

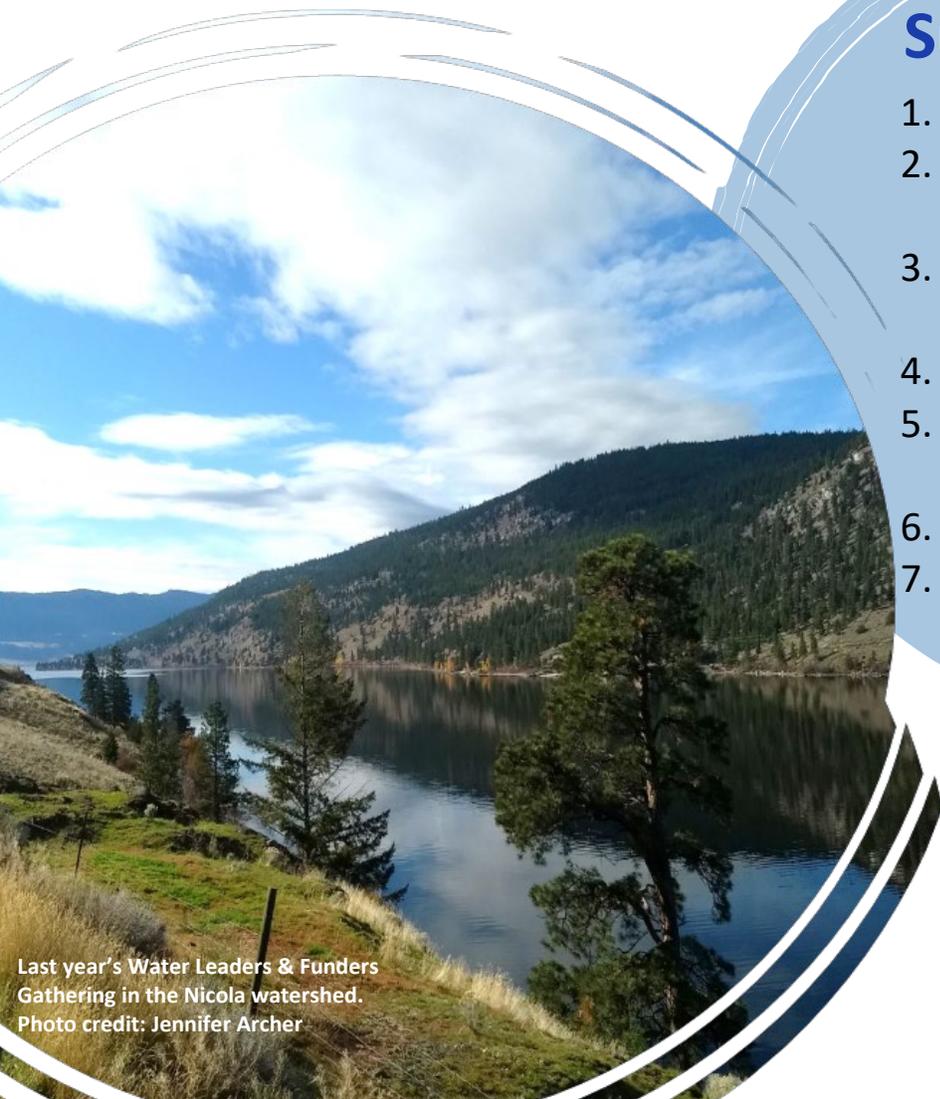
5th Annual Water Leaders & Funders

*Celebrating our progress and Looking
Forward!*

November 26th, 2020

Summary

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3. Lightning Round: Provincial Landscape Scan
4. Regional Linkages
5. SWOT Analysis of the BC Water Sector
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Last year's Water Leaders & Funders
Gathering in the Nicola watershed.
Photo credit: Jennifer Archer

1. Background & Objectives

The November 26th, 2020 gathering was the fifth annual joint session between water leaders and funders, building upon [a decade of growth](#) and extensive collaborations to advance freshwater protection in B.C. The planning work of our joint organizing committee¹ was crucial to create a fall 2020 session in line with current needs, the changing context, and shared objectives.

This virtual meeting was significantly different from our past sessions and provided a timely opportunity to celebrate collective progress, share updates, and take stock as a community and think about how we move forward.

Objectives

- 1) Share updates (and celebrate!) collective progress over 2020
- 2) Reinforce the value of the network and what it's accomplished
- 3) Ensure leaders & funders have an understanding of challenges and strategic opportunities to continue our work and water agenda

The virtual format brought together a larger group of ~40 leaders and funders and allowed the use of different engaging and interactive tools throughout the workshop (lead-in video recordings, collective boards, breakout rooms, polls, chat box).

Moving forward, this workshop, and in particular the [SWOT Analysis of the BC Water Sector](#), will inform ongoing discussions within our freshwater community in 2021 and help to inform our collective objectives and priorities.

This document summarizes the key discussion points from the workshop and feedback survey. It is intended only for circulation among workshop participants, and colleagues within those same organizations.

¹ The Organizing Committee consisted of representatives from POLIS Water Sustainability Project, BC Water Funders Collaborative, BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative, First Nations Fisheries Council, Organizing for Change, Canadian Freshwater Alliance, Watersheds BC, BC Wildlife Federation, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, and Rivershed Society, as well as the BC Water Funders Collaborative Steering Committee, which includes LUSH Cosmetics, Real Estate Foundation BC, Sitka Foundation, and Okanagan Basin Water Board.

2. Highlights Reel: What's Happening on the Water

The video highlights reel covered a wide range of water community successes during 2020! From hosting virtual informative and educational events to restoring wetlands, to securing platform commitments to watershed security, and much more—the highlights reel from water leaders and funders demonstrates the multiple levels of partnerships and connections that are happening; the value of the network and collaborative approach across organizations; and many examples of how the community was able to mobilize in response to the COVID crises and with government relations.

Videos collected are a permanent record to go back to! [Watch video here](#) and see [Appendix A](#) for the list of activities and successes.

Watershed Security in mandate letters!

Just a few hours after the workshop, on November 26th, government released its mandate letters, which include commitments to Watershed Security Strategy and Fund. The work of the network was crucial to move water and watershed security into the platforms and now as explicit mandates across a number of key Ministers and Ministries. This is yet another milestone for our community and an important foundation for action over the next four years.

Links to key mandate letters [George Heyman](#), [Nathan Cullen](#), [Fin Donnelly](#) and [Katrine Conroy](#). More details [here](#).

POLIS' [Watershed Security Agenda](#) document incorporates water leaders' feedback and direction and provides a pathway for turning these commitments into action.

3. Lightning Round: Provincial Landscape Scan

Presentations offered updates on the state of play in the following areas, which were crucial for the upcoming SWOT Analysis of the BC Water Sector: **Political landscape; Indigenous-led Initiatives; Government-to-Government Partnerships;** and, **Possible policy priorities/mandates.**

Political Landscape

Lisa Matthaus (Organizing for Change) & Coree Tull (Canadian Freshwater Alliance)

- Mandates & minister appointments not yet set at time of meeting
- Platform commitments from government on Clean BC, DRIPA, water security & old growth but nothing on climate adaptation strategy
- Throne speech takes us into spring session; legislation may push budget to late march

Priorities/opportunities: ensuring platform commitments make their way into mandates and opportunity to drive change around framing watershed security to government, e.g.:

- ✓ Community security is dependent on environment and therefore water
- ✓ Silo busting between ministries
- ✓ Broad base urban and rural support for water issues
- ✓ Water leaders can help government meet multiple platform commitments (reconciliation, stronger economies etc.)
- ✓ Leveraging provincial government's strong commitment to watershed security to garner federal action



Featured resources:

[BC Election 2020: Where do the parties stand on the Environment?](#)
<https://twitter.com/BCGovNews> <https://news.gov.bc.ca/>

Indigenous-led Initiatives

Susi Porter-Bopp (First Nations Fisheries Council)

- Emerging/Developing Initiatives, such as:
 - Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning process: to create new Sylix and non-Sylix engagement and decision-making processes
 - Lower Fraser Roundtable: to provide a consistent and structured space for First Nations within the same watershed to collaborate on freshwater issues and priorities
- Platform commitment to establish a DRIPA Secretariat with Action Plan expected to be concluded in 2021.
- Importance of articulating linkages between water and reconciliation
- The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is discussing water and wastewater priorities and issues for First Nations in BC. These discussions will help inform upcoming Assembly of First Nations (AFN) engagement sessions regarding safe drinking water on reserves and a National Water Strategy in early 2021.

Priorities/opportunities:

- ✓ Opportunity Nominate the Chief of Cowichan Tribes to the British Columbia Reconciliation Award (for advancing reconciliation through water)
- ✓ Reinforce and hold government accountable for timely DRIPA implementation
- ✓ Ensure First Nations communities are included in funding discussions and opportunities
- ✓ Support action plans for DRIPA's implementation
- ✓ Support Indigenous communities/bodies coordinate & discuss amongst themselves and strategize before engaging with outside organizations ("Tier 1")



Featured resources:

- **FNFC** [Direction Paper: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and High Priority Water Sustainability Act Reforms](#) provides direction on how the Water Sustainability Act needs to change to align with DRIPA and UNDRIP
- [Environmental Flow Needs: A Primer for First Nations](#) – completed Nov 2020 & provides guidance on why and under what circumstances it may be valuable for First Nations to establish and implement EFNs

Government-to-Government Agreements

Deborah Curran (Environmental Law Centre, University of Victoria)

- Shift from consultation to G2G and reconciliation agreements, which requires meaningful Indigenous involvement in both negotiation and implementation including consent-based decision making
- G2G is a long-lasting and broad commitment
- Many Indigenous nations developing their own land visioning plans
- Leading G2G examples:
 - Great Bear Rainforest Plans
 - Conservancies: a new form of protected area in BC law, which are explicitly for ecological preservation and expression of Indigenous cultural practices and values
 - Forestry legislation with very different language: Province committed to old growth and forest management
 - Haida Gwaii
 - Delegated decision making
 - New relationship to guide joint decision-making regarding land and natural resource management
 - Haida Gwaii Management Council - helps to establish priorities/values and make decisions
 - Gitanyow Land Use Plan
 - Conservation focused, legally enforced through Crown and Indigenous law, G2G implementation

Featured resources:

- [Incorporating Indigenous Interests into, or Operating in Parallel with, Decision Making under the Water Sustainability Act](#)

Possible policy priorities/mandates

Oliver Brandes (POLIS Water Sustainability Project, University of Victoria)

- 17 platform commitments re: natural resources including protecting nature and salmon, Indigenous co-governance, and source water protection
- Modernizing land use planning remains a priority: integrating land/water, moving into implementation with specific scope

Questions for water leaders and funders to reflect on:

- How to keep rural economies afloat? How to ensure local (rural?) communities stay engaged and feel a meaningful part of the policy process vs urban-centric environmental “values” emphasis?
 - How to find balance given their current dependency on over-harvesting forests (with major hydrological impacts), irrigating vineyards and farmlands in arid areas, fracking for gas, shipping products and provincial interest in large infrastructure?
- How to demonstrate that to manage properly for water, salmon, communities etc. one has to manage all of the values in an integrated way at the watershed level?
 - How to reframe communications so that water-focus does not mean prioritizing water above all else– but INSTEAD useful frame to provide a values-driven, evidence-based integration into planning and management in light of clear changes in climate, approaching ecological limits, new economic imperatives & community hopes and dreams
- How to balance the many priorities– health care (including the pandemic), affordability, security, jobs, the economy and a clean energy future – how will water fit – who will be the water champions?
 - Government staff capacity and ability to execute planning and regulatory functions in regions?



Featured resources:

- [Watershed Security Agenda](#) document incorporates water leaders' feedback and direction and provides a pathway turning these commitments into action.
- Key mandate letters [George Heyman](#), [Nathan Cullen](#), [Fin Donnelly](#) and [Katrine Conroy](#). More details [here](#).

Key Points from Chat Box & Discussion

- **Rural vs Urban dichotomy**
 - Avoid the binary thought of rural vs urban. If we focus on common goals and needs, we can move the conversation forward.
 - Some of the emerging research out of the U.S. is also pointing out that rural/urban divide along economic lines has been a bit over-inflated (especially as rural demographics shift). Organizers are noticing a lot of the divide is still along racial and rights lines, not necessarily economic.
- **Land-use planning commitments:** No specific commitment, but government did reference their previous investment (\$16 million over three years) in their answer to one of the Organizing for Change webinar questions. It's something that's underway—government won't drop it, but sense that they still see land use planning as a tool to address certain challenges rather than an initiative to re-do all the land use plans in the province
- **Water Sustainability Plans (WSP) and Land Use Planning (LUP):** WSPs are very much part of the how they are seeing land use planning, but very few government staff know how to deploy that tool and how to land in places in context of real issues (capacity gap). Community and Indigenous partners driving it.

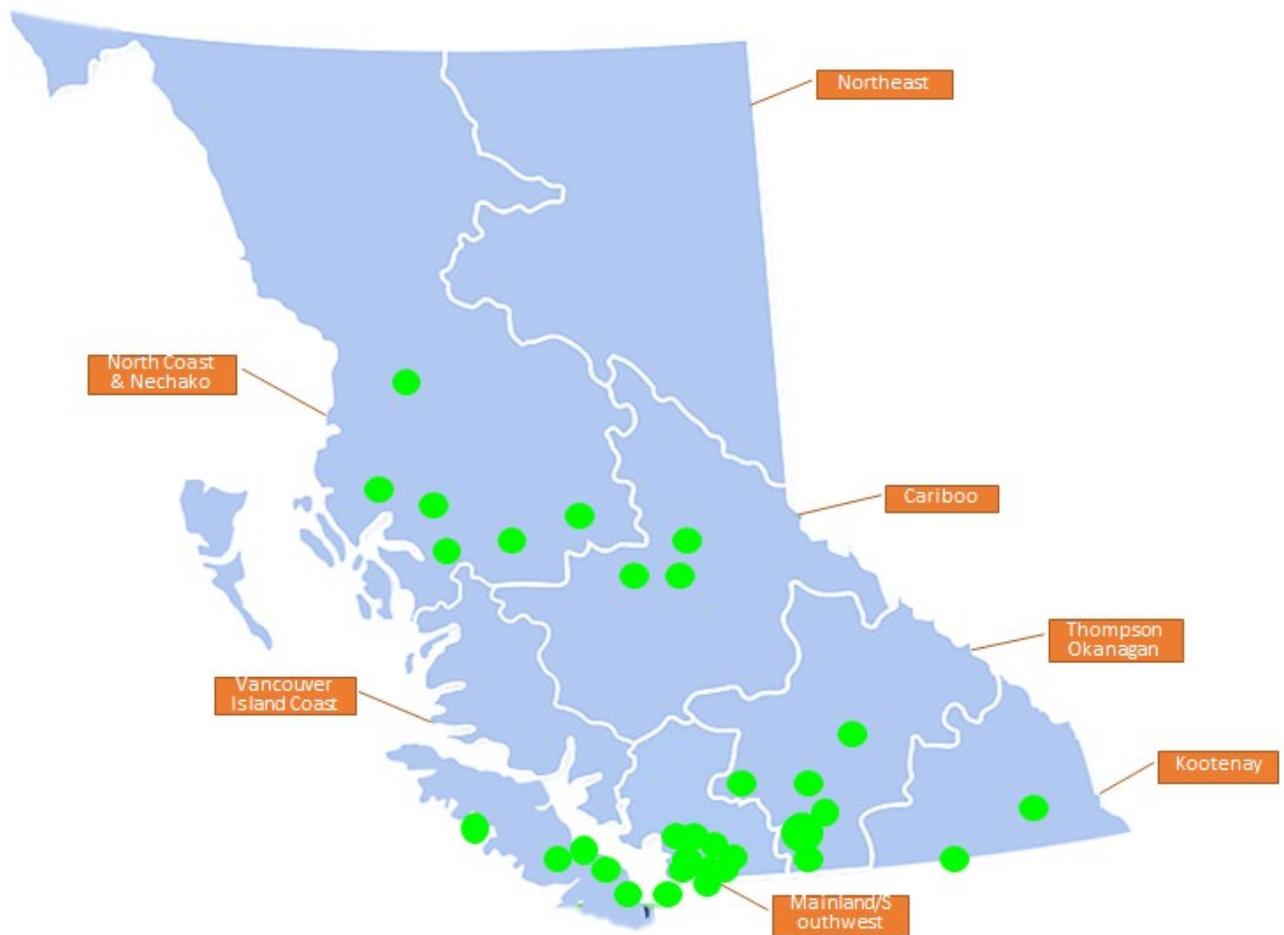
LUP pilot areas

- Squamish – Recreation Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan
- Peace River Area - Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (G2G underway)
- Nicola Watershed Planning - Upper Nicola Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band, and Coldwater Indian Band – (Nicola Plan Initiation + implementation (drought/state of the watershed)
- Sea to Sky Visitor Use Management Squamish Nation, Líl'wat Nation, N'QuatquaSquamish – Lillooet Plan Initiation
- Sunshine Coast shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Planning shíshálh Nation (Plan Initiation)
- Koksilah River – Water Sustainability Plan – Cowichan Tribes (WSP Scoping)
- Hullcar Aquifer – Source Drinking Water Protection / Groundwater /Nutrient Management Planning – Splitsin Nation (NMPs + Hullcar Aquifer Board (scoping)
- Upper Bulkley-Morice Water Sustainability Planning – the Wetzin'kwa Land Use Plan – Office of the Wet'suwet'en – (WSP Scoping)

- **Land and water issues landing as priorities in DRIPA negotiations**
 - BC will likely not "DRIPA-ize" more than one natural resource related leg per year. Forest and Range Practices Act and Mineral Tenure Act are being strongly pushed, in addition to WSA.
 - Committees of the leadership council like FNFC can really help keep the pressure on.

4. Regional Linkages

Although the session spotlighted on key update areas at a provincial level, water funders and leaders have consistently reinforced the importance of strengthening regional linkages. A map exercise during the break highlighted key initiatives and issues happening across the province (see [Appendix B](#)), and via poll and follow-up survey participants confirmed their interest in a standalone session(s) to explore regional issues in more detail. The Fraser, Skeena, Okanagan, and Vancouver Island are regions of major interest; however, participants acknowledged the value of learning from any region in BC.²

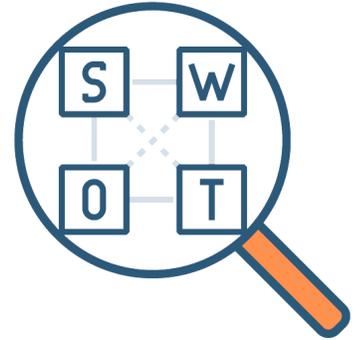


Location of key initiatives and issues happening across the province identified by water leaders and funders. See details in [Appendix B](#).

² Also interest in regions with G2G agreements (Nicola, UBM, Koksilah), and sub-regions such as Okanagan, Columbia and Skeena to be able to better compare and contrast on the ground and applied work.

5. Breakouts: SWOT Analysis of the BC Water Sector

After celebrating the progress of the network and successes during 2020, water leaders and funders took a realistic look at some of the challenges, opportunities, and threats facing our community and freshwater initiatives to inform next steps and actions. See the result of the SWOT exercise from the working session compiled across the four groups in [Appendix C](#).



Immediate actions to capitalize on the opportunities or strengths:

Group 1

- Amplify the message of watershed security = community security. Demonstrate success of Healthy Watershed Initiative (27M) investment
- Sustain effort to secure platform commitments.
- Diversify voices within this network

Group 3

- More investment in constituent building
- Strengthening regional linkages and communications (urban/rural divide)
- Readiness work at a community level by investing in watershed scale boards/bodies/entities



Group 2

- Bringing the water lens to other themes/law reforms (covid, stimulus, planning, etc.)
- Identify different types of support for Indigenous governance
- Identify and capitalize on best practices in governance, planning

Group 4

- Capitalize on Mandate commitments - ready to discuss tangible outcomes
- Further Water Monitoring and Reporting Initiative - coordinated support for water monitoring
- Engage private sector

6. What we Heard from Participants

Format & opportunities for interaction

- Great virtual format with opportunities for interaction Great video compilation of successes breakout particularly useful
- Good size, good mix of people.
- Great selection of material and people to present.

Recommendations/ Opportunities

- Hearing from funders more would always be useful—some of their priorities, what's shifting for them (especially due to COVID)
- More indigenous perspectives would be helpful
- SWOT analysis was pretty comprehensive—moving forward, taking these ideas and opportunities and identifying actions, gaps, and ways to mitigate the threats

Main areas of interest in supporting or learning from actions identifies in SWOT Analysis

- Capitalize on Mandate commitments
- Amplify the message of watershed security = community security
- Diversify voices within this network (e.g. more Indigenous representation)

See [Appendix D](#) for more details.

“This network is a really unique and impactful group. I'm grateful to be part of it and to keep building on this strength”
-Participant

7. Appendices

APPENDIX A - Highlights Reel: What's Happening on the Water³ [Watch video here](#)

- How much our group of water leaders have ***grown our collective power***
- [Watersheds 2020 forum](#): Stepping stones to collaborative watershed governance
- [Code Blue BC Campaign](#) 20,000 Facebook followers + 7000 citizen supporters
- **\$27 million stimulus investment** in watershed security and [Healthy Watersheds Initiative](#)
- Progress on Watershed Watch's [Connected Waters Campaign](#) including the Resilient Waters Study and the [Recommendation](#) from the BC Budget Committee for **salmon-safe flood control** in Budget 2021
- Implementing Watershed Connect, Protect, Restore Hubs in all regions of the Fraser Watershed
- Creation and success of [BC Watershed Security Coalition](#) and the ***Adapting for Ecological Resilience Network in the Lower Fraser***
- Hosting 360 tours of wetlands, engaging quizzes, and lineups of expert speakers
- Restoring over 15 hectares of wetlands in the Kootenay region, 90 hectares of floodplain, and fencing off a number of wetlands in the Kamloops region
- State of the Wetlands Report for the Skeena Region
- All four **major parties committed to water security**
- BC NDP indicated their support for watershed security fund
- [Our Water BC Network](#) that has deepened collective knowledge through [newsletters](#), new education sessions, and newsletter highlighting place-based challenges and successes
- Contribution to provincial budget consultations that resulted in a **recommendation for a long-term water security fund** for the second year in a row
- Secured commitments in election platforms
- [The Case for a Guardian Network Initiative, Incorporating Indigenous Interests into, or Operating in Parallel with, Decision Making under the Water Sustainability Act](#), Nuts'umaat: Cowichan Water Warriors
- Koksilah citizen/science-led project using Stream Tracker to record presence of rivers and streams
- Comprehensive summary of Indigenous legal principles related to watershed stewardship and fisheries governance in the Lower Fraser
- [Blueprint for restoring ecological governance to the Lower Fraser](#)
- [Water Monitoring Framework](#) and [Open Source Data Hub](#) for the Columbia Basin
- Senior hydrologist online workshop
- Survey of four lakes in the Kootenays
- Partnership with the Sushwap band in restoration efforts to monitor tributaries to the Columbia River Wetlands
- Growth of Groundwater Monitoring program from 4 to 20 observation wells
- Facilitated government-to-government Kootenay Lake Partnership Technical Committee

³ This is not an exhaustive or comprehensive scan of activities and initiatives underway. We encourage water leaders and funders to share materials you consider of interest for our network and to enhance our discussions.

- Funding and capacity support to Cowichan Tribes, who are developing BC's first [Water Sustainability Plan](#)
- [Freshwater Community Check-Up \(a response to COVID-19\)](#)
- Decolonizing Practices workshop
- Initiated economic analysis of BC freshwater sector
- Drove discourse on Canada Water Agency
- [Direction Paper: Towards Watershed Security](#)
- [Water Security Agenda for British Columbia](#)

APPENDIX B – Regional Map Exercise

Vancouver Island Coast



- Koksilah Water sustainability plan scoping process
- Cowichan: place of the first *Freshwater Stream: CodeBlue BC series* podcast episode with Dr. Shannon Waters! To be released in 2021
- Comox Valley: 1. Municipal Natural Assets Initiative: first Canadian project to value the ecosystem services of an entire drinking watershed (the Comox Lake watershed), to support improved management of the water supply. This could lead to strategic land purchase from private forestry landholders. 2) Tsolum River Agricultural Watershed Planning to address current and future concerns about water availability for agriculture, instream and community needs. There is some in-depth work happening now about water supply and demand and potential options to supply water to farms in the context of a water-limited future.
- Merville/Comox: Local level push back on groundwater bottling and inspiration for the 'Banning Bottling Community Toolkit'.
- Partnership with Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council re developing Indigenous law rationale to advance salmon park network in northern Nuu-chah-nulth territories

Thompson Okanagan



- Flood mapping: www.okanaganfloodstory.ca
- Flood planning and communication initiative with Okanagan local governments, Okanagan Nation Alliance and senior government partners. Launch of Okanagan Raven Flood model and communication portal (www.okanaganfloodstory.ca)
- New Okanagan hydrometric service in partnership with Okanagan Nation Alliance and Canada Water Survey (2021)
- Nicola Watershed Governance Project (addressing multiple watershed issues including persistent drought and low flows)
- Hullcar - practical local issue with a co-governance board in creation with province and splotsin FN - also setting up broader reform of source protection regime provincially (but complemented by local co-governance/watershed model ...)
- Restoration planning for oxbow in Cawston BC

- Multi-year process to review the management of the whole Okanagan Lake Regulation System - i.e., what the lake levels are managed too. This is driven by flood control, but has huge implications for the Okanagan Nation's salmon restoration and agricultural irrigation. It's probably the biggest thing that's happened here since the 1974 Okanagan Basin Study. It's going to be a huge opportunity for reconciliation, if the province does the right thing. When I say that "we" are doing the review, it's FLNRORD that has the jurisdiction, but the OBWB is supporting and facilitating.
- British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) and UBC Okanagan are conducting a province wide floodplain mapping survey of local governments and first nations governments. Survey results will be used to develop a localized flood vulnerability index that considers economic, social, and physical vulnerabilities of floods. The last survey was completed in 2015 and they looking to get the word out about the survey to achieve higher participate rates this year
- Shuswap Watershed Council - working on water quality issues in the Shuswap watershed

Mainland / Southwest



- Adapting for ecological resilience network in the Lower Fraser - connecting with NGO's, Nations, municipalities, etc. to increase communication and collaboration on nature based solutions in the lower Fraser region.
- Reconnecting disconnected waterways by restoring flood control infrastructure and adjacent habitat in the Lower Fraser Floodplain using "green" infrastructure practices.
- supporting FNFC's Water for Fish program work on the Lower Fraser Roundtable
- Indigenous Law Based Fish Habitat Strategy - lower Fraser
- Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy - a collaborative, regional-scale initiative to reduce flood risk in an integrated and holistic way
- Halkomelem legal report re watershed stewardship and fisheries governance

Kootenay



- Reconnecting floodplain habitat with Lower Kootenay Band
- Reconnecting Floodplain habitat in Grand Forks - removing homes from floodplain

Northcoast and Nechako



- Yinka Dene Water Law & Policy (multiple First Nations developing watershed guidelines and planning based on indigenous law & traditions) partnering the Legacy Initiative in funding implementation of the Yinka Dene Surface Water Policy through TK-based sub-watershed classifications
- Affirmation and application of rights Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs to secure protection designations for critical salmon spawning habitat in the upper Nass (Gitanyow Wilp Wii Litsxw territory in Meziadin Lake area).
- Development of State of the Wetlands Report in Skeena Region in partnership with FN in region,
- launching & applying Gitanyow Wilp sustainability assessment process to first project/ Gitanyow IPA proposal to protect salmon habitat
- Nechako Watershed Council - working on many water issues in the Nechako and Stuart watersheds
- Ecosystem-based, Indigenous-led territorial Land Use Plans (LUP) in Northwestern BC with support from Skeena Wild. - the Upper Nass, Lower Babine, Gitwangak, and Gitsegucla (all within the Gitxsan territory) and the Takla Nation (within the Carrier Sekani).

Cariboo



- ?Esdilagh (Alexandria) First Nation leaders enacted the historic Elhdaqox Dechen Ts'edilhtan (Sturgeon River Law)

Province-wide

- Deploying workpods to past restoration sites around the Province (BC Wide).
- Supporting regional perspectives are integrated into impending engagement on the Canada Water Agency
- Supporting FNFC's Water for Fish program work on the Lower Fraser Roundtable, EFNs, and G2G engagement
- OBWB is co-hosting another AquaHacking Challenge in 2021, this time for Western Canada. The Challenge (for post-secondary students and young professionals) is to come up with technology-based solutions to specific freshwater issues. This will be the seventh year of the Challenge, started by de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation in Quebec.
- Various watershed restoration initiatives underway via G2G
- Salmon Safe BC - certification system for agricultural and urban land management practices to benefit water quality and salmon habitat

APPENDIX C – SWOT Analysis of the BC Water Sector

Note: This is a result of the exercise from the working session compiled across the four groups (with only editing for clarity/removal of redundancies, but no changes to content)

Strengths: What do we do well? What unique resources can we draw on? What do others see as our strengths?

- Passion, **commitment**, strong connections, holistic thinking / Collaborative and low ego nature of network members
- **Strong relationships** between water leaders members and elected officials, senior bureaucrats
- **Coordinated** provincial priorities (e.g. Watershed Security Coalition)
- Strong provincial/federal policy and political analysis; strategic.
- Constructive collaboration and **information sharing**
- Existing/established network of leaders/funders
- **Expertise** on diversity of water issues (and connection with provincial and regional experts)
- Local engagement
- Venue between on the ground work and political strategy
- **Diversity** of complementary strategies & approaches that allow orgs to focus where they are strong
- **Focus on water** (pulls threads together through lens of water) / Water is an easy sell; it is a common value for all sectors/communities
- Strong **strategic core** of leaders and funders
- **Network resilience** - investment + relationship over 6-7 years
- Outcomes from joint sessions **motivates people** to continue to engage
- **“Trusted advisor”** with governments, BC water community
- Incredible regional examples of progress and innovation - stories to share and build public and political will from.

Weaknesses: What could we improve? Where do we have fewer resources/capacity?

- Continuing to strengthen **relationships with Indigenous partners** and First Nations
- **Connecting water issues** to social and economic justice concerns, and other cross-section of themes
- Opportunities from province are not always water framed - knitting together connections
- **Siloing of issues**
- Finding our place in government to government decision-making with Indigenous Peoples
- Continuing to ask who is missing from our community; youth involvement/mentorship; Indigenous leadership/representatives
- **Sustainable funding** sources for (multi-year grants) for orgs to do work and grow water sector
- Not a lot of **engagement with businesses** that can help support watershed security / strategy to engage larger industrial players.
- **Lack of data** (social and ecosystem) / Coordination capacity of Water Monitoring & Reporting
- Need more opportunities to engage and learn from each other.
- Disconnect between initiatives (need more data sharing, initiative coordination)
- **Staff capacity** as we grow
- Lack of **provincial leadership** and coordinated management
- **Storytelling** in areas of complex jurisdiction (Lower Fraser, e.g.)
- Coordination problem with Watershed Sustainability Plans
- Water literacy about water governance and decision making

Opportunities: What opportunities are open to us? How do we make it happen?

- **Growing public interest** in water related issues / Building broader more diverse base of BC'ers calling for action
- **Platform commitments** of new gov't – Watershed Security Strategy, Watershed Security Fund
- Linking to government priorities that are not necessarily framed as water / All communities want plentiful, clean drinking water - that is a strong and persistent mandate
- Breaking down basic political economy problem / Building political will for action on freshwater
- **Possible real champions in cabinet** - how to maximize their personal commitment to water(sheds) for impact
- **Amplify the message** of watershed security = community security - who are the unusual suspects who can help us do this
- Accelerating climate change is providing the opportunity to meaningfully address water issues
- **Regional P2P learning** / focused sessions to compare success, tools, challenges / Making deliberate connections (OWBC role?) - Interlocutor role!
- **Watershed-level coordination** / Watershed-level stakeholders and their capacity to participate in planning and governance
- Build on initial G2G collaborations / Co-management with Indigenous governments / Support for Indigenous legal order revitalization that take **holistic framework to management** / Support Indigenous-led orgs, work, and people
- Implementing **Water Sustainability Plans**
- Higher level policy/frameworks that cuts through 'statute by statute' approach (e.g. forthcoming biodiversity act)
- Coordinator on water monitoring to support regional initiatives and connect to decision-making - BC Water Funders
- Work with private sector -impact investment strategies / Aquahacking as an example of how to engage business community.
- Sharing resources and knowledge (meetings like this!)

Threats: What are the scarcities on the landscape?

- Concern that there is still no genuine intent from provincial government to change the business as usual approach to water management or to shift (or work in true collaboration) governance to FN.
- Sustainable funding
- Poverty in rural regions / Climate change / Economic impacts from COVID
- Lack of provincial internal capacity for watershed specific planning and determining watershed specific environmental flow needs / Lack of action on groundwater licensing / Little (no?) governance leadership in the provincial government - "governance gap"
- Aging infrastructure / Multi-use watersheds.
- Limitations with virtual engagement
- Danger of economic downturn undermining gov capacity even more and reducing support for orgs in network
- New gov't commitments are vague - could be meaningless w/o our pressure, guidance, engagement
- Populist backlash against Indigenous-led planning in certain regions if Tier 3 work insufficient
- Political ideologies that prioritize narrow views of the economy over any other consideration / Competing gov't priorities
- Ezra Levant and the alienation of re rural communities
- Diffusion of needs and demands, pending recession?
- Focus on restoration vs protection is the old log and talk scenario and limiting our protection options even further
- Gov't staff capacity to implement
- Technical capacity to implement in communities/watersheds
- Staff with capacity embedded in Indigenous governing organizations
- Competing demands, priorities, timelines - not enough time and space for care, creativity / Retention of leaders / Burn-out

- 27M BC investment in water jobs / Economic analysis of water sector
- **Alignment with federal initiatives** (WSF, CWA)
- Revisit who the outliers of the network are - that might be part of tier 3. What about champions that are in local government?
- Need for a flexible "quick response" fund that might support - specific opportunities to move watershed security forward or support key organizations as they (if they) transition. Dedicated funding for constituency building/Public outreach

Immediate actions to capitalize on the opportunities or strengths

Compilation of the top 3 priorities identified in each of the four groups



- Amplify the message of watershed security = community security.
- Demonstrate success of Healthy Watershed Initiative (27M) investment
- Capitalize on Mandate commitments - ready to discuss tangible outcomes
- Diversify voices within this network
- Improved coordination and extension within the Provincial Government
- Bringing the water lens to other themes/law reforms (covid, stimulus, planning, etc.)
- Identify different types of support for Indigenous governance
- Identify and capitalize on best practices in governance, planning
- More investment in constituent building
- Strengthen regional linkages and communications (urban/rural divide)
- Readiness work at a community level by investing in watershed scale boards/bodies/entities
- Further Water Monitoring and Reporting Initiative - coordinated support for water monitoring
- Engage private sector

APPENDIX D - What we Heard from Participants

Format & opportunities for interaction

- Great virtual format with opportunities for interaction
- Good size, good mix of people. Was concerned that there were too many participants but the format was engaging and interactive and it worked well.
- Great selection of material and people to present.
- Lightning round was excellent, nice use of a variety of virtual tools to keep us all engaged and participating.
- Found the breakout particularly useful—a great way to collaborate and share ideas.
- Great video compilation of successes. It was a great way to feel like we were in a room together and a great resource to share internally. The break out activities were well managed and

Recommendations/ Opportunities

- Hearing from funders more would always be useful—some of their priorities, what's shifting for them (especially due to COVID)
- More indigenous perspectives would be helpful
- Additional time for plenary discussion following the SWOT analysis
- Breakout room sessions, maybe around the break, to mimic the coffee break
- SWOT analysis was pretty comprehensive—moving forward, taking these ideas and opportunities and identifying actions, gaps, and ways to mitigate the threats

Main areas of interest in supporting or learning from actions identifies in SWOT Analysis

- Capitalize on Mandate commitments
- Amplify the message of watershed security = community security
- Diversify voices within this network (e.g. more Indigenous representation)

Additional opportunities, community needs or gaps

- Help decolonize the work of all sectors in our province—and funding it (even if that means that outcomes won't be certain or as tangible as we are used to because how can we state what outcomes will be, before beginning to discuss with communities what is needed and moving through that learning process ourselves?). Leaders open to implementing programming to support this in their respective organizations despite the time, energy and discomfort it may cause. The end result will be a strengthened organization and sector!
- Continue to invest in the network and the leadership that enables strategic coordination and for orgs and individuals to play to their strengths.
- Programs that strategically (effectively) engage communities and publics (especially rural)

Covid impacts on organizations

- Funders and leaders are diverse and COVID impacts and responses differ from organizations to organization. Some of the concerns, impacts and key messages are relatively similar to the [Freshwater Community Check-Up](#) from the spring.

APPENDIX E: Water Leaders & Funders Workshop Participants

Water Funders

Anna Warwick Sears	Okanagan Basin Water Board
James Littley	Okanagan Basin Water Board
Bridgitte Taylor	MakeWay
Ivan Thompson	MakeWay
Carmen Ryujiin	Royal Bank of Canada Foundation
Carolynn Beaty	Sitka Foundation
Lauren Storer	Sitka Foundation
Deena Guffei	LUSH Cosmetics
Ian Rogalski	Environment & Climate Change Canada
Kathy Smail	Glasswaters Foundation
Krista Watts	Columbia Basin Trust
Kristina Chan	Vancouver Foundation
Jason Hwang	Pacific Salmon Foundation
Jen McCaffrey	Real Estate Foundation BC
Leanne Sexsmith	Real Estate Foundation BC
Mark Gifford	Real Estate Foundation BC
Tim Morris	BC Water Funders Collaborative/BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative
Jennifer Archer	BC Water Funders Collaborative/BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative
Trevor Loke	Coast Funds

Water Leaders

Aaron Hill	Watershed Watch Salmon Society
Tanis Gower	Watershed Watch Salmon Society
Claudia Ferris	BC Wildlife Federation
Neil Fletcher	BC Wildlife Federation
Coree Tull	Canadian Freshwater Alliance
Danielle Paydli	Canadian Freshwater Alliance
Deborah Curran	UVic - Faculty of Law and Environmental Law Centre
Oliver Brandes	UVic - POLIS Water Sustainability Project
Rosie Simms	UVic - POLIS Water Sustainability Project
Jon O'Riordan	UVic - POLIS Water Sustainability Project
Tom Gleeson	UVic - Civil Engineering Department
Justine Nelson	Rivershed Society
Jessica Clogg	West Coast Environmental Law
Kat Hartwig / Nicole Trigg	Living Lakes Canada
Lisa Matthaus	Organizing for Change
Nelson Jatel	Okanagan Basin Water Board
Richard Farthing-Nichol	Forum for Leadership on Water
Steve Litke	Fraser Basin Council
Susi Porter-Bopp	First Nations Fisheries Council
Zita Botelho	Watersheds BC

Meeting facilitators

Claire Wood	POLIS Water Sustainability Project
German Ocampo	POLIS Water Sustainability Project
Mabel Martinez-Dussan	POLIS Water Sustainability Project / BC Water Funders Collaborative