

BC Water Funders

COLLABORATIVE

Annual Plan 2020-2021 Proposal

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Version: Feb, 2020

DRAFT

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The BC Water Funders Collaborative (the Collaborative) is a group of funding organizations, who have a vested interest in protecting BC's freshwater.

The Collaborative facilitates collaboration to advance healthy and resilient watersheds in British Columbia and is working towards an ambitious (yet achievable) vision where all waters in BC are in good health and resilient by 2030.

The BC Water Funders Collaborative is a program of the BC Freshwater Initiative, a project on the Tides Canada Shared Platform. Tides Canada's Shared Platform provides governance, human resources, financial, and grant management for leading environmental and social projects across Canada, allowing projects to more effectively achieve their missions. Tides Canada's Board of Directors has delegated the day to day strategic planning and direction of the BC Water Funders Collaborative to the Steering Committee. The current Steering Committee Members are:

- Deena Guffei, LUSH Cosmetics (Chair)
- Carolynn Beaty, Sitka Foundation
- James Littlely, Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Bridgitte Taylor, Tides Canada Foundation

The Collaborative was formed in April 2014 to promote strategic collaboration among water funders. The Collaborative is currently comprised of 50 funders from 23 funding organizations, including private foundations, government, quasi-governmental agencies and corporate funders.

2019-2020 activities were made possible by the support of our Sustaining Members:



BUILDING ON THE PAST YEAR

In 2019, the Collaborative developed a Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. The Collaborative's four strategies and midterm (5-yr) indicators of success are set out in the [2020-2025 Strategic Plan](#). The Plan guides Collaborative staff in preparing, implementing, and evaluating Annual Plans. **The Collaborative's four strategies are:**

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES

1. **Relationships & Knowledge Sharing:** Relationships, networks, and knowledge-sharing are strengthened among funders, rights holders, stakeholders and decision-makers in the freshwater community.
2. **Water Leader's Capacity:** The capacity of freshwater organizations is increased through funder alignment and collaboration.
3. **Systems Thinking & Addressing Gaps:** Funders are well-informed about the BC freshwater system and networks. Gaps are identified and actions are undertaken to address them.
4. **Assessing Collective Progress:** Collective monitoring and tracking of progress by the BC freshwater community is enabled by funders.

The following **proposed strategic activities** are derived from the recommendations in the Collaborative’s 2019-2020 Annual Report.

- 2020-2021 PRIORITIES**
1. **Workshops, Socials & Communications:** Continue to provide the same level of core activities including high-quality communications, two workshops and one social. Ensure the Water Funders have a presence and a role at Watersheds 2020.
 2. **Administrative Efficiencies Working Group:** Develop a working group to explore and advance opportunities for aligning funder processes, starting with ways to align funder reporting.
 3. **Collective Progress-Tracking:** Scope opportunities and develop a work plan in partnership with the Water Leaders Network for “Tracking Collective Progress/Impact” in BC water work.
 4. **Decolonizing Work:** Facilitate opportunities for funder-education about decolonizing philanthropy and continue to learn from Indigenous peoples on how the Collaborative can best support, engage and learn from Indigenous communities. Strengthen understanding of the implications of B.C.’s new Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

ANNUAL PLAN

The following table highlight priorities and deliverable in accordance with each strategic activity. Detail about the staff operational workplan can be found in **Appendix A: Staff Operational Activities**.

Appendix B: Evaluation Matrix outlines the 2020-2021 Evaluation Metrics and Indicators of Success.

Strategic Activity	Strategies Applied	Priorities	Deliverables
Workshops, Socials & Communications	Relationships & Knowledge Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for relationship building, networking and outreach to new members. • Increase shared understanding of member’s grants and priorities • Maintain active participation of current funders in Collaborative activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 in-person funder workshops (Spring and Fall) • 1 joint leader/funder workshop session or social (Fall)
	Systems Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for water leaders (including First Nations), the Province, and water funders to discuss BC freshwater protection strategies. • Coordinate knowledge-building and information sharing regarding the emerging networks within the freshwater ecosystem as well as the following priority subject areas: Policy Innovation, Place-based Watershed Governance, People, and Pooling Water Knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 active funder members attending workshops • 2 newsletters • Active website

Administrative Efficiencies Working Group	<p>Relationships & Knowledge Sharing</p> <p>Increasing Leaders' Capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize and support the Working Group to identify and pilot align funder admin and reporting processes. • Collect leader and funder feedback on pilot initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group Activities communicated to entire membership • 2-3 funder meetings
Collective Progress-Tracking	<p>Systems Thinking & Addressing Gaps</p> <p>Assessing Collective Progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement framework for addressing gaps in freshwater ecosystem • Scope opportunities, role and capacity for a partnership with the Water Leader's network to track collective progress • Formalize and support a Working Group • Scope feasibility and desirability of Social Network Analysis with funders and Water Leaders Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group Activities communicated to entire membership • 2-3 funder meetings
Decolonizing Work	<p>Relationships & Knowledge Sharing</p> <p>Informs Administrative Efficiencies WG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen our collective understanding of Indigenous approaches to freshwater protection and opportunities to support Indigenous capacity building • Create opportunities for funders to learn about decolonizing philanthropy • Outreach to indigenous funders and indigenous communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 funder education session (summer) • Ensure Indigenous governments are informed about the Collaborative and water funding opportunities

BC WATER FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE BUDGET 2020-2021

Activity	Budget	Notes
Staff Costs (inc. all MERCs)	\$60,000	Coordination includes organizing/facilitating strategic meetings, working groups, webinars, steering committee calls, recruitment, coordination with Legacy Fund & diverse water leaders, outreach, evaluation, reporting, communications & information sharing.
Workshops, Socials and Working Groups	\$12, 000	To cover the cost of Spring Funders Workshop (\$2500), Fall Funders Workshop (\$2500), Catalyzing Working Group meetings (\$4000), 1 joint social or workshop in Fall 2020 (\$3000). Budget includes venue costs, catering and meeting materials.
Resource Guests Travel & Honorariums	\$3,000	Budget to bring in resource people (eg. facilitators) to funder meetings and/or provide honoraria for presenters.
Office Expenses	\$2,200	Phone, internet, tax, insurance, website and email hosting, technology licensing, phone, skype, printing
Staff Travel & Expenses	\$8000	For staff travel and expenses including Project Director, Program Manager and Program Coordinator (increased due to Watersheds2020 location)
Sub-total	\$85,200	
Overhead Allocation 12%	11,618	Tides Canada Shared Platform Administration Costs
SUB-TOTAL (CORE) BUDGET	\$96,818	
Additional working with Water Leaders	\$10, 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible workshop with SC and core leaders on shared indicators & social network analysis (\$2000). • Possibly to hire consultant or increase staff time for social network analysis and/or collective progress-tracking (\$2500). • Additional time to foster alignment of applications and reporting as time permits to identify leader-funder administrative efficiencies (\$2500). • Funder education around decolonizing philanthropy (\$3000) • Additional strategic advancements as time, funding and opportunity allows. Includes 12% administration costs.
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	\$106,818	

NOTES:

- In Spring 2020, the Collaborative will be implementing mandatory membership fees in order to ensure sustainable funding for its multi-year strategic plan. It is recognized that this may impact the Collaborative's composition and additional membership outreach may be needed to successfully implement this transition.
- Watersheds2020 in taking place in the Skeena in Fall 2020, it is anticipated this may impact attendance by both leaders and funders and will impact planning of the Fall Workshop and Social. It is also anticipated that Collaborative staff travel expenses will be increased in 2020 to allow staff to participate.

Beginning April 1st, 2020, a financial resource contribution will be required to participate in Collaborative working groups and workshops. There are two ways to financially support the Collaborative:

- **Membership Fees:** Members can support the work of the Collaborative through an annual membership fee of \$2500 (Stream Member), \$5000 (River Member) or \$7500 (Watershed Member).
- **Sustaining Member Grants:** Member organizations can provide grants to the Collaborative (\$10,000 +) to support the delivery of the Annual Plan or to sponsor specific Collaborative activities, projects or events.

Members' logos are featured (with permission) in Collaborative events and materials including the Collaborative's website: www.bcwaterfunders.org. For more information or to make your organization's financial contribution please contact Jennifer Archer, Program Manager (jennifer@bcwaterfunders.org) or Tim Morris, Project Director (tim@bcwaterfunders.org).

APPENDIX A: STAFF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Organize Funder Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One In-person Spring Funder Workshop in May • One In-person workshop in Fall 2020 (Scope leader capacity for joint workshop at Watersheds 2020) • Organize for resource guests to present at in-person meetings
Organize Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate a Fall 2020 Social for Water Funders and Water Leaders (eg. Watersheds 2020)
Coordinating Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host meetings as necessary (3-5 times per year) • Develop annual plans, lead evaluation and review of group outcomes
Coordinate Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule and host conference calls • Support follow-up communications and strategic opportunities identified by the Water Monitoring & Reporting Group and new working groups (Leader’s Administrative Efficiencies and Collective Progress Tracking) • Support development of the new working groups. As needed to developing strategies, budgets and proposals and seek capacity to implement workplans
Leader Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and update of the “Water Funders: Funds & Priorities“ resource for funders and leaders • Ensure Collaborative is well represented at Watersheds2020 and keep funders informed with ways to participate or contribute to event. • Participate as a member of the Core Water Leaders Network
Facilitate Regular Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Water Funders E-Newsletter 1-3 times per year as needed • Ongoing updates and information sharing • BC Water Funders website kept up to date to provide access to up-to-date governing documents, past reports, summaries and newsletters
Outreach & Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls and meetings as needed to facilitate ongoing outreach to current and prospective funders about Collaborative membership and activities. • Attracting more industry funders, government funders, indigenous funders and funders from related sectors, when time allows • Maintain active participation of current funders in Collaborative in-person activities (not aiming to increase engagement this year due to implementation of mandatory membership fees)
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop multi-year sustainable funding strategy for Collaborative to align with multi-year Strategic Plan • Engage funders to support the BC Water Funders Collaborative’s funding needs (Grants and Membership fees)
Support Funder Relationship Building & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls and meetings as needed with diverse water leaders and funders to facilitate coordination of Collaborative activities with water leaders’ initiatives and provide regular communications updates to Collaborative • Facilitate connections, communications and strategic funding collaboration between funders with common interests • Support development of additional working groups as needed to developing strategies, budgets and proposals
Government Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls/in-person meetings, as needed, with representatives of the Province to support alignment of activities and identify potential Collaborative funding opportunities
Evaluation & Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create event summary reports • Collect funder feedback and funding data • Assess progress on strategies in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan • Compile final report for the year

APPENDIX B: EVALUATION METRICS AND INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Annual Metrics April 1st, 2020 - March 31st, 2021

Strategy 1: Building Relationships & Knowledge Sharing	
Metric	Metric Target
Workshops	2 workshops
Field trip	1
Attendees at workshops	10
Engaged funders	12
Virtual meetings of funders	2
Newsletters	2
Diversity of connections at workshops	4 types of funders (government, private, corporate and trusts/ boards) 10 Water Leaders and First Nations Leaders at social
Depth of funder engagement	6 Funders involved in new working groups

Strategy 2: Increasing Water Leader's Capacity (focusing on admin efficiencies in 2020)	
Metric	Metric Target
Working group on admin efficiencies	Scope funder interest
Shared reporting pilots	1 Pilot completed
Working group action plan for 2020	Implemented
Annual evaluation/report on progress and key learnings	Complete

Strategy 3: Systems Thinking & Addressing Gaps	
Metric	Metric Target
\$ funding or key activities (eg. new working groups) to address gaps ID'd	\$10 0000
# gaps previously addressed ID'd	Document success to date
Collaborative Gap ID framework formalized	Achieve
Gap ID framework utilized by funders to ID 2-3 gaps	

Strategy 4: Assessing Collective Progress	
Metric	Metric Target
2021 Workplan developed	Completed
Social Network Analysis	Initial data collected.

Strategic Plan 2025 Indicators of Success

Indicator of Success
Strategy 1: Building Relationships & Knowledge Sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge-sharing; members with Increased Knowledge of Water Issues/ Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth and span of relationships; measured by, # of relationships & interconnectivity among funders, rights holders, stakeholders and decision-makers in the freshwater community (including strength & type of relationships)
Strategy 2: Increasing Water Leader’s Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of leader time spent on funder processes; applications & reporting, compared to \$ received and project outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ of funds allocated to projects as a result of Collaborative membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of projects with 3+ Collaborative members (funders) that are aligning funder processes
Strategy 3: Systems Thinking & Addressing Gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of gaps identified using the “Collaborative Gap ID Framework”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of gaps addressed
Strategy 4: Assessing Collective Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ allocated to collective progress-tracking of shared outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time allocated to progress-tracking of shared outcomes