

# WATERSHED GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES UPDATE

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## RESOURCE GUEST PRESENTATIONS

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### Oliver Brandes

Co-Director and Water Sustainability Project Leader, POLIS Ecological Governance Project

**Forthcoming Publication:** *Illumination Report: Insights and Perspectives for Building Effective Watershed Governance in B.C.* by Oliver Brandes & Tim Morris (Forthcoming Publication May 2016)

## ILLUMINATION REPORT SUMMARY

### ➤ Methodology:

- Interviews with Key Informants: Deepen collective understanding about needs and challenges of key water sectors
- Electronic Survey: 439 respondents across First Nations, government, industry/professionals, watershed groups. Highest participation was from local government (17%). Rec'd input from all watersheds across B.C.
- First Nations Roundtable: Insight into needs and challenges faced by First Nations

### ➤ Key Findings & Critical Insights

#### 1. The current system is not working.

- Substantial appetite exists for concerted move towards watershed governance.
- When asked how well respondents feel that BC's water is currently being managed to ensure its protection, 74% said that it is being managed "poorly" or "very poorly".

#### 2. Collaborative watershed governance is the future.

- Collaborative approaches are seen as critical for better decision-making.
- 84% of survey respondents agreed that local watershed entities are needed to ensure BC's Water Sustainability Act is implemented to its full potential.
- 79% of respondents agreed that "the current approach to management and decision-making around water in B.C. would benefit from a framework that shares and in some cases delegates decision-making responsibilities to local entities".
- Respondents cautioned that delegation should not be an excuse for downloading & requires ongoing provincial oversight and responsibility.

#### 3. Watershed governance happens one step at a time.

- Multiple stages to collaborative watershed governance exist but it is likely an iterative process.



**4. Numerous capacity gaps revealed.**

- Communities seeking help and support to implement watershed governance.
- Conditions for watershed governance include:
  - i. Clear roles & responsibilities in delegated authority.
  - ii. Commitment to co-governance with First Nations and gov't to gov't relationships
  - iii. Partnerships with local government
  - iv. Sustainable funding
  - v. Legislative framework that protects ecological values
  - vi. Peer-to-peer learning
  - vii. Independent oversight & public reporting
  - viii. Monitoring, data availability & cumulative impact assessment
  - ix. Engaged & educated citizenry
  - x. Meaningful watershed planning
  - xi. Courageous leadership

**5. A catalyst is needed to spark action.**

- Potential role has emerged for a province-wide capacity builder.
- Capacity Needs:
  - i. Relationship-Building Needs
    - Access to experts (legal, science, facilitation)
    - Peer-to-peer learning (learning from other places – leading examples, best practices)
    - Guidance on building relationships with Indigenous communities and governments
  - ii. Priority Tools and Services

- Guidance on sustainable funding
- Training/mentorship – hands on support (organizational development)
- Case studies on watershed governance (models + examples)
- Toolkits and guidebooks (watershed plans, communications, setting up watershed entities)

➤ **NEXT STEPS**

1. Release and publicly communicate report (May 2016)
2. Refine “Capacity Builder” Options Paper
3. Inform Legacy Fund and Sustainable Funding Taskforce
4. Support pilot initiatives, watershed governance capacity building workshops and Watershed 2016 Forum (September 30-October 1, 2016):  
<https://watersheds2016forum.wordpress.com/>



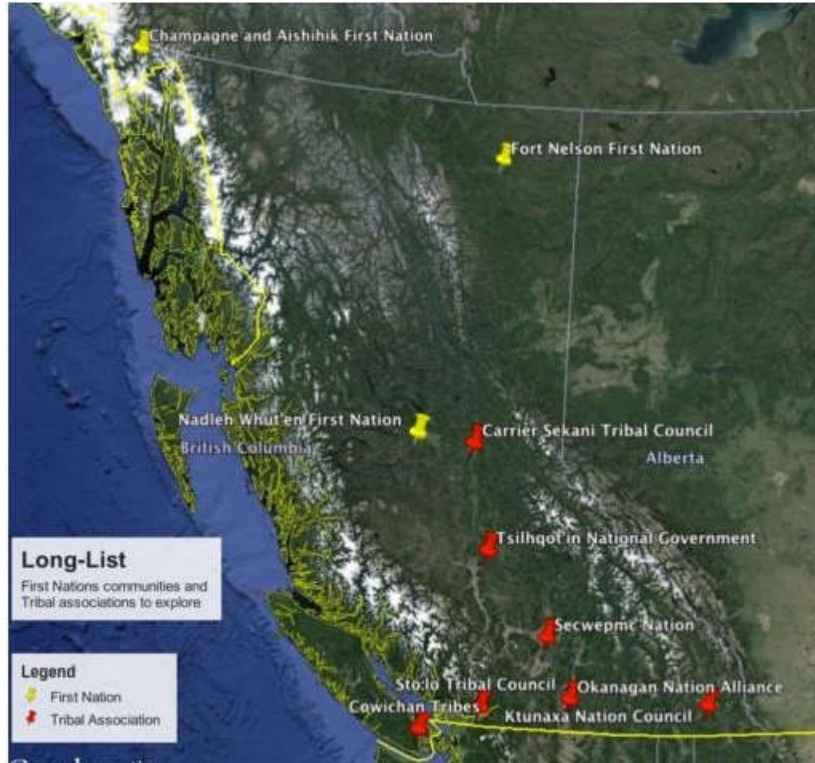
**Nadia Joe**

**Green Raven Consulting; Indigenous Engagement Lead, BC Freshwater Legacy Fund**

## INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT IN WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: LEGACY FUND INITIATIVE

- **Legacy Fund Vision:** By 2025, freshwater in BC will be in good health as a result of BC’s world-class leadership in ecosystem-based watershed protection and governance.
- **Winning Conditions to Achieve Vision**
  - Partnerships with local government
  - Sustainable Funding
  - Legislative Framework Protective of Ecological Values
  - Peer-to-peer learning
  - Effective G2G relationships
  - Engaged and Educated Citizenry
  - Meaningful watershed planning
  - **Commitment to co-governance with First Nations**
    - First Nations, Local, Provincial and Federal governments
    - Must be equitable & built on trust, respect and transparency
- **Lack of alignment between governments:** Within FN governments, highest authority is at the local level and weakest authority is at the federal level. Within Canadian government, highest authority is at the federal level and weakest authority is at the local level.
- Co-governance will require **reconciliation of State laws and Indigenous laws.**

- **Approach:**
  - Nurturing relationships
  - Identifying key opportunities
  - Building awareness and readiness
  - Convening discussions among First Nations communities and Tribal associations
  - Outreach to partners
  
- **Workplan of Legacy Fund Indigenous Engagement Initiative**
  - **Fall 2015: Scoping** – identification of key people, opportunities, key issues and challenges and enabling tools
  - **Winter 2016: Planning** - identification of goals and outcomes, best practices and approach, potential advisors and potential communities
  - **Spring 2016: Engagement** – Connect with potential partners, build awareness and readiness, establish strategic goals and outcomes for FN participation and identify potential pilots. Solicited Feedback through (i) Outreach with communities and resource people; (ii) Input from other processes (CIER/FNFC); (iii) Review of WSA submissions by First Nations.
  - **Summer 2016: Implementation**
  
- **Identification of Potential Opportunities:** Preparation of short list of individual communities and Tribal associations



- **Criteria for Short List:**

1. Facing immediate, preventable threat to water resources
2. Some capacity/experience with water management/governance
3. Committed leadership
4. Willingness to share knowledge and information

	Core criteria			Developmental criteria		
	Stable Leadership	Local Champion	Core water issue(s)	Engagement with Province	Experience with WMGP	Capacity and Resources for WG
NWFN	Unk	Yes	Mining, forestry, LNG	Unk	Water law	Resource people
FNFN	Yes	Yes	LNG	Low	Developing WUP	REFBC grant, resource people
CAFN	Yes	Yes	Hydroelectric dam	Low	Draft water strategy	SSHRC grant, resource people
ONA	Yes	Yes	Agriculture, GW withdrawal	Unk	Developing water strategy	Unk
Cowichan	Yes	Yes	Water supply	Court	Co-chair in water board	Resource people
Ktunaxa	Unk	Yes	Climate change	SEA	Unk	Unk
Sto:lo	Yes	Unk	Flooding, aquatic habitat	SEA	Unk	Unk
Tsilhqot'in	Yes	Yes	Mining, forestry	SEA	Water declaration	Potential funding UBC
CSTC	Yes	Unk	Mining, forestry, LNG	Unk	Unk	Unk
Secwepmec	Unk	Yes	Mining, forestry	Unk	Unk	Resource people

➤ **Resource Needs**

- Water Declarations
- Participate in Water Boards
- Co-chair Water Boards
- Water Laws
- Relationship Building
- Water Use Plans
- Watershed Plans
- Co-Create Watershed Authority

➤ **CIER/FNFC Indigenous Water Governance: BC Systematic Review (Update)**

- **Purpose:** To undertake a systematic review of indigenous watershed initiatives and co-governance arrangements to contribute to shaping the future of watershed planning and a new watershed governance regime in British Columbia.
- **Project Goals:**
  1. Identifying existing initiatives and assess capacity

- 2. Role of traditional laws and values
- 3. Illustrate social capital
- 4. Conditions required to enable co-governance
- **Survey & Interviews:** Draft e-survey was circulated to several key contacts for input and revisions made before circulating through FNFC’s contact list and a CIER generated contact list. Circulated to 200 First Nations and 27 organizations with 63 responses, 8 of which were incomplete. In addition, a total of 8 interviews were completed with 7 different Nations across BC.
- **Next Steps:** Circulated DRAFT interim report to First Nations on April 1. FNFC Water Planning and Governance Workshop held to discuss findings on April 26-27. Final reporting and development of communication materials expected in May/June.



## Natasha Overduin

Watershed Governance Project Manager, POLIS Water Sustainability Project

## WATERSHED GOVERNANCE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

- **Funders:** Environment Canada, Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria
- **Goal:** Build capacity and commitment to action. “Capacity” means: knowledge, skills, networks, ability to strategically plan, prioritize, secure support and funding, leadership. Capacity means “preparedness”, “readiness” and “effectiveness” in contributing to watershed decision-making.
- **Workshops Development:**
  - **Co-created agenda reflecting local needs;** over 70 meetings with practitioners, attend board meetings etc with watershed organizations, local gov’t, local FN. Asked “what are major governance issues? What do you feel you need? What are your challenges? Who needs to be in the room to have this conversation?”
  - **Convened high quality practitioners engaged in decision-making and problem-solving**
    - Local gov’t and First Nations
    - Technical managers, scientists
    - Industry, stewardship, other stakeholders
  - **Expert resource guests to stimulate learning & dialogue**
- **Workshop Regions:**

Coquitlam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban region, collaborative organization</li> <li>▪ Multi-sector: local gov’t, Kwikwetlem FN</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worked together since 2007 – took numerous years to form the organization and go through visioning process</li> <li>▪ Created lower watershed plan – using approach to balance both social and ecological factors and come up with solutions that benefit communities &amp; ecosystems</li> <li>▪ Challenge we focused on was around sustainable funding – and related, how to work more effectively with local gov’t, and brand as an organization that value-adds and compliments existing planning efforts</li> </ul>
<p><b>Columbia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relatively rural, small communities, geographically dispersed, all with unique characteristics; differences in watershed challenges in different parts of the basin; also cultural differences</li> <li>▪ Number of leading initiatives very sophisticated and mature been around for a while ---- RDN --- Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program, Cowichan Watershed Board, Salt Spring Island</li> <li>▪ Strong demand from groups and local govts for more fundamental governance discussions around how to build shared understanding across different cultures and water ethics; how to collaborate between indigenous and non-indigenous communities and governments around water decision-making</li> <li>▪ Workshop therefore focused on those themes</li> <li>▪ Resource guests – Great Bear Rainforest, Tribal Parks, Environmental Impact Assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mid-Vancouver Island</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mix rural/urban</li> <li>▪ 50 stewardship groups in the Basin --- some more sophisticated than others</li> <li>▪ Case study looking at 3 “leaders” specifically: Elk River Alliance, Lake Windermere Ambassadors, Kootenay Lake Partnership</li> <li>▪ These 3 are collecting data, developing solutions-oriented management plans, guidelines, reports, research</li> <li>▪ Appetite for governance; in 2013 hosted very successful symposium called “Think like a Watershed”</li> <li>▪ Workshop focused on why there is a disconnect between community groups and decision-makers; good work being done but not reaching actual points where decisions get made; need for stronger relationships, better communication with local decision-makers</li> </ul>

**THEMES & INSIGHTS**

- **Insight #1: Need to increase organization understanding of opportunities to engage – and “doing” and “driving” capacity:**
  - **Where are opportunities to influence and engage?** Widespread support in all regions for collaborative approaches: understand that status quo doesn’t work and that need to coordinate efforts and do things differently. In watershed organizations, however, need

greater understanding of where the opportunities exist to engage in decision-making. A key question we dealt with in workshops was - What are the legal rules and how can we influence and participate? Legal rules are changing with WSA and there are many different layers at local, provincial, federal levels. Important that organizations know the legal landscape, as well as the informal options for influence

- **Sustainable Funding:** Need to be able to strategically access funds
- **Relationship-building:** Need strong relationships with local gov't – so, need effective communications and “branding”. Need to be able to build relationships with the right individuals and organizations
- **Special skills in effective coordinators:** All of this requires capacity in coordinators --- these are special individuals with unique skill set. Watershed coordinator is a demanding position; need to be able to lead from behind, work with disparate interests, provide a lot of leadership and support
- **Insight #2: Need to strengthen problem identification, communication and priority setting**
  - Lack of clear tools to **define watershed pressures:** e.g. “state of...” report cards: needs a good template to show how watershed is impacted (ie. Ontario’s watershed report card)
  - Better ability to define **social implications** of ecological problems for **different audiences**
  - Matching problems (and solutions) with **risk and capacity:** need to be able to prioritize issues, match problems and solutions with risk and capacity
- **Insight #3: Relationships, partnerships, reconciliation between First Nations and non-First Nations a requisite for watershed governance**
  - Agreement exists on **power & potential for co-governance**
  - Little insight into HOW: time required to build and “institutionalize” **relationships and trust**
  - Challenges: **Racism, “lifeless institutions”, First Nations capacity constraints**

## NEXT STEPS

- Continued peer-to-peer learning: Blue Dialogue Webinar Series focused on co-governance and Watersheds 2016
  - Strategic Follow-up Sessions
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## Zita Botelho

**Zita Botelho Consulting; Coordinator, Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative**

### SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR WATERSHED GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

- **Background:** In July 2015, a catalysing workshop was held to explore opportunities for sustainable funding for watershed governance. The small group attending included researchers, practitioners, funders and government. The discussions concluded that a limitation to more robust local watershed governance is the lack of funding resiliency among watershed.
- **Catalysts:** Tides Canada, POLIS Water Sustainability Project, BC Ministry of Environment, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Fraser Basin Council
- **Objectives:**
  1. Improve knowledge about new and existing funding mechanisms
  2. Pilot funding models in 3 communities: test funding tools and dynamics of different approaches and document learnings
  3. Share learning and knowledge
- **What does the task force offer?**
  1. Resources to support testing a new funding mechanism or approaches
  2. Support from the project manager to explore and refine funding mechanism options
  3. In-kind support, leveraging and expertise from the Task Force members
  4. Networking and knowledge sharing opportunities with other pilot participants
  5. Elevated project profile
- **What are the funding mechanisms?**
  - Local taxation, levies and fees
  - Flow back of water license fees, resource royalties, and pollution permits
  - Philanthropy and charitable trusts
  - Recreational user fees
  - Payment for ecosystem services, green bonds and offsets
  - Community contribution company or community co-ops
  - Crowdsourcing and social/environmental impact bonds
- **Pilot Selection Process**
  - Develop selection process and criteria
  - Scouting = desk top research and interviews to evaluate the long list
  - Review by the SFWGI Task Force to determine the short list

- Shortlist candidates will be solicited for proposals

<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support and participation from local government</li> <li>○ Commitment to co-governance with First Nations</li> <li>○ Watershed management plan</li> <li>○ Matching funding</li> <li>○ Diversity in funding portfolio</li> <li>○ Commitment to peer-to-peer learning</li> <li>○ Strong multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership</li> <li>○ Local Champions</li> <li>○ Levels of success</li> <li>○ Data, information and monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>Long List of Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB)</li> <li>○ Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable (CRWR)</li> <li>○ Dawson Creek Watershed Program</li> <li>○ Kettle River Watershed Management Plan</li> <li>○ Shuswap Watershed Council</li> <li>○ Lake Windermere Ambassadors</li> <li>○ Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR)</li> <li>○ Okanagan Nation Alliance</li> </ul>

**OBSERVATIONS**

- Watershed governance groups have different capacity and understanding of funding mechanisms
- The innovation may come through diversity rather than new, innovative financial instruments.
- Local sources seem to have the most promise for long term sustainable funding solutions.
- The knowledge sharing and documentation of the learnings will be a significant aspect to the initiative.

**NEXT STEPS**

- **June 2016:** Work with shortlist communities on proposals of interest
- **July 2016:** Select Pilot Project communities and develop Terms of Reference
- **October 2016:** Convene pilot projects + knowledge transfer, “how to” resource