

Learn from water champions from across the country

Do you belong to an organization or group that protects and enhances your local rivers, lakes, or water basin?

Are you a water practitioner (for example, a water conservation planner, a watershed organization, or a regional planner) interested in working with other stakeholders in your watershed?

Are you a decision-maker involved in policy in local, provincial, federal, or First Nations government?

Do you want to improve your skills to take a whole-basin perspective and start “thinking like a watershed”?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you are a perfect candidate for “Watersheds 2014—Towards Watershed Governance in British Columbia and Beyond,” taking place on Vancouver Island, January 27th to 29th, 2014.

Meet water leaders from around the province and across the country and learn the skills you need to better implement collaborative watershed governance initiatives in your home waters.

By attending the forum, you can build your capacity to play an important role in watershed-based decision-making that is rooted in ecological principles and supported by local action.

Photo: hradcanska



Who's involved?

Leadership team

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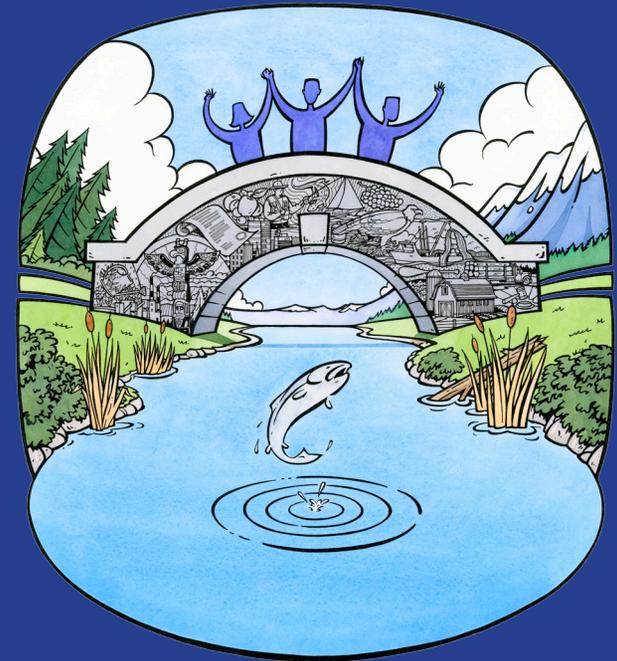
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Watersheds 2014

Towards Watershed Governance in British Columbia and Beyond



A forum for water practitioners, watershed groups, First Nations, and other decision-makers.

January 27–29, 2014

Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre
Duncan, British Columbia

Who's it for?

Imagine engaging all interests and governments in collaborative processes to successfully respond to the challenges and opportunities facing our watersheds today.

This forum is designed for:

- watershed groups
- researchers
- professional resource managers
- decision-makers at all levels of government, including First Nations



What should I expect?

This is not a forum for talking heads, but a “roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-to-work” event. Come prepared to share your experiences and learn from your peers. You will become part of a network of engaged volunteers and professionals, and learn how to better collaborate with stakeholders, government, industry, and not-for-profits to improve collaborative governance. We will support you in bringing your new knowledge back to your home watersheds.

The entire event has been designed with your needs at top of mind. Pre-forum research means the sessions have been customized to address priority topics. There will also be opportunities to learn from participants about successful—and not-so-successful—programs and strategies from other regions. Example topics include:

- collaborative decision-making and building networks through community-based engagement
- fundraising and sustainable financing
- watershed and flood planning
- establishing river health assessment programs and community-based water monitoring
- understanding legal issues, including *Water Act* modernization in B.C.

Why should I attend?

We live in a changing world and water needs to be managed and governed in new ways. Watershed governance is one innovative approach. It involves reorganizing our decision-making processes to align with the ecological boundaries of watersheds, instead of political boundaries.

Many organizations, individuals, and governments don't currently have all the knowledge or skills they need for collaborative watershed governance. Through panel sessions, roundtables, field trips, and breakout workshops, at this forum you will begin to build critical skills and develop important networks.



Have questions?

Contact Laura Brandes
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Beyond the forum

After the forum, there will be a chance to test the collaborative watershed governance model in pilot watersheds across the country. With support from the project team and partners, selected groups will have the opportunity to apply lessons learned at the forum to create new decision-making arrangements in their home watersheds. Pilot watersheds will serve as case examples for moving towards watershed governance reforms in other regions across Canada.

The provincial government in British Columbia is in the process of significantly updating its *Water Act* and has identified improving water governance as an explicit priority, so at least one pilot project will be located in B.C.

Details on how to apply will be available at the forum.

Photo: S. Willmott

