

# BC Water Funders COLLABORATIVE

## SPRING 2018 WORKSHOP



### Workshop Summary

April 24, 2018

Support for BC Water Funders Collaborative provided by:



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## KEY OPPORTUNITIES AT A GLANCE

<b>Coordination &amp; Alignment of Freshwater Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support <b>BC Water Funders Collaborative’s 2018 Annual Plan</b></li> <li>• Support for <b>coordination and alignment of water leaders</b> around key strategic issues (“backbone” functions)</li> <li>• Sponsorship of <b>Fall Leaders-Funders Workshop and Social</b></li> </ul>
<b>Policy Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained funding for <b>POLIS WSP</b> to ensure continuity in the critical role that POLIS plays providing advice and capacity support related to WSA implementation</li> <li>• Sponsorship opportunities for <a href="#">EFN 2018: Environmental Flow Needs - Science, Policy &amp; Practice</a> (Oct 17-18 in Kelowna, BC)</li> <li>• Support for FNFC or individual First Nations participating in <b>FNFC’s “just do it” environmental flow needs initiative.</b></li> <li>• Support for <b>First Nations-led environmental flow needs strategy to support Aboriginal rights.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Place-based Watershed Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to contribute to or align with the partnership established between Province (MOE, FLNRORD, MIRR), Nicola Valley Chiefs and BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative to advance watershed governance and implement innovative aspects of WSA in <b>Nicola Watershed.</b></li> <li>• Opportunity to build upon renewed relationship with Province to <b>expand partnership to additional watershed(s).</b></li> <li>• Opportunity to <b>support collaboration of core capacity builders</b> (CIER, POLIS, FNFC) in developing and implementing a strategy to support and amplify regional watershed governance initiatives and share learnings.</li> <li>• Opportunity to support <b>specific watershed governance initiatives</b> (eg Cowichan Watershed Board, Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable, Kettle River).</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous Law, Planning &amp; Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support implementation of <b>FNFC’s 3-year Strategic Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Partner with high capacity First Nations</b> and share learnings</li> <li>• Opportunity for matching funding with BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative to <b>support First Nations-led place-based watershed governance initiatives</b> (eg Cowichan Tribes, Nadleh Whu’ten, Treaty 8, Gitanyow)</li> </ul>
<b>Pooling Water Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to support implementation of <b>2018-2019 Water Monitoring Workplan</b> developed by the Collaborative’s Working Group on Water Monitoring.</li> <li>• <b>Sponsorship opportunities for regional monitoring champions</b> from other watersheds to attend the Okanagan’s EFN workshop and other regional events.</li> <li>• Opportunity for matching funding to <b>support ongoing collaborative regional initiatives in leading watersheds</b> (eg. Columbia, Nicola, Nechako, Morice Water Monitoring Trust, UFFCA, Treaty 8).</li> </ul>
<b>Public Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Collaborative-catalyzed <b>public opinion poll project</b> to help inform water organizations and funders on how to better communicate with the public.</li> <li>• Support <b>grassroots engagement in the Cowichan watershed</b> regarding CVRD’s sustainable funding mechanism for watershed governance which will go to a referendum in Fall 2018.</li> </ul>

## WORKSHOP ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff to confirm the scope of work of the following organizations and initiatives and possible alignment within the freshwater ecosystem: (i) Raincoast Conservation Foundation (ii) Coastal First Nations and other Great Bear Rainforest initiatives and (iii) Patagonia's environmental granting program.
2. Staff to review and draft updated Water Funders Collaborative Charter / Terms of Reference and broaden scope of activities to include two additional goals: (a) catalyzing to address gaps and (b) water leaders support strategy.
3. AE to distribute expanded list of First Nations-led water initiatives.
4. AE to follow up with Deb Curran about current status of water entity legislation.
5. Sutton Eaves to connect with OBWB's communications lead regarding learnings for generating public support for sustainable funding mechanisms around water.
6. Staff to develop a proposal for Steering Committee regarding the development of 2-3 progress indicators for each strategic thematic area.
7. Staff to follow up with individual funders interested in specific opportunities.
8. Staff to develop water leaders support strategy including collection of funder's granting information to develop a resource for freshwater community.
9. TM/JA to engage with MOECSS regarding opportunities for alignment with the Water Monitoring 2018 Workplan.

## BACKGROUND

In October 2017, the POLIS Water Sustainability Project and the BC Water Funders Collaborative co-hosted the 2nd Annual Joint Strategic Water Leaders and Funders workshop in Victoria, BC. The workshop participants, which included a subset of the water leaders and members of the BC Water Funders Collaborative, identified several priorities for action to advance freshwater protection and watershed governance in BC. This workshop further explored these priorities and emerging opportunities in each key strategic area.

In advance of the 2018 Spring Workshop, the Collaborative hosted two webinars designed to set an informational foundation for workshop discussions.

- **April 12 - [Government Priorities & Implications for Watershed Governance](#)** with presenters Oliver Brandes (POLIS), Tim Morris & Alex Etchell (BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative) [[PASSWORD: bch2o](#)]
- **April 17 - [Pooling Water Knowledge: Water Monitoring & Environmental Flow Needs in BC](#)** with presenters Carol Luttmer (Luttmer Consulting) and Nelson Jatel (Okanagan Basin Water Board) [[PASSWORD: bch2o](#)]

In April 2018, Collaborative staff also attended a webinar hosted by the BC Water Leaders Network, where leaders provided updates on their work. Staff also received one-on-one updates from many members of the Water Leaders Network. All of this informed the gaps and opportunities staff identified in the Briefing Note circulated to participants in advance of the Spring Workshop. These gaps and opportunities are by no means exhaustive and are bounded by the key strategic focus areas.

## WORKSHOP GOALS

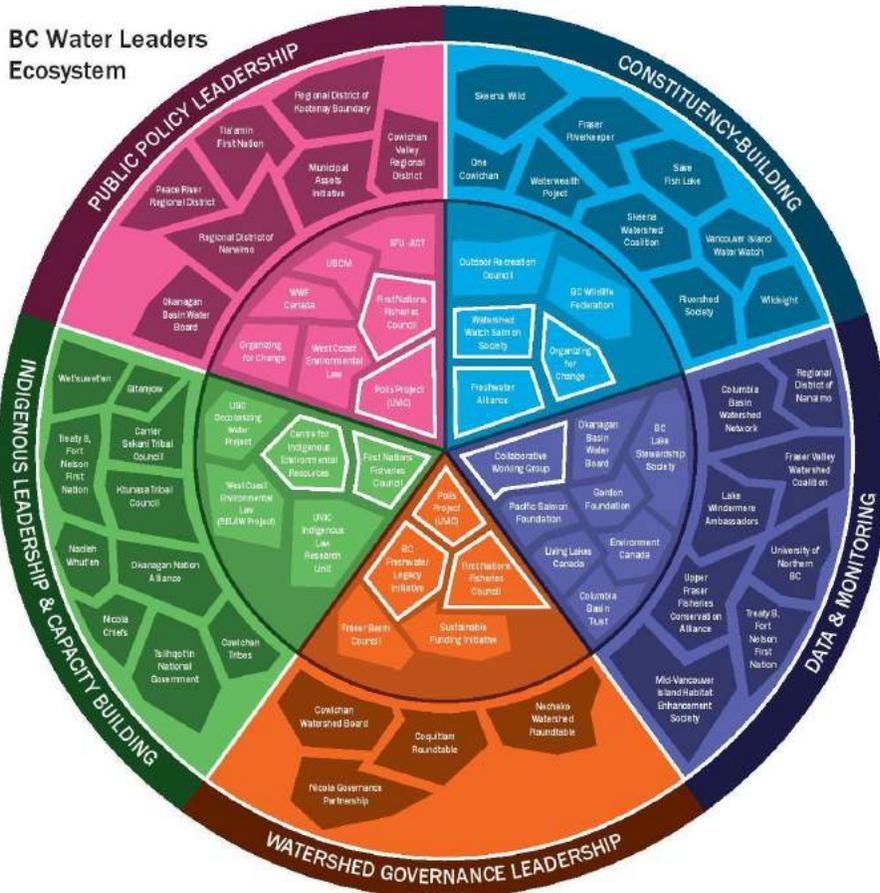
By the end of the workshop, we will have:

1. Identified strengths and gaps in the current B.C. freshwater landscape and identified those organizations currently providing “backbone” functions.
2. Taken stock of the first 5 years of the Collaborative and developed a shared understanding of the Collaborative’s role within the broader B.C.’s freshwater community.
3. Assessed emerging initiatives intended to strengthen capacity for freshwater protection in BC, specifically in four key strategic areas of focus (Policy Innovation, Place Based Governance, Public Engagement and, Pooling Water Knowledge), including First Nations capacity building.
4. Identified opportunities for funder engagement and leveraging of collaborative funding mechanisms in each area of focus.
5. Provided an update on the Collaborative’s 2017 evaluation and confirmed goals and activities for 2018.

# PART A: THE B.C. FRESHWATER LANDSCAPE

## State of the BC Freshwater Ecosystem

Tim Morris introduced an updated version of a visual intended to capture several of the water leaders currently working within the key areas of focus. The organizations identified in the inner ring represent groups working at the provincial level while the groups in the outer ring represent groups working at the local level. The groups in bolded white border are key capacity builders for the freshwater community. This visual is not comprehensive and arguably some organizations could have been included in more than one strategic area.



**Group Exercise**

Funders were asked to place stickies to identify which groups they are currently funding.

The results of the exercise are included in **Appendix 1: Group Exercise**

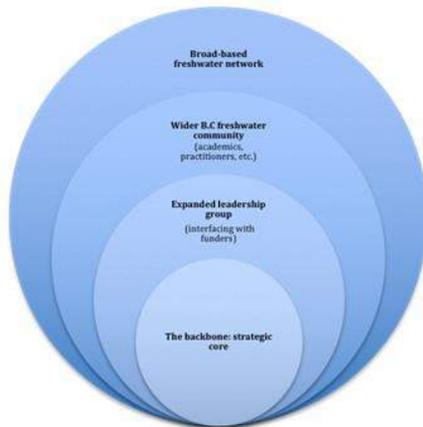
### COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:

- Raincoast Conservation Foundation is doing work in the Fraser estuary. Groups working in the Great Bear Rainforest may also be worth including in the ecosystem graphic.
- Living Lakes Canada should be identified as a core capacity builder for water monitoring.
- Overall there are fewer gaps in the funding ecosystem than last year, but there are still many organizations and projects that need additional funding to be sustainable.
- While Moore funding is mostly wrapping up, it's gratifying to see the degree to which other funders are filling the gaps.
- Concern noted about sustaining funding for key capacity builders including POLIS Water Sustainability Project.

## A Water Leaders 'Backbone' organization.

Water Leaders have expressed increasing interest in working together strategically and becoming more coordinated. Additional capacity is required to assist core organizations to coordinate and align activities in the key strategic areas. Several organizations, including POLIS Water Sustainability Project, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources and First Nations Fisheries Council, are developing a joint proposal to support the coordination of 'backbone' organizations to foster collaboration and alignment around freshwater protection in BC.

## An emerging backbone/core



### Why Now?

- Broadening & deepening of activities (ecosystem more complex & diverse)
- New government priorities – multiple entry points
- Opportunities for more strategic alignment
- Distributing leadership & building resilience

## DISCUSSION: How can the Collaborative support water leader “backbone” organizations?

- Is there benefit in having a core group of organizations that come together to perform “backbone” functions or to have a standalone organization providing this function. Existing relationships and trust within the community are key.
- Water leaders need to be aligned and strategic in all areas in order to have a strong impact. A coordinated backbone organization could provide structure to help identify clear goals, align strategy, and clarify roles.
- A ‘backbone’ needs an element of formality and additional capacity - either some assigned staff time from one of the existing core organizations or an independent coordinator. Can be “informal” as in not creating new organization all together but there will still be structure, etc.
- To what extent could POLIS lead the coordination of a backbone? POLIS may not have knowledge in some areas (ie. data and monitoring). Need strategic alignment and people embedded with expertise in every area. POLIS is currently feeling “spread thin”. Value in having a paid coordinator.
- Question as to whether the Water Funders Collaborative structure could be extended to include the water leaders network as well - i.e. could the Collaborative add staff capacity to focus on this work? Noted that funders should be playing a supportive role, not driving the water leaders’ agenda.
- Proposal that the backbone could begin as a self-organized water leaders approach with rotating Chairs for different areas of focus. External consultant could bring together funders/leaders as a model for

### Proposed Backbone Key Functions

1. Identifying vision and goals & tracking progress
2. Support alignment to achieve goals
3. Informing strategic coordination of funding

backbone.

- What is the expectation for the time commitment? This approach would be most effective if the purpose is to strategically align on a particular agenda over a defined period of time.
- There is a demand and need for this, particularly around alignment of priorities and coordinated communications.
- Benefit to having the groups coordinate around specific strategic issues and a specific agenda (ie; more than just a networking organization).
- If this becomes an ‘issues-based’ approach, then it doesn’t need to be limited to groups with a province-wide focus - rather than calling 7-8 groups the ‘backbone,’ it could bring in the appropriate groups as needed.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR WATER LEADERS BACKBONE ORGANIZATION

### Key Highlights:

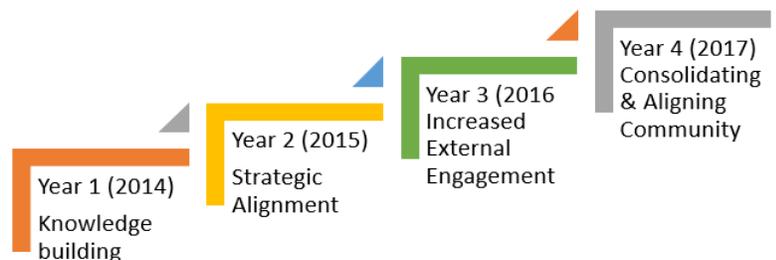
- There is a need and desire for a more intentional level of coordination among water leaders around strategic issues and some sort of ‘backbone’ could provide this.
- A ‘backbone’ could have an informal structure but will likely require some dedicated coordination capacity at a minimum to help identify collective priorities and drive alignment.
- Water funders can provide support as they are able but should be cautious that they are not driving the agenda.
- This type of coordination/backbone function can be time and resource intensive and needs to be able to provide demonstrated value to all groups involved.

## The Collaborative’s Role in the Freshwater Community

The BC Water Funders Collaborative was formed in April 2014 to promote strategic collaboration among organizations and foundations that fund freshwater and watershed protection efforts in British Columbia. When the Collaborative was first formed, the anticipated benefits of collaboration included: (i) increased impact; (ii) alignment of priorities towards a common purpose; (iii) leveraging of resources to address gaps; (iv) due diligence & shared learning; and (v) easier for grantees and advisors.<sup>1</sup>

While the Collaborative’s core activities have remained the same year over year, the impact of the Collaborative has evolved.<sup>2</sup> Years 1 and 2 were aimed at knowledge building, building relationships and aligning interests and priorities among the funder community. In years 3 and 4 – we have seen the Collaborative expand its scope of activities and begin to bridge the funders and the greater

### Collaborative’s Evolving Role



<sup>1</sup> See *Case for Collaboration* (2013) online on Collaborative [website](#).

<sup>2</sup> For a summary of the Collaborative’s vision, goals, evolution and impact see the members section of the BC Water Funders Collaborative’s [website](#), and in particular the 2017 Annual Evaluation.

freshwater community. There has been shift from coordinating and convening funders and providing a service only to funders - to coordinating and convening leaders, government representatives and funders together through joint workshops, working groups, outreach and providing a bridging and convening function to the freshwater community as a whole. Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Collaborative is a trusted partner with significant influence in the freshwater community. The question now needs to be asked - how does the Collaborative wish to exercise this influence in 2018 and moving forward?

## DISCUSSION:

- The success of the Collaborative is in bringing together resources at scale so they can be optimally allocated for maximum impact. Deciding where collective resources go gives a lot of power to the Collaborative. There is no easy answer to this issue but we need to operate with integrity and push the locus of control outwards as much as possible.
- How do we go from being strategically catalytic to then deliberately letting go of initiatives so that they are not funder-owned and driven?
- We need to be intentional about creating opportunities to listen and hear directly from leaders. We also need respected water leader backbone groups and to think about how we support them through the Collaborative. There is a clear need for ongoing dialogue between funders and leaders which is strategic dialogue, not just transactional.
- Suggestion that we don't want to be too cautious or sensitive about influencing activities. We as funders do have our own mandates and interests, we just need to be transparent about that. Water Leaders and the Collaborative are in the same space and we don't want to create an 'us' and 'them' dynamic.
- We need to be very clear about our mandate: goals, strategy, outcomes. We are trying to catalyze work to fill identified gaps in the freshwater landscape. Perhaps we need to be articulating clearly what kinds of gaps we are choosing to address (e.g. policy development, coordination capacity etc.). There is a need to ensure that we have a very clear mandate and to be careful about the risk of tipping the balance into "funder-driven" activities.
- In order to prioritize our goals, we need to find some way of measuring our impact. Checking in regularly on these is a healthy exercise. Whether through indicators or other methods, we need to capture learnings.
- There is a need for some type of mechanism to be able to answer whether we are reaching goals and moving in the right direction. Ideally, the mechanism is somewhat formalized so that we are able to articulate opportunities and gaps clearly and respond with a concerted effort. It cannot be a box-ticking exercise and must allow for intentional reflection.
- Suggestion that we should focus on assessing initiatives that are concrete and easy to measure. We don't want to get bogged down in a time-consuming paper process - must be mindful of our staff capacity for this work as well.
- The indicators would be for internal Collaborative evaluation. Funders should not set goals for leaders.

### 2018 Collaborative Goals

1. Convene & Connect
2. Build Knowledge
3. Align & Leverage
4. **PROPOSED:** Catalyze to Address Gaps
5. **PROPOSED:** Support Water Leaders

## COLLABORATIVE'S EVOLVING ROLE

### Key Highlights:

- The Collaborative needs to continue to be mindful about its role/influence and ensure that water leaders are setting their own goals, ideally informed by strategic alignment and coordination amongst water leaders.
- The Collaborative needs to be very clear about its role, goals, and strategy. An updated Charter for the Collaborative will be drafted for this purpose. Two additional goals will be added to encompass activities around catalyzing gaps and developing a water leaders support strategy.
- The Collaborative will seek to find efficient ways to measure and communicate its impact.
- The Collaborative should ensure there are good opportunities for funders to learn from and be informed by leaders.

## PART B: ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES

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### Goals of this Discussion:

- Provide highlights on recent initiatives and future direction in each area (see Briefing Note and pre-workshop webinar recordings)
- Identify gaps and opportunities in each ecosystem
- Identify which funders are currently funding in this area and which funders are interested in each area
- Identify concrete actionable next steps and questions for follow up

## 1. POLICY INNOVATION

### Spectrum of First Nations Approaches

Alex Etchell provided an overview of some innovative water initiatives being driven by First Nations in BC.

#### 1. FNFC-Led Province-wide WSA Implementation Work

- FNFC has communicated broadly with First Nations on WSA development and implementation and has sought support from provincial First Nations political organizations to continue this work.
- The First Nations Leadership Council has mandated the FNFC to convene a BC Chiefs Working group to inform implementation of the WSA in accordance with UNDRIP principles.
- The FNFC will be working collaboratively with BC MOECCS to develop an engagement framework for ongoing implementation of WSA regulations that are likely to impact Aboriginal rights.

#### 2. Indigenous Led Water Policy Work

- Nadleh Whut'en First Nation continues its efforts to implement their Yinka Dene Surface Water Management Policy.

- Gitanyow First Nation is beginning to develop territorial water quality and quantity policies, tied to their existing land use planning work.
- The Okanagan Nation Alliance is working to advance environmental flow needs assessments in addition to developing water responsibility plans and hosting annual Water Forum to educate non-Indigenous people about water sustainability.

### 3. Strategic Partnerships

- The five Nicola First Nations are partnering with BC to co-lead a new approach to watershed governance.
- Cowichan Tribes are working with the Cowichan Watershed Board to secure recognition of Cowichan authority and to jointly build the case for local co-governance.
- Musqueam First Nation has entered into a collaborative management agreement with BC to manage activities in the lower Fraser River.



Figure 1: Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Province of BC and Nicola First Nations (March 23, 2018)

## Provincial Government Mandates and Direction

Tim Morris provided updates on the provincial government’s approach and policy direction.

### Key Highlights:

- There does not appear to be a comprehensive commitment to water right now from the Province.
- There are two ways to approach this - work with them where they are and build water into their other mandates (UNDRIP implementation, land-use planning), or do the movement-building work to get water onto the agenda.
- Provincial water-focused work to date includes: groundwater licensing efforts and obstacles, regulatory amendments (e-flows, placer mining water use, etc.), implementing recommendations from the Hullcar report and the Professional Reliance Review.

### Provincial Government Commitments

- ✓ Modernize **land-use planning** and sustainably manage B.C.’s ecosystems rivers, lakes, watershed, forests and old growth (FLNRO mandate letter)
- ✓ Ensure that high volume water users are **paying for access fairly**, and that **drinking water sources** are protected (NDP platform)
- ✓ Fully adopting and **implementing UNDRIP** & determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action. (all mandate letters).

## Policy Innovation: Gaps & Opportunities

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● POLIS Project’s Moore Fdn funding is winding down, presenting emerging core capacity gap related to key POLIS’ role in government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Addressing emerging funding gap for <b>POLIS WSP</b> would ensure continuity in the critical role that POLIS plays providing advice and capacity support related to WSA implementation, and role as convener and coordinator of water leaders.</li> </ul>

<p>relations, external policy expertise and coordination of policy groups/experts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing gaps around <b>Eflows regulation</b>, and clear processes around community engagement.</li> <li>• Province’s lack of acknowledgement of First Nations rights in Water Sustainability Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsorship opportunities for the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Canadian Water Resources Association BC Branch are hosting the <a href="#">EFN 2018: Environmental Flow Needs - Science, Policy &amp; Practice</a> (Oct 17-18 in Kelowna, BC). Also involved are POLIS WSP and Okanagan Nation Alliance.</li> <li>• FNFC Water for Fish project has launched “Just Do It” initiative to support <b>5 First Nations communities to establish environmental flows</b>. Opportunities to provide capacity support directly to communities through FNFC.</li> <li>• Support First Nations-led initiative to explore how best to use EFNs as a way to advance Aboriginal Rights in their territories and inform policy development.</li> </ul>
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## DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ONA has been partnering with Okanagan Basin Water Board and FLNRORD on the Okanagan’s environmental flow needs project. ONA’s work on water responsibility plans another initiative to follow.
- The Canadian Freshwater Alliance’s report with recommendations on water management will be available in May 2018.
- There is a question as to whether Living Water Smart is still guiding government.
- Multi-funder support for FNFC’s 3-year strategic plan has led to a significant portion of their total funding goal being met to-date.
- Concern was raised regarding sustainable funding for POLIS given that Moore funding was winding up and the critical role that POLIS is playing. REFBC is funding POLIS but funding is conditional on matching funds for each year of multi-year grant. Sitka Fdn has recently approved multi-year funding. .
- Several funders expressed interest in sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 Okanagan EFN conference. Information about sponsorship opportunities can be found here: <https://www.efn2018.ca/sponsors-exhibitors/>
- There was a question about previously contemplated research work about the need/potential for a *Watershed Entities Act* or similar legislation.

## 2. PLACE-BASED WATERSHED GOVERNANCE

**OVERVIEW:** Tim, Jennifer and Alex provided an overview of the [BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative](#)’s partnerships and capacity-building investments. These include:

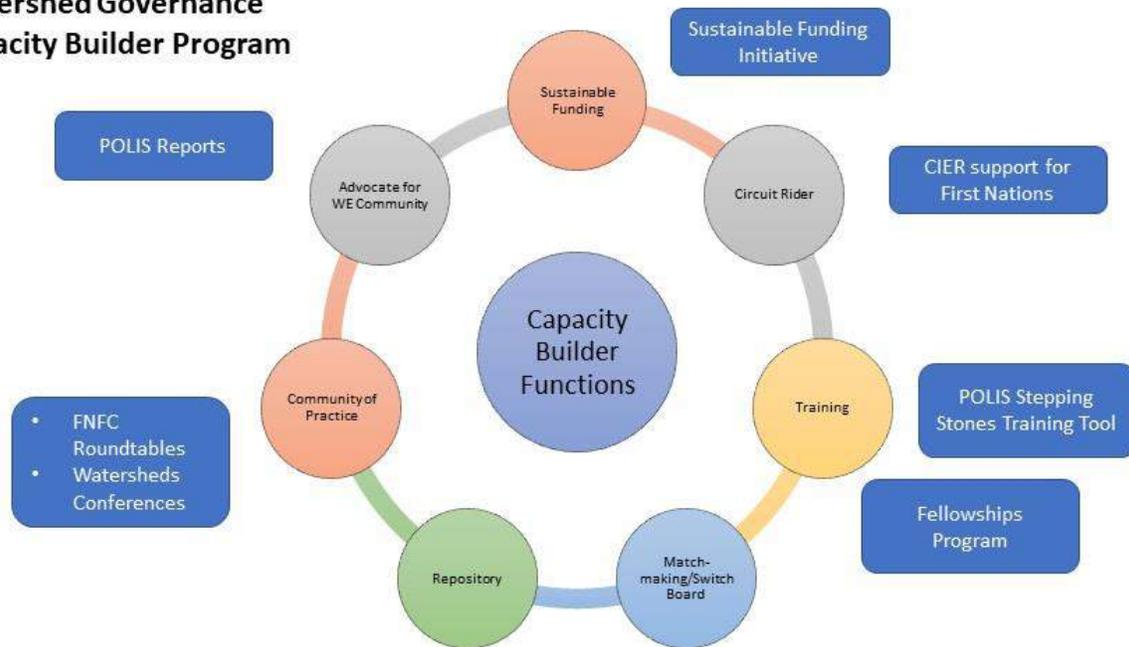
- Nadleh Whu’ten First Nation’s work to implement their Yinka Dene Surface Water Management Policy;
- Cowichan Watershed Board’s local co-governance conversations;
- Treaty 8 water gathering;
- Nicola Watershed Governance Project<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See the pre-workshop webinar on Watershed Governance for a detailed overview of the BCFLI’s partnership in the Nicola Watershed Governance Project that is being co-led by the Province and the five Nicola Chiefs. Also see [news video](#).

- Coquitlam Watershed Roundtable; and
- The Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative.

The Legacy Initiative is also exploring a Watershed Governance Capacity Builder Program in partnership with POLIS Water Sustainability Project, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources and First Nations Fisheries Council to support regional initiatives on the ground. Functions of the Capacity Builder may include a repository for resources, training programs for watershed governance coordinators and a circuit rider for on the ground support.

### Watershed Governance Capacity Builder Program



### Place-Based Watershed Governance: Gaps & Opportunities

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current priority around planning and implementation of <b>Nicola Watershed Partnership Project</b>, including <b>stakeholder engagement and State of the Watershed Reporting</b>.</li> <li>• Need for <b>additional partnerships beyond Nicola Project</b>.</li> <li>• Need for capacity building program to support regional watershed governance initiatives through training and resource support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to contribute or align with the partnership established between Province (MOE, FLNRORD, MIRR), Nicola Valley Chiefs and BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative to advance watershed governance and implement innovative aspects of WSA in <b>Nicola Watershed</b>.</li> <li>• Opportunity to build upon renewed relationship with Province to <b>expand partnership to additional watershed(s)</b></li> <li>• Opportunity to <b>support collaboration of core capacity builders</b> (CIER, POLIS, FNFC) in developing and implementing a strategy to support and amplify regional initiatives and share learnings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to support <b>specific watershed governance initiatives</b> (eg Cowichan Watershed Board, Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable, Kettle River) in partnership with the BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative.</li> </ul>
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## DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- There was a request to know about other watershed governance projects that BCFLI is not involved in.
- There will be emerging capacity needs around the Nicola Project. Some participants are exploring opportunities which align with Nicola Watershed Governance Partnership (ie supporting water monitoring in the Nicola).
- Suggestion that it would be useful to have a list of all additional watershed governance projects in BC, in addition to those supported by BCFLI.
- There is a need for some more clarity around what would be involved in a coordinated capacity builder program.
- It was noted that the Nicola model of starting with a blank slate with First Nations to talk about co-governance is a good model. It is harder to move to co-governance once there is an entrenched structure that didn't include First Nations originally.
- There was a question as to whether co-governance can really be implemented properly if the overarching legislation is still problematic (e.g. doesn't recognize Indigenous rights). It was noted that government-to-government agreements with First Nations can overcome legislative challenges because of the unique nature of the Crown - First Nations relationship.

## 3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### OVERVIEW

Sutton Eaves, Strategic Communications Program Lead, provided an update on an emerging Strategic Communications initiative, including a province-wide public opinion poll to be conducted this summer. Initiative was catalyzed through discussions at the 2017 Joint Fall Water Leaders and Water Funders Workshop regarding the pressing need to keep water on the agenda. Informed by the opinion poll and input from water leaders, funders and advisors, Sutton will develop a set of strategic recommendations for funders and leaders on how to engage the British Columbia public on water issues, including who matters (audience), where to focus (issues), and what to say (message).



**Key Highlights:**

- Water remains abstract and lacking in urgency amongst the public. We need to Amplify, Organize and Translate key stories to create a compelling narrative.
- We need to consider where the opportunities are to converge and invest capacity to build a larger movement - e.g. water pricing, drinking water, eflows, toxic waste, Hullcar, etc.
- Canadian Freshwater Alliance’s network provides good opportunities to coordinate and scale-up messaging.
- Leveraging the public’s love of salmon may be an important way to get political leadership.
- There is also a need to get out ahead on the narrative around these longer-term watershed governance efforts that are starting.
- To support this work, a public opinion poll is being proposed to get a better sense of where the public is at on water issues.

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water is <b>not a clear priority</b> in any of the key Ministry mandate letters of the current government.</li> <li>• While there are an increasing number of local stories related to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since last year, members of the Collaborative have provided support to address a number of the gaps and opportunities identified in this area, including <b>support for the Canadian Freshwater Alliance and Watershed Watch</b> to advance the Our Water BC campaign strategy. Current focus regions for public engagement include the <b>Comox and Fraser Valleys</b>.</li> <li>• A <b>strategic communications lead</b> has been hired to support the development of a stronger narrative around water to amplify powerful local stories and develop more cohesive province-wide stories and</li> </ul>

<p>water, there is <b>not yet a strong provincial narrative</b> or connective threads linking these local stories to clear public or policy asks.</p>	<p>communications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Collaborative has catalyzed a <b>public opinion poll project</b>, which has received funding to date through REFBC, and through Sitka Foundation’s contribution to strategic communications. Of the \$45k budget for the poll, \$15k still needs to be raised. This work would be undertaken in time for the summer and findings will be shared with water funders and leaders to enhance our collective communications knowledge and capacities.</li> <li>• One region where there is potential need for support for <b>public engagement is in the Cowichan</b>. The CVRD is seeking to develop a sustainable funding mechanism for watershed management efforts in the region, including a stable funding stream for the Cowichan Watershed Board. The decision to approve this funding mechanism will be going to public referendum at the same time as the municipal elections. This has the potential to set an important model and example for other regions but without strong local support is likely to fail. Key local groups in this region currently lack capacity to effectively engage around this important issue.</li> </ul>
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**DISCUSSION:**

- There doesn’t seem to be much of a story there for the public around the WSA. How can we connect it with things that people care about – ie. drinking, fishing, swimming?
- Need to be prepared for “crisitunities” - capitalize on moments of attention to drive the public’s attention back to water. We missed the opportunity last year with flooding and wildfires.
- Suggestion made that there are benefits to be gained from an overarching campaign that everyone can connect to no matter what their issues in order to raise public awareness (ie GotWater?). Something that both positive and negative stories can attach to. We can do all the work we want behind the scenes but need that public pressure to drive change fast. Need to ask what we are trying to achieve. Is it WSA implementation?
- We also need to identify *where* we need to put public pressure and where pressure will actually be counterproductive to our overarching goals.
- There are opportunities to organize in places where water issues need to be solved with public policy - e.g. new water bottling controversy near Comox. We have a desire to get traction with this government and give them something they can put their name on proudly. To do that we need to be strategic about how we message a forward water agenda that government will buy into - we can’t let this be just about negative buzz/crises to be solved.
- **Public Engagement in the Cowichan** The CVRD’s Water Services Bylaw Referendum (Fall 2018) will be a critical vote to get sustainable funding for the Cowichan Watershed Board and ensure CVRD’s mandate and authority as a foundational partner.
- There is a need for nimble funding and capacity to support a strategic communications strategy for this.
- Key messages need to be developed and local voices need to come out in favour. There is a framing challenge here because it is a tax.

## 4. POOLING WATER KNOWLEDGE

**OVERVIEW:** Across sectors, there is a need to understand the state of BC’s watersheds to facilitate planning and effective decision-making. The Collaborative convened a working group in 2017 to catalyze a conversation around developing that shared vision. For a summary of the 2017 activities and proposal for next steps see the **2018-19 Water Monitoring and Reporting Workplan (attached)**. Also see- Carol Luttmer’s Brief, [BC Water Monitoring Landscape Scan Summary & Recommendations Briefing](#) (April 2018)

### DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- OBWB & ONA currently have an E-flows Needs Assessment Pilot. Final results to be presented at the [EFN 2018: Environmental Flow Needs - Science, Policy & Practice](#) (Oct 17-18 in Kelowna, BC)
- Bulkley Valley also has project around indicators
- Funders interested in this area include PSF, HCTF, Gordon Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics, REFBC (policy) and ECCC (policy).
  - REFBC is very interested in this work and this work will inform their region-specific initiatives and grant recommendations.
  - ECCC is interest in some of the on-the-ground monitoring work - interested in placing more resources in the Nicola. The inventory scan helps inform ECCC initiatives, with a focus on opportunities to support existing collaborative water monitoring initiatives.
  - OBWB is not able to fund this work due to regional scope, but may have other ways to contribute in-kind support.
- What are the capacity needs? Who will do the work and where will it be housed?
  - Ideally another organization can take the lead on this initiative. Estimated budget = \$77,000
  - OBWB may be willing to house it.
  - Jennifer will engage with MOECCS about possibilities as well.
- Noted that Tides Canada and LUSH may be interested in supporting the sponsorship of regional leaders to engage in shared learning

### Water Monitoring & Reporting 2018 Workplan

#### Objectives

1. Support and learn from **regional bottom-up water monitoring efforts**
2. Support a shared understanding and **alignment of roles and responsibilities** around water monitoring and reporting at local, regional, provincial and federal levels and identify the gaps.

#### Proposed Activities:

- Coordination & Information Sharing (PT coordinator)
- Knowledge Building (2-3 webinars)
- Regional Capacity Building & Needs Assessment (1-2 workshops with regional champions)
- Engagement with Province (Gov’t Relations & Roundtable)

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inventory Scan identified several data gaps in our knowledge around water monitoring and reporting in BC.</li> <li>● Ongoing support and learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Since last year, a province wide inventory scan was completed, as well as a webinar series and roundtable.</li> <li>● Opportunity to support the development and implementation of <b>2018-2019 Water Monitoring Workplan</b> developed by the Working Group on Water</li> </ul>

<p>from <b>regional bottom-up water monitoring efforts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shared understanding and <b>alignment of roles and responsibilities</b> around water monitoring at local, regional, provincial and federal levels and identify gaps.</li> <li>● Need for a sustained <b>coordinated community of practice</b> to support peer to peer learning between regions and between regional and provincial initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Monitoring. Primary objectives of this new initiative would include supporting and learning from regional initiatives and engaging Province to identify roles and responsibilities of various agencies and areas for alignment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Sponsorship opportunities for regional monitoring champions</b> from other watersheds to attend the Okanagan’s EFN workshop and other regional events.</li> <li>● Opportunity to <b>support ongoing collaborative regional initiatives in leading watersheds</b> (eg. Columbia, Nicola, Nechako, Morice Water Monitoring Trust, UFFCA, Treaty 8).</li> <li>● For additional opportunities, see- Carol Luttmer’s Brief, <a href="#">BC Water Monitoring Landscape Scan Summary &amp; Recommendations Briefing</a> (April 2018)</li> </ul>
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## PART C: COLLABORATIVE UPDATES

### 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2017 Annual Report is available for download on our [website](#). It is divided into two parts: (1) Final Report Narrative which includes the background of the Collaborative and stories of the Collaborative’s impact; and (2) Appendices which include the methodology and metrics of our evaluation and feedback from the funders through our annual member survey.

#### KEY METRICS FROM EVALUATION

- 100% agreed that goals related to convening and knowledge building were achieved or exceeded
- 78% stated that goals related to aligning and leveraging funding were achieved and/or exceeded
- 100% stated that they would recommend Collaborative to others
- 91% stated relationships with water leaders were strengthened

**Collaborative Priorities**

- Watershed Governance (100%)
- Indigenous laws, planning and capacity building (89%)
- Co-governance with First Nations (78%)
- BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative (78%)
- Water Monitoring & Reporting (67%)

### 2018 GOALS & ACTIVITIES

The 2018 Annual Plan is available for viewing in the Members Section of the Collaborative’s [website](#). During the workshop, participants agreed that the Collaborative’s Terms of Reference should be reviewed and a revised Collaborative Charter developed which captures the Collaboratives current activities as well as the following emerging priorities:

1. **Catalyzing to Address Gaps:** Staff to develop rationale and scope to guide Collaborative’s efforts to

catalyze and convene activities in areas of strategic importance as well as process of pushing out locus of control for new initiatives so not funder owned and driven. As it has evolved, the Collaborative has increasingly engaged water leaders and government representatives and funders to identify opportunities for strategic alignment and collaboration. These activities are not currently captured under the Collaborative’s current goals and terms of reference and will benefit from a clear mandate regarding priorities.

2. **Water Leaders Support Strategy:** Participants agreed that Collaborative’s activities in 2018 shall include the development of tools and resources to support water leaders coordination, including through alignment of applications, reporting and development of list of freshwater funders and grants. Staff will work with James Littley, OBWB, to develop strategy and resources.
3. **Tracking Progress Through Indicators:** Workshop participants supported the development of 2-3 indicators in each of the Collaborative’s strategic areas of interest to measure progress against real-world outcomes. REFBC’s Murky Waters Report provides a framework for the development of freshwater indicators. Tides Canada uses the Sustainable Development Goals as indicators. A tool could help us better prioritize and align activities and formalize, annual reporting..

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As of April 30, 2018, there remains \$8,500 to be confirmed for the 2018 Annual Plan.<sup>4</sup> Members are encouraged to contribute to the Collaborative through our optional Membership Fee (\$2500 or \$5000 suggested).

Expenses	Cost	Revenue	Projected	Confirmed
Coordination	\$72,380	2017 Carry-Over	\$10,863	\$10,863
Workshops, Socials, Field Trips	\$17,500	REFBC	\$30,000	\$30,000
Office Expenses	\$1245	Sitka Foundation	\$25,000	\$25,000
Website & Communications	\$1000	Clif Bar Fdn	\$7,500	\$7,500
Staff Travel & Expenses	\$4,850	LUSH Cosmetics	\$15,000	
		Vancouver Fdn	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$96,975</b>	OBWB	\$5,000	\$5,000
Admin 10%	\$9,600	PSF	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$106,575</b>	To Be Raised	\$8,500	
		<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$106,863</b>	<b>\$83,363</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: THIRD ANNUAL WATER LEADERS & FUNDERS FALL WORKSHOP**  
The BC Water Funders & POLIS WSP are co-hosting a half-day (afternoon) joint water leaders and funders workshop on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Victoria followed by an evening social. The Funders will then meet separately for a full-day session on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please save the date.

<sup>4</sup> During the workshop, it was communicated that only \$4500 was needed to be raised however, projected funding has been revised to reflect most recent information as of May 15.

➤ **June 5, 2018: [WATERSHEDS 2018](#) – *Planning for Success: New Thinking for Land Use & Water Governance***

**SESSION 1: INDIGENOUS WATER LAW & THE EMERGING PRIORITY OF WATER-CENTRIC PLANNING**

This session will explore the connections between Indigenous water laws and “water-centric planning.” Speakers include Val Napoleon and Deborah Curran, University of Victoria, Indigenous Law Research Unit, and Tara Marsden, Gitanyow Nation.

**SESSION 2: WATERSHED GOVERNANCE ROUNDUP: LESSONS AND UPDATES FROM ON THE GROUND**

This session will show that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to watershed governance in B.C. Panelists include representatives from the Cowichan Watershed Board, the Nadleh Whut’en First Nation and the Nicola Watershed Partnership.

➤ **OTHER FRESHWATER COMMUNITY EVENTS**

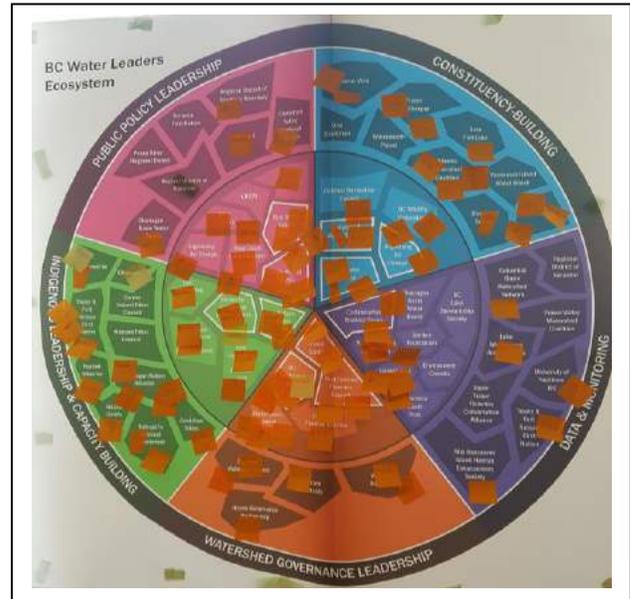
- May 28: [Columbia River Treaty Symposium](#) (Victoria)
- May 29-31: [National CWRA](#) (Victoria)
- June 6-7: [Blue Tech Forum: Managing Water Risk in the Circular Economy](#) (Vancouver)
- June 16-21: [RFG2018 - Mining, Energy & Water](#) (Vancouver)
- June 20-22: [Canada Water Summit](#) (Vancouver)
- Oct 17-18: [Okanagan’s E-flows Workshop](#) (Kelowna)

## APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF GROUP STICKY EXERCISE

**Exercise:** Workshop participants were shown a visual intended to capture several of the water leaders currently working within the Collaborative’s key areas of focus. Funders were then asked to place stickies to identify which organizations they are currently funding.

The organizations identified in the inner ring of the image represent groups working at the provincial level while the groups in the outer ring represent groups working at the local level. This visual is not comprehensive and arguably some organizations could have been included in more than one strategic area.

**OVERVIEW: Which funders are funding in which theme areas?**



- REFBC is currently funding in all areas.
- LUSH is currently funding in Constituency-Building.
- OBWB is primarily funding regionally in Indigenous Leadership and Capacity Building
- Sitka Foundation is funding in all areas, but primarily funding the “core” groups.
- Vancouver Foundation is primarily funding in Public Policy, Indigenous Leadership and Capacity Building, and Data and Monitoring.
- Tides Canada is primarily funding in Constituency Building but also funding Indigenous Leadership and Capacity Building and Watershed Governance.
- Moore Foundation funding (managed by Tides Canada) is supporting Indigenous Leadership, Water Governance, Policy Innovation, and Data and Monitoring.
- Tides Canada is also representing Patagonia, which primarily funds small grants to small organizations in constituency-building and grassroots advocacy funding in Coastal regions.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada is currently funding Indigenous Leadership and Capacity Building and is looking to fund more elements of Data Monitoring.
- Glasswaters Foundation funds West Coast Environmental Law, which is related to Constituency Building and Indigenous Leadership and Capacity Building.

Water Leader Organization	Funders
<b>INDIGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	ECCC, REFBC, LUSH, Sitka, MOORE, BCFLI, OBWB, PSF, LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn, Tides Canada
First Nations Fisheries Council	● ECCC, REFBC
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources	● LUSH Cosmetics, Sitka
UBC – Decolonizing Water Project	● REFBC
West Coast Environmental Law	● Sitka, REFBC
UVIC- Indigenous Law Research Unit	● Sitka, REFBC

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council	
Wet'suwet'en	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore, Tides Canada</li> </ul>
Nadleh Whut'en	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BCFLI</li> </ul>
Gitanyow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore</li> </ul>
Nicola Chiefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BCFLI</li> </ul>
Ktunaxa	
Okanagan Nation Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OBWB, PSF, REFBC, ECCC</li> </ul>
Cowichan Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BCFLI</li> </ul>
Tsilhqot'in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LUSH Cosmetics, Tides Canada</li> </ul>
Treaty 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● REFBC, Vancouver Fdn, BCFLI</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP</b>	Moore, Vancouver Fdn., REFBC, Sitka, ECCC, BCFLI
POLIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore Fdn, Vancouver Fdn, REFBC, Sitka</li> </ul>
First Nations Fisheries Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ECCC, BCFLI</li> </ul>
WWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sitka,</li> </ul>
WCEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore, Sitka, REFBC</li> </ul>
Organizing for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vancouver Fdn</li> </ul>
UBCM	
Okanagan Basin Water Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ECCC</li> </ul>
Peace River Regional District	
Tla'amin First Nation	
Cowichan Valley Regional District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BCFLI</li> </ul>
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vancouver Fdn</li> </ul>
Municipal National Assets Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● REFBC</li> </ul>
<b>Constituency Building</b>	Sitka, LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn, Moore Fdn, REFBC, Tides Canada
Freshwater Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sitka Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn</li> </ul>
Organizing for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn</li> </ul>
Watershed Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore Fdn, Sitka, REFBC</li> </ul>
BC Wildlife Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● REFBC</li> </ul>
Outdoor Recreation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● REFBC</li> </ul>
Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn</li> </ul>
Skeena Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moore Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics</li> </ul>
One Cowichan	
WaterWealth	
Fraser Riverkeeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LUSH Cosmetics, Sitka Fdn</li> </ul>
Save Fish Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LUSH Cosmetics</li> </ul>

Vancouver Island Water Watch	
Rivershed Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tides Canada</li> </ul>
<b>DATA &amp; MONITORING</b>	OBWB, REFBC, Sitka, Moore Fdn, Vancouver Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics, HCTF, CBT
Collaborative Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBWB, REFBC, PSF, Collaborative, CBT</li> </ul>
Columbia Basin Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sitka</li> </ul>
Pacific Salmon Fdn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moore Fdn, Sitka</li> </ul>
OBWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECCC</li> </ul>
Living Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vancouver Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics, Sitka Fdn, REFBC</li> </ul>
Gordon Fdn	
Columbia Basin Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LUSH</li> </ul>
Lake Windermere Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC</li> </ul>
Fraser Valley Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSF, Vancouver Fdn., REFBC</li> </ul>
Mid-Van Island Habitat Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC, HCTF</li> </ul>
UNBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC</li> </ul>
Treaty 8/PRRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC</li> </ul>
<b>WATERSHED GOVERNANCE</b>	Moore, REFBC, Sitka, ECCC, BCFLI, PSF
BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moore, REFBC, Sitka</li> </ul>
POLIS Water Sustainability Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moore, ECCC, Sitka</li> </ul>
Fraser Basin Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECCC, Sitka, REFBC</li> </ul>
First Nations Fisheries Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC, LUSH, BCFLI</li> </ul>
Sustainable Funding Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCFLI</li> </ul>
Nicola Governance Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCFLI</li> </ul>
Cowichan Watershed Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECCC, REFBC, BCFLI</li> </ul>
Coquitlam Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC, BCFLI</li> </ul>
Okanagan Basin Water Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSF, ECCC</li> </ul>
Nechako Watershed Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REFBC</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST

### PARTICIPANTS LIST

- Carolynn Beaty, Sitka Foundation
- David Hendrickson, Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Deena Guffei, LUSH Cosmetics
- Ian Rogalski, Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Ivan Thompson, Tides Canada Foundation
- James Littlely, Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Jill Shouldice, Vancouver Foundation
- Kathy Smail, Glasswaters Foundation
- Leanne Sexsmith, Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Shayla Walker, Tides Canada Foundation
- Terra Kaethler, Vancouver Foundation
- Tim Susic, Pacific Salmon Foundation

### STAFF SUPPORT

- Alex Etchell, Program Associate, BC Water Funders Collaborative
- Jennifer Archer, Program Manager, BC Water Funders Collaborative
- Sutton Eaves, Strategic Communications Program Lead
- Tim Morris, Project Director, BC Freshwater Initiative