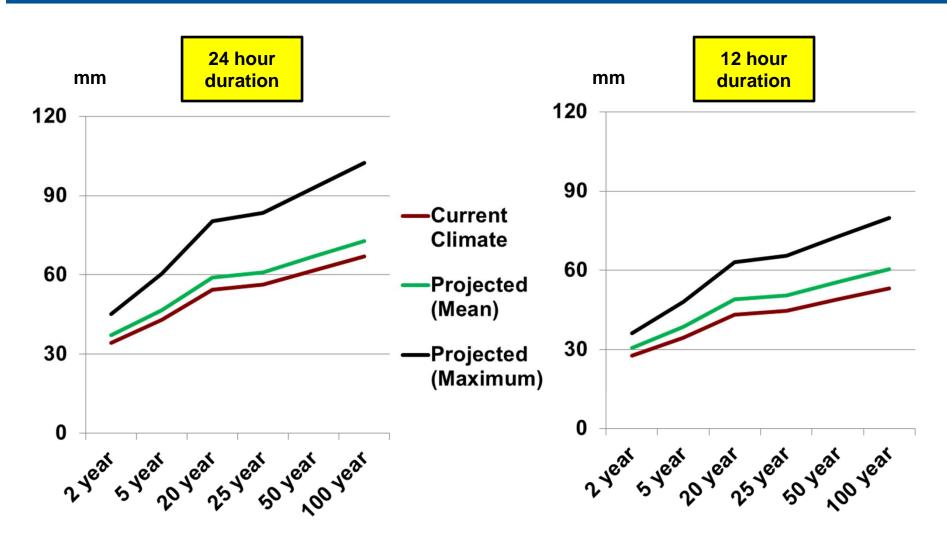
Extreme Weather Precipitation Churchill Falls





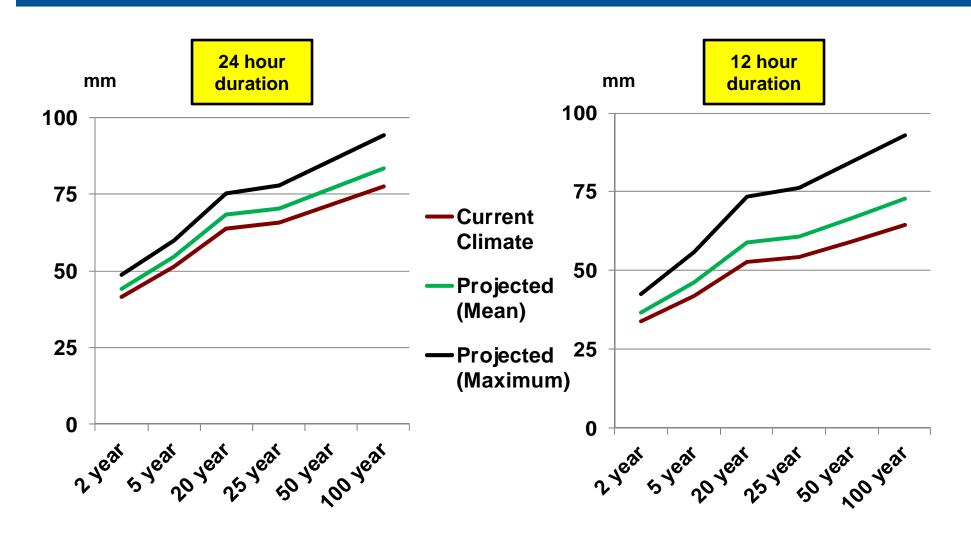
Extreme Weather PrecipitationWabush





Extreme Weather PrecipitationNain







Office of Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Emissions Trading
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

West Block, 5th Floor, Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Telephone 709-729-1210
E-mail climatechange@gov.nl.ca

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