



Fraser Basin Council

Annual Report

April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007



INSPIRING ACTION...

For Social Well-being ~ For a Vibrant Economy ~ For a Healthy Environment

Directors

Here are the Fraser Basin Council Directors, as of March 31, 2007:

Charles Jago

Chair, Fraser Basin Council, Vancouver

Deborah Abbott

Executive Director, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, Lytton, Nlaka'pamux language group

David Barratt

Harbour Master, District of Mission

Duncan Barnett

Director, Cariboo Regional District, Williams Lake

Rhona Martin

Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Malakwa

Rose Charlie (De-Lix-hwia)

Grand Chief, OBC, LL.D. (Hon), Fraser Valley Region, Halq'eméylem language group

Ervin Charleyboy

Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government, Williams Lake, Tsilhqot'in language group

Linda Coady

Vice President, Sustainability, VANOC - 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games, Vancouver

Randal Cripps

Regional Director, Corporate Branch - Pacific/Yukon Region, Environment Canada, Vancouver

Sheilagh Foster

Artist, McBride

Dan George

President, Four Directions Management Services, Carrier language group

Leah George-Wilson

Chief, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, North Vancouver, Hun'qumyi'num' language group

Judy Guichon

Rancher, Gerard Guichon Ranch Limited, Quilchena

Duncan Jeffries

Director, Career & Business Development, University College of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford

Eddy Jules

Chief, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Kamloops, Secwepemctsin language group

Colin Kinsley

Chair, Fraser-Fort George Regional District, Prince George

Ken Melamed

Director, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Whistler

Michael O'Brien

Vice President, Vancouver International Airport Authority, Vancouver

Alan Osborne

Executive Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division, Ministry of Community Services

Robert Patterson

Mine Superintendent, Gibraltar Mines Ltd., 150 Mile House

Ardath Paxton-Mann

Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Vancouver

Bob Peart

President, The Nexus Learning Group, Sidney

Jerry Petersen

Director, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, Vanderhoof

Terry Raymond

Director, Fraser Valley Regional District, Boston Bar

Perry Redan

Chief, Sekw'el'as Band, Cayoose Creek Stl'atl'imx, Lillooet, S'á imcets language group

George Saddleman

Representative, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan language group

Bruce Sampson

Senior Vice-President, Strategic Planning and Sustainability, BC Hydro, Vancouver

Bob Smillie

Retired Physician, Kamloops

Coro Strandberg

Principal, Strandberg Consulting, Burnaby

Tracy Summerville

Assistant Professor, Political Science Program, University of Northern BC, Prince George

John Taylor

Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Kamloops

Chris Trumpy

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Victoria

David Van Seters

President, Small Potatoes Urban Delivery, Vancouver

Scott Young

Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Port Coquitlam

Jim Wild

Area Director, Lower Fraser River Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Delta

Completed Terms of Service

Thanks to the following directors who completed service in 2006-2007:

Peter Ladner

Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Vancouver

Peter Milobar

Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Kamloops

Marcel Shephert

Executive Director, Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat, Dakelh language group

Bill Young

Consultant, Bill Young Forest Management Inc., 150 Mile House

Staff

Here are the Fraser Basin Council staff, as of March 31, 2007:

David Marshall

Executive Director

Jessica Bratty

Program Manager

*(*Thanks to Coral deShield who served in this position in 2006-2007)*

Joan Chess

Regional Manager, Upper Fraser

Diana Dilworth

Manager, Council Operations

Phil Hallinan

Regional Manager, Thompson

Elizabeth Henry

Program Coordinator

Maureen LeBourdais

Program Coordinator

Amy Leighton

Program Coordinator

Steve Litke

Program Manager

Gail Lucier

Program Assistant

Alison Lui

Finance Coordinator

Saul Milne

Program Coordinator

Bob Purdy

Director, Corporate Development

Terry Robert

Assistant Regional Manager, Thompson

Marion Robinson

Regional Manager, Fraser Valley

Linda Shore

Administrative Assistant, Operations

Mike Simpson

Assistant Regional Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Marion Town

Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Sea to Sky

Jim Vanderwal

Program Manager

Ernie Victor

Manager, Aboriginal Community Liaison

Gail Wallin

Regional Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Completing service

Thanks also to staff completing service to the Council in 2006-2007:

Laura Brend

Administrative Assistant

Jodi Romyn

Assistant Regional Manager, Thompson

We want to see the Fraser Basin as a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

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Youth speakers at the 2006 State of the Fraser Basin Conference. For Conference highlights, see pages 6-11.

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This report is available online at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca. For more information, contact Denise Palmer, Communications Manager, at dpalmer@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

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Message from the Chair

It has been an exciting first year as Chair of the Fraser Basin Council. Since June, 2006 I have had the opportunity to gain insight into the work of the Council and to understand better its role in promoting and encouraging sustainability in the Fraser Basin.

The Fraser River stretches almost 1,400 km from the high Rockies around Mount Robson to the Strait of Georgia in Vancouver. Along with its tributaries, including the Nechako and Thompson Rivers, the Fraser Basin drains one-quarter of the landmass of British Columbia. It is one of the greatest salmon-bearing river systems in the world. It is also home to almost three million people, the majority living in Metropolitan Vancouver, the others in the cities of Kamloops and Prince George and in numerous towns and villages, each with a distinctive character and voice. Finally, the Fraser Basin is the economic engine of British Columbia and among the strongest economic regions in Canada.

In its work to promote and encourage sustainability in the Fraser River Basin, the Council divides the watershed into five regions: the Upper Fraser, the Thompson, the Cariboo-Chilcotin, the Fraser Valley, and Greater Vancouver-Sea to Sky. Each of these areas has a Regional Manager, regional directors, and others who form a regional committee. It has been my privilege to visit each of these diverse regions, to gain insight into the issues of sustainability that are crucial to the social well-being, environmental health, and economic success of each. In the process I have encountered many outstanding local leaders working for the future of this remarkable region of the world.

This annual report will capture the broad range of activities that the FBC supports, both regionally within the Fraser Basin and province-wide. One of the most important features of the FBC is that it is action oriented. The Council, through its talented staff and under the direction of the 36-member board, gets things done. It works in partnership with all orders of government—federal, provincial, local, and First Nations—and with other NGOs and private and public organizations to address the most pressing sustainability issues of our times.

FBC programs cover a wide range of activities, from protection and restoration of salmon habitat, to improved vehicular fleet management, planning for sustainable communities, floodplain mapping and flood protection, groundwater monitoring, urban and forest fire interface planning, greenhouse gas emission reductions, a sustainable purchasing network, community energy efficiency planning, and help for small farm producers to expand markets for their products. These are but a few of the some 40 distinctive programs on which the Council is working. As varied as they are, they share the same intent: to protect the environment while improving the quality of life and fostering economic prosperity in one of the most beautiful and naturally productive basins in the world.

“Sustainability is not about preserving the status quo; nor is it about returning to some idealized ‘golden age’ in the past... It is about being trustees charged with a responsibility to ensure that we will leave our part of the world in the best shape possible for our children and our children’s children.”



Sustainability is not about preserving the status quo; nor is it about returning to some idealized “golden age” in the past. It is about identifying those values that are important to ensure an integrated and healthy relationship between human societies and their natural environments. It is about working to maintain or improve the health of human communities and natural ecosystems alike. It is about living sensibly with ecological sensitivity while addressing the many challenges facing us as citizens living locally within a constantly changing global society. It is about being trustees charged with a responsibility to ensure that we will leave our part of the world in the best shape possible for our children and our children’s children.

In the Fraser Basin we face many challenges. These include continuing urban population growth, rural depopulation, rapid expansion of transportation infrastructures, climate change, and the need to better accommodate the original inhabitants of these lands. Solutions will not come easily. There will be disagreements and conflicts. We will need to exercise both wisdom and ingenuity.

Here again the Fraser Basin Council has a role to play. With a Board representing the four orders of government along with environmental, social, and economic interests, the Council has the capacity to resolve differences internally and to find potential solutions to pressing societal problems. Likewise, through its work with the broader community, the Council often plays a facilitating role to resolve conflict and to find, on the basis of consensus, a way in which people of diverse views and responsibilities can work together and move forward.

Action for the sake of sustainability: this is the goal of the Fraser Basin Council, achieved through the remarkable talent on its board and its staff—people committed to trying to make life better for all of us who live in this beautiful and productive river basin, and for those who will follow us in generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Jago', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Charles Jago
Chair, Fraser Basin Council



The Fraser Basin Council Today

BC's Fraser Basin

From its source at Mount Robson in the Rockies, the mighty Fraser River travels almost 1,400 km to meet the Pacific Ocean at the Strait of Georgia. It is British Columbia's longest river and, together with its many tributaries, drains a quarter of the province. This is the Fraser River Basin, a land of spectacular beauty, diversity and opportunity.

For thousands of years, the Basin has been home to many Aboriginal peoples, who are an integral part of the Fraser Basin's history, its cultural heritage and its future.

The faces of the Basin are ever changing. Today, over 2.7 million people—two-thirds of BC's population—call this place home, people of many cultures, languages and religions.

In addition to its rich cultural heritage, the Fraser Basin offers a diverse natural heritage. It boasts one of the world's most productive salmon river systems, supporting five salmon species and 65 other species of fish, including steelhead and sturgeon. This is also home to 300 species of birds, and many mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

From Vanderhoof, Prince George and Kamloops to the most populated stretches of the Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver, the Fraser Basin is a place where many communities thrive, supported by a range of economic activity. The Basin contributes about 80% of BC's gross domestic product. There are natural resource industries, as well as businesses of many types.

The Fraser River system supports many people's livelihoods, directly or indirectly, such as through forestry, fisheries, agriculture, shipping and tourism.

The Fraser Basin Council

The long-term health and well-being of the Fraser Basin and its communities is behind all that the Fraser Basin Council does. Formed in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable, not-for-profit body that plays a unique role in advancing sustainability in the Fraser Basin.

FBC is led by 36 directors representing the diversity of the Basin—from the four orders of government, including First Nations—and from the private sector and civil society. This governance structure and philosophy is one of the first of its kind in Canada and has served as a model to others in this country and abroad. FBC serves its communities through five offices across the Basin.

A Charter for Sustainability

The FBC directors commit to the vision, principles and goals of the Charter for Sustainability, signed by the founders of the Council and setting out 12 principles to guide its work. The Council's vision is succinct and powerful: "Social Well-Being Supported by a Vibrant Economy and Sustained by a Healthy Environment."

Although people may use the word "sustainability" to mean different things, the Fraser Basin Council believes that sustainability must always integrate social, economic and environmental considerations, and that long-term thinking should be behind all human endeavours.

The Charter defines sustainability as: "Living and managing activities in a way that balances social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations to meet our needs and those of future generations."

Service in the Basin, and Beyond

Showing that Collaborative Governance Works

The Fraser Basin Council believes that broad-based collaboration among people fosters long-term thinking, shared action and sustainability. Inside the FBC boardroom, directors make decisions through dialogue, collaboration and consensus—not debate or divisive positioning. It all starts with a commitment to respect each other, value diversity, consider multiple perspectives and foster trust.

FBC is always pleased to work with other agencies, boards, committees and task forces, in the Basin and beyond, to further their own collaborative decision-making.

Leading Sustainability Research, Strategies and Education

Research and education is a critical foundation for sustainability, and a cornerstone of the Fraser Basin Council's work. FBC has been entrusted over the years to deliver a number of major studies in the Fraser Basin and to help government, agencies, business and community groups develop strategies. One such project is integrated flood risk management—to support authorities with information and tools for flood prevention and mitigation along the Fraser. In partnership with others, FBC has helped with plans on invasive plants and watershed governance. Each year FBC provides education on diverse topics—such as on clean energy, stewardship and air quality.

Supporting New Partnerships and Programs for Sustainability

In partnership with others, the Fraser Basin Council introduces new programs for sustainability and helps others collaborate for mutual benefit. FBC has been instrumental in launching the BC Climate Exchange to promote public education, the national E3 Fleet program to promote best practices in fleet management and the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds program, in partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation. In each of FBC's five regions, many programs are underway to build strong local economies and sustainable communities.

Facilitating Resolution of Today's Problems

Many of today's toughest public issues are, in essence, sustainability issues. That is because the big decisions made today shape the future of the Fraser Basin for generations to come. One of the things the Fraser Basin Council does best is bring people together to work on new projects and to find collaborative solutions to contentious social, economic and environmental issues. The Fraser Basin Council is an impartial body in these discussions. It leads the interested parties to identify areas of concern, begin a dialogue and seek solutions.



Fraser Basin Council board of directors at a meeting in Chase, BC in 2006.



FBC board and staff are briefed on current events at Tsleil-Waututh Nation during a board meeting in October in 2006.

2006 State of the Fraser Basin Conference —Inspiring Action for Sustainability

It was a week of raw winds, washouts and even a boil water advisory in Greater Vancouver—but it wasn't enough to keep people away from the 2006 State of the Fraser Basin Conference. Over 300 came to the event, with warm hearts and minds, ready to be inspired and inspire each other for the cause of sustainability. This was the fifth biennial Conference, held November 16 to 17 and themed "Sustainability: Inspiring Action!" And it was one to remember, starting with a dramatic State of the Basin Address by FBC Chair Charles Jago.



Plenary speakers included **James Hoggan** (President, James Hoggan and Associates), **Linda Coady** (Vice-President, Sustainability, VANOC), **Chris Kelly** (Superintendent of Schools, Vancouver School Board), as well as **Shawn Atleo** (BC Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations) and **Silken Laumann** (Active Kids Movement) who shared their own journeys of seeking and sharing inspiration.

Delegates had a choice of workshops on Day 1, led by panels of experts: on land and food production, energy and climate change, community sustainability, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations, water stewardship and fish, purchasing for sustainability, safer communities and water and risk. Workshop participants identified priority actions in each of these areas, and on Day 2 all delegates were given the chance to electronically vote on the top actions for follow-up.

A favourite for many delegates was A Dialogue with Youth, led by Her Honour **Iona Campagnolo**, Lieutenant Governor of BC, who welcomed **Simon Jackson** (Spirit Bear Youth Coalition), **Catherine Lessard** (Vice Tribal Chief, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council), **Brittini Timothy** (BC 4H) and **Yongjie Yonge** (SGI Canada and a member of the FBC Youth Advisory Committee) to speak of their experiences in youth leadership and the inspirations in their life and work. The dialogue was an example of youth inspiring other youth, and also their elders, and demonstrating to everyone that faith in next generation is justified.



Above: Her Honour Iona Campagnolo leads A Dialogue with Youth, one of the Conference highlights.

Photos opposite: Plenary moderator Charles Holmes (left) and inspirational speakers Shawn Atleo (right) and Silken Laumann (bottom).

FBC board and staff thank all participants, as well as the outstanding speakers and Conference sponsors who made this event such a success: *Platinum sponsors:* Alcan, Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia; *Gold media sponsor:* Vancouver Sun; *Bronze sponsors:* Thrifty Foods, Terasen Gas, Mountain Equipment Co-op, British Columbia Transmission Corporation; Coast Capital Savings; Canfor; Hemlock; Weyerhaeuser and Duke Energy Gas Transmission. *Additional sponsors* include Fraser River Port, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Frogfile and Shaw Cable.



Wayne Soper— into the limelight. Wayne Soper (centre left) accepts the Doreen Wright Award for his many contributions to sustainability. Chair of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, Soper has been a sustainability champion for the past 30 years— in environmental engineering, education and external relations. He helped lead Westcoast Energy to become a Canadian industry leader for sustainable development and also to ensure Vancouver's Olympic bid embraced sustainability principles. The Doreen Wright Award is named after an exemplary FBC staff person who tragically lost her life to cancer. The Award honours the influential yet unsung heroes of sustainability.

State of the Basin Address —A Call for Action

“The changes taking place around us are opportunities to advance sustainability in new and exciting ways. Change is a call to action, not an excuse for inaction as we ponder the overwhelming challenges we face.” —FBC Chair Charles Jago

“We are at a turning point,” said Charles Jago to a hushed audience at the 2006 State of the Fraser Basin Conference, “as we seek to maintain and improve the quality of our lives and the health of our environment.”

He reminded everyone of some recent, sobering headlines. World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern had estimated a \$7-trillion US cost in lost output because of global warming. This was a poignant reminder that climate change is no longer seen as just an environmental issue—it’s an economic issue and therefore a social one too. And not long before that, *Science* magazine featured an article predicting the collapse of the global seafood industry by 2048 if fishing trends continue unabated.

“With stories such as these greeting us as we sip our morning coffee, it is not surprising that global climate change and the impact of contemporary human society on the environment are moving to the top of the political agenda,” he said.



Dr. Jago turned to the newly released *Sustainability Snapshot 3* indicators report, which paints a picture of sustainability close to home. The Fraser Basin today is facing dynamic change, he observed, and this brings both threats and opportunities. “Global change with local consequences is presenting us with the responsibility for making local choices, with global consequences,” he said.

Translating the *Snapshot* report into a letter grade, Dr. Jago said, the Basin today draws a C minus. What that means is there is still much work to be done to achieve the ideal—which is social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

In his address, Dr. Jago spoke of some disturbing trends documented in the report: increased total water and energy use and increases in waste disposal in three of five basin regions between 1996 and 2002. Total greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, a contributor to global warming, have grown by 30 per cent in British Columbia since 1990.

The natural environment is under increasing threat. The land area impacted by the mountain pine beetle, for example, has doubled since 2003, covering 8.7 million hectares. There are significant declines in the runs of sockeye, coho, steelhead and other fish stocks. In addition, the province continues to witness the loss of prime agricultural land.

While the quality of drinking water has been stable in recent years, he pointed to a marked deterioration in air quality in many Fraser Basin communities, and various health and educational risks are up as well.

“There is a yawning—and ever-widening—gap between the highest 20 per cent of income earners and the lowest 20 per cent in the Fraser Basin region,” Dr. Jago said. “Even more striking is that the lowest 20 per cent of income earners saw their income decrease by 16 per cent between 1995 and 2004.”



But he said that good news headlines emerged as well. Government-Aboriginal relations have shown a marked improvement, and health and education statistics for BC's Aboriginal people are improving, although still below the average. Overall life expectancy is increasing, and British Columbians remain strongly community-minded, with levels of volunteerism and philanthropy both up. Other good news is that there are more people employed than there were two years earlier. BC has strong growth in after-tax income relative to the rest of Canada, and communities are beginning to act on climate change and to develop sustainability plans.

Most inspiring of all is the human dimension. "Snapshot 3 is full of stories of people working together," Dr. Jago said. "Whether it's protecting salmon and habitat, preventing diabetes in northern communities, coordinating volunteers, diversifying a local economy, encouraging literacy or combatting the mountain pine beetle, collaboration among various government agencies, non-governmental organizations and private interests appears to be on the upswing in the Basin."

He spoke of the many initiatives of the Fraser Basin Council and its partners, and he left the audience this heartening quote from the September 2006 *Scientific American*:

"The task of holding global emissions constant would be out of reach, were it not for the fact that all the driving and flying in 2056 will be in vehicles not yet designed, most of the buildings that will be around then are not yet built, the locations of many of the communities that will contain these buildings and determine their inhabitants' commuting patterns have not yet been chosen, and utility owners are only now beginning to plan for the power plants that will be needed to light up those communities. Today's notoriously inefficient energy system can be replaced if the world gives unprecedented attention to energy efficiency."

Sustainability Snapshot 3

The latest edition of the Fraser Basin Council's unique indicators report—*Sustainability Snapshot 3*—marks progress in the Fraser River Basin towards social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Released at the 2006 State of the Fraser Basin Conference, and the third such report since 2003, the *Snapshot* canvasses sustainability in 18 key areas, from air quality to business sustainability, health, economy, energy, fish, forestry, natural hazards, water and waste. The report is a prime source of information for anyone seeking to understand and advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin.

The report can be found online at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca, and print copies are available for distribution at events, meetings, workshops and information kiosks.

Bridge Between Nations

Another new release at the 2006 Conference was *Bridge Between Nations*, a publication that touches on the lives of First Nations of the Fraser Basin—their history, diversity and aspirations for the future. It's a guide to help Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities understand one another better and forge stronger ties.

Awards Honouring Champions of Sustainability



Overall Sustainability Award— Translink

Six BC organizations were presented with Sustainability Awards by the Fraser Basin Council in 2006 for their contributions to the present and future health of the Fraser Basin. The presentations were made at a special gala dinner on November 16.



Improving Decision-Making Award—City of Williams Lake

TransLink

TransLink took the top honour, the *Overall Sustainability Award*, for its work with industry and community partners on innovative transportation initiatives. Translink delivered results that are difficult to achieve—a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced air quality in a booming metropolitan area. Complementary initiatives include the SFU and UBC U-Pass programs, the Community Pass Program, the Jack Bell Rideshare Program and the TravelSmart information program.

City of Williams Lake

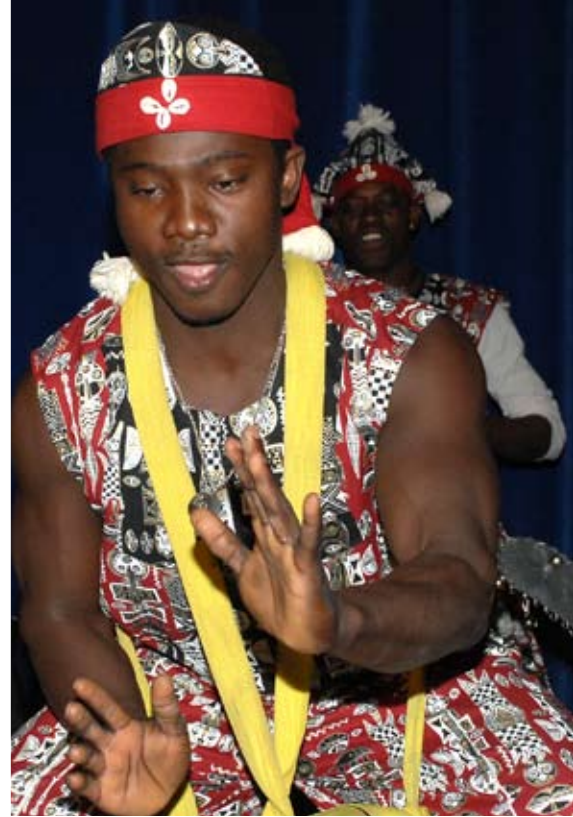
The *Improving Decision-Making Award* was presented to Williams Lake for its meetings with the Williams Lake Indian Band, Soda Creek Indian Band, Cariboo Regional District and Northern Shuswap Tribal Council Treaty Society. Those meetings led to new Memoranda of Understanding, signalling a new era of improved communication between First Nations and the City of Williams Lake on land use and other issues. The Award celebrates collaborative decision-making, creative agreements and attainment of common goals that reflect the various needs of a growing and diverse population.



Strengthening Communities Award—Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation

Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation

Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation received the *Strengthening Communities Award* for tackling the economic and social challenges caused by BC's pine beetle infestation. Thousands of people in Quesnel from all walks of life gathered to collaborate on a "Connected, Green and Active" community vision for 2020. The result?—A prosperity document providing direction for the development of 3,000 new jobs and a diverse economy, with a stronger emphasis on quality of life, livability and sustainability. This FBC Award is given to those who build diverse economies, an educated work force, safe neighbourhoods, accessibility to basic commodities, shared goals, local action and a sense of belonging.



Sustainability Award recipients were honoured at a Gala Dinner November 16, a memorable evening featuring the sights and sounds of five international drum ensembles.

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation

The *Caring for Ecosystems Award* honours stewards of the environment and natural resources, and recognizes initiatives that respect ecosystems and their inter-relationships. In 2006 the Award was shared by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (BCMAL) on behalf of the Government of BC and the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (with special mention of Executive Director Zo Ann Morten).

The BCMAL was honoured for the Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant project, which ended many years of polluted run-off into Howe Sound at the site of the former Britannia Mine and was the most important enhancement in fisheries habitat in the history of BC. Today, the plant treats five million cubic metres of water each year, delivering significant improvement in water quality in Howe Sound.

The Pacific Streamkeepers Federation supports information exchange among streamkeepers, facilitates their training, helps coordinate their efforts; and lends a larger voice to streamkeeper and enhancement issues. The Federation owes its many successes to its volunteers and to Zo Ann Morten, the Federation's Executive Director, who has helped teach scientific observation and monitoring to 30,000 volunteer aquatic stewards across BC, for the better protection of critical fish and wildlife habitats by taking action based on sound scientific information.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

The Greater Vancouver Regional District, producer of "The Sustainable Region" TV series earned the *Understanding Sustainability Award*. The half-hour show illustrates the challenges and choices of sustainability, demonstrates actions people can take, and provides context to show why sustainability should matter to people of the Lower Mainland.



Caring for Ecosystems Award—BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands / Pacific Streamkeepers Federation



Understanding Sustainability Award—GVRD

Across the Basin

Our Communities—Living with the River

For more information, contact:

Steve Litke, *Program Manager*
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Flood Risk on the Fraser

In any given year there is a risk of flood on the Fraser River, but it was a unique confluence of events that turned flood into a priority issue for many communities along the river in 2007.

As winter turned to early spring, near-record snowpacks were building across the Fraser Basin. There would be high waters during the spring freshet and the prospect of flood. This was a troubling prospect, even more so than usual. That is because a 2006 hydraulic model of the Lower Fraser, managed by the Fraser Basin Council and funded by the Ministry of Environment and other partners, had revealed that diking systems along the lower Fraser River were not high enough. In fact, many dikes would fail should flood waters equal those of 1894, the greatest Fraser River flood on record.

To understand the issue, it's useful to look back. In 1969 the federal Inland Waters Directorate established dike design levels based on the estimated flood water levels plus 0.6 m of freeboard. At the time, authorities created the flood profile based on high water marks from 1894 and 1948 (the second greatest flood on record) and limited computer modelling. Engineers of the day did not have access to the sophisticated data-gathering and analytical tools that are now available.



One of 37 new flood warning gauges throughout BC installed by local partners with support from FBC.



FBC Program Manager Steve Litke (left) recaps findings of the new hydraulic model of the lower Fraser at a briefing for federal Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day (right) in Chilliwack in March. Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Randy Hawes (centre) joined Chilliwack Mayor Clint Hames and other government officials in speaking about local impacts. The FBC study showed that many lower Fraser River dikes would fail should flood waters equal those of 1894, the greatest Fraser River flood on record. A new flood profile was adopted by the Province, based on the study.



2007 dike upgrades in Maple Ridge. Photo courtesy of District of Maple Ridge.

More than 30 years later, in 2003, the Fraser Basin Council and the BC Ministry of Environment initiated a multi-year study to develop a hydraulic model of the lower Fraser River. The study was intended to update the design flood profile based on (a) the 1894 Fraser River freshet flood combined with spring high-tide conditions (Fraser freshet profile), and (b) a one-in-200-year winter storm surge flood with high tide conditions, combined with a Fraser River winter flow (the winter storm surge profile).

The findings of the study were of critical importance to the communities of the lower Fraser, which rely on 600 km of dikes, 400 floodboxes and 100 pump stations to protect over 300,000 people and billions of dollars worth of infrastructure.

In November, 2006 the final results of the study confirmed preliminary results released in August. The flood profile computed by the lower Fraser hydraulic model was higher than the original 1969 profile. That meant that, should the 1894 flood of record be repeated, diking systems from Chilliwack and Kent to Surrey and Coquitlam would be overtopped at one or more locations, and the Delta dike at Fraser Shore would be overtopped at one location. Freeboard on the dikes would be inadequate in Delta and Richmond against a major winter storm surge flood.

The Province of BC accepted the results of this study and adopted a new flood profile for dike design and construction in late 2006. As the flood threat loomed in the spring of 2007, the Province committed \$33 million for diking authorities throughout BC to undertake urgent flood mitigation works that could be completed prior to the freshet. The federal government agreed to share this expense. Local government authorities stepped up quickly to do the work, and to prepare for possible flood disruptions and evacuations. Some communities in the upper stretches of the river suffered localized flooding during the freshet, while areas protected by dikes along the lower Fraser were spared—this time.

Floodplain Maps

The Fraser Basin Council, the BC Ministry of Environment and four local governments in the Fraser Valley worked together to develop new floodplain maps, using a computer model that simulates a flood scenario based on the 1894 flood of record. The District of Kent will use this information to develop a bylaw for the community to guide future development decisions and construction practices, including the flood construction level. The maps also provided an invaluable resource for emergency planning and preparedness prior to the 2007 freshet. They estimate not only the extent and depth of potential flooding, but also the timing of flooding in different parts of the community should there be a failure in the dike system. Similar maps were prepared for Harrison Hot Springs, Mission and Abbotsford.

Looking forward

FBC welcomed financial commitments from the Province of BC and Government of Canada to fund urgent works in 2007. Having for many years coordinated the Joint Program Committee on Integrated Flood Hazard Management, FBC continues to support and encourage all authorities and other interests to work together on a long-term action plan to address flood hazard management throughout the Fraser Basin.



FBC oversaw creation of digital floodplain maps for Kent-Agassiz, Harrison Hot Springs, Abbotsford and Mission. This map shows the predicted extent and depth of flooding in the event of a dike breach in Kent.

Our Communities—Living with the River

The Fraser River Debris Trap helps keep the communities of the lower Fraser safe, yet a long-term funding agreement has proved elusive—until now.

Debris Trap in a Year of High Water

The high waters of spring freshet in 2007 heightened public interest in the Fraser River Debris Trap.

Located between Hope and Agassiz, the debris trap is a special waterborne facility that corrals uprooted trees and wood debris into a side channel where the wood can be collected and processed into hog fuel, which is used primarily to generate power and heat for pulp and paper production.

Without the trap, an average of 45-55,000 cubic metres of debris would make its way into the lower reaches of the Fraser and the Strait of Georgia each year, threatening people and property. During a high water season, as seen in 2007, the wood mass can easily reach 100,000 cubic metres—or some thirteen football stadiums full, stacked three metres deep.



The Fraser River debris trap captures large volumes of woody debris that would otherwise damage vessels, foreshore infrastructure and downstream habitat. A cost-benefit study commissioned by FBC and released in late 2006 shows that the trap provides widespread public benefits and pays for itself 12 times over, avoiding at least \$8 million in costs of clean-up and repairs.

Without the trap, there would be much greater risk that debris would endanger boats, block beaches, litter shorelines, threaten public safety, interfere with commercial and recreational navigation, damage infrastructure—such as docks, dikes, bridges, foreshore structures and submarine cables—and damage sensitive habitat that is already suffering from over-accumulations of debris.

For a number of years, the Fraser Basin Council has provided secretariat, research and communications support to the Fraser River Debris Trap Operating Committee, the multi-party committee that oversees the facility and plays a critical role in securing funds to keep the trap operating each year.

Late in 2006 the Operating Committee released the results of an independent cost-benefit study showing that the debris trap provides widespread public benefits and pays for itself 12 times over, avoiding at least \$8 million in direct costs of clean-up and repair of damage to vessels, foreshore infrastructure and habitat. This estimate does not encompass additional direct and indirect costs that were not easy to quantify within the scope of the study, ranging from recreational boating accidents to float home damage.

The Operating Committee recommended that the federal government, the provincial government and the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District come together on a long-term funding arrangement. Funding for the 2007-2008 season was secured from the provincial government, the federal government, the Vancouver Port Authority and the Fraser River Port Authority, BC Ferry Corporation, Translink and the District of West Vancouver.

The Province of BC announced that it would commit to funding one-third of the annual operating cost of the trap, on a five-year renewable term. The federal government and port authorities have been invited to make long-term commitments to share the balance of the \$750,000 annual budget. It now appears promising that an agreement will emerge by the end of the year, securing the future of the trap at last.

For more information, contact Bob Purdy, Director, Corporate Development, at (604) 488-5355 or email bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Invasive plants—End of the Innocence

Ox-eye daisy, spotted knapweed and purple loosestrife (above) are a few of more than 200 non-native plants in BC that are invaders with true grit—mounting a quiet, determined attack on ecosystems and economies. Thanks to the Invasive Plant Council (IPC) of BC and its many partners, a coordinated effort to tackle invasive species is underway.

FBC completed the Invasive Plant Strategy for BC in 2002, in partnership with government, the private sector and the community. The strategy led to creation of the IPC, the first provincial multi-interest organization in Canada to focus on this issue. FBC serves as its secretariat.

When it comes to invasive plants, prevention is better than cure. Avoiding invasive species entirely is the best way to safeguard biodiversity—and save money. It's a startling fact that almost 75% of BC's problem plants have been intentionally introduced, yet millions of dollars and thousands of hours are subsequently spent trying to remove or control them. Prevention strategies need to reach individual gardeners and others who introduce plants. Gardeners can be easily attracted to the latest nursery arrivals, without understanding their invasive nature. The IPC publishes and distributes "Know What you Grow," a brochure to help people avoid bringing pest plants into their gardens. Landscapers and horticulture specialists are also key players in the bid to halt new invasive plants.

Work is also underway to recommend sound practices to forest and transportation contractors. Besides improving practices, there is a pressing need for the authorities and all other organizations to take a coordinated approach.

A range of approaches is possible in BC—from voluntary codes of conduct to regulation—and all are being canvassed. The IPC has completed an inventory of relevant regulatory provisions and identified how these overlap or are inconsistent. In the future, the IPC plans to make recommendations for more effective regulation.

Local efforts are pivotal. In the Cariboo-Chilcotin, a workshop co-hosted by FBC in 2006 flagged several needs: to identify those invasive plants that merit priority action, to control new introductions, to share expertise and to improve communication among land managers and citizens. A Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee, representing multiple interests, has since formed to craft a shared action plan for the region.

The Invasive Plant Strategy calls for buy-in from all orders of government, land and water user groups, resource-based businesses and industries, utilities and non-governmental organizations. All can join the Invasive Plant Council of BC by signing a memorandum of support for the strategy.

The Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPC), founded by the Fraser Basin Council, works with the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to implement a strategy for combatting invasive plants. Invasive plants harm fragile ecosystems and each year cost the provincial economy over \$50 million. A forum in January featured the latest developments, strategies and case studies for prevention and management of invasive species. The IPC is supporting and expanding research on bio-control and on the economic impacts of invasive plants in BC. Visit invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca for details.



Youth join in! Young people across BC are on the look-out for leafy invaders in their own communities. With input from Scouts Canada, 4H and Girl Guides, FBC is developing information and action packages to help kids in these clubs do their part in tackling invasive plants, in ways that are both challenging and fun.

Fraser Salmon and Watersheds

Since 2006 the Fraser Basin Council and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) have worked in partnership on a strategic initiative to inspire and support changes in human behaviour for the benefit of salmon and the watersheds they depend on.



Under the banner "Think Salmon," new outreach projects are helping to raise public understanding of BC wild salmon and their value to ecosystems and economies.



Young people volunteer to help with riparian plantings along a new chinook spawning channel at the Hope River in Chilliwack. This was one of the habitat enhancement projects across the Fraser Basin that received funding from the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program.

The Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program (FSWP) works to ensure that wild Pacific salmon populations are sustainable and in healthy diversity, for the benefit of all British Columbians.

FSWP is funded by the BC Government's Living Rivers Trust Fund, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fraser Basin Initiative, Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund and private sector commitments, including those from CN, Rocky Mountaineer and Vancouver Port Authority.

By the spring of 2007, many projects were completed or underway—in cooperation with various partners and with engagement of First Nations. FSWP is helping guide new initiatives in such areas as governance, integrated planning and water use, habitat protection and restoration, improved fisheries information and sustainable fisheries management. Program staff at FBC and PSF consult regularly with the Fraser Assembly, a multi-stakeholder forum that includes environmental non-profits, fishers, stewards, consultants, volunteers and other interested persons. A cornerstone of the program is connecting people for more effective collaboration.

Here are just a few of the projects assisted by the program in 2006-2007:

- **Riparian care at the ranch.** Safeguarding streams in prime agricultural areas is a priority. Among its many habitat projects, FSWP has supported the BC Cattlemen's Association on its Farmland-Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP). This project fosters long-term environmental stewardship and sustainability for the agricultural community through training, technical information, advice, prescriptions and project cost estimates. In particular, producers are helped with riparian enhancement, waste management solutions and restoration projects on their property. FRISP also offers mediation services for issues arising between landowners and regulatory agencies respecting riparian damage.
- **Communities collaborating on water governance.** As demand for water grows in many parts of BC, management of this precious resource becomes critical. In the Nicola Valley, there is a community-led initiative to create a Nicola Water Use Management Plan (WUMP). Along with other water initiatives, the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program is supporting the development of a water governance model and water budget by the Nicola WUMP.



A magnificent sockeye reaches the spawning grounds of the Adams River after a gruelling 500-km journey upriver. Over 100,000 people travelled to see this natural spectacle at the 2006 Salute to the Sockeye near Chase, BC.

- **Getting fish out of hot water.** Climate change, and its impacts on salmon, are also being addressed through the program. For example, in the summer of 2006, the Nicola Tribal Association logged hydrologic and temperature shifts in the watershed to determine lethal temperature limits for salmon and optimal rearing temperature ranges. The stream temperature data is helping to prioritize integrated water planning in areas most at risk for salmon and watershed sustainability, and will also form part of a large database that the University of British Columbia is assembling to contribute to knowledge of climate change effects on fisheries.
- **CSAB-Stó:lō Cooperation on Cultus Sockeye.** Strong working relationships between First Nations and others is important to the future of fish and the fishery. For example, the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB) is constructing a framework to implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CSAB and the Stó:lō First Nation. The goal is to assess the current state of the Cultus Lake sockeye salmon population and help create an integrated salmon management plan. Specific initiatives include predator control, a stewardship program and a research plan for Eurasian milfoil removal.

For a look at the full range of projects supported by the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program, visit ThinkSalmon.com.

To learn more about FBC fish and fisheries work, contact Alison Macnaughton, Program Manager, at (604) 488-5361 or by email at amacnaughton@fraserbasin.bc.ca, Saul Milne, Program Coordinator, at (604) 488-5353 or by email at smilne@fraserbasin.bc.ca or Sheila Creighton, Program Coordinator, at (604) 488-5366 or by email at screighton@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Clean Air, Energy and Climate

Climate change is one of the world's leading sustainability challenges, and the energy sources people use play a determining role. The Fraser Basin Council, in partnership with others, has been at the forefront of local initiatives on air quality, energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

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A Focus on Fleets

Transportation accounts for over 40% of all GHG emissions in BC, with the greatest portion attributable to vehicles.

To help tackle the problem, the Fraser Basin Council hosts programs directed at helping public and private sector organizations achieve greater energy efficiency and reduce emissions from their on-road fleets, such as freight trucks, municipal and utility vehicles, buses, taxis, police cars and emergency vehicles. Examples include:

- **Hybrids Experience Report.** Online at www.hybridexperience.ca, the report documents the real-life experiences and fuel efficiency results of fleets that use hybrid vehicles. Simply put, a hybrid is a vehicle with an internal combustion engine and electric motor, powered by a large rechargeable battery. The Hybrid Experience website is unique in Canada, and has attracted national attention. It is a valuable resource for fleet managers, businesses and individuals contemplating hybrids.
- **Biodiesel.** Fleets in BC have been looking for unbiased information about the pros and cons of biodiesel. BC Biofleet provides information to public and commercial vehicle fleet managers on use of biodiesel as a strategy in reducing harmful emissions. The program offers branding, website resources, training workshops, outreach and pilot project incentives. So far, over 60 fleets in BC are demonstrating the use of biodiesel blends in their fleets in the place of conventional diesel.



Looking for alternative fuels?

Visit e3fleet.com to check out Canada's Green Fuels Map, an interactive map of retail stations and cardlocks that offer biodiesel, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas and propane.



Greener Buildings

New low-emissivity ceilings at Kensington Arena in Burnaby save energy and improve lighting. The City of Burnaby was the first municipality in BC to do a comprehensive energy retrofit using an energy performance contract—where future energy savings are guaranteed. Burnaby joins 44 other BC communities in exploring innovative policies to promote green buildings through the Community

The New National E3 Fleet Rating Program: Towards Energy, Environment, Excellence

To publicly recognize fleets that reduce emissions and cut operating costs, FBC introduced a new national program that encourages best practices in fleet management.

Designed by fleet managers for fleet managers, the E3 Fleet program helps Canadian private and public sector fleets increase fuel efficiency, reduce emissions, manage expenses, incorporate new technologies and use alternative fuels. Launched by FBC in November, 2006, E3 Fleet has 17 member fleets.

E3 Fleet offers the first green-rating system for vehicle fleets in North America. The rating system consists of four components: a green rating guide, a points system for assessing each fleet, a third-party fleet audit and, ultimately, a rating of Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.

The first Silver-rated fleet was earned in early 2007 by the City of Hamilton Public Works Department, which increased fuel efficiency by 5% for every kilometre travelled, and decreased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2% per kilometre. The City's Silver rating was based on these accomplishments and best management practices, such as the City adopting a green fleet plan, an idling reduction program, fuel data management and a green vehicle purchasing policy.

Clean Air Forum

The 2007 Clean Air Forum, co-hosted by the Fraser Basin Council and Ministry of Environment, was held in Prince George in March. Participants learned about local issues and initiatives, including air quality plans in Prince George and Quesnel, sources of particulate matter in ambient air, monitoring at pulp and paper operations and best practices in reducing asphalt plant reductions.

Community Action on Energy and Emissions (CAEE)

Local and First Nations governments are ideally positioned to show leadership on energy efficiency through the buildings they construct and the building policies they adopt.

FBC oversees Community Action on Energy and Emissions (CAEE) on behalf of the Province of BC and other partners. The program is now helping 44 communities in BC in developing innovative policies, bylaws and information to promote green buildings, smart planning and sustainable transportation.

BC Climate Exchange and Idle Free BC

FBC hosts an educational outreach and support program—the BC Climate Exchange (www.bcclimateexchange.ca)—through federal and provincial government funding.

One key climate initiative is Idle Free BC (www.idlefree.bc.ca), which helps educate and spur community action towards curbing unnecessary idling. FBC provides education and support for those seeking emissions reductions in the transportation and agricultural sectors, other business sectors, local government and community organizations. By the spring of 2007, there were over 60 communities and businesses participating.

Building Stronger, More Sustainable Communities

Strengthening Communities

Many of BC's rural communities rely heavily on natural resource industries—sometimes on one resource sector alone—and that can mean a rough ride for families during economic downturns.

Economic diversification helps make communities more resilient in the long term. The Fraser Basin Council is committed to projects that strengthen local and regional economies and that support the social well-being and community health of residents. During 2006-2007, FBC approved a number of new initiatives:

- A feasibility study and pilot project to create a small-scale food processing facility in Hope, BC. The facility will offer small and specialty farmers the opportunity to process their products.
- Information kits to educate and engage young people in the fight against invasive plants (see page 15)
- Enhancements to the Kamloops-South Thompson Sustainable Community Atlas, a planning tool that maps community assets (see page 27)
- A "Sustainable Living" educational exhibit that encourages residents of the Cariboo to adopt sustainability practices at home and in the workplace (see page 28)
- A forum for heritage site operators from across BC to share expertise and knowledge on strategies for economic viability. FBC has previously facilitated sessions for the volunteer board of the new Barkerville Heritage Trust to plan a sustainable future for this important historic site and continues to facilitate board meetings.

BC Rural Network

When it comes to creating community-to-community connections, the BC Rural Network is making its mark. Structured on FBC's collaborative governance model and supported by FBC as host, the Network brings together diverse organizations interested in building stronger rural communities. The Network promotes a better understanding of rural issues and provides the opportunity to develop responses to these issues.

Integrated Community Sustainability Planning

For local governments across BC, planning is key to sustainability. In 2006-2007, FBC helped the Province of BC offer a series of workshops for communities to introduce the new Integrated Community Sustainability Planning program. Originating from the 2005 federal gas tax agreement, this program offers financial assistance to local governments to assess their capacity, engage in long-term sustainability planning and implement local action plans.



Sustainability Purchasing Network

Graham Kissack, Director of Sustainability, Catalyst Paper; Cheryl Brown and Victoria Wakefield, City of Vancouver; and Tim Reeve, SPN Program Manager, share their expertise at a workshop of the Sustainability Purchasing Network in March.

The Sustainability Purchasing Network is an FBC program open to everyone in corporate, not-for-profit, academic, government, public sector, labour and co-op organizations who want to learn more about sustainability purchasing and to assess the social, economic and environmental impact of the goods and services they buy. The Network offers learning circles, workshops and online resources. For details, visit www.buysmartbc.com

IN THE REGIONS



In the Regions

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The North Shore of Vancouver offers unparalleled beauty to residents and visitors alike. The future health and vitality of the area may depend on the collaborative efforts of local government and how well citizens embrace sustainability principles.

North Shore Communities Join Forces for Sustainability

Greater Vancouver's North Shore communities share beautiful landscapes, cultural diversity and distinctive neighbourhoods. Yet they also face common challenges: an aging population, a lack of affordable housing and transportation infrastructure, and sensitive local ecosystems that are under tremendous pressure from development and recreation.

The three municipalities—the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver—recognize that they cannot resolve these issues in isolation from one another. They are beginning to work together more closely on strategies to engage First Nations governments, local businesses and the public in the development of a shared vision, principles and actions to advance sustainability on the North Shore.

To support this co-operative initiative and create a citizen's voice for sustainability, FBC staff have assisted with the capacity-building of a new citizens group—Legacy North Shore—to foster sustainability leadership.

Towards a Greater Vancouver Regional Economic Strategy

The Vancouver Metropolitan area is one of Canada's most important economic regions, as well as one of the world's most desirable places to live. The future health and wealth of the region requires thoughtful planning and integrated consideration of economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities.

The Fraser Basin Council serves on the Partners Committee of the multi-interest Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI), coordinated by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). SRI takes a broad-based, collaborative approach to planning a sustainable future for the Greater Vancouver region and its citizens.

The SRI welcomed work of the Greater Vancouver Economic Council (GVEC) in seeking "to stimulate investment and new employment in the Greater Vancouver Region by creating a clear vision and economic strategy for the region, within a sustainable context." To reinforce the importance of sustainability principles in guiding a regional economic plan, the BC Business Council, Fraser Basin Council and GVRD prepared a discussion paper in August, 2006 called "*Livability, Prosperity, Sustainability: Seeking a Strategy for the Future of Greater Vancouver's Economy.*" The opportunities arising from the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and other initiatives are likely to drive more public and private sector leaders to recognize the advantages of a regional approach to economic planning. FBC will be one of those working to keep sustainability front and centre in that dialogue.

Sustainability By Design... a New Vision for Greater Vancouver

Sustainability by Design is a creative vision for Greater Vancouver to remain one of the world's most desirable and sustainable places to live. With the population of the region set to double over the next 50 years, there are big challenges ahead.

FBC was pleased to work with the UBC Design Centre for Sustainability with this project and its creation of visually compelling neighbourhood and regional concept plans consistent with sustainability principles. The plan reflected all of a community's primary needs—for employment, housing, transportation, infrastructure, parks, and open space. The final work has been compiled into a book to inspire planners, design professionals, elected officials, and citizens.

The process encompassed presentations, panel discussions and design charrettes (intensive time-limited design workshops). It involved municipal staff, developers, citizens and others in designing corridors (commercial arterials), nodes (key interchanges where transportation, community centres and natural systems conjoin) and edges (urban and rural interfaces). Three neighbourhood case studies were undertaken: a corridor along Kingsway in Burnaby, an agricultural and urban area in Delta and the town centre nodes along 200th Street in Langley.

FBC worked to ensure broad-based participation, sound process design and facilitation, and follow-up steps with local government so they would have opportunities to consider the findings. How will this work benefit the region? The UBC Design Centre for Sustainability and FBC are exploring ways to move these concepts to reality. Two of the three case study communities are already taking the work into account in their own planning.

Sustainability Charters

A number of municipalities across the Lower Mainland are advancing the development of community charters for sustainability to guide their own actions and to engage citizens. The City of Surrey, Langley Township and District of Maple Ridge have all moved in this direction. FBC staff continue to explore opportunities to share their own groundbreaking Charter to inform municipal planners of initiatives being undertaken elsewhere.

New Regional Manager for GVSS

Marion Town joined FBC in March, 2007 as GVSS Regional Manager, working closely with Bob Purdy, Director of Corporate Development who previously managed the program. The former Executive Director of Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), she is an environmental planner with over 15 years of experience in government and consulting, providing senior professional service to federal, provincial, and municipal governments and private sector. She welcomes the opportunity to work with FBC partners across the region.



A collaborative planning exercise—Sustainability by Design—created a vision for how sustainable communities and neighbourhoods in Greater Vancouver could accommodate a doubling of the region's current population from 2 to 4 million people over the next 50 years. A massive map reflecting that vision was unveiled at the World Urban Forum 3 in June, 2006. The project is a credit to the UBC Design Centre for Sustainability. The Fraser Basin Council was pleased to assist with designing and facilitating the event and engaging multiple interests.

In the Regions

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Over 450 people packed the Tzeachten Hall near Chilliwack during the road tour of METH, a production of Headlines Theatre.

Headlines Theatre Takes to the Road with METH

Headlines Theatre director David Diamond came to Skwah Reserve near Chilliwack in early 2006 for a meeting arranged by FBC Manager Marion Robinson with Skwah First Nation Band Council and others. The reason? To discuss the roots of addiction, and whether the community could explore the issue through forum theatre. It was an idea that took hold and grew—ultimately engaging 28 communities across BC.

Current street drugs include crystal meth, a highly addictive, cheap and easy-to-concoct drug. Dubbed the “the new plague” by one First Nations Elder, meth is a drug creating deep suffering in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, from the inner city, to suburbia to rural towns across BC.

Many families—indeed whole communities—are suffering in silence and isolation, and there is a need for people to tell their stories. Elders remind us that information alone does not bring about change. For that, we need human connections. Community theatre forum is one way to make connections. It is participatory theatre, and a learning experience. Members of the audience can step into the scenario to try to change the dynamics of relationships and write a new outcome. The power is in the dialogue that emerges.

The forum theatre production METH played first to Vancouver audiences in December. A province-wide tour was then launched in Chilliwack where the idea began. Over 450 people and dignitaries from all orders of government joined together that evening. From Vancouver to Prince George, the production hit the mark with audiences, thanks to the expertise of the Headlines team and young actors who shared not only their talent, but the pain of their own real-life struggles in overcoming addiction.

Local Agriculture and Agri-Tourism—Of Growing Importance

Some of the best farmland in Canada is in the Fraser Valley where many food crops can be grown with minimum inputs. Agricultural production in the Fraser Valley is critical for long-term sustainability, not only of the region, but the province—contributing 1.8 billion dollars in gross sales to BC’s economy. Locally grown food supports local economies, builds communities and reduces transportation costs and environmental impacts.

- **Fresh from the farm.** Farmers’ markets in BC are now very popular. There are over 100 markets in the province, about a third of those in the Fraser Valley. Circle Farm Tours (www.circlefarmtours.com) are an innovation, offering residents and visitors in the Fraser Valley opportunities to visit local producers, to taste test and to buy fresh products. FBC supported the Agassiz tour in 2004 and 2005 and the Mission tour in 2006.

- **The Small Lot secret.** It may surprise people that farms of less than 10 acres, with an income of under \$50,000, create a quarter of BC's agricultural economy. FBC has helped local food producers in the Fraser Valley learn about new product opportunities and gain access to city markets. BC is a world leader in niche markets and quality of production. The province has over 200 agricultural products sold commercially—all on less than 5% of its land base.
- **Into production.** Local food processing complements local food production as perfectly as a cabernet pairs with a Canadian blue. For many small food processors, however, the cost of a commercial facility is prohibitive. Through FBC's Strengthening Communities program, the Fraser Valley region is now working towards a certified processing facility to meet the needs of small-scale food processing.

Strategy for the Chilliwack River Watershed

The ancient Chilliwack River watershed is rich in resources, beautiful to behold, and popular with people. But the watershed faces multiple pressures—from development, resource extraction and recreation. Despite the pressures, this Valley's future is brighter because of people working together. FBC Regional Manager Marion Robinson facilitates a project team at the FVRD that is preparing a fresh approach to managing the area, through a new Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy.

Over the past three years, the project team has been guided by an overarching goal to provide a common understanding of watershed values, based on sound science and local knowledge, and to assist in decision-making for sustainability of the watershed. Thanks to the efforts of working groups, 17 issues are under review. Several sections of the strategy were published for comment in 2007, and the full strategy is scheduled for release in the fall.

Peacemaking Circles

The Fraser Valley Region was first introduced to circle work in 1999 by the SFU Centre for Restorative Justice and through former Justice Barry Stuart. Since that initial introduction, the Region has been using Circles, not only for internal staff development, but in external work—for community building and conflict resolution.

While Circles are part of most indigenous traditions as a means of rebuilding community, resolving conflict or repairing harm, they also offer great potential for different types of sustainability challenges. (For insights, see Boston Research Centre at www.brc21.org/resources/res_circle.html)



Smiles abound at the 2006 Celebration of Community at the Fraser River Heritage Park in Mission in September. The event, now in its seventh year, showcased over 120 community groups and drew together 4,000 people on the themes of stewardship, inclusion and community. Alongside multicultural music and dance, the Celebration featured food sustainability—as celebrity chefs turned fresh local apples, trout and greenhouse tomatoes into tasty dishes for an appreciative crowd during open-air cooking demos. FBC is honoured to chair the Celebration, thanks to the Mission Association for Community Living and District of Mission.



The Chilliwack River Watershed Plan project team is helping to build a common understanding of watershed values.

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FBC Directors and staff tour the Shuswap in June, 2006, learning about current pressures on the lake system.

Climate stations aid efficient irrigation

The network of Farmwest climate stations is continuing to expand across the Thompson region.

The stations measure evapotranspiration of field crops—the amount of water that is evaporated from the soil and crop surface (evaporation) and the water that is taken in by the plants and released as water vapour (evapotranspiration). By providing climate data and soil readings, the stations offer producers a sound basis for decisions on irrigation management.

FBC has been pleased to work with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, stock associations and fish and wildlife clubs to help expand the climate station network. During 2006–2007 FBC installed six stations, and also undertook educational outreach. Producers are beginning to see the advantages of using the data to help guide irrigation schedules, and to become water-efficient sooner rather than later. The site www.farmwest.com offers data look-up from all stations plus helpful resources.

Water and all that depends on it

→ **Eyes on the Nicola.** The Nicola Valley may hold valuable lessons for the rest of Fraser Basin about water and the need to conserve it. Demands on surface and ground water in the region are intense from agriculture, industry, and urban/domestic sectors and are growing in pace with development. Without groundwater regulation, new wells can be drilled, even though the impact on surface water and stream flows is not known. It is known that low stream flows and high temperatures in the river can be lethal to fish. The river system is also a critical spawning and rearing area for a variety of salmon and other fish, including Thompson coho (listed by COSEWIC), chinook (key indicator stock), Thompson steelhead (threatened) and bull trout (blue listed).

Thanks to broad-based community efforts, a Nicola Water Use Management Plan (WUMP) is expected to be ready by 2010. The goal is to ensure the water supply meets social, economic and ecological needs for the future. The FBC Thompson Region is partnering with the federal and provincial governments to help advise the WUMP on stream flow, stream temperature and the impact on anadromous fish stocks at key life history stages—with a view to higher productivity during low flow and drought years. More on the Nicola WUMP can be found at www.nicolawump.ca.

→ **Saving spawning grounds on the South Thompson.** A good news story unfolded on the banks of the South Thompson during the year. Just below Little Shuswap Lake, boating has increased, and the riverbanks have been eroded by wakes. Despite the valiant efforts of one landowner to shore up his riverbank by planting trees, it was clear that help was needed. Not only was land at risk, but also some of the most valuable chinook salmon spawning grounds in the South Thompson—some 100,000 chinook spawn adjacent to or downstream from the site. The FBC's Thompson Region was able to help secure funding, rock was donated from the Chase landfill and nearby beetle-killed pine logs were used for groynes to reinforce bank stability. Thanks to the River Bank Ranch and to the Pacific Salmon Commission (Southern Fund), the BC Environmental Farm Plan and Fisheries and Oceans Canada for funding.



Critical chinook spawning grounds are spared on the South Thompson, thanks to a local landowner, FBC funding partners and donors of materials to stabilize eroding riverbanks.

Workshop for Stewards

The third annual BC Interior Stewardship Workshop, hosted by the FBC Thompson Region on March 29-30, 2007 offered a prime opportunity for over 100 stewards in the region to network and discuss ecosystem management and climate change. Topics included community mapping, riparian enhancement, funding opportunities and local impacts of a changing climate.

Presentation slides from the workshop are available in the Thompson Region section of the FBC website at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The Sustainability Atlas... a tool for planning

For planners, few tools make complex information clearer than a map. When maps are enriched as an online atlas, there is ample opportunity for people to skim the surface or pore over the details. The South Thompson Sustainable Community Atlas (www.kamloopsatlas.com) is a unique tool now in development to support sustainability decision-making. The atlas supports thematic information layers, summarizing community assets, emergency management, heritage and culture, recreation and tourism and more. The atlas is a project of the Fraser Basin Council's Strengthening Communities program and coordinated on behalf of Thompson Rivers University. Federal funding through the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program will help fund a new species and habitat sub-atlas that includes salmon and watershed GIS information.



Jamie Felhauer accepts the FBC Thompson Region's first-ever BC Interior Stewardship Award for Ecosystems Excellence, for her work with the Salmon River Watershed Roundtable. Celebrating the honour are Roundtable colleagues Rob Fensom, John Vivian and Mike Wallis. The unique award, designed by Tom Grantham in Lillooet, is a shed moose antler, carved and mounted on ponderosa pine driftwood.



Interior stewards on a tour of the Kamloops Centre for Water Quality. A model of efficiency, the centre was built with green technologies and is LEED™ gold certified.

In the Regions

Cariboo-Chilcotin



Directors

Duncan Barnett/Nate Bello
Ervin Charleyboy
Bob Patterson
Bill Young

Staff

Gail Wallin, *Regional Manager*
Mike Simpson, *Assistant Regional Manager*

For more information, contact:

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The Aboriginal Forest Information Directory—at www.aboriginalforestinfo.ca—makes it easier for the forest industry to connect with First Nations and Métis businesses that offer forest management services in the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

Sustainable Living in the Cariboo

"Sustainable Living" was the theme of a Fraser Basin Council exhibit and workshops featured at spring home and garden shows in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House in 2007. Cariboo residents and business people learned practical steps they can take on a range of sustainability issues—from energy consumption to water use—and what incentives and rebates are available.

Over 850 home show visitors dropped by the exhibit. Perhaps most importantly, 90 people pledged to take new sustainability actions and agreed to have these monitored. In the coming year FBC is planning to reach out to businesses, institutions, local governments and First Nations housing committees to explore sustainability commitments they can make.

Interface Fire Plans to Protect Communities

Wild fires are a perennial threat in many BC communities. From 2004 to 2005 FBC facilitated a collaborative process that led to an interface fire plan for Williams Lake and surrounding area. The plan covers effective communication plus on-the-ground action to reduce fuel loading in interface zones, that is, where forest or grasslands meet up with residential outskirts. FBC is actively supporting the committee overseeing the plan by ensuring that there is an annual review and progress towards implementation.

In 2007 FBC also assisted in the development of a Quesnel and Area Interface Plan by facilitating meetings of local government, First Nations, the forest industry, fire experts and the public. Work on the plan was completed during the year for approval by a joint committee of the City of Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District.

Aboriginal Forestry Directory and Forum

In 2007, planning was underway for a regional business forum to support Aboriginal entrepreneurs in forestry, agriculture and tourism.

An Aboriginal Advisory Committee, with members from each First Nations language group and Métis, helped set priorities for the forum and for another FBC initiative: the Aboriginal Forest Information Directory (www.aboriginalforestinfo.ca).

The online directory provides information about Aboriginal companies and organizations operating in the Cariboo-Chilcotin that have forest management capabilities. It offers industry better access to these companies and the range of services they offer, from planning, to silviculture to harvesting.

Action on the New Relationship

The BC Ministry of Environment and the Northern Shuswap First Nations are working together on fish and wildlife issues. Their efforts reflect the direction of the New Relationship—a commitment by the BC government to construct new relations with First Nations based on respect, recognition and reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title. The Fraser Basin Council is helping the parties create terms of reference and a joint communication protocol for a more effective referral process. Once complete, the approach will be extended to other resource agencies, regionally and across BC.

Horsefly River Roundtable

As in other parts of the province, people in the Cariboo-Chilcotin are recognizing the importance of stewardship of water and all watershed resources. In the Horsefly River watershed, these issues are the focus for a new community roundtable, facilitated by FBC. The first priority is education of roundtable members and the community, along with projects to control erosion adjacent to agricultural land and structures.

Invasive Plant Management in the Cariboo

Invasive plants are a sustainability challenge for BC's environment and economy. FBC's Cariboo staff have actively assisted both with a provincial strategy and a local action plan: see page 15.

Some other FBC projects in the region:

- **Cariboo social development planning.** Relentless in its destruction of forests of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, the mountain pine beetle threatens more than trees. The forest industry is currently in a boom as it recovers the value of beetle-killed timber, but that is a short-term opportunity. The loss of forests to the beetle has potential to uproot local economies and destabilize families in the near future. In recognition of this, FBC facilitated a collaborative process in 2006 to address social implications of the epidemic. The intent is to help people come together on new strategies for recovery and long-term well-being of their communities.
- **Regional Visioning/Community to Community forum.** FBC facilitated a joint forum for local governments and First Nations in 2006. The purpose of the forum was to identify ways these bodies might share resources, such as emergency planning and response services, social planning, and training and mentoring opportunities. Following the forum, FBC was invited to help organize another forum to develop joint actions on key social issues.



Wildfires put communities at risk. Interface fire planning is one step towards managing that risk.

In the Regions

Upper Fraser

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A UNBC student team works on a flood-ravaged site at Naver Creek near Hixon, employing bioengineering techniques for streambank restoration. FBC helped the coordination of several restoration projects.

Naver Creek—Back from the Edge

At the request of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George in early 2006, the Fraser Basin Council agreed to help provide leadership in planning recovery efforts at different sites along Naver Creek in the village of Hixon, following ice jams and flooding in January 2005.

The flood had put Hixon residents and their properties at risk, as well as the railway, local hydro-electricity distribution lines, natural gas pipeline, oil pipeline and Highway 97. There were many interests at stake, and FBC was well positioned to help.

Remedial work was completed at several sites during the spring and into the fall of 2006. The Regional District has done stream bank restoration work on one site, with several Hixon residents participating in the work as part of a training course taught by Dave Polster, through UNBC.

NWC Oversees Progress on Cold-Water Release Study

The Fraser Basin Council has been active in the Nechako Watershed Council (NWC) since initiating its formation in 1998. The NWC is a multi-interest group with representation from Alcan, Aboriginal groups, government and community interests.

A key focus of the group is to develop water management strategies that resolve longstanding conflicts in the Nechako watershed. The NWC supports the development of a Cold Water Release Facility (CWRF) at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako as the primary means of managing water flow to meet a wide range of interests—such as migratory and resident fish (including the endangered white sturgeon), tourism, recreation, agriculture, and the redevelopment of the Murray-Cheslatta drainage.

The provincial government and Alcan have funded the first phase of the NWC's Cold Water Release Facility work plan. With assistance from FBC, NWC members are also working on new flow regimes that could be implemented after construction of a CWRF. In 2006 the Province and Alcan provided matching grants of \$120,000 for the second phase of the work plan. The FBC also assisted the Nechako Enhancement Society (BC and Alcan) in preparing a qualitative summary of the benefits of the proposed facility.

Prince George Works for Better Air Quality

Sustainability Snapshot 3, the Fraser Basin Council's 2006 indicators report, flagged critical air quality issues across the Basin. Although air quality in Prince George has improved in some respects (notably, ground-level ozone is down in recent years), fine particulate matter is of particular concern.

FBC has taken steps to serve the people of the Upper Fraser in a couple of respects. In March, 2007 the Council hosted its annual BC Clean Air Forum in Prince George, bringing together all those from across the province having responsibilities for, and interest in, air quality issues. As well, the Upper Fraser Regional Manager is participating on two local initiatives:

- **Prince George Air Quality Implementation Committee.** This committee supports the implementation of the 1998 air quality management plan (updated in 2004). The Committee anticipates the results of research underway on sources of fine particulate matter and dispersion modelling for the area, to help it refine the management strategies.
- **Mayor's Task Force on Air Quality Improvement.** This task force is taking a strategic approach in reviewing air quality standards, best practices, and inter-jurisdictional management. It will conduct public consultations and complete a final report with recommendations in late 2007.



FBC Regional Manager Joan Chess accepts, on behalf of the Prince George Rivers Day Music Festival, the 2006 Green Award from the Prince George Chamber of Commerce. The presentation was made by Dave Conway, BC Hydro, at the Chamber's Business Excellence Awards Dinner in October.



The BC Rivers Day Music Festival, held at Fort George Park, Prince George in September, attracted over 3,500 people. The festival featured an impressive line-up of musical entertainers, including the Marcel Gagnon band. FBC was pleased to help lead this event, which also celebrated stewardship in the region. A highlight was the Stream of Dreams mural, painted by local children for display in the community.



Financial Statements of FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Year ended March 31, 2007



AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the statement of financial position of Fraser Basin Council Society as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding fiscal year.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants

Burnaby, Canada

June 1, 2007

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Financial Position

March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,577,330	\$ 1,039,133
Restricted cash (note 3)	830,220	1,098,663
Project and other receivables (note 4)	1,288,830	1,241,922
Prepaid expenses	15,488	26,843
	3,711,868	3,406,561
Computer and office equipment (note 5)	93,902	44,545
	\$ 3,805,770	\$ 3,451,106
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,143,708	\$ 601,999
Deferred revenue (note 6)	627,518	439,868
Funds held in trust (note 7)	830,220	1,098,663
Obligations under capital lease, current portion (note 8(b))	8,691	-
	2,610,137	2,140,530
Obligations under capital lease (note 8(b))	32,499	-
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets (note 9)	52,712	44,545
Internally restricted:		
Sustainability Fund	493,449	442,029
INAC Fund	50,000	100,000
Mussell Fund	4,133	4,133
Unrestricted	562,840	719,869
	1,163,134	1,310,576
	\$ 3,805,770	\$ 3,451,106

Commitments (note 8)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Members:



Director



Director

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Revenue:		
Government contributions:		
Federal	\$ 226,700	\$ 120,000
Provincial	350,000	350,000
Municipalities and regional districts	440,714	440,715
Project revenue:		
Basinwide	2,415,579	2,357,878
Regional	550,056	382,605
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	244,090	428
Investment income	104,485	80,447
Donations (note 10)	959	183,108
	4,332,583	3,915,181
Expenses:		
Projects:		
Basinwide	1,899,613	2,140,059
Regional	549,378	832,233
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	212,086	-
Communications	34,219	64,721
Board operations	143,659	124,896
Administration	1,440,744	595,298
Bad debts (note 11)	150,655	-
Amortization of computer and office equipment	36,903	28,183
Goods and Services Tax	12,768	11,748
	4,480,025	3,797,138
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (147,442)	\$ 118,043

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	Invested in capital assets (note 9)	Internally restricted			Unrestricted	Total 2007	Total 2006
		Sustainability Fund	INAC Fund	Mussell Fund			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 44,545	\$ 442,029	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,133	\$ 719,869	\$ 1,310,576	\$ 1,192,533
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(36,903)	1,420	-	-	(111,959)	(147,442)	118,043
Acquisition of capital assets	86,260	-	-	-	(86,260)	-	-
Net increase in capital lease obligations	(41,190)	-	-	-	41,190	-	-
Transfers	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 52,712	\$ 493,449	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,133	\$ 562,840	\$ 1,163,134	\$ 1,310,576

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY | Statements of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (147,442)	\$ 118,043
Amortization of computer and office equipment	36,903	28,183
Decrease (increase) in non-cash working capital:		
Project and other receivables	(46,908)	(129,239)
Prepaid expenses	11,355	(11,000)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	541,709	115,631
Deferred revenue	187,650	320,693
Funds held in trust	(268,443)	(244,592)
	314,824	197,719
Investments and financing:		
Purchase of computer and office equipment	(37,616)	(32,958)
Repayment of capital lease obligation	(7,454)	(8,994)
Restricted cash	268,443	244,592
	223,373	202,640
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	538,197	400,359
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,039,133	638,774
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 1,577,330	\$ 1,039,133

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and short-term investments with maturities less than ninety days from inception, excluding restricted cash.

	2007	2006
Non-cash transactions:		
Acquisition of equipment under capital lease	\$ 41,190	\$ -

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Year ended March 31, 2007

1. Operations:

The Fraser Basin Council Society (the "Society") is incorporated under the Society Act (British Columbia). Its mandate is to advance sustainability of the Fraser Basin and monitor implementation of the Charter for Sustainability. The Charter for Sustainability is designed to maintain and enhance social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Fraser Basin. The Society qualifies as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and, accordingly, is exempt from federal and provincial income and capital taxes.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations as prescribed by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

(b) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions and investment income are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

(c) Sustainability Fund:

Transfers to the Sustainability Fund from unrestricted net assets are restricted through Board approval. Interest earned on the fund balance is transferred to the fund as it is earned. The Society intends to create an endowment fund to generate income for future operations. The funds restricted by the Board are currently available for use under certain circumstances as determined by the Board.

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) INAC Fund:

The INAC Fund includes amounts contributed without restriction by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that have been restricted through Board approval. The funds restricted by the Board are available for use on any society project, to be utilized at a rate of \$50,000 per year until the fund is exhausted in fiscal 2008. The restriction on the use of funds is based on an understanding by the Society that the contribution by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada relates to the agreed upon Federal Government contributions through fiscal 2008.

(e) Unrestricted net assets:

Unrestricted net assets are the accumulation of excess revenue over expenses, which have not been internally designated for use on a specific project.

(f) Computer and office equipment:

Computer and office equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is computed on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	
Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	5 years

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may ultimately differ from these estimates.

3. Restricted cash:

Restricted cash represents the funds held in trust.

Year ended March 31, 2007

4. Project and other receivables:

	2007	2006
Federal agencies:		
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	\$ 80,000	\$ 84,175
Agriteam Canada	28,090	-
Canada Revenue Agency	17,490	25,446
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	18,300	71,866
Environment Canada	4,700	42,704
Health Canada	-	1,561
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	5,000	-
Natural Resources Canada	67,624	86,074
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	5,000	-
Western Economic Diversification	150,000	233,169
Provincial agencies:		
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	6,500	-
Ministry of Community Services	23,271	-
Ministry of Energy and Mines	606,538	163,523
Ministry of Environment	4,965	-
Ministry of Forests	-	5,000
Ministry of Labour & Citizens' Services	25,983	-
Municipalities and Regional Districts	3,671	13,384
Other	241,698	515,020
	\$ 1,288,830	\$ 1,241,922

5. Computer and office equipment:

	2007		2006	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer and office equipment	\$ 239,460	\$ 145,558	\$ 93,902	\$ 44,545

Included in computer and office equipment are assets under capital lease with a net book value of \$37,400 (2006 - nil).

Year ended March 31, 2007

6. Deferred revenue:

The changes in deferred revenue related to expenses of future periods are as follows:

	2007	2006
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 439,868	\$ 119,175
Amounts received during the year related to future periods	341,916	425,868
Amount recognized as revenue in the year	(154,266)	(105,175)
Balance, end of year	\$ 627,518	\$ 439,868

Deferred revenue is to be used for operations and specified programs that are expected to be completed in fiscal 2008. Specified programs include research and co-ordination initiatives related to Strengthening Communities, Interregional Community Sustainability Planning (Smart Planning), Thompson Water Supply Expansion Project, Thompson Okanagan Water Management Fund, E3 Fleet Memberships and Fleet Reviews, Sustainability Purchasing Network Sponsorships, 2008 Clean Air Forum and Cariboo - Interface Fire.

7. Funds held in trust:

Funds held in trust represent the excess of funding received from government and private sources to be administered by the Society in respect of specific projects, and for which the Society earns an administration fee. The Society acts as an agent only to collect funds and make disbursements with respect to these projects, and accordingly, related revenue and expenditures have not been included in the financial statements of the Society. During the year, the trust funds managed by the Society had the following activity:

	2006	Funds received	Disbursements	2007
Hydraulic Model Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cariboo LRMP Trust	23,010	-	-	23,010
Community Learning Network Conference	13,862	-	-	13,862
Flood Hazard Management Program	360,470	-	360,470	-
Lessons Learned Forum	8,525	-	-	8,525
Lillooet LRMP Trust	22,631	-	4,243	18,388
Log Debris Management	297,801	614,118	731,755	180,164
Merritt - SRM Planning Process	97,359	-	50,321	47,038
Northern Spotted Owl	-	350,000	85,022	264,978
Sea to Sky LRMP Trust	253,197	-	-	253,197
Thompson - OGMA Processes	21,808	-	750	21,058
	\$ 1,098,663	\$ 964,118	\$ 1,232,561	\$ 830,220

Year ended March 31, 2007

8. Commitments:

(a) Premises lease:

The Society is obligated to make monthly rental payments of \$7,240 for office space under a five-year lease expiring June 30, 2011. The landlord has carried out improvements to the premises costing \$54,639 to accommodate the needs of the Society and it is a condition of the lease that the Society is liable to repay this \$54,639 should they vacate these premises prior to expiry of the lease term.

(b) Obligations under capital lease:

The Society has financed certain office equipment by entering into capital lease arrangements. The minimum lease payments under those capital leases are as follows:

2008	\$ 14,786
2009	14,371
2010	12,225
2011	12,225
2012	2,581
	56,188
Imputed interest at rates ranging from 0.91% to 2.03%	(14,998)
Obligation under capital lease	41,190
Current portion	8,691
	\$ 32,499

9. Invested in capital assets:

(a) Invested in capital assets is calculated as follows:

	2007	2006
Capital assets	\$ 93,902	\$ 44,545
Amounts financed by:		
Capital lease	(41,190)	-
	\$ 52,712	\$ 44,545

(b) Excess of revenue over expenses:

	2007	2006
Amortization expense	\$ (36,903)	\$ (28,183)

Year ended March 31, 2007

9. Invested in capital assets (continued):

(c) Change in net assets invested in capital assets:

	2007	2006
Purchase of capital assets	\$ 86,260	\$ 32,958
Net repayment (issuance) of capital lease	(41,190)	8,994
	\$ 45,070	\$ 41,952

10. Donations:

Donations are received from various donors. A significant decrease in donations occurred in fiscal 2007 due to a one-time donation of \$177,360 received in fiscal 2006 that is not expected to reoccur in future years.

11. Bad debts expense:

Natural Resource Canada ("NRCAN") entered into a National agreement with CEEA Transport for the Fleet Challenge Program, a national program whose mandate was to reduce emissions amongst commercial vehicle fleets through information sessions, workshops, a fleet rating program and network events. CEEA Transport subsequently entered into agreements with regional partners, including the Council, to carry out its mandate under this program.

The Fleet Challenge Program was cancelled in March 2006 and an audit ensued by the Office of the Auditor General for NRCAN over the actual eligible costs. The results of the audit showed that the total eligible costs incurred by the Council under this program totalled \$559,224, compared to the total costs claimed by the Council to date of \$700,990. The difference of \$150,655 was deemed to be uncollectible by the Council in the current fiscal year and was recorded as bad debts expense, resulting in a deficiency of revenue over expenses of \$147,442. The audit is still ongoing and the Council is working closely with NRCAN to resolve the outstanding receivable balance.

Directly associated with this program are payables totaling \$98,807 owing by the Council to various vendors. The Council is working with these vendors to obtain credits notes for these payables, on the basis that the funding has not been received from CEEA Transport.

12. Financial instruments:

The carrying values of cash, restricted cash, project and other receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and funds held in trust approximate their fair values due to their relative short-term nature. The fair value of the obligations under capital lease approximates the carrying amount due to the relative stability of market rates of interest since inception.

13. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.



Regions and Offices

A

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Fraser Basin Council Regions

The Fraser Basin Council works in communities throughout the Fraser Basin, the land of the Fraser River and its tributaries. You are welcome to reach us at our Basin-wide office in Vancouver, which is also our Vancouver Sea to Sky office, or at any of our other regional offices, in Mission, Kamloops, Williams Lake and Prince George.





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