



UNDERSTANDING  
COASTAL CHANGE AND  
POLICY SOLUTIONS



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# Current Context

PEI's coast is essential to our culture, economy, and environment. Over 3,000 km of shoreline provide habitat, livelihoods, and recreation.

## 01. Land Use Planning

82% of PEI lacks comprehensive land use planning policies and development regulations to guide coastal zone management.

## 02. Hazardous and Unplanned Development

New coastal subdivisions and developments continue to be approved in hazard-prone areas.



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# What Is Coastal Policy?

## 01. Roadmap

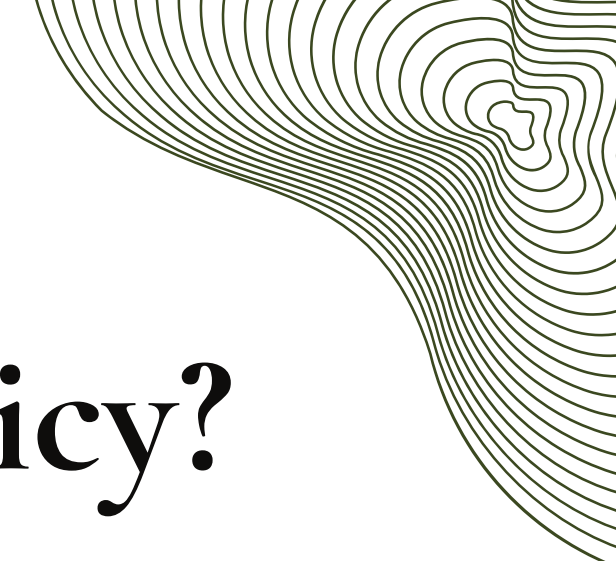
A framework for managing coastal development, risks, and conservation.

## 02. Coordinated

Coordinates how we respond to natural hazards and land use.

## 03. Proactive

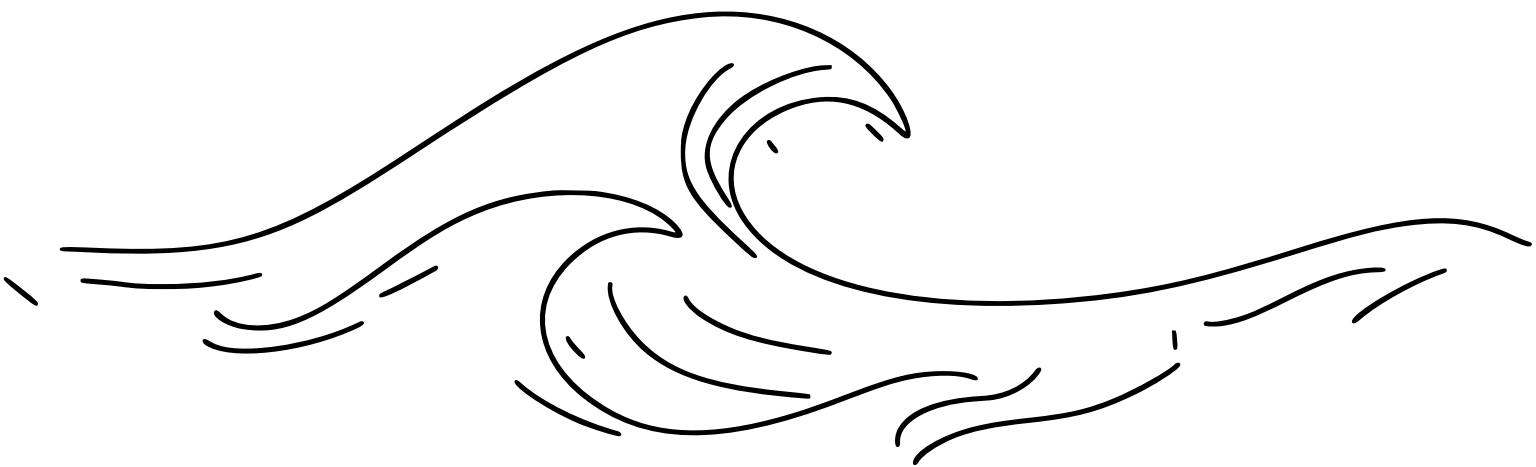
Helps avoid piecemeal, reactive responses like excessive armouring.



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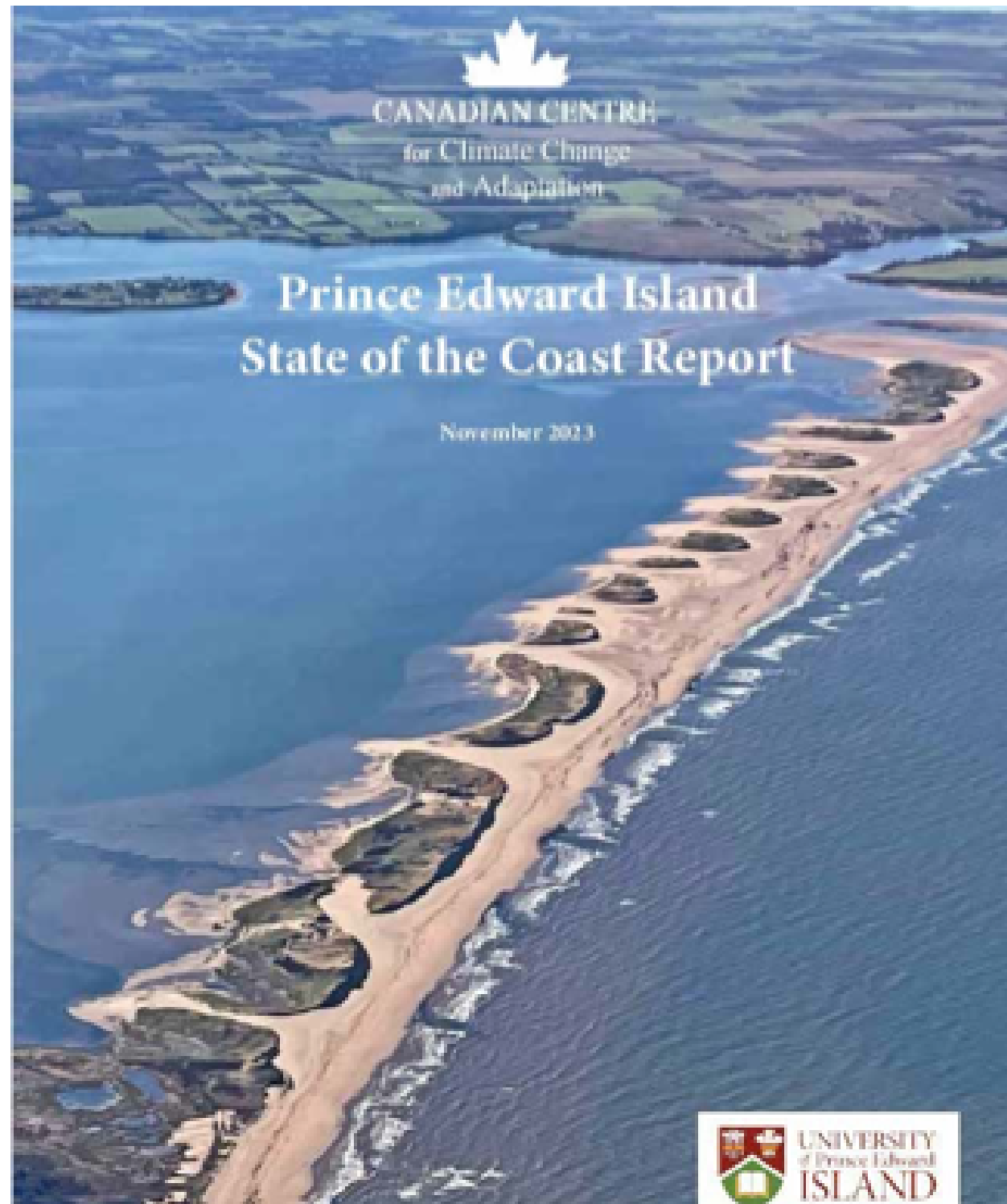
# What Are Coastal Hazards?

- Erosion: cliffs and dunes worn away by waves, wind, and ice.
- Flooding: storm surges and sea level rise threaten low-lying areas.
- Infrastructure at Risk: roads, homes, wastewater systems, and tourism assets.



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# State of the Coast Report



## Key Findings

- PEI's State of the Coast Report (2023) mapped key vulnerabilities.
- 2023 Shoreline Structure Inventory shows armouring is increasing rapidly.
- 98% of new shoreline structures were built on private land.

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# Why Planning Matters



Development continues in hazard-prone zones



Rural sprawl spreads adaptation challenges.



# Interim Coastal Policy Recommendations Report

Based on PEI State of the Coast Report 2023.  
Research included a jurisdictional scan of over 41 provinces, states and countries.

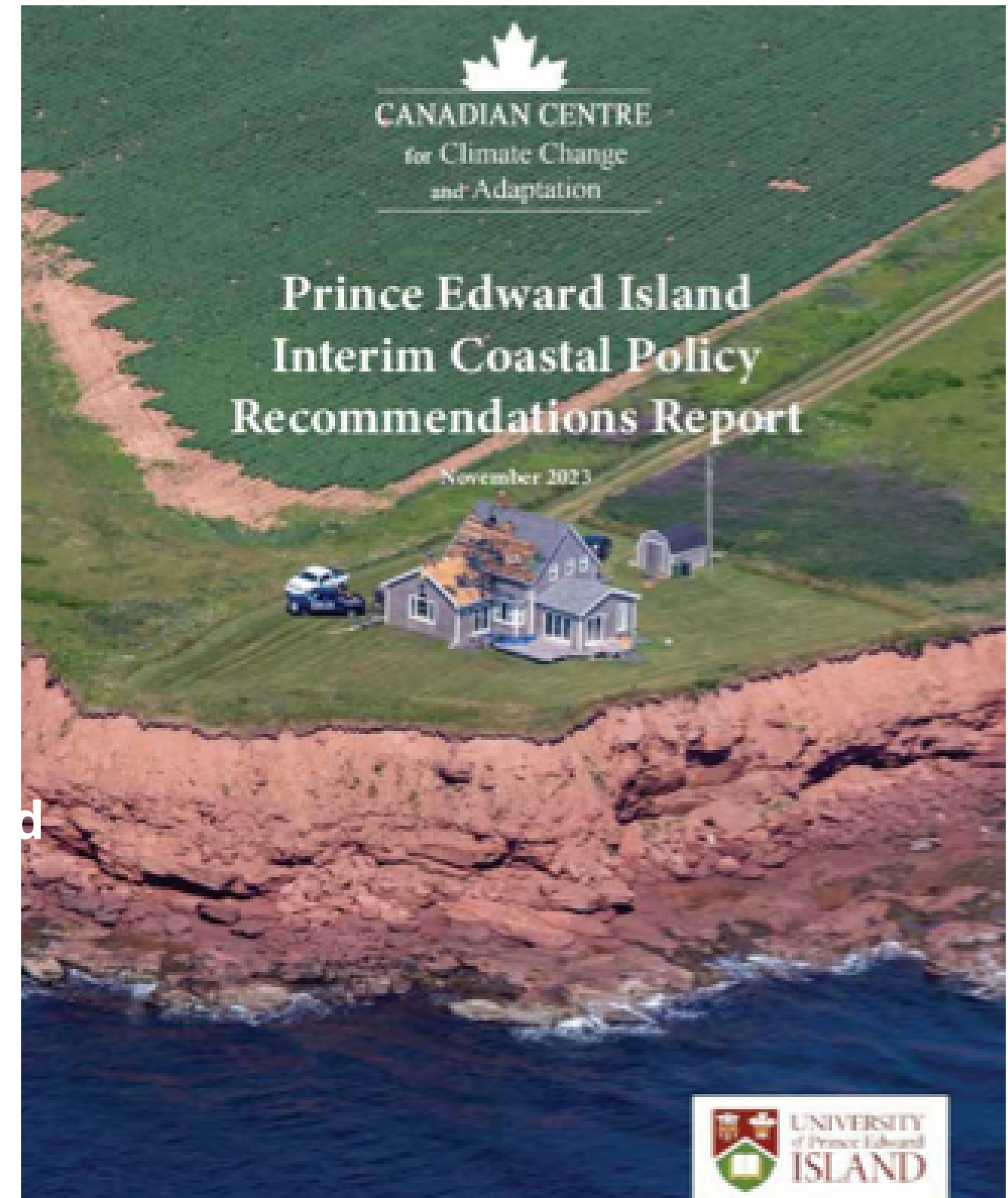
Created a Coastal Policy Decision Framework

**Path 1. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs)  
for developed coastlines**

**Path 2a. Prevention to preserve the natural  
enhance public safety**

**Path 2b. Proactive risk reduction for existing  
properties**

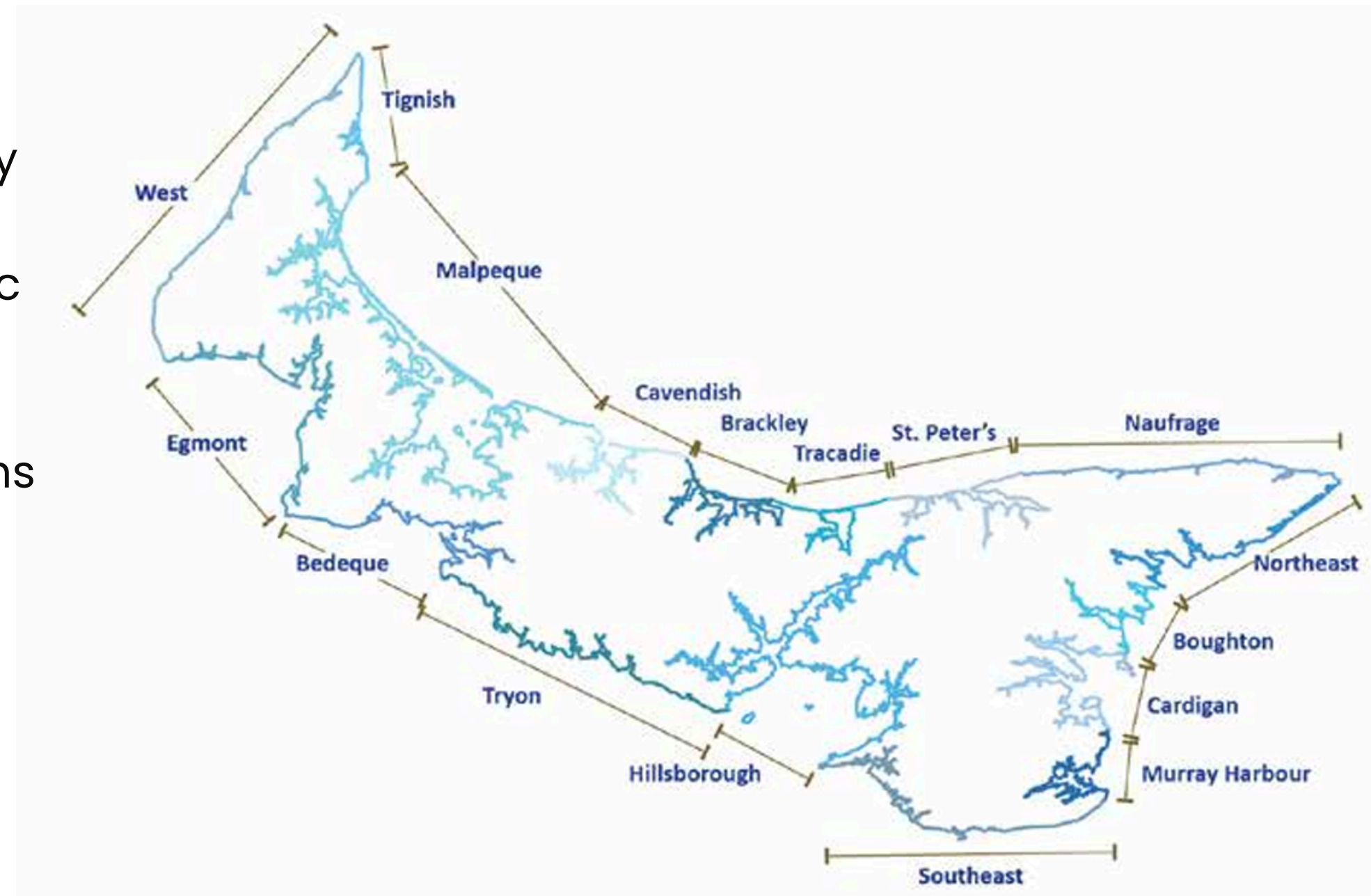
**Path 2c. Resilient Recovery**



# Shoreline Management Plans

An SMP identifies the coastal management strategy that is most appropriate for each segment of coastline based on environmental, social, economic objectives.

The SMP will provide a description of the implications and justifications for the selected strategy. All coastal development and shoreline alterations must align with the approved SMP



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# Prevention/ Preservation

**Prevention is the most proactive and cost effective adaptation strategy the province can adopt.**

Prevention strategies preserve environmentally sensitive areas through:

- conservation and environmental protection regulations, or
- land use planning.

Violations for activities that adversely impact these areas should include a requirement for ecological restoration.





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# Proactive Risk Reduction

Proactive risk reduction strategies should be implemented when hazards and risks have been identified.

Site and/or building modifications can extend the life of a property or structure, at least temporarily.

Temporary because while coastal hazards are unpredictable, they are inevitable.



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# Resilient Recovery

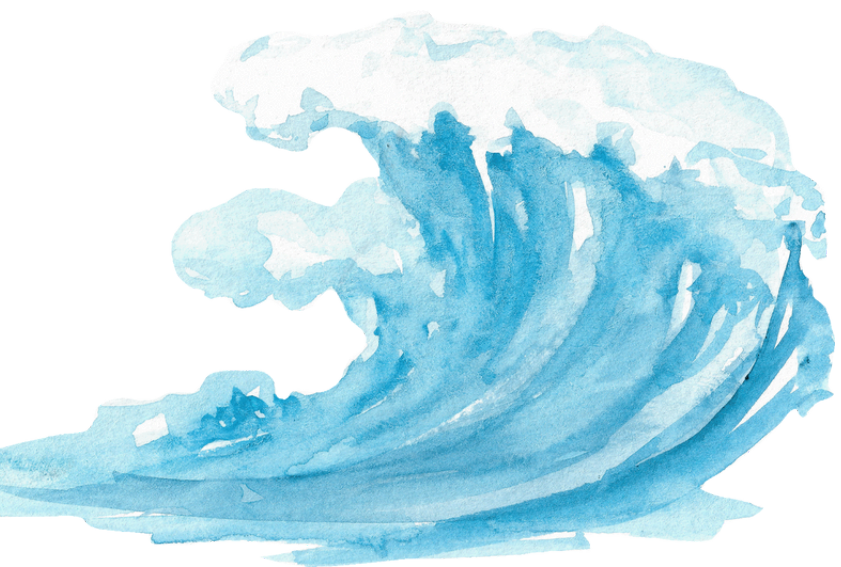
Policies for a resilient recovery should ensure that the impacts on people and housing security are prioritized over compensation for financial losses.

Many people put off investing in proactive measures because they assume they have insurance coverage or that they will receive financial support following damage.

It is very important for disaster response plans to be communicated in advance of the next big storm.

## **Including:**

- availability of financial supports,
- caps on financial assistance,
- restrictions and/or requirements for rebuilding in a more resilient manner



# The Risk of Doing Nothing

- Loss of natural shorelines and habitat
- Growing disaster recovery costs
- Insurance coverage gaps
- Inequity in who is protected

