



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2022–2023

Paths Forward in Partnership

INSIDE

About FBC	2
Climate Change	4
Watersheds and Water Resources	8
Sustainable Communities and Regions	14
Board of Directors	18
Contact Us	20

OUR VISION

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



Fraser Basin Council



About the Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable non-profit organization that works to advance sustainability solutions and practices in British Columbia.

Established in 1997, FBC is a collaboration of the four orders of government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations), along with individuals from the private sector and civil society.

For over 26 years, we have travelled many paths with many partners. We have facilitated multi-interest processes and rolled out initiatives that focus on climate change, watersheds and water resources, and community sustainability. We support BC's leaders in government, community organizations and business as they work together to understand and tackle sustainability challenges and to explore collaborative solutions and opportunities.

Our Roles

FBC serves in three key roles:

- **Facilitator and Strategic Convener**
- **Educator**
- **Program Manager**

Our Strategic Priorities

FBC has three strategic priorities to frame our programs and services. We work with others to:

- **Take Action on Climate Change**
- **Support Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources**
- **Build Sustainable and Resilient Communities**

The 2022-2023 annual highlights reflect the power of people working in partnerships and finding paths forward together to tackle the many challenges in these areas.

The Fraser Basin Council places value on being a reliable, nimble and resilient organization. From the earliest days, we have served communities of the Fraser Basin and subsequently other parts of BC as well. We value our people, the communities we serve and the quality of our programs. In this spirit, the Board and management began a process in 2023 to review FBC's program delivery to ensure we remain well-positioned to fulfil our BC-wide mandate both now and in the future.

Principles to Guide the Work

There are nine principles important to the work, reflected in our 2021-2026 strategic plan:

Take a long-term stewardship view

Foster equity and prosperity for all British Columbians

Redefine prosperity

Recognize our dependence on a healthy environment

Acknowledge that natural resources contribute to social well-being and economic prosperity

Advance reconciliation in collaboration with Indigenous Nations and Peoples to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Respect local solutions for local needs

Implement informed and integrated decision-making

Take bold and decisive action

Photo: Some of the FBC Directors and staff on a learning tour in Kamloops ahead of the June 2023 Board meeting.



Governance

The Fraser Basin Council board has 38 Directors from the four orders of Canadian government, together with other individuals from the private sector and from communities throughout British Columbia.

Board of Directors

There are 22 Directors on the FBC board from government:

- **three from the federal government**
- **three from the provincial government**
- **one from each of the eight regional districts:**
 - Metro Vancouver
 - Squamish-Lillooet
 - Fraser Valley
 - Bulkley-Nechako
 - Thompson-Nicola
 - Columbia Shuswap
 - Cariboo
 - Fraser-Fort George
- **one from each of these Basin's eight major First Nations language groups:**
 - Halq'eméylem
 - Hul'q'umi'num'
 - Secwepemctsin
 - St'át'imcets
 - Nlaka'pamux
 - Nsyilxcen
 - Tsilhqot'in
 - Carrier (Dakelh)

The remaining 16 Directors are non-governmental appointees:

- **10 from non-government interests from throughout BC representing diverse perspectives**
- **three province-wide Directors to reflect the three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic and environmental)**
- **a Director from among youth**
- **a Director with experience in the finance sector**
- **a Chairperson**

Committees

There are the four standing committees of the Board:

- **Operations**
- **Finance**
- **Governance**
- **Sustainability**

Three other committees focus on FBC's three strategic program areas while regional committees help guide local and regional initiatives. A Youth Advisory Committee, together with a Youth Director, help bring youth voices to the work of FBC – of critical importance for the future.

Staff

Most staff work from FBC's five regional offices — in Vancouver (Greater Vancouver-Sea to Sky), Abbotsford (Fraser Valley), Kamloops (Thompson), Williams Lake (Cariboo-Chilcotin) and Prince George (Northern Interior) — and several other staff members work from Vancouver Island, the East Kootenay and the Okanagan. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, most team members continue to work through hybrid arrangements — home, office and project locations.

Towards a Cleaner Drive

In BC over 90% of electricity generated is clean energy. This makes electric vehicles a good option for cleaner driving. In 2019 the Government of BC flagged the impact of 30K EVs, which was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.8 million tonnes over their lifetime by comparison to the traditional vehicles powered by fossil fuels. By 2023 the saving would have grown to 6 million tonnes, given the dramatic growth in EVs.

Photo: 2022 Move2Electric event in Courtenay, hosted by the Comox Valley Electric Vehicle Association.

Climate Change

Given rising greenhouse gas emissions and a changing climate, BC communities are experiencing significant shifts in weather patterns. Projections are for a future with more extreme weather-related events, such as serious storms, floods, drought, heat waves and wildfires. The Fraser Basin Council helps support communities as they explore opportunities to reduce the emissions that are driving climate change and also to prepare for its now unavoidable impacts.

Plug in BC

Public transit, walking and cycling are among the critical components of green transportation in BC's communities. When it comes to personal transportation that directly replaces the traditional family car, an electric vehicle is a good choice.

The Fraser Basin Council hosts Plug in BC — a hub of information, incentives and support for BC drivers and fleets interested in electric vehicles (EVs).

A key success of the Plug In BC partnership has been the creation and expansion throughout BC of critical infrastructure — that is, a robust network of EV public charging stations, which by the end of 2022 had expanded to 3,800. The Fraser Basin Council has worked for the past 14 years to support provincial incentives, education and related initiatives under the Plug in BC banner.

Our Plug in BC team has managed rebates for public charging stations and facilitated strategic planning sessions for expansion of the network. In 2022-2023, our work focused on:

- Under the CleanBC Public Charger program, managing incentives for Direct Current (DC) fast charging stations and level 2 stations to fill gaps in the public charging network in BC, with a focus on city centres that have long queues and on rural, remote, Indigenous and Northern communities
- Managing incentives for the Clean BC Go Electric Fleets Program and providing Fleet Advisory services. Advisors support organizations to evaluate the business case for incorporating electric vehicles into their fleets and walk them through the process, from assessment to installation.
- Delivering Emotive, a collaborative community education outreach program with many facets, including community events, EV news and resources, the #LiveElectric experiences of BC drivers, and support for external community outreach and education through the Community Outreach Incentive Program
- Managing incentives for specialty use electric vehicles (now called CleanBC Go Electric Rebates) on specific low-speed utility vehicles, on-road medium and heavy-duty trucks, buses, motorcycles, electric cargo bikes, and airport and port utility vehicles
- Providing EV Advisory services for the CleanBC multi-unit residential building (MURB) and workplace incentive program, handling nearly 950 inquiries and 120 site visits and presentations
- Undertaking research on barriers to electrification in marginalized communities

Connecting with Community!

Emotive – the Electric Vehicle Experience is a Plug in BC program that helps BC drivers learn about electric vehicles – and discover the right fit for them.

Among its outreach initiatives, Emotive offers incentives to help BC community organizations, local governments and businesses organize events and education on electric transportation. In 2022-2023 Emotive worked with 13 community partners and participated in 44 events. These included EV displays, Q&As with EV drivers, vehicle demonstrations and test drives — in Northern BC, Vancouver Island, the Okanagan, Kootenays and Sea to Sky region. For communities wishing to host events, there are other options too – for example, to connect people with e-bikes, electric car share opportunities and other forms of electric transportation.

Drivers Go Electric. Hear their Stories!

BC drivers are making the switch. Since the first commercially manufactured EVs rolled out in BC in 2009, the number of EVs on BC roads climbed from three passenger vehicles (2009) to 30,000 (2019). That number then doubled to 60,000 by early 2022 and reached 100,000 by 2023.

In 2022 18% of light-duty passenger vehicles purchased in BC were electric. BC's clean energy, low-carbon goals are for 100% of all light vehicles sold to be zero-emission by 2035.

Emotive shares the stories of BC drivers. Check out Emotive's most recent videos and follow on Facebook to hear from people all around BC!

Greening BC's Fleets

CleanBC Go Electric Fleets is a provincial program that supports the integration of zero-emission vehicles into today's fleets. In 2022-2023 FBC continued to manage the program, which offers access to tools, resources and webinars.

BC fleets that pledge at the "Express Lane" level or higher under the Can-American WestCoast Electric Fleets Program gain access to other benefits: advisory services, a business case assessment, a facility analysis and rebates for electrical infrastructure and for the purchase and installation of charging equipment. WestCoast Electric Fleets members pledge that zero-emission vehicles will make up at least 10% of all their new fleet vehicle purchases by 2025.

FBC also managed the Specialty Use Electric Vehicle Incentive. This program provides provincial rebates on the purchase of specific low-speed utility vehicles, on-road medium and heavy-duty trucks, buses, motorcycles and electric cargo bikes. Over the year FBC supported the purchase of 265 electric vehicles.

The 2022 Charge Your Ride event in Victoria.



#LiveElectric Stories

Journey to Electric

"How do you hike a long journey? One step at a time," says Larry of Nanaimo. His own journey to electric vehicle ownership began with a plug-in hybrid, then a fully electric car. He subsequently took steps to research charging infrastructure in condo buildings. He now educates other drivers about the vehicles and how charging infrastructure can improve the value of their homes.



Towards a Lighter Footprint

With a background in engineering, Holden of Squamish is someone who enjoys digging into the details. He has an interest in how lifestyle choices impact the planet. Every personal choice adds up and creates a carbon footprint – and he was eager to take measurable action. In the last few years, he noticed a shift toward mass EV adoption, particularly in British Columbia. The industry had a stable base with better batteries and an extensive charging grid. Electric vehicles, he realized, were becoming a viable and cost-effective option, especially for people driving at least 40 kilometres a year, and he estimated the payback at four to five years.



YVR electric bus



A community housing project underway. Photo: Uchucklesaht Tribe Government.

First Nations Home EnergySave Program

Through the **First Nations Home EnergySave (FNHES)** program, the Fraser Basin Council continued its collaboration with First Nations communities and support organizations that are working to reduce energy use, share their experiences, and build local capacity and economic development.

The program hosted two webinars “Journeys to Efficient Housing” and “A Deeper Dive into Energy Efficiency Rebates” and shared the stories of several communities.

The Uchucklesaht Tribe Government, for example, has worked on several interrelated projects to increase energy efficiency and housing quality, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Projects included new housing developments in Ethlathese Village, planning for a hydropower project to replace diesel electricity generation, and the development of a Community Energy and Emissions Plan. FBC provided support on the project.

The FNHES program delivered a virtual and in-person “Train the Trainer” partnership program, with both in-person lab training at BCIT and three regional sessions that focused on assessing the condition of buildings. The success of the Train the Trainer pilot led to the new Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program in 2023.

A Learning Grants program was another support to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students who wished to take up learning opportunities focused on energy efficiency.

An Ask an Energy Specialist service was also available to communities that had an interest in housing energy efficiency, were in the early stages of planning or implementation, and wished to canvass the best opportunities to kickstart energy efficiency work.

The work of First Nations communities and the supporting role of the First Nations Home EnergySave Program were recognized by the Real Estate Foundation of BC in its 2022 Land Awards in being awarded first place, Built Environment category.

To learn more, follow the program at fnenergy.ca.

Energy Efficiency Mentorships

Following completion of the Train the Trainer pilot program, the Fraser Basin Council and housing consultant Richard Hall of Nuxalk Nation together created the **Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program (EEMP): Building Indigenous Capacity for Energy-Efficient Housing**. The initiative, which began in March 2023, is in partnership with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

The EEMP aims to build skills and knowledge in energy-efficient homes and buildings within Indigenous communities through a peer group of eight Indigenous trainees who are interested in building their capacity, skills and knowledge in energy efficiency.

The training series includes six online training sessions and a three-day in-person course, instructed by BCIT, AHMA and Richard Hall.

After completing the training program, the cohort of eight trainees will go on to deliver introductory workshops about energy efficiency solutions and practices, for both new construction and existing homes, to First Nations communities in their regions.

Each trainee will be paired up with an Indigenous building professional to co-deliver two in-person community workshops on energy efficiency, tailored to the climate and other needs of their region. The Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program helps:

- Build capacity and knowledge on energy-efficient buildings
- Raise awareness about energy-efficient construction, best practices in retrofitting, and standards among industry professionals
- Facilitate Indigenous-led education for First Nations communities on energy-efficient buildings



The Train the Trainer pilot program of the First Nations Home EnergySave Program.

EPIC Network

In December 2022 FBC rolled out the **Energy Peers in Indigenous Communities (EPIC) Network**, a program to build capacity, knowledge and skills on renewable energy in Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

Through EPIC, eight Indigenous on-grid communities are hiring their own Community Energy Champions to focus on renewable energy projects that are priorities for their respective communities.

While working in different communities across BC, the Community Energy Champions come together as a cohort for peer-to-peer learning, networking, customized training and skills development, renewable energy webinars and mentorship with Indigenous subject matter experts.

The program has proved very popular – with all spots filled in just a couple of months.

Climate Resources!



Community Climate Adaptation

Community Climate Adaptation Workshops: The Fraser Basin Council works with local governments in small communities and with First Nations that are taking initial steps on climate change adaptation and resilience. A Community Climate Preparedness Workshop Series, managed by FBC and delivered by SHIFT Collaborative, is an example. A summary was published in 2023 to share key takeaways on adaptation and engagement planning processes and the successes and challenges of BC communities on the path to climate preparedness.

Climate Risk Network: This network, facilitated by FBC, brings together people who have responsibilities that focus on climate change adaptation. The network strengthens relationships among people in government, public agencies, the academic community, non-profit and other organizations. Since 2015, network members have met regularly to:

- share information on climate risk and adaptation activities in BC
- identify gaps in existing programs and policies with respect to climate risk
- work on the strategic development of new activities, policies or programs to fill gaps

Canada in a Changing Climate: In 2022 FBC hosted a webinar led by Natural Resources Canada for release of the BC Chapter of the Regional Perspectives Report. Authors addressed how climate change is impacting the province and how communities and sectors are approaching adaptation. The Regional Perspectives Report is part of NRCan's National Assessment "Canada in a Changing Climate." Check out this adaptation video and others on FBC's YouTube channel.



Watersheds and Water Resources

Too much water, too little water or poor water quality — all can be serious problems for BC's communities, economies and ecosystems, especially under climate change. FBC has worked for many years on flood management issues through projects on floodplain modelling, mapping and assessments to support decision-makers seeking to reduce flood risk. FBC also supports processes focused on water quality, water quantity and watershed health concerns.

BC Communities Floodplain Mapping

The Province of BC is seeking to create high-quality floodplain maps for many BC communities that are exposed to riverine, lakeshore and/or coastal flood hazards.

Communities in six regions of BC where there is a high risk of flood (but a lack of updated flood maps) were invited to take part in the new floodplain mapping initiative.

With the agreement and collaboration of participating local governments and First Nations, several regions will be mapped in the first two years (2022-2024) of this multi-year, co-funded federal-provincial program. These are:

- Lower Fraser and Coquihalla Rivers
- Nicola and Coldwater Rivers
- Upper Fraser and Nechako Rivers
- Bulkley and Skeena Rivers
- Shuswap Lake Region
- Upper Columbia River

The initiative will generate floodplain maps that are of high quality and of a standard appropriate to support Indigenous governments and local governments in their regulatory and decision-making responsibilities. The new maps will identify and describe flood hazard areas and help assess potential impacts to people, critical infrastructure and other assets and values. Communities can use them to:

- support land use planning policies (e.g., floodplain bylaws and flood construction levels) and development decisions
- prepare and update emergency response plans, and
- plan disaster mitigation and climate adaptation measures

The maps will also be accessible to the public through a web portal. The hydraulic models will be available for future map updates or for additional flood assessments.

As part of the broader initiative, scoping studies have also been initiated for the Lower Mainland, Coastal BC, Northern BC and Southern BC to:

- better understand community flood mapping interests and needs
- identify available data, models and data gaps
- identify additional needs for floodplain mapping



Floodplain Mapping in the Thompson Watershed

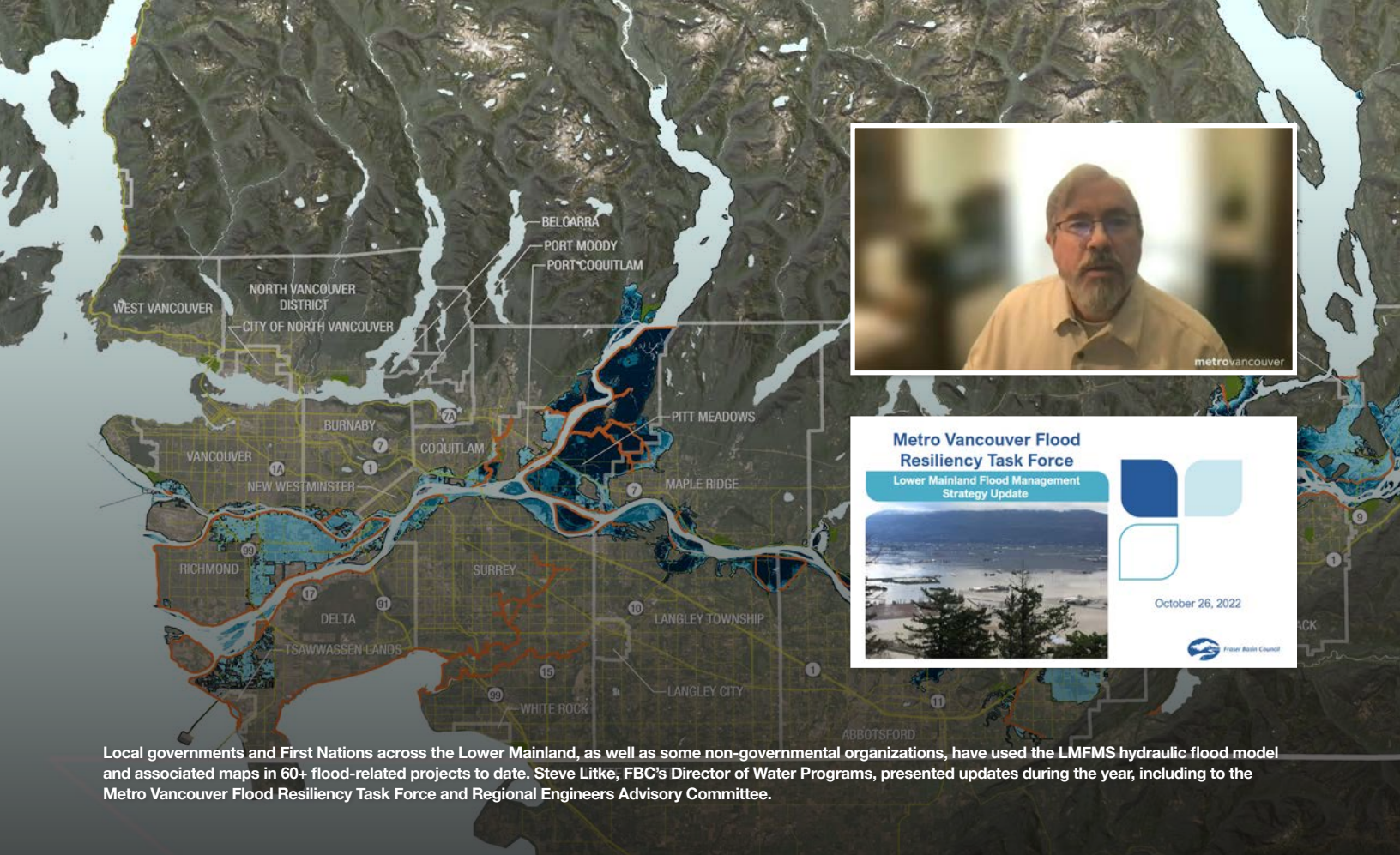
Between 2018 and 2023 the Fraser Basin Council worked on initiatives to identify flood hazards and assess flood risk in the Thompson watershed within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and in areas of the Cariboo Regional District. All floodplain mapping projects were built on previous work and have advanced flood hazard mapping to higher levels of detail. The reports and maps from these projects are available for reference and are intended to support governments in their flood management responsibilities.

An advisory committee — with representation from elected officials and staff from local government, First Nations and the Province of BC — provided guidance on the projects.

During the year, the Fraser Basin Council retained an engineering firm to complete detailed floodplain mapping (Tier 3) for 15 watercourses and base level floodplain mapping (Tier 2) for three watercourses within the Thompson River watershed. Flood hazard maps developed for each site show the extent and characteristics (depth, velocity) of different

magnitude floods for application in community planning, policy development and emergency response planning in areas subject to flood hazards. Implementation of updated flood hazard maps and flood construction levels (FCLs) for the study areas is expected to lead to greater flood resiliency for communities within high flood hazard areas.

Of particular interest to local governments and First Nations in the region, there is a final summary report on the project and 13 final reports, including maps, on the FBC site at thompsonflood.ca.



Local governments and First Nations across the Lower Mainland, as well as some non-governmental organizations, have used the LMFMS hydraulic flood model and associated maps in 60+ flood-related projects to date. Steve Litke, FBC's Director of Water Programs, presented updates during the year, including to the Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Task Force and Regional Engineers Advisory Committee.

Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy

The **Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS)** initiative wrapped up in 2023. This multi-year initiative was aimed at supporting the development of a regional strategy to reduce the risks associated with Fraser River and coastal flooding and to increase the flood resilience of BC Lower Mainland communities. A multi-governmental leadership committee oversaw Phase 2 and the final reports.

Technical Highlights: Phase 2 expanded on the technical work begun in Phase 1. The following projects were completed:

- Hydraulic Flood Modelling and Mapping in the Lower Mainland (2019)
- Flood and Environment Atlas (2019)
- Lower Mainland Flood Risk Assessment (2020)
- FloodWise website (2020)
- Lower Mainland Dikes: An Analysis of Freeboard and Vulnerability (2022)

The Phase 2 technical work has laid an important foundation for governments in the region.

Strategic Work: During Phase 2 of the LMFMS, a preliminary working draft of a strategy was developed and input was invited from governments having various flood responsibilities. The process identified areas of consensus but also differences. A Pathways to Action report sets out the background and 10 recommendations to frame the next steps, including government-to-government collaboration on flood risk reduction.

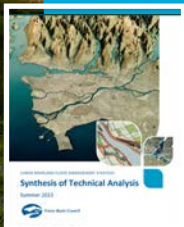
To move forward on the issues, the multi-governmental leadership committee overseeing the initiative recognized that more work lay ahead, including the need to align regional or subregional flood planning in the Lower Mainland with the upcoming BC Flood Strategy. It also recognized the need to co-create flood risk reduction approaches with First Nations, especially in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The Province of BC will follow up to discuss the Pathways to Action report with First Nations and other orders of government. One of the early priorities for flood risk reduction recommended in the Pathways report is protecting or otherwise increasing the flood resilience of critical infrastructure and essential services in the region.

Read the Phase 2 Final Reports



Pathways to Action for Flood Risk Reduction and Resilience – The Pathways to Action report summarizes progress to date on key issues relevant to flood management and opportunities for all orders of governments to move forward collaboratively to reduce flood risk, increase resilience and adapt to climate change.



Synthesis of Technical Analysis – The Synthesis of Technical Analysis report summarizes the information and tools developed and shared with flood authorities and other organizations through the LMFMS initiative respecting Fraser River and coastal flood hazards and risks.

For all background reports, maps and other material from Phase 2, see the [FloodWise website](#).

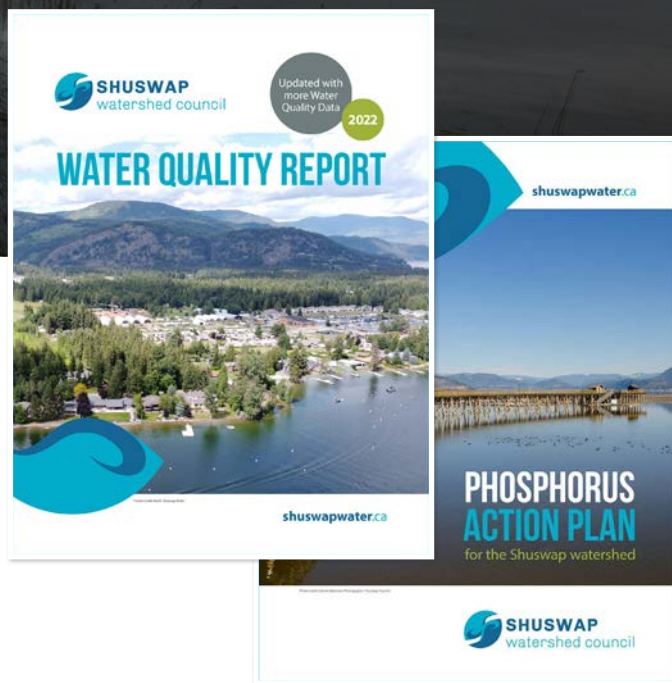
Shuswap Watershed Council

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) has worked since 2014 to protect, enhance and maintain water quality in the Shuswap watershed and to promote safe boating and recreation.

This multi-organization partnership has 20 members representing three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, three Provincial government agencies and Shuswap communities. FBC's Thompson staff provides program management for the SWC.

Key activities for SWC during the year were:

- water quality monitoring
- annual water quality reporting
- administration of grants for watershed restoration and water quality protection projects
- educational campaigns on invasive mussels prevention
- advocacy to government regulators to better protect the Shuswap watershed from critical threats
- public education on safe recreation



The Shuswap Watershed Council issues annual Water Quality reports, and in 2022 published a Phosphorus Action Plan.

SWC brings together different agencies with responsibilities for water via a collaborative Water Quality Monitoring Group and takes on the role of reporting out on their data for better public access and understanding. SWC also considers information and proposes actions for water protection, such as in its Phosphorus Action Plan.

Learn about the SWC and its work at shuswapwater.ca.



Fraser Canyon Slides & Impacts on Salmon

Landslides can have serious impacts on BC's communities, infrastructure and transportation routes. Slides can also have serious impacts on waterways — such as how and where rivers flow and how passable they are following a slide. As an example, in 2019 BC's Big Bar Slide was discovered on the Fraser River near Clinton. Salmon were obstructed from moving upstream, triggering an immediate short-term response effort, followed by years of restoration work.

FBC is a partner in a project called **Landslide Impact on Flow Dynamics, Fish Migration and Genetics of Fraser River Salmon**. Led by Simon Fraser University, the multi-disciplinary research team is examining how past and present slides in the Fraser River Canyon have affected river flows and migrating salmon populations and is learning from Indigenous knowledge keepers. This three-year project will ultimately aim to assess the potential and risk of another slide blocking the Fraser River, and the impact of such a slide on migrating salmon.

Nechako Watershed Roundtable

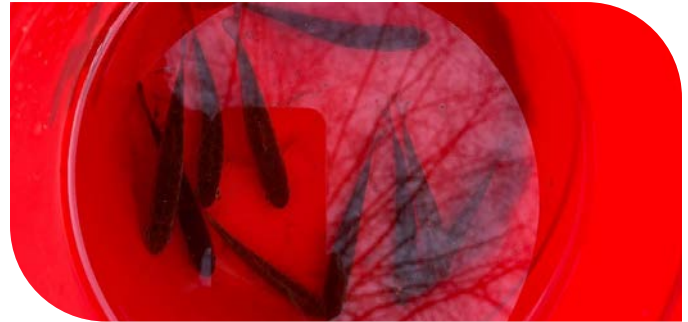
The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) is a collaborative initiative to protect and improve the health of the Nechako watershed for future generations.

The NWR brings together First Nations, the Province of BC, local governments and other agencies and organizations having responsibilities and interests in the watershed. FBC provides administrative support for the work of the Roundtable, its core committee and workshop groups.

In 2022-2023 the NWR's associated Lakes Monitoring Working Group developed a Large Lakes Monitoring Strategy for the Nechako Watershed, with an aim to seek funding for implementation. Observations of lakes across the Central Interior region of BC suggest that water quality has progressively degraded over time. The degree to which emerging contaminants are present in the lakes and outlet rivers of the Nechako watershed is unknown, however, given the lack of consistent monitoring by regional water quality programs.



Fun summer paddles! It's one way the Nechako Watershed Roundtable connects youth to the watershed.



Salmon-Safe Certification of HandyDART site in View Royal

Rewild it and they will come! So it was in February 2023 when young salmon and trout made their way into a restored stream on BC Transit's HandyDART site in View Royal on Vancouver Island. The stream restoration and other measures had earned the site Salmon-Safe certification the previous fall.

The strategy highlights the need for a comprehensive lake monitoring program to support lake health and ecosystems. Data collection results will support decision-making for nutrient management strategies and help resolve community-specific issues, including invasive species transfer between lakes in the Nechako, discolouration in fish, declining fish populations, an increase in fish sea lice and algae bloom. Learn more at nechakowatershed.ca.

Salmon-Safe BC

The Fraser Basin Council operates Salmon-Safe BC — an eco-certification program that recognizes land management practices to better protect Pacific salmon habitat and enhance water quality on agricultural and urban lands.

In September 2022 Salmon-Safe BC announced its first certified site on Vancouver Island – BC Transit's new HandyDART site in View Royal. With a salmon-bearing stream running along the perimeter of the site, BC Transit's project team took important measures to preserve and restore the health of the wild salmon habitat and the Craigflower Creek watershed overall. The site design incorporates rain gardens to capture and treat stormwater on site before releasing it back into the environment. Restoration of the stream provided an acre of additional instream and riparian habitat.

In February 2023 the site assessment team discovered young salmon and trout. Biologists counted 27 fish (20 juvenile coho salmon and seven cutthroat trout) in the newly constructed stream that connects with nearby salmon-bearing Craigflower Creek. A success!

On another front, the Vancouver International Airport was recertified by FBC's Salmon-Safe BC program to recognize YVR's ongoing commitment to progressive land and water management practices so as to reduce the impact of airport operations.

YVR was the first airport in North America to achieve Salmon-Safe certification in 2016 and is now the first organization in Canada to be recertified. YVR has integrated Salmon-Safe principles into its operations, such as by taking steps to reduce harmful pesticides; implement a comprehensive stormwater management plan; reduce site-wide water consumption and commit to zero sediment runoff during future construction activities.

Learn more about the program at salmonsafe.ca.



Sustainable Communities and Regions

BC communities are seeking practical solutions to today's challenges. FBC supports communities large and small as they explore ways to help people live, work and play more sustainably.

Background: The Living Food-Stainably Fair was a Fraser Valley youth event.
Top Left: Thompson youth re-imagine transportation in Kamloops through art.

Youth Program – Cultivating Community Leadership

Co-Creating a Sustainable BC (CCSBC) is the cornerstone initiative of FBC's youth program – and a way for youth participants (16-30) to find their path to leadership.

CCSBC helps participants deepen their understanding of the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability. Youth cohorts take what they've learned to design and implement projects that will have a direct and positive impact in their own communities. By the end of the program, they come away with greater confidence to advocate for change and to realize a shared vision of a healthy and thriving community.

Here's a look at the 2022-2023 youth-led projects!

Fraser Valley Youth Project | Community “Living Food-Stainably” Fair

A youth cohort in the Fraser Valley hosted a community event in Abbotsford in March 2023 called “Living Food-Stainably” to help young families in the Fraser Valley learn about local food systems and opportunities. About 100 people attended for hands-on demonstrations and to access materials and supplies on such topics as worm composting, canning, food preservation techniques and growing garden vegetables. Community partners also supported the event by hosting workshops on growing sprouts, foraging and traditional Indigenous food practices.

Thompson Youth Project | Workshop on Youth Transportation Priorities in Kamloops

The Thompson youth cohort centred their efforts on transportation in Kamloops. They led a survey and hosted an interactive culture mapping workshop with local high school students. Workshop participants used art supplies to prepare a visual representation and a brief verbal summary of their experiences of —and their ideas for — moving around the city. They compiled the art pieces and discussion notes to share with decision makers within the community, and they hope to inspire more discussions and engagement with other youth.



Top: Bike shares were at hub of Prince George youth research on biking as a transit option. Right: Kimberley high school students help roll out a community park event.



Prince George Youth Project | Bike Share

The North-Central BC cohort explored ways of promoting the benefits of cycling as a transit option in Prince George. They researched the prospect of a bike-share program through a survey of PG residents. The work included a feasibility study on the implementation of a bike share program, which they plan to present to City Council. The cohort also developed an infographic on bike safety and accessibility in Prince George.

Going forward, they plan to apply for additional grants and to continue building their partnerships with local universities and colleges in the hope of establishing a bike share program for students that could serve as a pilot for city-wide implementation.

East Kootenay Youth | Supporting Local Restoration Projects

In East Kootenay a CCSBC partnership was struck with Wildsight Kimberley-Cranbrook to engage outdoor education students at Mount Baker Secondary School. The students helped plan and execute a community event that brought residents together to remove invasive plants, learn about the benefits of caring for natural areas, and make the park a more inviting space. In June 2023 over 100 people turned out to this collaborative community event.

Cowichan Valley Youth Project | Access to Drinking Water

Concerned about the public having easy access to water, the Cowichan Valley youth cohort focused on mapping fountains, public washrooms and other access points. They worked together to create a map using data points they gathered by walking around the region and by reaching out to the local municipalities of North Cowichan and City of Duncan.

Their final map was made accessible through an interactive online mapping website, stickers with a QR code, and a printed poster displayed in the central Duncan area. Participants hoped the map would help anyone trying to find freely available water, and that it would also help identify local gaps in available water for future planning purposes.

Helping Spirit Lodge Society Project | Sharing Skills and Experiences

In partnership with the Helping Spirit Lodge Society in Vancouver, the FBC Youth Program team supported a cohort focused on youth who had lived in shelters, or had experienced other hardship, to connect with the traditions and teachings of Indigenous cultures. Participants gained self-confidence and skills based on traditional practices. They then organized their own workshops to pass on the skills and support women from the shelter community by sharing what they learned.



Helping Spirit Lodge – youth learned and passed on traditional skills.

Vancouver Urban Core Youth Group Project | Food, Art & Community

The Vancouver Urban Core (VUC) youth group engaged BIPOC youth in considering the role of art in creating more sustainable and inclusive communities. The VUC cohort project idea was to start conversations about food and its potential as a tool to connect people and create opportunities for inclusion. As part of their CCSBC project, youth built and decorated a sound box to engage community members to collect and record stories of their experiences about when/ how they used food to connect with others in the community.

Realizing UNDRIP Initiative

The Realizing UNDRIP Initiative was launched in early 2023 by the Fraser Basin Council to educate and inspire non-Indigenous people in government and in the private and not-for-profit sectors to work together in a good way with Indigenous peoples, organizations and communities.

With direction from an Indigenous Advisory Committee, the initiative aims to share inspirational stories of Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaboration.

Through stories, resources and learning events, there's opportunity to identify what's worked well in building positive Indigenous – non-Indigenous relationships, which are essential to progress on reconciliation and sustainability.

Learn more at realizingundrip.ca.

Community Wildfire Roundtables

Multiple years of catastrophic fires in BC communities have driven home the importance of wildfire prevention, preparedness and response. Wildfire roundtables are one way to build connections and keep open the lines of communication.

The Fraser Basin Council supports four wildfire tables, in Williams Lake, Clearwater, Clinton and Lillooet. The roundtables bring together those in government, fire centres, industry and community organizations. They offer a consistent year-round opportunity for those in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in remote and rural areas to meet, share information and plans and discuss wildfire prevention, preparedness and response.

The wildfire roundtables help support dialogue, education, Community Wildfire Resilience Plans, applications for provincial funding and various FireSmart activities. The work is possible thanks to funding from the BC Wildfire Service.

Together for Wildlife – First Nations-BC Initiative

Together for Wildlife is a strategy that sets a direction for wildlife and habitat conservation in British Columbia from 2020 to 2030.

The **First Nations–BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum** is the technical, advisory body that supports advancement of Goal 5 of the strategy, which states the intention that “Collaborative wildlife stewardship advances reconciliation with Indigenous governments.” The Fraser Basin Council serves as a facilitator for the Forum and its three working groups.

A priority goal for First Nations participants of the Forum is to support movement towards long-term co-management and stewardship of wildlife and habitat in BC that is acknowledged and accepted as such by Indigenous governments and the Province of BC.

Sharing Stories, Community to Community



The Realizing UNDRIP Initiative hosted a webinar to raise awareness of the historic agreement **Í:xel Sq'eq'ó** (a Hul'qumi'num word meaning “Together We Paddle”) that was signed by the Province, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sumas First Nations and the City of Mission in 2021. The agreement returns traditional lands to the First Nations and establishes new public parklands and recreation areas.

A second learning event was **Ethical Space 101: Introduction to Ethical Space and Indigenous Engagement**, in collaboration with Gwen Bridge Consulting. The online event was well attended by local governments, non-government organizations and provincial government ministries.

Photo: Province of British Columbia

The First Nations–BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum follows the process of Ethical Space in which multiple knowledge systems and multiple layers of jurisdiction co-exist in a co-management framework. This framework includes the aspirations of First Nations members to support BC's shift to co-management with trust and mutual respect. The Forum's work is purely advisory and not a substitute for the Province's constitutional duties of consultation with all First Nations governments.

ECHO Program – Whales and Shipping

The Fraser Basin Council serves as a facilitator for several committees of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's program **Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation (ECHO)**. Launched in 2014, ECHO is aimed at better understanding and reducing the cumulative effects of shipping on whales on the southern coast of British Columbia. The number of southern resident killer whales has ranged from 70-75 in recent years.

As whales and ships share the same waters, many of the ships calling at the Port of Vancouver travel through critical habitat of the endangered southern resident killer whales, as well as through other areas of importance to northern resident killer whales and humpback, fin, blue and sei whales. Many different organizations operate commercial vessels within the port's jurisdiction.

The ECHO program takes a collaborative approach to addressing and understanding the cumulative effects of vessel activity on whales. It has run three underwater noise reduction initiatives, which include voluntary seasonal ship slow-down and distancing trials. In 2022 86% of all large commercial ships slowed down or remained distanced from whales in the seasonal (June-October) period while moving through critical habitat areas — at Swiftsure Bank, Haro Strait and Boundary Pass and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Over 80 marine transportation entities participated in these measures. The 2023 slowdown began in June.

Learn more about the project at the [Port of Vancouver ECHO program](#).

Other Support for Local and Regional Projects

As reflected in this report, the Fraser Basin Council supports various provincial, local and regional initiatives through facilitation, program management, administration, financial and other support services.

Here are other examples of work supported by FBC teams across the regions during 2022-2023:

- The Northern Interior team provided Executive Director and administrative services to the **North Central Local Government Association**. The team has also long supported the **Prince George Air Quality Roundtable**, including its administration of the provincial Community Woodsmoke Reduction Program, which provides incentives for changing out old woodstoves with new models or alternatives, and education on clean air actions, from transportation to home heating. The team further continued to support the monitoring work of the **Prince George Ambient Air Monitoring Working Group**, recently incorporated as a society.
- The GVSS team designed and facilitated meetings of the external **FortisBC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Advisory Group** with program design workshops for commercial, industrial, residential, income-assisted, Indigenous housing and rental accommodation sectors. The GVSS team also provided services to the **Shared Waters Alliance** that is focused on concerns about shellfish harvest closures and contaminated waters in Boundary Bay – a critical section of Canada-US transboundary habitat and a traditional harvesting area for Semiahmoo First Nation. Facilitation support was also provided to provincial government ministries to engage First Nations and others in developing **Visitor Use Management Plans** in the Sea to Sky region Nq̓w'elq̓w'elústen (Meager Creek) & Múml̓eqs (Keyhole) Hotsprings, Hawint (Tenquille Lake) and Shannon Basin.
- The Fraser Valley staff provides secretariat support to the **Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards (CLASS)**. CLASS continued its work to collaborate on invasive species management and to educate on what is driving eutrophication at Cultus Lake, including waterborne and airborne deposits of nutrients (such as manure, fertilizers and untreated effluent from failed septic systems).

- The Cariboo-Chilcotin team facilitates monthly meetings of the **BC/Tsilhqot'in National Government Fish and Wildlife Panel**. An outcome of the Nenqay Dene Accord and the TNG Moose Co-management Agreement, the panel meets to share technical data and information, and discuss issues related to fish and wildlife in the region/territory.
- The Cariboo-Chilcotin team also provided secretariat services to the provincial **Conservation Lands Partners Program**, which discusses conservation lands, from identification and designation to management of existing Wildlife Management Areas. Support services were also provided to the **Horsefly River Roundtable** on its projects on the Horsefly River and its tributaries. Administrative support continued for a program to maintain open grasslands/ grazing rangelands in collaboration with **Cariboo-Chilcotin Ecosystem Restoration Committee** and funded by the Ministry of Forests Range Program.
- The Thompson and GVSS teams provided support services to the **Thompson-Shuswap Salmon Collaborative** on program and communications planning. The Thompson office also continued support for the **Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable**.
- FBC's Executive Director facilitated processes for the **Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative** and for the **Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance**.

Elizabeth Henry Scholarship



The 2022 Elizabeth Henry Scholarship for Communities and Environmental Health was awarded to two students. Congratulations to Micah May (left), MSc candidate at the University of Victoria (for his project on reservoir shoreline erosion control to reduce environmental and community health risks), and to Ezra Yu (right) who was completing a Master's degree in Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia (for his project on the effects of residential noise on children's language development and the impact of green urban design).

Board of Directors

Our Board as of year-end, March 31, 2023

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Colin Hansen

Chair, Fraser Basin Council

Directors

Dannielle Alan

Director, Fraser-Fort George Regional District

Matt Austin

Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Integrated Resource Operations Division

Simran Bains

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Anna Classen

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Jag Gill

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Janine North

ICD.D, Corporate Director, Haida Gwaii

Clarence (Kat) Pennier

Grand Chief, Stó:lō Tribal Council

John Ranta

Mayor, Cache Creek – Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Naina Sloan

Vice President, Programs and Partners, Pacific Economic Development Canada

Jamison Squakin

Representative, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Richard Walton

CPA, Former Mayor, District of North Vancouver



Connect with Us

The Fraser Basin Council supports BC communities and organizations with their sustainability challenges. Let's work together! Connect with our staff through any of our offices.

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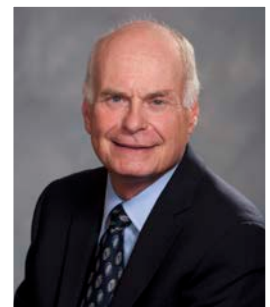
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Fraser Basin Council