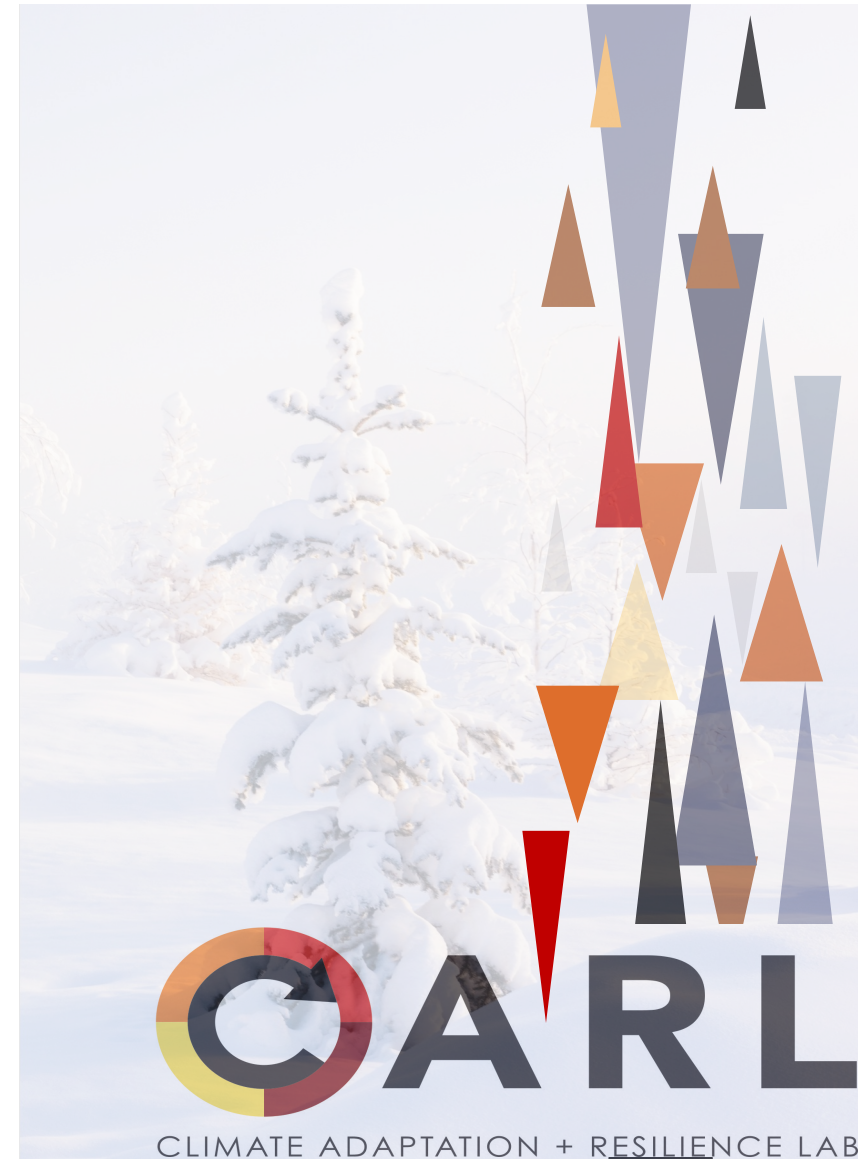


THE ROLE OF ADAPTATION PLANNING IN SUPPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE IN REMOTE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

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OUTLINE

- 1) Research Problem
- 2) Research Objectives
- 3) Methods
- 4) Findings
- 5) Discussion
- 6) Conclusion

“We would like to do a lot more, and we could,
if we’re given the resources to do so.” (DC4)



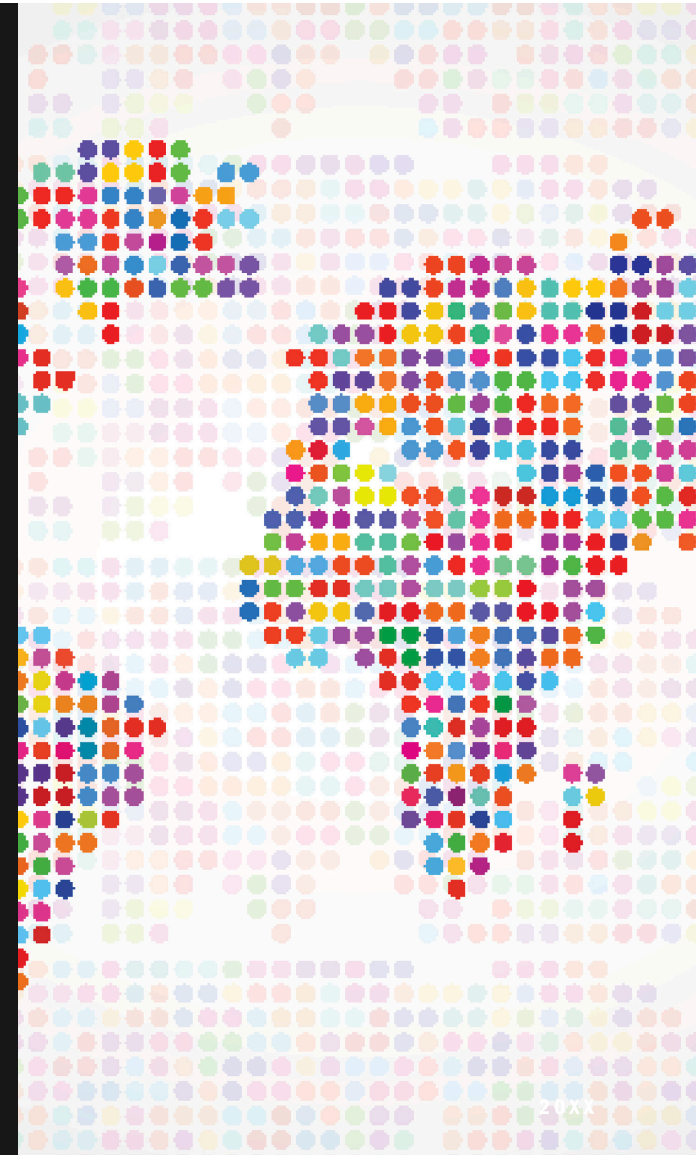


RESEARCH PROBLEM

- Climate stressors are worsening
- The need to adapt is growing
- Warming and adaptation barriers are pronounced in Northern communities

RESEARCH GAP

- Studies of adaptation barriers and government interactions focus on interactions between national and state/provincial governments and local governments, with less attention paid to territorial levels of government.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

We aim to:

- Bridge a gap in adaptation governance literature

Research Objectives:

- Explore the relationship between local and territorial actors and institutions
- Examine how power and knowledge emerge within governance to create adaptation enablers and/or barriers



RESEARCH METHODS

- Case Study Approach
 - Whitehorse
 - Dawson City
 - Haines Junction
- Qualitative Methods
 - Semi-structured interviews (n=16)
 - Review of strategic planning documents (n=15)
 - Field observation



FINDINGS

Overarching Theme

- Case study communities have initiated the process of adaptation planning, **BUT**, implementation lags.

Sub Themes

- Climate Stressors & Local Response
- Challenges to Local Adaptation



CLIMATE STRESSORS AND RESPONSE

FLOOD



WILDFIRE



PERMAFROST THAW



CLIMATE STRESSORS AND RESPONSE

Adaptation is:

- Mainstreamed throughout planning documents 😊
- Addressed in a broad and non-committal manner 😞
- Lacking detail 😞
- Not featured in granular plans and regulations 😞
- Outweighed by mitigation 😞

CHALLENGES TO LOCAL ADAPTATION

CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

- “WE WOULD LIKE TO DO A LOT MORE, AND WE COULD, IF WE’RE GIVEN THE RESOURCES TO DO SO.” (DC4)
- “WHITEHORSE DOESN’T HAVE VERY UP-TO-DATE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION TO DRAW FROM.” (WH1)



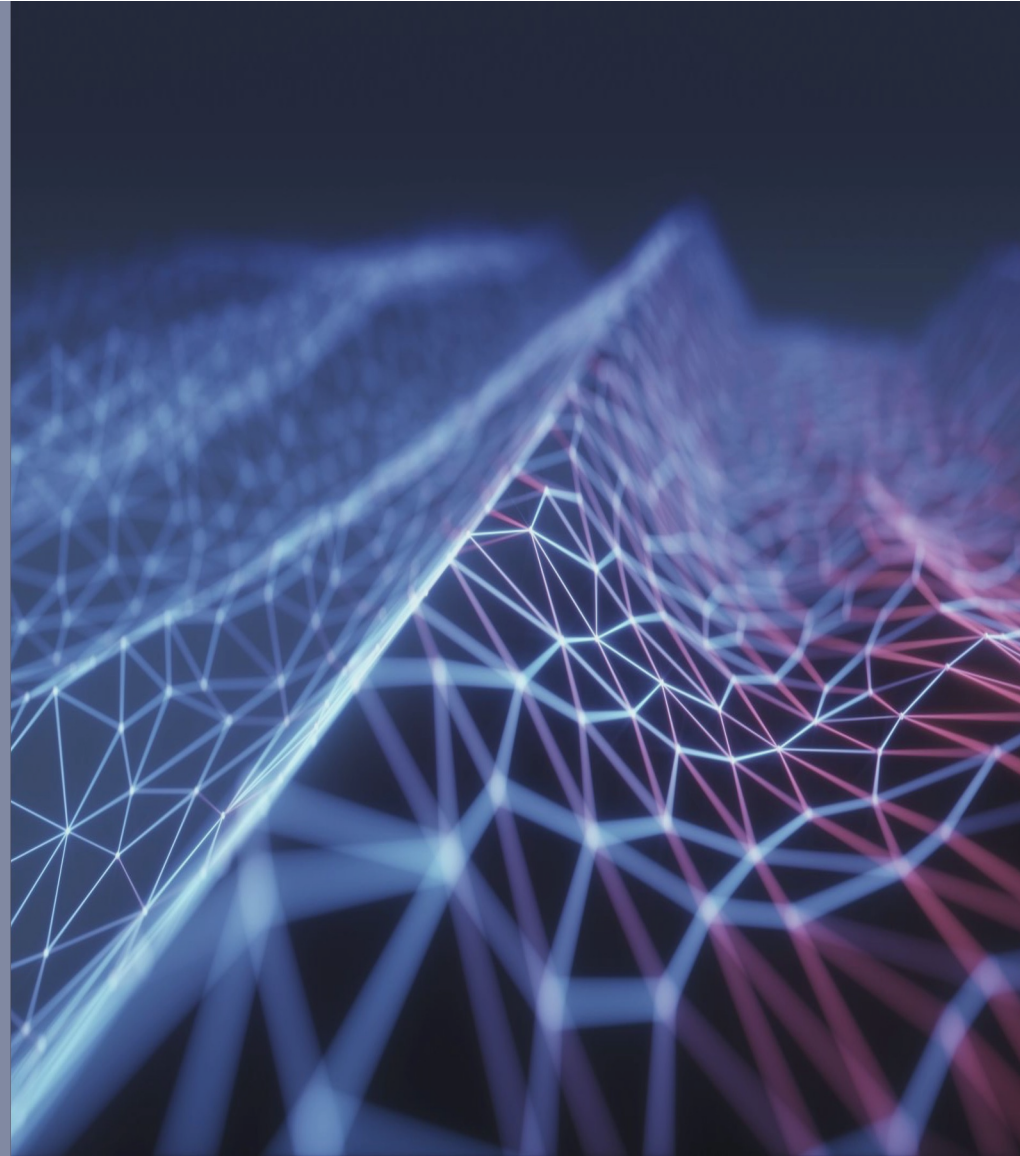
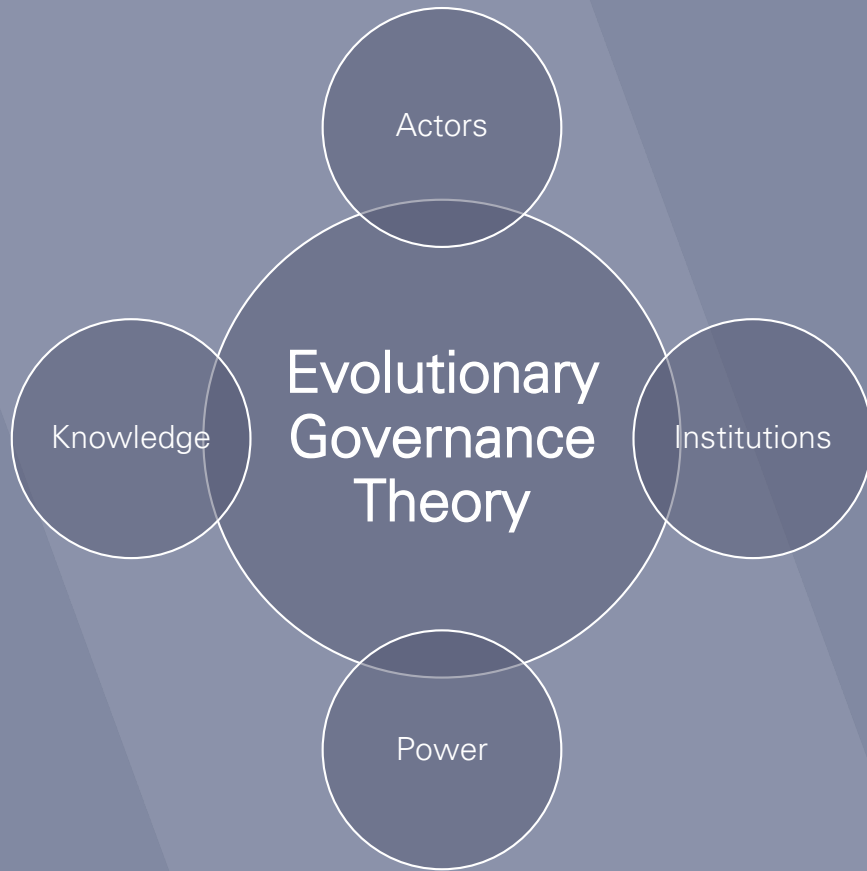
CHALLENGES TO LOCAL ADAPTATION

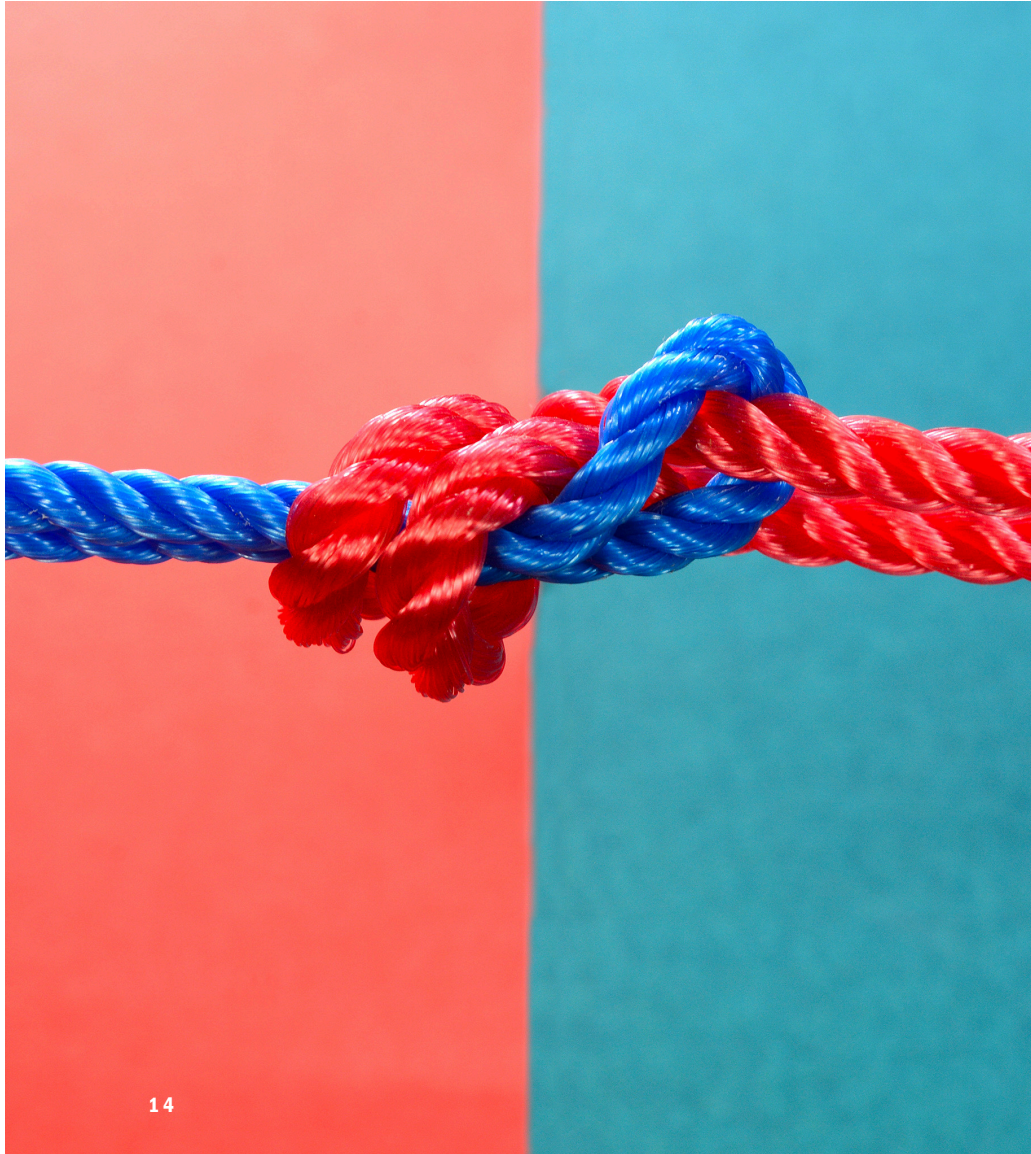
Unclear Roles/ Lack of collaboration

- “Nobody maintains the dyke, nobody wants to take ownership of it.” (DC4)
- “The bigger policy decisions are made at a territorial level, and we don't always have the opportunity to have input on them.” (DC2)
- “... that causes problems, because there's a lack of communication or misinformation between the two governments.” (DC3)



DISCUSSION





ACTORS & INSTITUTIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Enablers

- Local actors are highly aware of environmental changes and committed to climate action
- Institutions reflect this awareness and create a planning framework that provides direction on adaptation

Barriers

- Institutions lack detail and committal language, which can release local actors from the obligation of implementing adaptation goals



ACTORS & INSTITUTIONS ACROSS GOVERNMENTS

Enablers

- Territory institutions can provide funding, policy guidance, and support tools for local actors

Barriers

- Territory institutions may be creating goal dependencies
- Power dynamics create strong interdependencies that stall local adaptation



MOVING FORWARD

We need to work together.
Multi-level governance and
collaboration on adaptation
can address existing barriers
and mobilize local enablers.



THANK YOU

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IMAGES

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