



## Welcome to our first edition of the BC Water Funders Quarterly Newsletter!

Based on water funders' feedback, we are testing a new format to replace our monthly listserv emails. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer a space for the Collaborative to share key information on projects, issues, and events relevant to BC Water Funders. This includes:

- 1) **Funders' Corner**—a dedicated section for funders to share projects/proposals they think other funders might be interested in.
- 2) **Working Group Activities & Water Leader Updates**—updates on activities resulting from BC Water Funder working group discussions and key water leader updates.
- 3) **Policy Buzz**—announcements, commentary and media related to important water policy developments.
- 4) **Upcoming Events & Past Events**—upcoming water funder events or events related to the interests of the BC Water Funders Collaborative.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and find it useful, interesting and informative. Please send us your feedback and let us know what works for you and if there are things we can do improve future editions!

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# Funders' Corner

This Funders' Corner section allows funders to let other funders know what freshwater projects they are funding and any projects that they think might be of interest to other funders. Please feel free to email updates to Tim Morris ([tim@morris-consulting.ca](mailto:tim@morris-consulting.ca)) or Jennifer Archer ([jennifer\\_archer@shaw.ca](mailto:jennifer_archer@shaw.ca)) throughout the year. We will prioritize projects that have a clear connection to freshwater protection and the mandate of the BC Water Funders Collaborative.

## VANCOUVER FOUNDATION (TERRA KAETHLER)

Terra Kaethler, Manger, Grants and Community Initiatives is now heading up the freshwater funding program at the Vancouver Foundation. Terra will be joining us at the Spring Workshop in April.

vancouver  
foundation

The Vancouver Foundation is proud to announce a call for applications to its Field of Interest Grants program. Charities and other qualified organizations are invited to find out more about the revamped program, and to apply for a grant of up to \$75,000 before the **deadline of May 15, 2015**.

Vancouver Foundation provides Field of Interest Grants to organizations with innovative projects in four specific fields: Arts and Culture; Education and Training; Environment; Health and Social Development. The focus is on new ideas — social innovations — that look at problems or issues in a new way. Freshwater and Habitat Protection and Conservation will continue to be a focus area within our Environment field.

New guidelines for each of the fields of interest are now available on the Vancouver Foundation website at [www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants](http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants)

## GLASSWATERS FOUNDATION (KATHY SMAIL)

glasswaters  
foundation

Kathy Smail of Glasswaters Foundation has worked in the past with Dan and Bonny of Clayoquot Action (<http://clayoquotaction.org/>) which is a grassroots organization looking for support for their projects focused on land and water protection including:

- **The Who's Knocking? Mineral tenures inventory for Clayoquot Sound.** They are short the money to publish enough copies to travel to the 3 local First Nations Councils to present the report, as well as to do media work around the report.
- **The Wild Salmon Delegation to Norway project:** seeking about \$20K additional funding for this project—especially looking for a major gift which they can use to match funds from a crowdsourcing campaign.
- **The Big Trees Trail on Meares Island is run by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.** The boardwalk is in need of repairs, which would probably cost around \$50K.
- **Wild Salmon Movement Strategy Workshop:** Seeking \$5K.

For more information about Clayoquot Action, please contact Kathy at [ks@glasswaters.ca](mailto:ks@glasswaters.ca)

# Funders' Corner continued

## CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS NETWORK (CEGN)

CEGN recently sent out an invitation to join their new Sustainable Cities Funders Group within CEGN. Its proposed specific focus for 2015/2016: "It is proposed that the Sustainable Cities Funders Group explore options and opportunities to partner with local (municipal and regional) governments, identify proven approaches to building these relationships, as well as the potential barriers and challenges that funders may face." For more information, contact Mark Gifford, Vancouver Foundation at [mark.gifford@vancouverfoundation.ca](mailto:mark.gifford@vancouverfoundation.ca)



## REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION OF BC (LEANNE SEXSMITH & DAVID HENDRICKSON)

REFBC shared some proposal concepts that they wanted to let other funders know about in case they are a good fit or of interest for co-funding. For more information, email David at [david@refbc.com](mailto:david@refbc.com).



1) **BC Water and Wastewater Association**—recently released report "Are Our Water Systems at Risk? – Assessing the Financial Sustainability of BC's Municipal Water and Sewer Systems" (<http://www.bcwwa.org/news-4.html>). Per David: "Would there be any interest in funding subsequent research to BCWWA on BC municipal water and sewer systems? Or help them engage with local governments/UMBC/etc., on how to finance water and sewer systems?"

2) **RSBC Rivershed Society of British Columbia** (<http://www.rivershed.com>)—recently applied to REFBC for \$20,000. Excerpt from their application: "Each year, the Sustainable Living Leadership Program takes up to 10 young adults on a journey of a lifetime. Participants travel by raft, canoe, and on foot, the length of the Fraser River from its headwaters in Mt. Robson to the Pacific Ocean. The raft/canoe becomes a floating classroom as participants travel the river, camping along its banks, and experiencing firsthand its fauna and flora, watersheds and ecosystems. Up to three spots reserved for First Nations participants."

3) **Fort Nelson First Nation**—excerpt from FNFN's inquiry to REFBC: "FNFN intends to develop water objectives and management options for water use in FNFN territory that specifically maintains traditional use and treaty rights. These objectives would be used to inform regulation discussions regarding priorities and management of water under BC's newly-created Water Sustainability Act. Items of particular consideration for FNFN are maintaining ecosystem flows, managing cumulative effects, and contributing to compliance and enforcement structures that meet FNFN needs."

# Funders' Corner continued

4) **WEST** (Water and Environment Student Talks) (June 7-9th)—conference for student researchers, put on by students <http://www.west-conference.ubc.ca> REFBC is unable to sponsor this, but others from the group may be interested.

5) **Wildsight/Living Lakes Canada—Citizen Science Series** (Budget: Year 1 \$213,000; Year 2 \$180,000; Year 3 \$177,000)

**Overview:** Wildsight is seeking funding support for their Living Lakes Canada Citizen Science Series. The program engages communities in assessing lake, river, wetland, and aquifer health, by training and empowering citizens and community groups to monitor water quality and quantity, and collect data for policy implementation. The longer term

goal is to facilitate support and provide a basis for more holistic watershed- based management, which could be undertaken through a number of governance or collaborative structures. Their approach has been developed through the successful delivery of pilot projects within the Columbia Basin. They plan to strengthen and expand that program within the Columbia Basin, and to other areas, including:

- 1) develop new monitoring programs for assessing blue-green algae occurrence, groundwater availability, shale gas impacts, wetland health and glacial change;
- 2) implement protocols in the Columbia Basin and additional watersheds in British Columbia;
- 3) incorporate methods for understanding climate change impacts to implement adaptation opportunities;
- 4) work with partners to exchange info about database management systems;
- 5) apply the knowledge to advocate for holistic watershed based management approaches.

### **Geographic Scope:**

**Year 1**—Columbia Basin, plus initial geographic expansion is planned for Smithers, Victoria, and Pemberton (with BC Lake Stewardship Society), and in Fort Nelson (with Keepers of the Water).

**Years 2 and 3**—Additional communities will be added to coincide with the delivery of BC Lake Stewardship Society's Lake Keepers program, and the level of shale gas extraction activity. They will also continue to work with partners such as Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition and examine potential for additional collaborations with groups such as Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society.



# Working Group Activities

## 1. Keeping Water on the Agenda: Communications & Engagement Strategy

With support from the BC Water Funders Collaborative Quick Response Fund, the Canadian Freshwater Alliance has been busy undertaking Phase I of the Keeping Water on the Agenda strategy. They have been making progress developing a BC Freshwater narrative and tool kit that can apply at a regional scale. They have circulated a survey to grassroots organizations across the province to explore interest in being part of this initiative and to help them identify key regional groups with which to partner. Freshwater Alliance has also been working to support groups with their media work on the groundwater pricing issue.

## 2. WSA Implementation Working Group

With funding from the BC Water Funders Collaborative Quick Response Fund, Linda Nowlan, now of West Coast Environmental Law, is taking the lead on pulling together a Statement of Expectations II from a broad coalition of NGOs related to the implementation of the Water Sustainability Act regulations. The first priority in this process is a specific set of expectations around the groundwater regulations. Linda will be presenting more on this at the April 23rd Spring Workshop.

## 3. Watershed Governance Working Group:

**Sustainable Funding:** A working group has been formed around sustainable funding for watershed governance. The Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Ministry of Environment are co-hosting an invite-only workshop in late April, early May. The plan is to gather 12-15 leading thinkers with knowledge of different forms of innovative funding including provincial, municipal, social finance and philanthropy. The group has just selected a facilitator, Kirk Stinchcomb, Econics and the goal is to use the workshop to catalyze an ongoing effort and develop an annual plan and budget.

**Indigenous Capacity-Building:** On March 26, 2015, Kate Cave (CIER) and Julia Ko (FNFC) presented their proposal at a Water Funders Lunch & Learn Webinar, entitled "Indigenous Capacity Building Around Water: BC Systematic Review Proposal" and explained how it fits within a broader strategy of strengthening indigenous capacity for watershed planning and co-governance in British Columbia.

# Water Leader Updates

## Electronic Survey: POLIS Water Sustainability Project *Seeking Input on the Future of Watershed Governance in B.C.*

POLIS is asking funders if they can take 15 minutes to complete this survey.

It was sent out to over 900 people across British Columbia as part of a larger, practical exploration of the possibilities and opportunities related to Watershed Governance in British Columbia. This larger project builds off The State of the Water Movement (2013) and The Blueprint for Watershed Governance in BC (2014) and is being supported through a grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC).



CLICK HERE  
TO COMPLETE  
SURVEY

# Policy Buzz

## WATER PRICING—ANNOUNCEMENTS

On February 5, 2015, the Ministry of Environment released announcements regarding groundwater pricing. It is not yet clear what this means for the MOE's budget and their ability to implement the Water Sustainability Act.

- Ministry of Environment Backgrounder: <http://bit.ly/1D0im8q>
- Ministry of Environment News Release: <http://bit.ly/1LRI2Yq>



## WATER PRICING—COMMENTARY



- West Coast Environmental Law: Is this glass half full, and what should it cost? (11 February, 2015): <http://bit.ly/19OCrTz>



POLIS Project on Ecological Governance  
**watersustainabilityproject**

- POLIS Water Sustainability Project: British Columbia's New Water Pricing Regime (March 2015):  
<http://bit.ly/1BXR8LK>

## WATER PRICING—MEDIA LINKS

- The Province: "Companies will now have to pay for B.C.'s groundwater — but is it enough? New pricing structure announced Thursday by the B.C. government" by Dan Fumano (5 February 2015):  
<http://bit.ly/19OC23q>
- Vancouver Sun: "Province raising prices but not 'selling' water with new rate schedule: Critics argue water rates still far from capturing resource's value" by Derrick Penner (10 February 2015):  
<http://bit.ly/1yKkSKT>
- The Province: "Outrage boils over as B.C. government plans to sell groundwater for \$2.25 per million litres" by Dan Fumano (9 March 2015):  
<http://bit.ly/1FNYciU>

# Upcoming Events

**Thursday, April 23, 2015**

Location: Coast Plaza in Vancouver

**BC Water Funders Spring Workshop  
(In-Person)**

***(RSVP Required)***

***CLICK HERE TO RSVP***

**Thursday, April 9, 2015**

Time: 10-11:30AM (PST)

**Canadian Freshwater Alliance Free  
Webinar**

"It Ain't Over 'Til the Regulations Sing: An Update on BC's Water Sustainability Act and What the Freshwater Community Can Do"

***CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION***

**Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

Location: Toronto

***SAVE THE DATE***

**CEGN National Water Funders Gathering**

Taking place the day before CEGN's National Conference, this year's gathering will bring together freshwater funders from across the country to learn more about each other's work and identify opportunities and actions for deepening our 'collective' impact

***CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION***

**Thursday, June 25, 2015**

**Canada Water Summit 2015: The Energy of Water—Exploring Nexus Opportunities**

The conference will offer expert plenary sessions and panel presentations filled with case studies, real world projects and positive examples of nexus opportunities that exist for water and energy which benefit government, industry and first nations.

***CLICK HERE FOR WEBSITE***

For more information contact Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB as she is on the Advisory Panel for this year's Summit.

# Past Events

## **POLIS Webinar, “Groundwater Reform: Lessons from California,” (March 20th, 2015)**

In March, POLIS hosted a webinar in their Creating a Blue Dialogue webinar series entitled “Groundwater Reform: Lessons from California”. The webinar recording will be distributed once it is made available.

## **Water Funders Lunch ‘n Learn Webinar, “Indigenous Watershed Planning” (January 2015)**

In January, the BC Water Funders Lunch ‘n Learn Webinar was directed at Indigenous Watershed Planning and explored opportunities and challenges that exist for First Nations in British Columbia with respect to local watershed planning initiatives. The presenters were: Kate Cave, (Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources), Diane Abel (Treaty 8 Tribal Association) and Sarah Alexis (Okanagan Nation Alliance) The webinar recording can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/1xICnA5>

The password is: *WaterFunders*

## **POLIS Water Sustainability Project webinar, “Aboriginal Co-Governance of Water and Watersheds,” (Dec 2014)**

Last December, POLIS held a webinar “Aboriginal Co-Governance of Water and Watersheds,” the second webinar in the 2014/2015 Creating A Blue Dialogue webinar series. The webinar recording and a PDF of the speakers’ slides are now posted on the POLIS website, which are both accessible here <http://poliswaterproject.org/webinar/803>. In collaboration with the speakers, the WSP has also prepared a webinar summary and four-page resource list with web resources, reports, and tools regarding Aboriginal co-governance of water and watersheds, which may also be accessed through this link.



For more information about any items in this newsletter or to submit information you would like to share, please contact:

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