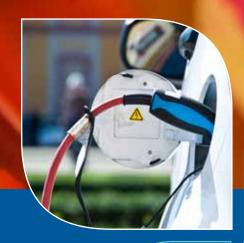


Sustainability Matters Annual Highlights 2012–2013





INSIDE

Our People	2		
FBC — A Partner in Sustainability	3		
2012-2013 Year in Review ■ Climate and Air Quality Matters ■ Water Matters	4 6		
		Community Matters	8
		Over 15 Years of Working Together	10
Connect with Us	12		

Our People



Dr. Charles Jago

Chair, Fraser Basin Council

David Antoine

Councillor, Bonaparte Indian Band, Cache Creek

Satwinder Bains

Director, Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, University of the Fraser Valley

Lara Beckett

Director, Fraser-Fort George Regional District, Prince George

Chief Ian Campbell

Hereditary Chief, Squamish First Nation, North Vancouver

Michael Clague

Private Consultant and Former President, Canadian Council on Social Development, Vancouver

Susan Farlinger

Regional Director General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Vancouver

Alan Fisher

Owner and Manager, A.D. Fisher Consulting, Williams Lake

Allan Frederick

Former Councillor, Village of McBride Self-employed and part-time reporter

Katherine Gizikoff

Manager, Government and Environmental Affairs, Taseko Mines Ltd., Williams Lake

Lois-Leah Goodwin

Executive Director, Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development

Tom Greenaway

Director, Bulkley-Nechako Regional District, Fort St. James

Percy Guichon

Chief, Tsi Del Del (Alexis Creek First Nation), Chilanko Forks

John Haugen

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, Lytton

Lee Hesketh

Rancher, Silver Hills Ranch, Lumby

Otis Jasper

Sto:lo Tribal Council, Chilliwack

Paul D. Kluckner

Regional Director General, West & North, Environment Canada, Vancouver

Doug Konkin

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Victoria

Ruth Legg

Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, BC Lottery Corporation

Jason Lum

Director, Fraser Valley Regional District, Chilliwack

John Massier

Director, Cariboo Regional District, Quesnel

Linda Nowlan

Director, Pacific Conservation, WWF - Canada, Vancouver

Dale Parker

Chair, UBC Investment Management Trust Member, Transit Police Board, Vancouver

Tim Pennell

Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Vavenby

John Robinson

Associate Provost, Sustainability, University of British Columbia

Doug Routledge

Vice President, Council of Forest Industries, Prince George

Gerry Salembier

Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification, Vancouver

Wes Shoemaker

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Victoria

Barbara Steele

Director, Metro Vancouver, Surrey

Barb Strachan

Civil society representative, Mission

Jordan Sturdy

Director, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Pemberton

Rene Talbot

Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Falkland

James Tansey

Associate Professor, UBC Sauder School of Business, Vancouver

Terry Teegee

Vice Tribal Chief, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George

Howie Wright

Representative, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Westbank

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM AS OF MARCH 31, 2013

David Marshall

Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council

Maureen LeBourdais

Senior Manager, Smart Planning for Communities and Cariboo-Chilcotin Region

Steve Litke

Senior Program Manager, Watersheds and Water Resources & Sustainability Indicators

Bob Purdy

Director, External Relations & Corporate Development

Terry Robert

Senior Regional Manager, Upper Fraser

Adriana Ruso

Chief Financial Officer

Mike Simpson

Senior Regional Manager, Thompson

Marion Town

Senior Regional Manager, GVSS and Fraser Valley

Jim Vanderwal

Senior Program Manager, Climate Change & Air Quality

Gail Wallin

Director, Organizational Development

To connect with our 2013 FBC staff team, visit our website or contact our offices, listed on page 12.



Directors of the Fraser Basin Council represent all four orders of government — federal, provincial, local and First Nations — as well as the private sector and civil society. Here board and staff members gather at Cultus Lake for an update on watershed research and stewardship work. The field tour was held in conjunction with an FBC Board meeting in the Fraser Valley.

Sustainability Matters

Leaders who embrace sustainability principles consider the long-term social, economic and environmental consequences of the decisions they make. They understand that key decisions made today will shape the choices available in the years ahead, possibly for generations to come. This shift of perspective is not easy in the face of immediate demands, but it does encourage care, innovation and a willingness to invest in the future. And because no government, organization or person can go it alone, sustainability also calls for greater collaboration among different interests.

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) supports BC's leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors in coming together to discuss difficult issues, reach consensus and collaborate on solutions for sustainability.

Formed in 1997, FBC is a charitable non-profit organization. We have 38 Directors: an independent Chairperson and 37 other Directors who represent the four orders of government — federal, provincial, local and First Nations — as well as the private sector and civil society. This governance structure is one of the first of its kind in British Columbia and a reflection of a unique partnership and a commitment to collaboration.

The board is supported by a multi-disciplinary staff team in five offices in Vancouver, Mission, Kamloops, Williams Lake and Prince George.

OUR MANDATE

To advance sustainability in British Columbia, with a core focus on the Fraser River Basin.

Our Services

Key services of the Fraser Basin Council are education, facilitation and conflict resolution. One of our core strengths is in convening multi-stakeholder processes, which we do on invitation of the parties. We also help in partnership programs, with **program coordination**, secretariat support, demonstration projects and applied research and analysis.

Our Areas of Focus

The Fraser Basin Council has three main focus areas:

- Taking action on climate change and air quality
- · Supporting healthy watersheds and water resources
- · Building sustainable, resilient regions and communities.



2012-2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

Climate & Air Quality Matters

Climate change is one of today's critical sustainability challenges. Science shows that greenhouse gases from human activities are adversely affecting the earth's climate, leading to higher average temperatures, greater frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels, along with such problems as flood, drought, fire, storm damage, and changes in the land and watersheds. When it comes to climate change, there is a dual challenge for leaders in all sectors: to drive down harmful emissions that contribute to climate change and to prepare for its unavoidable impacts.

HERE ARE 2012-2013 HIGHLIGHTS OF FBC'S WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR QUALITY

Plug in BC! Over 90% of electricity generated in BC is clean energy from hydroelectricity. This makes electric vehicles an attractive option for cutting greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions. Over the year, FBC has worked in cooperation with the Province of BC and other partners to lay the groundwork for the new generation of plug-in electric vehicles. We administered financial incentives under the provincial Community Charging Infrastructure (CCI) Fund, which gave a boost to municipalities, regional districts, businesses and institutions across BC to plan and install electric vehicle charging stations. A network of over 450 charging stations is now available for the public and for fleets in convenient locations across BC, making electric car travel easier. Visit www.pluginbc.ca.



Charge your Engines!

The City of Hope welcomes a new electric vehicle charging station in early 2013. Over 450 EV stations are now available across BC for public and fleet use.

Clearing the Air

Mastication techniques (chopping tree waste into mulch) are tested in the Rocky Mountain Trench to control forest in-growth with fewer GHGs and other emissions than traditional methods that use open burning. Project funding was from the BC Clean Air Research Fund.



Changing Climate, Changing Communities. The BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative (BC RAC) program is helping leaders in local government, First Nations and the natural resource sectors better understand and prepare for climate change. Emphasis is on identifying local impacts and preparing climate adaptation plans that are tailored to community needs. A database of pilot projects and products is available at www.retooling.ca.

Current focus areas include helping communities work together on adapting to BC coastal flood risks, as well as assisting the energy, mining and forestry sectors better understand how climate will affect their operations.

FBC and the BC Ministry of Environment – Climate Action Secretariat work together on the program. BC RAC is part of a national strategy on climate change adaptation, funded by Natural Resources Canada.

BC CLEAR – Clean Air Research. The BC Clean Air Research (BC CLEAR) Fund promotes research excellence by funding research projects of strategic importance for the management of air quality in British Columbia. Research is posted on the FBC website for use by all interested agencies and individuals. The program is sponsored by the BC Ministry of Environment and jointly managed with Metro Vancouver and Environment Canada. The Fraser Basin Council administers the program in partnership with the BC Lung Association.

Cleaner Energy for Remote Communities. BC's remote

communities face the challenge of generating their own energy, most of which comes from diesel generators. Diesel power generation, however, is a significant contributor to poor air quality and climate change. The Remote Community Implementation (RCI) Program assists BC's remote communities in reducing their dependence on diesel generation by funding capital costs of clean energy systems, such as hydro, wind and solar power. FBC administers this provincial incentive program and coordinates community-to-community mentorships that include support for sustainable energy installations.

PG Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR). FBC manages PGAIR, a non-profit entity focused on air quality research, monitoring, awareness and education, as well as recommendations and actions for air quality improvement. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative that connects business, industry, community groups, government, the University of Northern BC, Northern Health and members of the public on air quality issues. PGAIR is implementing a five-year plan to reduce particulate matter in Prince George. Learn more at **www.pgairquality.com**.

Burn it Clean

FBC's Upper Fraser regional office supports the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable, a multi-interest initiative for cleaner air. PGAIR oversaw the provincial woodstove exchange program in Prince George, and developed an education program to help residents in Prince George and other communities learn to burn wood more cleanly and efficiently. Residential wood burning is believed to be a significant cumulative source of fine particulate matter, and exposure is linked to adverse human health impacts.



Climate Wise Websites

Here are two helpful resource sites for BC communities



RETOOLING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE www.retooling.ca

ReTooling offers a resource database on **climate change adaptation**, including the latest reports, community adaptation guidebooks, tools, case studies and sample plans from BC and beyond.

ReTooling is a partnership project of the Province of BC and FBC.



CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT www.toolkit.bc.ca

Check out the Toolkit for news, best practices, information and strategic guidance on **climate change mitigation** — to help BC communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

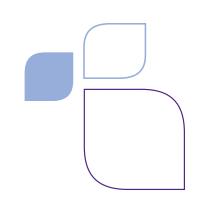
The Toolkit is a partnership project of the Province of BC Union of British Columbia Municipalities and FBC's Smart Planning program.



2012-2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

Water Matters

Clean water is a precious, irreplaceable resource, and one vital to every aspect of life. BC's watersheds are under pressure from climate change, urbanization, forestry, mining, other types of resource development, pollution and increasing demands for water. All of these present risks to water quality and supply. The sustainable management of watersheds and water resources is crucial to long-term water security.





Coastal Adaptation in BC

Sea level is expected to rise under current climate change scenarios — as much as half a metre over the next 40 years — creating serious risks for coastal BC. The Province of BC has now updated draft guidelines for coastal floodplain mapping, sea dike design and coastal flood construction levels, with funding from the BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative program.

A 2012 report commissioned by the Province found it could cost \$9.5 billion to implement flood-protection improvements in the Metro Vancouver region by 2100 to adapt to flood risks associated with sea level rise and storm surge. To help ensure the effectiveness of future investments, FBC is proposing a new regional flood strategy.

Photo: Ben (mudman_89)

HERE ARE 2012-2013 HIGHLIGHTS OF FBC'S WORK FOR HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND WATER RESOURCES

Building a Community of Stewards. Watershed stewards make invaluable contributions to the health of BC's ecosystems and water resources. FBC is committed to forging connections among stewardship organizations and volunteers across the province. In 2013 we hosted a series of workshops, dialogues and field tours on the sustainable management of BC's watersheds. Representatives from government, including First Nations, industry, business, community groups and the stewardship community joined together for events in Langley, Salmon Arm, Williams Lake, Fort St. John and Vanderhoof (FBC's annual Interior Stewards Workshop, co-hosted with Fisheries and Oceans Canada). Participants learned from experts and practitioners, flagged priority water issues in their region, recommended actions and identified opportunities for collaboration. Thanks to the BC Living Rivers Trust Fund, BC Ministry of Health, Spectra Energy, TD Bank and others for supporting these events.



Managing for Healthy Lakes

FBC's Fraser Valley and Thompson regions coordinated a workshop in Chilliwack and Merritt (by video link-up) in 2013 to explore water quality in Cultus Lake and Nicola Lake and options for managing Eurasian watermilfoil.



Watershed Sustainability Planning. FBC assisted with several regional initiatives on watershed planning:

- The Nicola Lake Planning Process is hosted by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and City of Merritt, with program support from FBC. Thanks to the efforts of a multi-sector Nicola Lake Working Group and public input, a Nicola Lake Action Plan was completed in the spring of 2013. Priorities include identifying nutrients that come into the lake and tributaries, reducing lakeshore erosion and sediment flows, managing Eurasian watermilfoil, educating the public about key issues, and exploring sustainable lake-based tourism opportunities.
- The Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy (CLASS) brings
 together over 50 agencies and community organizations in the Fraser
 Valley to work on strategies for the health of Cultus Lake. This lake is
 a choice recreational destination, and the Cultus watershed attracts
 three million visitors a year. CLASS encourages local stewardship
 work, education, research and strategies to improve the state of fish
 and wildlife, water temperature, water quality, nutrient loading and
 aquatic invasive species.
- The Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP) is a
 pilot project involving 14 government agencies with responsibilities
 in and around Shuswap and Mara Lakes, along with public and
 technical advisory groups. FBC offers administrative support
 to SLIPP. Over the year, SLIPP published for comment a draft
 Recreation Management Plan aimed at encouraging safe and
 sustainable recreation on the lakes.

Another priority was completing the second year of a comprehensive three-year water quality monitoring program. The 2011-2012 results show that, in most locations in and around Shuswap and Mara Lakes, water quality is good. Most samples met government safety guidelines for drinking water and recreation and also for livestock, fish and wildlife protection. In certain lake locations, rivers and streams, however, high concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen or fecal coliform were found, flagging the need for a management strategy to prevent water quality deterioration. The work continues through 2013. Visit www.slippbc.ca.

• The Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society (NEWSS) is a new non-profit organization that builds partnerships with landowners, industry, government and water stewards across the Nechako River Basin, particularly in the agricultural belt. Its work will include streambank restoration, watershed planning, aquifer mapping, and environmental stewardship and education. The Fraser Basin Council was pleased to assist NEWSS this past year during its start-up phase. Rethinking Watershed Management. Interest in collaborative watershed governance is growing. Working with watershed administrators and users, FBC has facilitated a high-level Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord and invited support across sectors and the four orders of government. The accord does not advocate any particular model, but sets out basic principles.

Anyone interested in new watershed management models can watch for a new FBC publication in late 2013 that highlights collaborative work underway in BC communities as well as lessons learned and success factors. Visit **www.rethinkingwater.ca**.

Flood on the Fraser. FBC has long supported integrated flood hazard management. We have helped provincial and local authorities with flood management tools, floodplain mapping, public consultations and education, and a study of the Fraser River flood profile. We host a committee through which federal, provincial and local government agencies and organizations share information and advance flood hazard management strategies. Discussions have now begun on the feasibility of a new regional flood management strategy for the Lower Fraser region.

Spotlight on Salmon. FBC partners with the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) on Salmon-Safe BC — a certification program that recognizes progressive, environmentally friendly land management practices to benefit Pacific salmon and watersheds. Agriculture is an important focus of Salmon-Safe, and over 40 BC farms, ranches and vineyards have now achieved the certification. Salmon-Safe Communities is a new initiative in 2013 to certify urban lands.

Another exciting salmon highlight was seeing all members of the BC Legislature name the seven species of Pacific Salmon collectively as an official symbol for British Columbia. FBC, PSF and the BC Conservation Foundation had canvassed British Columbians and proposed the designation in 2011.



Water quality monitoring on Shuswap and Mara Lakes, a cooperative project of SLIPP.

2012-2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Matters

BC communities are grappling with how to replace aging infrastructure, improve social conditions, secure housing, transportation and food security, strengthen ties between urban and rural areas, diversify local economies and support the health and well-being of residents. These are sustainability issues, and the challenge is to invest in ways that will offer social, economic and environmental benefits over the long term.





In the spring of 2013, FBC hosted "Embracing our Diversity," a dialogue on multiculturalism, strategies on racism and ways of fostering a more inclusive community. Participants pooled their creative energy to plan a wall mural project for Williams Lake to reflect community diversity.

Photo: Monica Lamb-Yorski, courtesy of the Williams Lake Tribune



HERE ARE 2012-2013 HIGHLIGHTS OF FBC'S WORK IN BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND REGIONS

Smart Planning for Communities (SPC). SPC helps BC local and First Nations governments carry out integrated community sustainability planning. The Smart Planning team of sustainability facilitators have worked with over 125 communities to integrate social, cultural, economic and environmental factors into local and regional planning processes. Our sustainability facilitators offer free advice, strategic support, technical expertise, educational sessions, tools and resources. SPC is a provincial partnership initiative, administered by FBC.

Many BC communities have now completed sustainability plans, or are close to doing so. For those wanting direct support, facilitators are available to help complete, revise or implement plans, as a value-added service. Visit **www.smartplanningbc.ca**.

BuySmart Network. BuySmart is a hub for people in business, government and non-profit organizations who want to learn and share best practices on sustainable purchasing and supply chain management. BuySmart is geared for organizations of all types — private, public and non-profit — helping them create purchasing strategies that reflect their own commitments to corporate social responsibility. Events in 2012-2013 included an introduction to sustainable purchasing and an advanced session to maximize the impact of purchasing programs. Visit www.buysmartbc.com for upcoming events.

BC Rural Network. FBC is a founder and partner of this network, which promotes strong rural and remote communities and a better understanding of rural issues. In 2012 the BC Rural Network began "Project ComeBack," a partnership with five BC local governments to encourage young people to live and work in their home communities.



A Framework Agreement

The Tsilhqot'in Framework Agreement is a strategic engagement agreement between the Province of BC, Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) and the First Nations communities represented by Tsilhqot'in Nation for cooperative land and resource management. A pivotal component of the agreement is a process for notification and referral of natural resource development applications within the traditional territories of the member communities. FBC has played a supporting role, from early discussions to completion of the framework and early steps on implementation.

Smart Planning captured the experiences of regional districts and small municipalities in rural areas with integrated sustainability planning – and what makes for a successful plan. Find this report and other helpful publications at www.smartplanningbc.ca.



Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations. When it comes to building strong, respectful relations between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people, all leaders can play a role. FBC has welcomed the opportunity to facilitate dialogues, among them several UBCM/First Nations Summit Community to Community Forums. These are opportunities for First Nations and local government leaders to meet and discuss common goals and opportunities for joint action.

Thanks to funding from Simon Fraser University, FBC also updated *Bridge Between Nations: A History of First Nations in the Fraser River Basin*. This publication introduces some of the social, cultural and historical issues that have shaped Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal relationships.

Collaboration on Land and Resource Issues. FBC also hosts multi-interest dialogues on sustainable resource management. Recent examples from the Cariboo region include a collaborative strategy for grasslands management and another to reduce agriculture-wildlife conflicts on rangeland.



Over 15 Years of Working Together

2012 was a year of reflection, celebration and renewal. Fraser Basin Council had completed 15 years of service working in the Fraser Basin and across British Columbia. Since our foundation in 1997, our commitment has been to increase public understanding of sustainability and to bring people together to find practical solutions to current sustainability challenges. Thanks to our partners, we've shared in many successes. Here are a few – and we look forward to many more as we tackle the next 15 years.



E3 Fleet Review and Rating. Spearheaded E3 Fleet, Canada's first program to review fleet performance and offer ratings for excellence in fleet management. Today the E3 Fleet program has 120 public and private sector member organizations or divisions, operating more than 50,000 vehicles. Many E3 members are preparing for or participating in Fleet Review. As of mid-2013, eight fleets had earned E3 Ratings – four Gold Ratings and four Silver Ratings.

Greening BC's Fleets. Supported multiple **innovations for BC fleets**, helping organizations learn about the newest options: electric vehicles, alternative fuels and cleaner trucking technologies.

Idle Free BC. Helped BC communities participate in Idle Free BC, a widely recognized campaign to curb unnecessary vehicle idling.

Community Sustainability Planning.

Worked closely with local governments and First Nations across BC to help them undertake community sustainability planning. Today, many communities have completed plans and are in the process of implementation.

Invasive Plant Council. Developed a BC-wide strategy on invasive plants and launched the Invasive Plant Council of BC, which has received national recognition and recently expanded its scope to include all invasive species.

Sustainable Fish and Fisheries. Through the 2006-2012 Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program, improved Fraser Basin

Watersheds Program, improved Fraser Basin salmon habitat, stock management, fisheries information and related outreach, and achieved a high level of Aboriginal engagement, youth participation, extensive stewardship networks, and many working partnerships for the health of BC fisheries.

Flood Management. Helped BC communities take preventative action on <u>flood hazard</u> <u>management</u>, including on the Fraser River (Fraser Valley), Nechako River (Prince George) and Naver Creek (Hixon).

Interface Fire Planning. Supported BC communities in interface fire planning (Williams Lake and area and Quesnel).

Britannia Mine. Played a pivotal early role in the remediation of North America's worst acid rock drainage problem at the site of the former **Britannia Mine**.

Olympics Sustainability Performance.

Chaired the first-ever Board Advisory Committee on Sustainability Performance for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.



Drinking Water Protection. Led a panel of independent experts, resulting in provincial legislation on drinking water protection.

Sustainability Indicators. Published comprehensive Sustainability Snapshot indicators reports on the health of the Fraser Basin and on specific regions to raise awareness and encourage action across sectors on economic, social and environmental issues.

Fraser River Debris Trap. Negotiated multiparty, annual agreements (ultimately leading to a long-term funding agreement) to maintain the Fraser River debris trap, which avoids at least \$8 million yearly in downstream clean-up and repair costs.

VISIT US ONLINE

If you haven't visited the FBC website lately, drop by! We've freshened our online look and offerings on programs, services, news and events.

Visit www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

Also visit our family of partnership program websites:

E3 Fleet www.e3fleet.com

Plug in BC www.pluginbc.ca

ReTooling for Climate Change (adaptation tools) www.retooling.ca

Climate Action Toolkit (mitigation tools)

www.toolkit.bc.ca

BuySmart Network www.buysmartbc.com

BC Rural Network www.bcruralnetwork.ca

Rethinking our Water Ways www.rethinkingwater.ca

Find us (and like us) on Facebook too!



This report is available online at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca. Limited print copies were produced in Canada on 100% post-consumer, processed chlorine free recycled paper.

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Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment