

1998-2003

Fraser Basin Council

5 Year Action Plan

VISION

THE FRASER BASIN IS A PLACE WHERE SOCIAL WELL-BEING IS SUPPORTED BY A VIBRANT ECONOMY, AND SUSTAINED BY A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.



Foreword

The health of the Fraser Basin is critical to the health of British Columbia. The Basin, the area drained by the Fraser River and its many tributaries, comprises more than 25% of B.C.'s land mass. It supports more than two-thirds of the province's population and contributes 80% of its gross domestic product. The Basin is blessed with abundant natural resources - including forests, agricultural lands, fish and wildlife and mineral resources - which support the Basin's economy. The Basin is also home to the world's most productive salmon river system, supporting five salmon species as well as 57 other species of fish, including steelhead and giant sturgeon.

The Basin is also home to 2.4 million people and is growing rapidly.

It is expected that the population of the Basin will increase to 3.6 million people over the next 20 years. Such growth has led to challenges to the integrity of the Basin's ecosystems as well as the stability of its social and economic systems. As the population of the Basin continues to grow, issues that challenge the well-being of social, economic and environmental systems will continue to emerge. Effectively addressing these emerging issues will require that all interests work together towards common goals and objectives.

The Five Year Action Plan is intended to identify and monitor the efforts of a diverse range of stakeholders as they work toward the goals identified in the Charter for Sustainability and address some of the challenges facing the Basin.

Table of Contents

- Foreword1
- Introduction2
- Region - Upper Fraser4
- Region - Cariboo-Chilcotin6
- Region - Thompson Nicola7
- Region - Greater Vancouver8
Squamish, Pemberton
- Region - Fraser Valley10
- Region - Basin-Wide11



Introduction

Summary of Actions 1998/99

Region - Upper Fraser

- Nechako water management.
- Forest Institute (College of New Caledonia).
- Robson Valley rural residential sewage treatment options (Fraser Ft. George Regional District).
- Fraser Fort George Regional Museum Rivers Programs (Fraser Ft. George Regional Museum).
- Planning process for heavy industry in the Prince George area (Prince George Region Development Corporation).

Region - Cariboo-Chilcotin

- Integration of Charter for Sustainability in Official Community plan (City of Quesnel).
- Development of a Bicycle Network (City of Quesnel).
- Development of a wetland storm water runoff treatment system (100 Mile House).

Region - Thompson

- Shuswap Lake water quality.
- Habitat restoration plans for the Nicola and Coldwater Rivers (Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority).
- South Thompson Liquid Waste Management Plan (Columbia Shuswap Regional District).
- Thompson Nicola Regional Growth Strategy (Thompson Nicola Regional District).

Region - Greater Vancouver

- Flood control/habitat rehabilitation at Vancouver International Airport (Vancouver International Airport Authority).
- Watershed Management Plan for the Brunette Basin (GVRD).
- Annacis and Lulu sewage treatment plants (GVRD).
- Implementation of the Livable Region Strategic Plan (GVRD).
- Implementation of the Estuary Management Plan (Fraser River Estuary Management Program).

Region - Fraser Valley

- Integrated nutrient management plan for the Fraser Valley (Fraser Basin Council).
- Fraser Valley Air Quality Management Plan (Fraser Valley Regional District).

Region - Basin-Wide

- Action Plan for Integrated Flood Hazard Management. (Fraser Basin Council)
- Georgia Basin Ecosystem initiative (Environment Canada/Health Canada).
- Agricultural symposia (Farm Folk/City Folk).
- Flood/erosion damage mitigation plan for reserve lands (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada).
- Regional Environmental Management System (Transport Canada, Pacific Region).
- Resource Management and Land Use Planning (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks - MELP).
- Clean Air Strategy (MELP).
- Fish Protection Act (MELP).
- Community animation (Health Canada/Environment Canada).
- Water Use Planning (MELP).
- Agriculture and the environment initiative (MELP).
- Electronic Communications Network (Sustainable Communities Resource Network).
- Wild Salmon Policy (Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

The Council

The Fraser Basin Council is a not-for-profit non-government organization established in 1997 to ensure the sustainability of the Fraser Basin. The Council articulates this mandate by advancing the vision, principles and goals of the Charter for Sustainability. The development and implementation of an ongoing Five Year Action Plan is a key component of realizing the Council's mandate and mission.

Defining Sustainability

The Fraser Basin Council 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".

The Charter for Sustainability

The Charter aspires to see the Fraser Basin as a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment. The goals that demonstrate how this vision can be realized are outlined in the four directions of the Charter.

- understanding sustainability,
- caring for ecosystems,
- strengthening communities and
- improving decision making.

The Charter is a good faith agreement to work towards the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability of the Fraser Basin. It is not a legally binding document, but rather a guide for all who live, work and play in the Fraser Basin.

Five Year Action Plan

The Charter challenges government and non-government interests by asking the question, "What are you or your organization doing to ensure the sustainability of the Fraser Basin?" By contrast, the rolling Five Year Action Plan provides a mechanism for profiling and tracking the progress of the commitments of a broad range of interests.

The actions in the Five Year Action Plan vary greatly in terms of the issues they address, the region(s) on which they focus and the organizations that sponsor and take responsibility for them.

At the same time all of the actions have much in common. All are efforts to achieve progress towards the goals identified in the Charter for Sustainability. All of the actions are also supported by the Fraser Basin Council. This support may take a number of forms including:

- providing a mechanism for monitoring, reporting and increasing profile;
- working as a partner to facilitate implementation of a specific action; and/or
- providing active leadership in implementing an action (*highlighted in blue in the Summary of Actions*).

Updating the Plan and Tracking Progress

The rolling Five Year Action Plan will be updated annually. Over the course of the year, the Council will look for additional actions that the Council and its partners may wish to incorporate into the Plan. Updating the Plan will assist in acknowledging actions that have been completed and address new issues that may arise. Progress achieved in the actions identified in the Five Year Action Plan will be reported each year as the Plan is updated.

Role of Partnerships

The actions contained in the Five Year Action Plan identify a limited number of government or non-government organizations that will be leading implementation of specific actions. However, the role of partnerships is an essential component of all actions. While a comprehensive list of partners involved in implementation of actions has not been provided, a large and diverse group of government and non-government organizations working together is behind each action in the Plan.

The Council's Annual Report

While the Five Year Action Plan captures many of the activities the Council is undertaking or involved with, a more comprehensive description of the Council's activities, including those that are not included in the Five Year Action Plan, will be outlined in the Council's Annual Report.

Government of Canada input to the Five Year Action Plan

The federal government welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Fraser Basin Council's Action Plan. Whereas the federal caucus (see box) provides a forum to achieve greater coherence across the federal family, the Action Plan lets us pool resources with partners around the Council table in pursuit of collective and common goals. This is particularly important since sustainability issues are often complex, difficult to manage, and beyond the mandate or jurisdiction of any one authority.

To ensure the federal government is successful in delivering its share of the Council's Action Plan, work will proceed under four principles:

- 1. sound science and solid evidence** to bring knowledge for sustainability to communities and decision makers;
- 2. enhanced partnerships** with agencies, industries, communities, and individuals;
- 3. cohesiveness** across the federal government; and
- 4. delivery** of environmentally, socially, and economically relevant results by partners and ourselves.

The federal actions flow from and are consistent with the Charter for Sustainability's Fraser Basin Vision as "a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment".

Fraser Basin Council Directors

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Federal Directors on the Fraser Basin Council are supported by a caucus consisting of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Heritage, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Transport Canada, and Western Economic Diversification.



**UNDERSTANDING
SUSTAINABILITY**



**CARING FOR
ECOSYSTEMS**

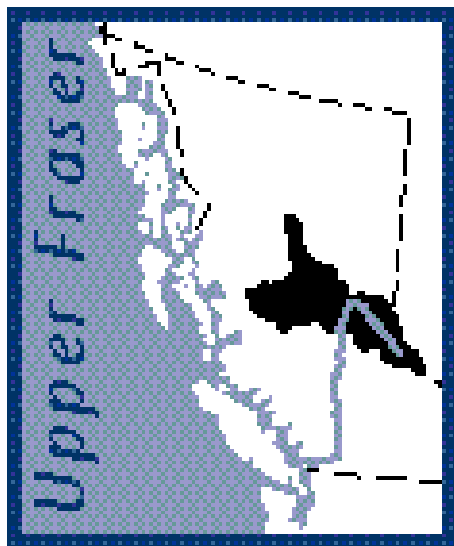


**STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITIES**



**IMPROVING
DECISION MAKING**

Region: Upper Fraser



GOAL

MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY, SUPPORT MAINTENANCE OF ECOSYSTEMS AND PROVIDE CERTAINTY OF ACCESS FOR ALL USERS.

GOAL

FOREST LANDS FOR ECONOMIC, RECREATIONAL AND AESTHETIC USE ARE MANAGED TO RESPECT ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.

ACTION Working in partnership with all interests, the Fraser Basin Council will facilitate the preparation of a water management plan for the Nechako River by 2003.

Background

In the late 1940's, the Province of BC granted the Aluminum Company of Canada the rights to use the Nechako River for hydroelectric generation to power the company's new smelter in Kitimat. Over the last 25 years, these rights have been challenged, discussed and revised through court cases, grass-roots activism and private negotiations. However, many outstanding issues remain. Since 1996, the Fraser Basin Council and its predecessor, the Fraser Basin Management Board, have worked to bring together a range of interests to examine and work towards resolving outstanding water management issues.

Tasks

Tasks	Timelines
• Assist in establishing the Nechako Watershed Council.	1998
• Work with participants to develop recommendations to the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund Management Committee.	1998 - 1999
• Develop and implement a water management planning process.	1998 - 1999
• Facilitate the preparation of a water management plan.	2000
• Communicate and involve the general public.	1998 - 2000
• Work with government agencies and organizations to implement a water management plan and other recommendations.	2001-2003

ACTION The College of New Caledonia, in cooperation with interested parties, will establish a regionally based Forest Institute in 1998. The Institute's mandate is to work toward realizing the full potential of the forest industry in north central British Columbia by addressing key issues facing the sector.

Background

North Central British Columbia is an important part of the provincial economy, producing 35% of BC's softwood lumber. The industry is undergoing profound change, which creates both challenges and opportunities for the region. Greater resources being focused on issues such as technology, increased fibre utilization, product diversification and workforce training would benefit both the industry and the region.

Tasks

Tasks	Timeline
• Create the Forest Institute and recruit Board members.	1998
• Prepare a business plan describing functions, organization and initial projects.	1998
• Conduct projects (problem identification, research, solutions) leading to strategies for implementation by appropriate agencies.	1998/99
• Establish an endowment fund and seek contributions.	1999/2000

ACTION The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will investigate the need for and implement acceptable sewage disposal methods in the Robson Valley by 2000.

Background

There is an apparent lack of disposal options for rural residential sewage from septic tanks, holding tanks and/or malfunctioning lagoons in the Robson Valley. Further, the municipal systems in both McBride and Valemount are operating at or close to maximum capacity. The full extent of the disposal problem is unknown.

Tasks

Tasks	Timeline
• Conduct an initial analysis to determine the extent of the problem.	1998
• Based on the above results, investigate options for sewage disposal for both on-site and municipal systems, taking into account regulatory requirements and rural needs.	1998
• Analyze the options for costs and technical feasibility.	1999
• Select and implement the best options	2000

ACTION The Fraser Fort George Regional Museum will develop programming for and interpretation of the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako rivers, focusing on environmental and social integration. As part of its proposed expansion, the Museum will adopt the Fraser River as a unifying theme in its medium- and long-range research program, public programs and exhibit planning by 2002.

Background

Opened in 1981, the Fraser Fort George Regional Museum is an important venue for exhibits and programs that raise awareness of interconnected social and environmental themes relevant to both aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities. A recently completed Master Planning Study proposes to utilize the rivers as a way to interpret the region's landscape both past and present. The Museum, in partnership with Lheidli T'enneh Nation and the McGregor Model Forest Association, also proposes to use the Fraser River theme to tell the story of community development, forestry, First Nations culture and sustainable resource management in the region.

Tasks	Timelines
• To develop, in consultation with the Fraser River Discovery Centre, interactive exhibits to facilitate an understanding of sustainability and physical environment as they relate to history, location and First Nations.	2002
• Develop an interpretive facility and programming focused on the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers adjacent to the Museum.	2002
• Develop exhibits and programs for touring visitors and educational modules to be delivered by Museum staff for children and adults.	2002
• Develop an interpretive program about the rivers that links contemporary and historic aspects of the Forest, Inhabitable Land and Mountain exhibit themes and includes a strong component from First Nations perspective.	2002

ACTION The Prince George Region Development Corporation will coordinate a process to identify areas suitable for future development of heavy industry in the Prince George area. The areas will be considered for community plan designation by the City of Prince George and/or the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George by 2000.

Background

In 1995-96, a proposal to build a medium density fibreboard plant in an existing heavy industrial area of Prince George heightened the awareness of regional air quality problems. The proposal also raised the broader question of where future heavy industry should be located to minimize impacts on the environment, particularly those affecting air and water quality.

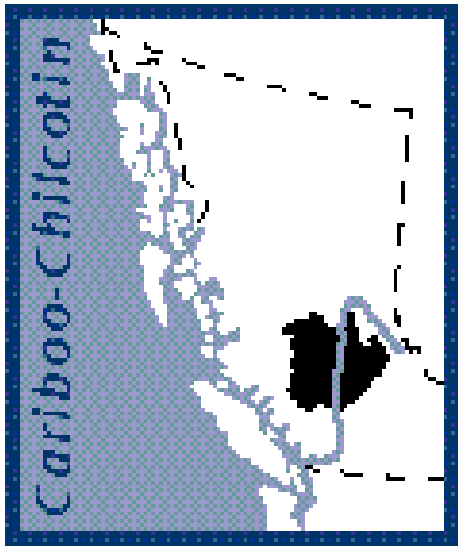
Tasks	Timelines
• Conduct an inventory of presently zoned industrial land and potential lands for industrial use in the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.	1998
• Examine various location factors and establish parameters for appropriate sites.	1998
• Examine the market issues for industrial land, external and local.	1998
• Identify potential sites for future industrial development.	1999
• Examine the feasibility of developing the potential sites.	1999
• Explore issues around costs and revenue sharing, and possible administrative arrangements.	1999
• Select the best site(s) for designation in Official Community Plans and zoning bylaws.	2000

GOAL

LIFE-LONG LEARNING THAT ENABLES RESIDENTS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS

GOAL

PARTICIPATION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING TO ENSURE THAT DECISIONS RESPECT THEIR CULTURES AND RIGHTS.



GOAL
**ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP
 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE
 LIFESTYLES**

GOAL
**A DIVERSE ECONOMY TO
 PROVIDE JOBS IN ALL
 COMMUNITIES WHILE
 PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTAL
 AND SOCIAL VALUES.**

ACTION The City of Quesnel will consider adopting the principles of the Charter for Sustainability into its revised Official Community Plan (OCP) by the year 1998 and look for opportunities to develop supporting planning materials by the year 2000.

Background

Official Community Plans provide a reference point and direction for how local governments will address social, economic and environmental issues influencing the well-being of communities. Adoption of the principles of the Charter for Sustainability into an OCP gives formal recognition to sustainability and the links between social, economic and environmental issues.

Task

Timeline

- Adopt Charter as a key component of the City's planning and decision-making process.

1998

ACTION The City of Quesnel will develop a Bicycle Network within the city by 2003.

Background

Encouraging bicycling throughout the city can relieve traffic congestion, decrease traffic pollutants and encourage healthier lifestyles. Eight routes have been proposed that would link key business, traffic corridors and recreation areas. Cooperation and cost sharing will be needed and project support has been expressed by the Ministry of Highways, the forest sector and the city.

Tasks

Timelines

Planning Committee for the Official Community Plan to review network.

1998

To construct the North Quesnel to Brownmiller Road path (1.9 km) as a first phase and to seek shared funding to;

- complete two routes (2.2+ km).
- complete three routes (4.4 km).
- complete last route (2.7+ km).

1999

2002

2003

ACTION The District of 100 Mile House will develop a wetland treatment system that will capture and cleanse storm water runoff entering Bridge Creek by 2003.

Background

Bridge Creek is an important source of domestic water supply and supports local fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed treatment system would use existing marsh and lagoons as key components to the system and gravel filtration and vegetation as the prime treatment methods. By proactively treating storm water, the quality of water in Bridge Creek and ultimately the Fraser River could be enhanced at minimal maintenance cost.

Tasks

Timelines

- Preparation of a workplan for developing a wetland treatment system for storm water runoff entering the Bridge Creek System.

1999/2000

- Implementation of a workplan for developing a wetland treatment system.

2002/2003



Region: Thompson Nicola

ACTION The Fraser Basin Council will examine the issue of deteriorating water quality in Shuswap Lake and assess the degree of community support to resolve the issue by 1999. If necessary, the Council will facilitate the development of a community watershed snap shot and a multi-stakeholder process to resolve the issue.

Background

As the population and intensity of activity in the Shuswap Lake area increases a number of interests have raised concerns regarding the quality of water in Shuswap Lake. The lake provides important fish habitat as well as drinking water for local residents.

Tasks	Timelines
• Identify sources of pollution (point and non-point sources).	2000
• Define measures to eliminate or manage the discharge of these pollutants.	2001
• Identify roles and responsibilities to implement these measures.	2002
• Publish an action plan with an implementation plan including associated budgets.	2003
• Initiate implementation of plan.	2003

ACTION The Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority will develop habitat restoration plans for the Nicola and Coldwater Rivers by 2000.

Background

Both the Nicola River and the Coldwater River are key salmon streams in BC's Southern Interior. They provide spawning areas for Chinook and Coho salmon as well as steelhead trout. Human activities have caused changes to water quality and temperature and have led to a 35% decrease in habitat along the rivers.

Tasks	Timelines
• Identification of areas for habitat restoration.	November 1998
• Development of habitat restoration plans.	March 2000

ACTION The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) will undertake the development of a Liquid Waste Management Plan by 2000 for the South Shuswap to address water quality concerns in the Blind Bay and Sorrento settlement areas. The Plan will consider septic tank and field maintenance issues where appropriate and include a public education component.

Background

The south shore of Shuswap Lake has become a destination point for summer tourists and retirement villages. It is expected the population will double by the year 2005. Much of the infrastructure needed to ensure the lake is protected is not in place but building continues. The Provincial Ministry of Health has issued warnings on swimming and drinking water in Blind Bay.

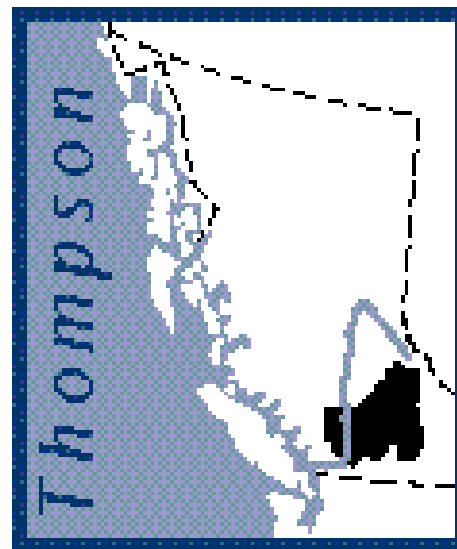
Task	Timeline
• Development of Liquid Waste Management Plan.	2000

ACTION The Thompson Nicola Regional District will develop and lead the implementation of its Regional Growth Strategy by 2000.

Background

Residents of the Thompson Nicola region enjoy a high quality of life. Maintaining this quality of life has been achieved through a number of efforts undertaken by the regional district. A regional growth strategy will be another important tool for enhancing and maintaining the area's quality of life in the face of changing development pressures.

Tasks	Timelines
• Analysis of Growth Potentials.	April/May 1997
• Consultation on growth scenarios and issues.	May 1997/February 1998
• Select Growth Strategy scenarios and strategies.	February 1998/May 1998
• Consultation on Draft Regional Growth Strategy.	June/October 1998
• Present final plan to Board for approval.	1999
• Begin implementation of plan.	2000



GOAL

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE LOCAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

GOAL

GROWTH MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT CLEAN AIR AND WATER, PROVIDE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CONSERVE FARMLAND, WILDERNESS AND UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS.



GOAL

DIVERSITY AND ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL SPECIES AND HABITATS IN THE BASIN.

GOAL

COLLECTIVE AND COOPERATIVE DECISION MAKING THAT PROMOTES THE USE OF PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY.

ACTION The Vancouver International Airport Authority will test three different approaches to erosion control protecting foreshore habitat on the Fraser River adjacent to the Vancouver International Airport by 2003.

Background

The Vancouver International Airport is located on Sea Island in the estuary of the Fraser. The area is vulnerable to flooding, but also provides fisheries habitat. Because the development of infrastructure to minimize flood hazard can disturb fisheries habitat, the Airport Authority is looking for ways to address environmental concerns associated with flood control infrastructure in a cost-effective manner.

Tasks

- Begin development of physical works and vegetative planting.
- Assessment and annual reporting on the approaches undertaken in this project and their relative success in terms of flood protection and habitat restoration of the foreshore.

Timelines

Spring 1998

1998-2003

ACTION The Greater Vancouver Regional District in partnership with municipal, federal and provincial government agencies and non-government stakeholders will develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Brunette Basin by 1999.

Background

The Brunette watershed includes parts of several municipalities in the Greater Vancouver Region. The water system includes Still Creek, Burnaby Lake, Deer Lake, the Brunette River and their tributaries. The watershed is highly urbanized and its aquatic ecosystem is challenged by a variety of non-point sources of contamination as well as land development. The action represents a multi-stakeholder, watershed-based approach to planning that will provide a model for other areas.

Tasks

- Initiation of the Still Creek-Brunette Basin Work Group.
- Still Creek-Brunette Basin Issues and Proposed Actions Draft Report completed.
- Brunette Basin Task Group established to build on the Issues and Proposed Actions Draft Report.
- Completion of first phase of plan expected.
- Expected completion of Watershed Management Plan.

Timelines

1996

1996

1997

May, 1998

December, 1999

ACTION The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) will remove most of the pollutant loadings into the Fraser River from its Annacis and Lulu sewage treatment plants by 1999.

Background

The GVRD is upgrading its Lulu Island and Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plants to secondary treatment at an estimated cost of \$650 million. Secondary treatment is already operational at Annacis and one-third to one-half of the flow is already receiving treatment to secondary levels. The program is being funded jointly by the GVRD and the federal and provincial governments. The projects are currently on time and under budget.

Task

- Both plants will be fully operational for secondary treatment.

Timeline

December, 1998

ACTION The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) will implement its Livable Region Strategic Plan (LRSP), the regional growth strategy for the Greater Vancouver Regional District by 2000.

Background

Greater Vancouver's population increased by 33% between 1986 and 1996 and is forecasted to continue to the year 2021 and beyond. The challenges of managing this growth while protecting Greater Vancouver's critical resources and enhancing the region's livability are addressed through the Livable Region Strategic Plan.

The LRSP is the result of a four year consultation process involving the public and various levels of government and was approved by the GVRD Board in January 1996 with the support of all twenty member municipalities. It was deemed a regional growth strategy by the Minister of Municipal Affairs in February 1996.

The LRSP has four main strategies: Protecting the Green Zone, Building Complete Communities, Achieving a Compact Metropolitan Region and Increasing Transportation Choices. The LRSP also has an underlying objective of providing effective public services at the lowest possible public cost.

Implementation priorities and tasks (1998/99) are as follows.

Tasks	Timelines
Regional Context Statements	
Each of the GVRD's twenty member municipalities is required, under the Municipal Act, to include a Regional Context Statement in its Official Community Plan (OCP) that illustrates how the OCP supports the LRSP. Regional Context Statements provide a key link between community planning and servicing by local governments and the regional growth strategy.	
• Board acceptance of all 20 proposed Regional Context Statements.	1998
• Summary analysis of Regional Context Statements implications for LRSP and identification of key issues.	1998
Transportation Governance and Finance	
The establishment of a Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA) will bring authority and responsibility for addressing regional transportation needs under regional control. This will clarify the relationships between land use decision-making and transportation and facilitate integrated transportation decision-making between a diverse range of regional interests.	
• Provincial legislation to establish GVTA	1998
• Prepare transition strategy for GVTA.	1998
• Establish GVTA.	1999
• Prepare corporate plan (operating and capital)	1999
• Begin construction of Broadway-Coquitlam LRT	1999
Monitoring Program for LRSP	
The Municipal Act requires that a monitoring program be established for a regional growth strategy and annual reporting be carried out. Monitoring allows assessment of progress towards the goals of the LRSP and implementation of specific actions. It facilitates the identification of emerging issues and provides a mechanism for a 5 year review and update of the LRSP.	
• Finalize monitoring program	1998
• Second annual monitoring report	1998

ACTION The Fraser River Estuary Management Program will undertake activities by 1999 in order to implement its Estuary Management Plan.

Background

The Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) was created in 1985 in response to public concern about the negative effects of human activities on the natural features of the estuary. FREMP partners include; Environment Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the Fraser River Harbour Commission, the North Fraser Harbour Commission and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

The Estuary Management Plan (EMP), completed in 1994 through a consensus process, identifies actions to protect the Estuary's environment and ensure best economic and social use of an increasingly valued resource. The Actions in the Plan fall under two main themes; (1) Improving Environmental Quality and (2) Coordinating and Managing Human Activities. Since 1994, priority actions have included; reporting on environmental quality, the establishment of Wildlife Management Areas and the Area Designation Process. FREMP is now in the process of revisiting the Plan and identifying priority actions to be carried out in the next few years.

Tasks	Timelines
• Through discussion with stakeholders, FREMP will identify priority actions to be undertaken in the next phase of implementation of the EMP.	Spring 1998
• Begin implementation of priority actions identified by stakeholders.	Fall 1998
• Report on annual progress achieved in the implementation of priority actions and identify additional priority actions as they emerge.	Beginning 1999

GOAL

TRANSPORTATION TO ENABLE THE EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING TO POLLUTION.

GOAL

INCLUSIVE DECISION MAKING TO INCORPORATE INPUT FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.



ACTION The Fraser Basin Council will facilitate the development of an integrated nutrient management plan in the Fraser Valley by 1999.

Background

In the Lower Fraser Valley there are public health concerns about groundwater and air quality, fisheries concerns related to surface water and habitat quality, and livestock concerns related to soil quality. A recent study undertaken by federal and provincial agencies has identified areas in the Lower Fraser Valley where the management of agricultural wastes may play a significant role in each of these concerns. These studies provide a basis for working toward more sustainable management of agricultural wastes.

Tasks

- Distribution of nutrient management study reports.
- Plan development process.
- Completion of plan.

Timelines

January, 1998
June - December 1998
1999

ACTION The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) will undertake the implementation of its Air Quality Management Plan to develop a regional air quality management program by 2000 to improve air quality or prevent further deterioration without limiting growth.

Background

The FVRD is responding to residents' concerns about the quality of air in the Fraser Valley and its impact on their health. With a high rate of growth, the FVRD is seeking to take a more responsible and authoritative role with respect to air quality in its region through Letters Patent from the provincial government. The District will be working with several agencies to achieve an effective and efficient approach to air quality.

Tasks

- Implementation Plan.
- Application for Letters Patent.

Timelines

December, 1998
1999

GOAL

OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, CONNECT US WITH NATURAL SYSTEMS AND MINIMIZE OUR IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

State of the Basin Conference

A healthy salmon producing river depends on a free one-way flow of water rich in nourishment. A healthy organization depends on a free two-way flow of information rich in fact, observation, opinion, questions and answers.

One of the first opportunities for Basin residents to provide their response to the Council on the content of this Action Plan will occur at the Council's first biennial State of the Basin Conference scheduled for November. The conference will take place at the Richmond Inn in Richmond, BC. on November 20 - 21, 1998. It will focus on the four directions of sustainability outlined in the Council's Charter for Sustainability and on participant's suggestions for future actions the Council or its partners should take to move the Fraser Basin further towards sustainability.

The Conference goals include reporting progress, raising public awareness, demonstrating actions being undertaken, enhancing, building and demonstrating partnerships and establishing benchmarks and sustainability indicators. In order to secure these goals, we need your input, analysis, and advice; particularly with regard to the next Five Year Action Plan. The State-of-the-Basin Conference is focused on a blend of thoughtful comment from keynote speakers, respondents and participants.

Please register early to confirm your commitment to the sustainability of the Fraser Basin.

Region: Basin Wide

ACTION The Fraser Basin Council will facilitate the development of an action plan to respond to a number of recommended actions identified in the draft Integrated Flood Hazard Management Strategy by 2000.

Background

Scientists believe that there is a one-in-three chance that the Fraser River will experience a flood of 1894 proportions within the next 60 years. The draft strategy, established in 1996, is intended to help communities prepare for this eventuality and address multiple use conflicts involving flood protection works, dyke maintenance, public safety, land use planning and environmental protection. Although the main geographic focus for the work will be the Lower Fraser Region, flood hazard issues in other regions of the Basin will be considered (i.e., Kamloops and the Sea to Sky Corridor, Prince George and Quesnel).

Tasks

Timelines

- | | |
|--|------|
| • Joint Program Committee established. | 1998 |
| • Action Plan developed. | 1999 |
| • Implementation underway. | 2000 |

ACTION Environment Canada and Health Canada, together with several other key partners, will complete a major ecosystem initiative designed to improve the health of ecosystems in the Georgia Basin (including the Lower Fraser Valley) by 2003.

Background

The Lower Fraser/Georgia Basin ecosystem faces a number of environmental and human health issues related to its growing human population including deteriorating air and water quality, toxic contaminants entering the environment, and loss of wildlife habitat. Effectively addressing these issues will demand a coordinated and cooperative approach between a diverse range of government and non-government interests with a common focus on managing growth to achieve healthy, productive and sustainable ecosystems and communities.

Tasks

Timelines

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Implement a health effects plan dealing with air toxicity, water quality and quality of life. | 1999 |
| • Contribute to development and implementation of a Fraser Valley Air Quality Management Plan that will ensure the consistent achievement of ambient air quality objectives and improved visibility in the Valley. | 2000/2001 |
| • Reduce non-point source pollution and levels of contaminants of concern (e.g. endocrine disrupters and agricultural pesticides), and identify emerging toxic chemicals. | 2003 |
| • Secure wildlife habitat averaging 32 hectares per year for five years beginning under the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program. | 1998/2003 |

ACTION Farm Folk/City Folk, in conjunction with the agricultural community, will stage three symposia to explore challenges facing agriculture and bring forward recommendations for change to all orders of government as well as non-government organizations by 2001.

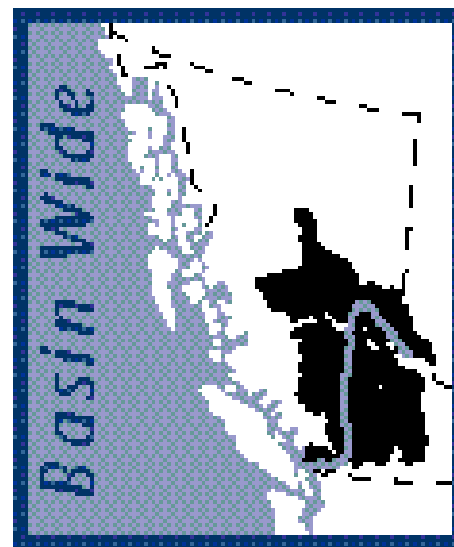
Background

Ensuring that agriculture can continue to contribute to the well-being of communities requires both good public policy and an improved atmosphere of commitment and communication between and within agricultural and non-agricultural communities. The series of agricultural symposia is intended to contribute to achieving this goal.

Task

Timeline

- | | |
|---|------|
| Organization and implementation of three symposia.
Potential symposium topics include; | 2000 |
| • Developing an agri-food policy for British Columbia. | |
| • Water and agriculture | |
| • International trade agreements | |
| • The use of genetically modified organisms in agriculture | |



GOAL

TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE DECISION MAKING TO ALLOW RESIDENTS EASY ACCESS TO ALL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AND ENSURE THAT DECISIONS, ONCE MADE, ARE FOLLOWED UP BY ACTIONS.

GOAL

ADOPTION OF COMMON BOUNDARIES BASED ON NATURAL WATERSHED BOUNDARIES.

GOAL

LOCAL DECISION MAKING TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO BE INVOLVED IN MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM DIRECTLY.

GOAL

SHARING IDEAS TO HELP OTHERS CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABILITY.

GOAL

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO PRESERVE THEIR CULTURE, DEVELOP STRONG ECONOMIES AND INTERRELATE WITH NON-ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES.

GOAL

DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT FISH STOCKS, SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY HABITAT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL USERS.

ACTION Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will develop a flood/erosion damage mitigation plan for reserve lands in the Fraser Basin by 2001.

Background

Many First Nations communities, like their neighbours, are located on floodplains. Current information suggests some are at risk from flooding and/or erosion. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has begun work to gather information on the extent of the risks, mitigation options available and associated costs.

Tasks

- Information gathering, data collection and analysis - survey of 88 First Nations bands in the Basin to determine the need and interest for flood or erosion mitigation work.
- Development of a mitigation plan including a prioritized list of Band territories requiring mitigation work

Timelines

1999

2000

ACTION Transport Canada will develop and implement a Pacific Region departmental Environmental Management System by 2003.

Background

An environmental management system is an organizational framework, continually monitored and periodically reviewed, that formalizes and provides direction for an organization's environmental activities. Federal departments are developing environmental management systems in conjunction with their Sustainable Development Strategies. The Transport Canada system is one example.

Tasks

- Complete environmental management plan.
- Reduction of environmental impacts arising from Transport Canada operations and regional contributions to national Transport Canada goals of:
 - 5% water and energy use reduction;
 - 10% reduction in hazardous and non-hazardous waste; and
 - management of contaminated land.
- Identification of new/emerging environmental management issues.

1998

2000

2000

2003

1998/2003

ACTION The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks will promote a long-term and integrated view of resource management and land use planning in the Fraser Basin. Strategic planning will be completed for all areas within the Basin by 2003.

Background

The Ministry recognizes the need for certainty and stability in land use planning. The process of developing Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) is inclusive and aimed at protecting important natural areas, while at the same time providing greater security for workers, communities and industries. LRMPs are developed without prejudice to aboriginal rights and treaty negotiations and for the basis of the provincial government's position during treaty negotiations with First Nations. The LRMP process contributes to the completion of the Protected Areas Strategy by identifying important natural areas that are deserving or in need of protection. Other tools for promoting sustainable land use planning include implementation of the *Forest Practices Code* and development of a policy for Commercial Backcountry Recreation.

Tasks

- Coordinate and participate in implementation of the Robson Valley LRMP and the Prince George LRMP.
- Coordinate and participate in development and implementation of the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP and the Lillooet LRMP.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests to finalize biodiversity emphasis options for landscape units in the Prince George, Cariboo, Kamloops and portions of the Vancouver Forest Regions.
- Undertake planning with the Ministry of Forests to establish basic biodiversity objectives under the *Forest Practices Code* in the Prince George, Cariboo, Kamloops and portions of the Vancouver Forest Regions.

Timelines

1998

1999

2000

1998/1999

2001

ACTION The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks will develop and begin implementation of a clean air strategy for British Columbia by 2000. The strategy will address priority issues such as fine particulates, clean transportation and motor vehicles, greenhouse gases, ozone depleting substances and airshed planning.

Background

Declining air quality and the emergence of complex international issues such as ozone depletion and global climate change continue to make air issues a priority for the Ministry. While a great deal of attention and effort is directed towards the air quality issues associated with the Great Vancouver Region and Lower Fraser Valley, there are important local air quality issues throughout the Fraser Basin. Addressing local and regional air quality issues also contributes to the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Tasks	Timelines
• Launch the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Trading Pilot in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Regional District and other governments and stakeholders.	1998
• Participate in the implementation of the Prince George airshed management plan.	1998
• Require the preparation of an airshed management plan for the Quesnel area.	1999

ACTION The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, in partnership with other provincial ministries, federal agencies, local governments and other stakeholders, will lead the implementation of the Fish Protection Act and complete initial tasks by 2003.

Background

The Province of BC passed the Fish Protection Act during the 1997 legislative session. The Act prohibits the development of new dams on the Fraser River and other provincially significant rivers. In addition, it enables the provincial government to ensure adequate water is allocated to conserve fish stocks and to better protect and restore fish habitat. The Fish Protection Act also provides new authorities for local governments and other stakeholders to take a more prominent role in the protection of fish habitat and water quality. Full implementation of the legislation requires a number of regulations to be developed in consultation with Fraser Basin partners and First Nations.

Tasks	Timelines
The Fish Protection Act applies across the province but has significant implications in the Fraser Basin. Initial tasks to be undertaken by the Ministry include:	2003
• Identifying and designating sensitive streams.	2003
• Developing fish recovery plans for designate sensitive streams.	2003
• Identifying candidate watersheds for the development of fish recovery plans and integrated Watershed Management Plans under the Fish Protection Act.	2003
• Integrating streamside directives into regional growth strategies and Official Community Plans.	2003
• Identifying pilot projects for implementation of streamside directives, and work with participating local governments or communities to develop effectiveness measures.	2003

ACTION Health Canada and Environment Canada will bring community animation to Fraser Basin communities, including Squamish in the immediate future, by the year 2000.

Background

Community animation is a process that focuses on assisting individuals and communities to increase their capacity to identify and address issues relating to human health and the environment that may be affecting them. Some of the outcomes of community animation include: a community level base of knowledge of human health and environment issues, the ability to identify common goals and to access the resources necessary to achieve those goals as well as the ability to build and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships.

Tasks	Timelines
Develop community-based action plans addressing sustainability and community health.	2000/2001

GOAL

ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEEDS.

GOAL

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO MEET THEIR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS.

GOAL

DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT FISH STOCKS, SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY HABITAT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL USERS.

GOAL
**LIFESTYLE CHOICES THAT
 CONSIDER AND ENHANCE
 BASIN SUSTAINABILITY.**

ACTION The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in consultation with other provincial ministries and crown corporations, federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders will oversee the development of Water Use Plans for hydroelectric facilities in the Fraser Basin by 2002.

Background

The operation of hydroelectric developments can have significant impacts on a range of values including fisheries and recreation as well as other environmental and social values. Water use planning provides a mechanism for achieving a better balance between competing needs and values such as fisheries, power, recreation, aquatic habitat and aesthetics.

The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks will oversee the development of water use plans, review draft plans and sign off on completed plans. The process of developing water use plans for BC Hydro facilities is being led by BC Hydro and will involve a broad range of stakeholders including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, First Nations and other interests.

Tasks

Timelines

Water Use Plans will be developed at hydroelectric facilities throughout the province including those in the Fraser Basin.

The Ministry will:

- Develop and release Water Use Planning Guidelines. 1998
- Review the Water Use Plan for the Alouette River to ensure consistency with the Guidelines before entering the approval stage. 1998
- Oversee the development of Water Use Plans for the Coquitlam/Buntzen, Cheakamus, Bridge/Seton Wahleach, Stave Falls and Shuswap hydroelectric generating facilities. 2001

ACTION The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the BC Agriculture Council, will work together to find solutions which serve the interests of agriculture and the environment, and which recognize and support the vital contributions the agriculture industry makes to the province of British Columbia by 1999.

Background

In April 1998, the BC government and the BC Agriculture Council signed an action plan that establishes a single-window approach for consultation on environmental issues that affect farmers and agriculture. The 10-point action plan will consolidate current consultations and establish a new process and timetable to deal with environmental issues. The goal is to create effective, supportable approaches to protecting the environment that will also sustain a viable agricultural industry. Objectives include streamlining referrals and licensing processes while protecting and enhancing fish habitat and the environment.

Tasks

Timelines

The action plan applies across the province, but has significant implications in the Fraser Basin where the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks will:

- Work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the farming community and other partners to develop and implement an agricultural Memorandum of Understanding to resolve environmental issues associated with farming practices and promote sustainable agriculture in BC. 1998
- Develop and implement guidelines on ditch maintenance to balance farmers needs for irrigation and drainage with the need to maintain fish habitat. 1999
- Evaluate the success of the Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management by monitoring water quality in Clayburn Creek, near Abbotsford. 1998/1999
- Report to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Minister of Agriculture and Food on progress towards resolving environmental issues associated with the agricultural sector. 1998

GOAL
**AIR QUALITY TO ALLOW
 FOR VIBRANT AND
 HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS.**

GOAL
**DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT
 FISH STOCKS, SUPPORTED
 BY HEALTHY HABITAT TO
 PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS
 OF ALL USERS.**

ACTION The Sustainable Communities Resource Network (SCRNet) will create an electronic communications network among community based initiatives throughout the Fraser Basin by 1998.

Background

Community-based, non-government organizations play an important role in undertaking activities (i.e., on-the-ground projects, participants in decision-making processes) that support sustainable communities and the number of such organizations is growing. Because community-based NGOs often operate with limited resources effective communication between one another is essential to enhancing the capacity of such groups. An electronic communications network provides a cost-effective means for individuals and communities to share information and ideas and contribute to the resources within community-based NGOs.

Tasks	Timelines
• Identify SCRNet partners and develop budget and funding proposals.	1998
• Design partner web pages and SCRNet site.	1998/99
• Promote SCRNet and develop broader base of participating partners.	1999

ACTION Fisheries and Oceans Canada will cooperatively develop a wild salmon policy including full First Nations, community and stakeholder consultation by 2000.

Background

The Fraser is the world's largest sockeye river, as well as being a major producer of pink, chum, chinook, coho, and steelhead. The Fraser faces enormous pressures due to urban, commercial and industrial growth.

The development of a wild salmon policy will establish a long-term ecosystem based approach towards managing wild salmon. The development process will provide an opportunity for improving shared awareness and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing wild salmon. It is envisioned that the policy would address a broad range of issues such as ocean survival, harvest management, as well as habitat protection, enhancement and restoration.

Tasks	Timelines
• Consult with communities and other interests. Consultation will focus on defining the key elements of a wild salmon policy and examining the capacity and capability of all interests, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada, for building and implementing the policy.	1998/1999
• Develop and implement the Plan.	2000
• Reporting on implementation.	2003



GOAL

AN ENERGY SYSTEM TO PROVIDE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS, REDUCE OUR RELIANCE ON NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF ECOSYSTEMS.

GOAL

MINING ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY OF THE BASIN'S COMMUNITIES AND THE BASIN'S ECOSYSTEMS.

GOAL

DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT FISH STOCKS, SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY HABITAT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL USERS.

We welcome your input!

Sustainability is all about group effort and mutual support. The Council has Regional Coordinators in each of the Basin's five regions to help keep open a free flow of information about opportunities to improve the Basin's quality of life. They're there to talk to when you have an idea or question of interest to the Council. They can also help you get involved in projects related to sustainability in your area, or in helping the Council's efforts to become self-sustaining. Please contact the Fraser Basin Council office at:

- Upper Fraser (250) 960-5827
- Cariboo Chilcotin (250) 392-1400
- Thompson (250) 314-9660
- Fraser Valley (604) 795-2818
- Greater Vancouver, Squamish and Pemberton (604) 605-3456

Fraser Basin Council

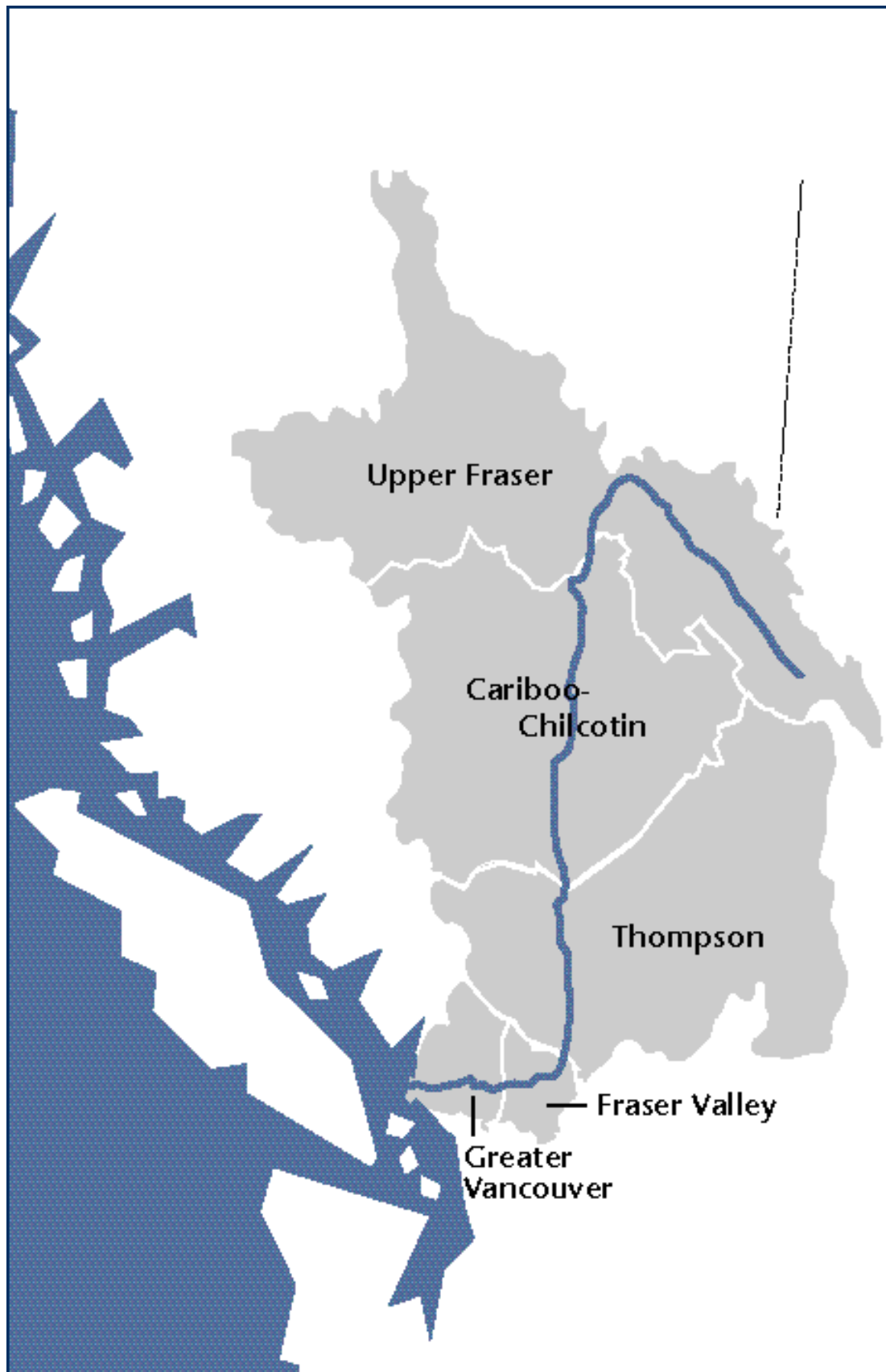
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The Fraser Basin, the area drained by the Fraser River and its tributaries, accounts for more than 1/4 of all the land in BC, 2/3 of the population and 4/5 of the gross provincial product. So it's easy to see that a healthy Fraser Basin is key to a healthy BC. The Basin is also essential to Canada's economy, contributing 10% of the country's gross national product.



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