

What Are The Conditions that Enable Climate Justice in Municipal Adaptation Planning?

01. Introduction

Governments are increasingly turning to adaptation planning to prepare for the onset of climate change. A climate justice framework in adaptation planning seeks equity by ensuring all parts of society receive the benefits required to address their vulnerabilities, leading to transformative systemic change. If justice is not intentionally included, adaptation planning can reinforce the privilege already encoded in society through the existing social and economic systems. This research examined the extent and quality of climate justice in municipal adaptation planning in Canada to identify the conditions that enabled climate justice to be present.

02. Rationale

A growing body of literature argues that climate change adaptation is the venue for transformative change and leads to a more just society – socially, politically, and economically. However, because of the magnitude of change, it will face more barriers to implementation than coping or incremental planning. This research provides Canada-specific research that can help municipalities include climate justice in climate adaptation planning.

03. Types of Justice

Distributive Justice: Fair allocation of costs and benefits

Recognition Justice: Equitable inclusion by recognizing all vulnerabilities

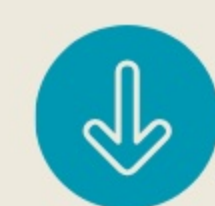
Procedural Justice: Fair process allowing everyone to participate

Restorative Justice: Fair compensation to those who have been unfairly affected by climate impacts

04. Methodology

Mixed method design, rooted in the pragmatic paradigm, using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Quantitative measure of justice in 12 communities using an Adaptation Justice Index



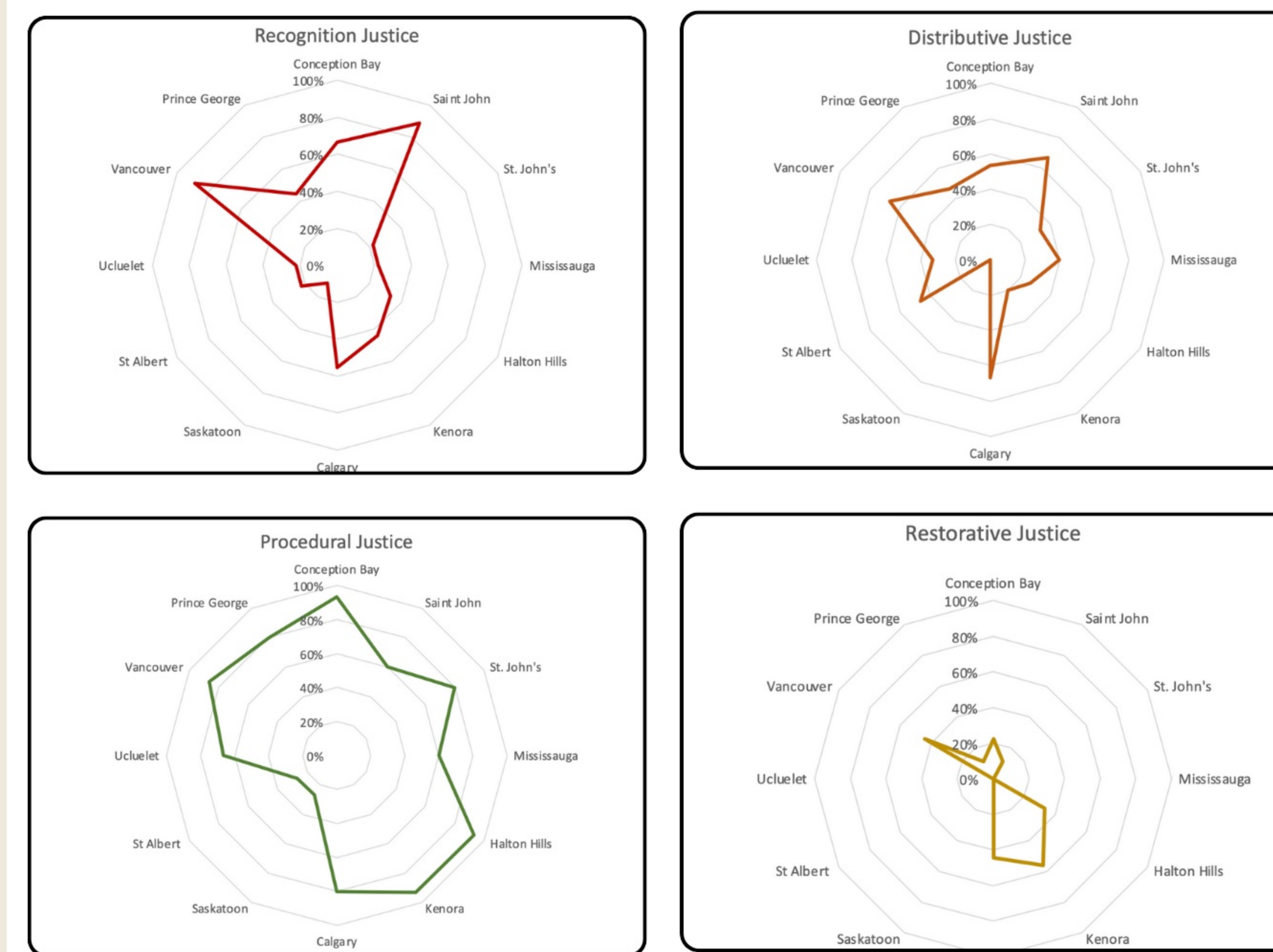
quantitative analysis informs qualitative interviews



Qualitative analysis identifies the conditions for increased levels of justice.

05. Results: Qualitative Analysis

Adaptation plans from twelve Canadian communities covering a range of demographics and regions were assessed using the Adaptation Justice Index developed by Juhola et. al. (2022). A coefficient correlation analysis explored the relationship between the presence of the four dimensions of justice (limited) and between the justice ranking and demographics (none).



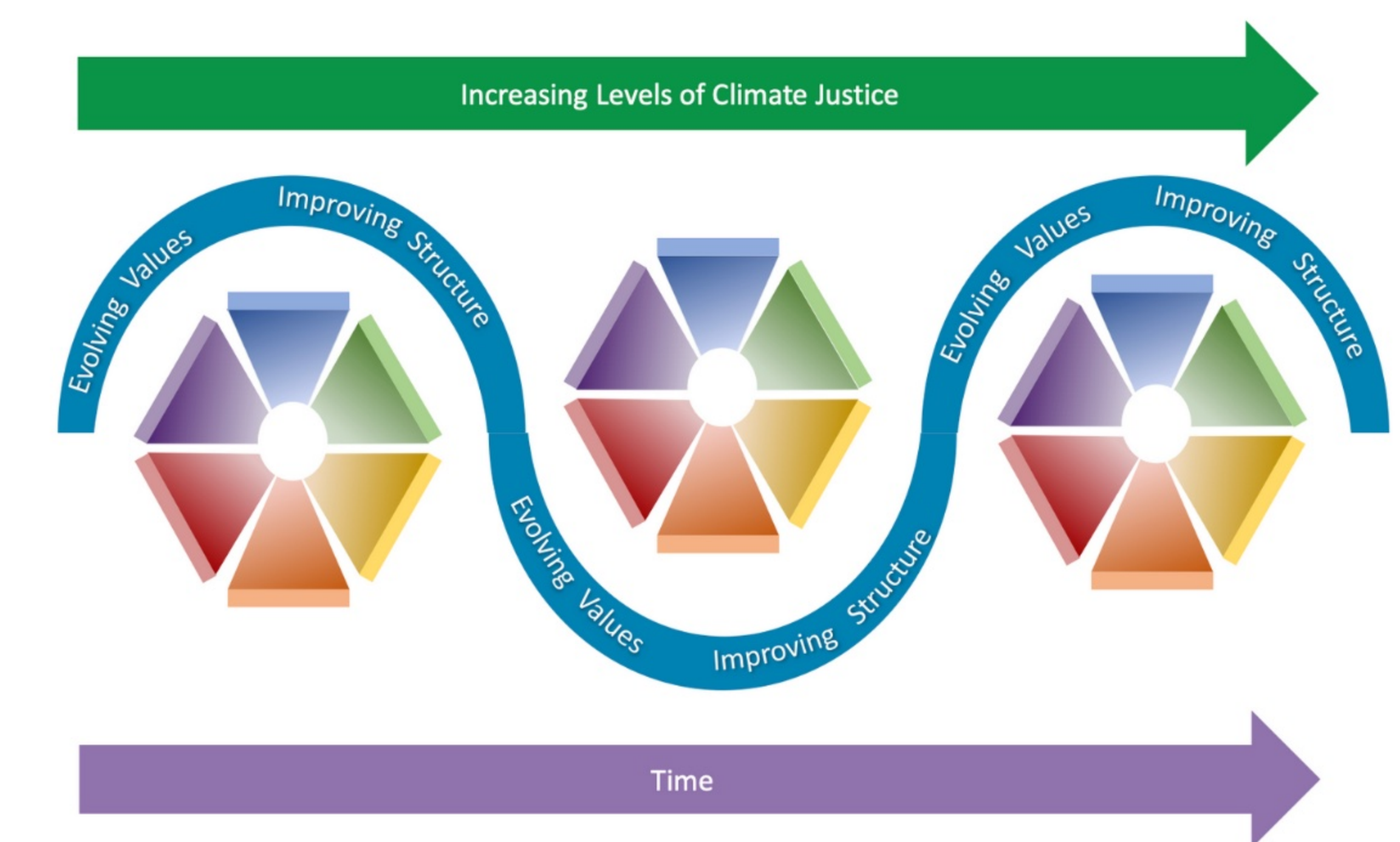
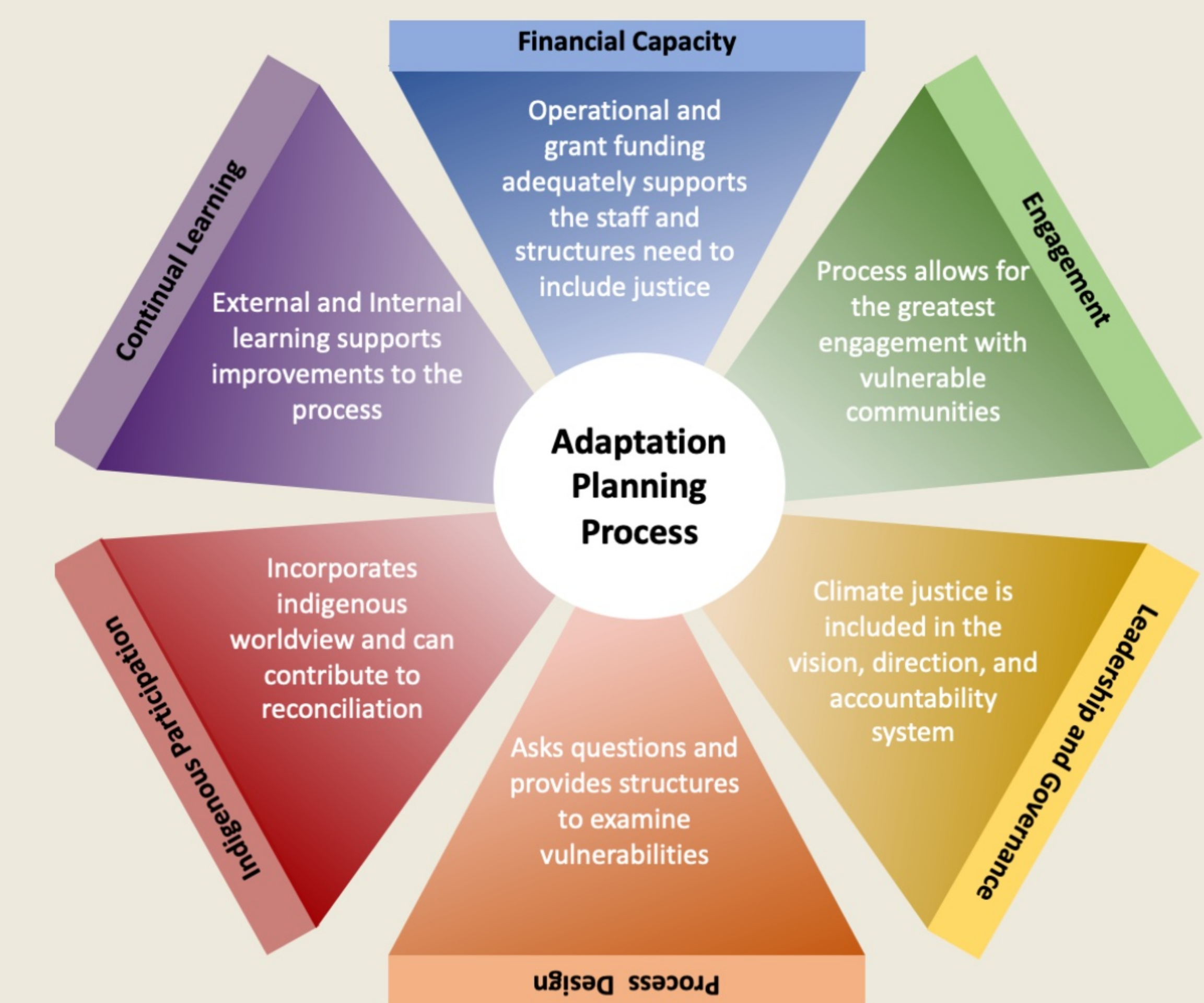
06. Results: Quantitative Analysis

Nine interviews from six communities plus one interview with an adaptation process expert identified sixteen concepts which informed the development of six common themes.

Concepts	Themes	Aggregate Theories
Certainty that funding would continue	Financial Capacity - operational funding and grants adequately support the staff and structures needed to include justice	Improving Structure
Funding tied to specific outcomes		
Systemic privilege within the process	Engagement - conditions that allow for the greatest engagement with vulnerable communities	
Operating at a scale that captures the data		
The capacity of vulnerabilities to engage		
Need to have Council onsite	Leadership and Governance - climate justice is included in the vision, direction, and accountability system	
Role the bureaucracy		
Horizontal integration with other municipal departments		
A mandate needs to be stated	Process Design - asks questions and provides structures to examines vulnerabilities	
The process must be iterative		
Structures that intentionally address vulnerabilities		
Ask the right questions to be transformative	Indigenous Participation - Incorporates indigenous worldview and can contribute to reconciliation	Evolving Values
Partnering with Indigenous Governments		
Incorporating an Indigenous Worldview		
External influences	Continual Learning - external and internal learning supports improvements to the process	
Internal influence		

07. Findings

- There are six insertion points where sixteen identified concepts can be implemented.
- The adaptation planning process links the changing social values with the evolving process structure



07. Recommendations

Fourteen policy recommendations were identified which, if implemented, could enshrine justice into municipal climate adaptation planning - 11 Municipal, 2 Provincial, and 1 Federal.

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