



At work in the Basin & across BC

Established in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable, non-profit society that advances sustainability in the Fraser River Basin and across BC. FBC has a collaborative governance structure, led by 38 directors from the four orders of government (Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations) and also from the private sector and civil society. This governance structure is one of the first of its kind in British Columbia.

FBC brings people together to find collaborative solutions to today's sustainability challenges, with a focus on watersheds and water resources, climate change and air quality, and community sustainability and resilience.

Key priorities for the Council are sustainability education, facilitation and conflict resolution.

The board is supported by a multi-disciplinary staff team, located in five regions of the Basin: Greater Vancouver – Sea to Sky Region (Vancouver office), Fraser Valley Region (Chilliwack office), Thompson Region (Kamloops office), Cariboo-Chilcotin Region (Williams Lake office) and Upper Fraser Region (Prince George office).

Learn more about FBC at fraserbasin.bc.ca





Leadership Succession

2013-2014 was a year of leadership transition at the Fraser Basin Council.

Charles Jago CM, OBC retired as Chair at year-end, after eight years of service. The Council was privileged to have Charles as Chair and benefited greatly from his commitment, inspiration and wisdom. Directors and staff thank him for his leadership legacy.

Colin Hansen was welcomed as the new Chair on April 1, 2014. Prior to joining the Council, Colin served 17 years as a British Columbia MLA for the riding of Vancouver-Quilchena, from 1996 to 2013, and in several Cabinet portfolios, including as Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier. As he took up his role at the Council, Colin said he was pleased to chair such a respected organization:

"The Fraser Basin Council's track record of helping to solve some of BC's tough sustainability issues is commendable. I look forward to working with many of BC's private and public leaders in enhancing the social well-being of British Columbians, ensuring a vibrant economy and sustaining our natural resources for future generations."

OUR MANDATE

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

OUR VISION

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

Cover Photos: (Centre) By the shore of Shuswap Lake, in Salmon Arm. (Right inset) Water quality monitoring in the Shuswap.



Fraser Basin Council – From Consensus to Action

DR. CHARLES JAGO

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair of the Fraser Basin Council. Prior to accepting the position in 2006, I needed to be assured that FBC was action-oriented and did not get bogged down in process at the expense of meaningful social engagement. Now, eight years later, I can attest to the many actions that FBC has taken, and the successes it has achieved.

I take great pride in, but claim little credit for, the tremendous work that has been carried out over the past eight years. FBC has delivered programs on *climate change* (such as E3 Fleet and support for installation of a BC-wide network of electric vehicle charging stations), on *watershed management* (a new hydraulic model that led to a new lower Fraser flood profile, BC's first provincial forum on flood hazard management, and a major Fraser salmon and watersheds program) and on *community and regional sustainability* (climate change adaptation and integrated community sustainability planning.)

Together these programs underscore FBC's commitment to sustainability: social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment. While the FBC board has supported all these initiatives, the driving force behind them has been our Executive Director David Marshall and the outstanding team he has assembled within FBC. Together they translate the theoretical goal of sustainability into a tangible reality.

At the heart of the Fraser Basin Council's success, and essential to its future, is the commitment of its leaders to a governance model based on consensus. Before joining FBC, I had experience chairing university senates, which can sometimes be divisive and argumentative. Despite this experience (or perhaps because of it), I was somewhat intimidated by the prospect of herding as many as 38 Fraser Basin Council directors towards consensus resolutions, particularly given the diversity of those directors who represented the four orders of government, industry, environmentalism and civil society. I need not have worried.

When people of goodwill gather, despite their diverse interests and commitments, they can find ways of working together and agreeing on common causes. What is required is a willingness to contribute to the successful working of our society and the practice of respectful listening.

I will forever remember the debates we had in council, the elaboration of very different perceptions of sustainability, and the range of opinions and experiences of people from different walks of life: urban and rural, First Nations and settler, industrial and environmental. Opinions were always treated with respect, and debates were marked by amiability and humour. All was food for thought, and it was a rich diet we enjoyed as members of a very talented and dedicated council.

I also take pride in helping this think-tank council become an effective board, tackling such issues as financial management and accountability, terms and conditions of employment, workplace safety, executive director evaluation and succession planning. In recent years, circumstances have required the FBC business model to change dramatically. The success of this change relates in large part to the wisdom and generous engagement of board members.

In these pages is a synopsis of FBC's work in 2013-2014. As I turn over my position to my successor, Colin Hansen, it is with confidence that the Council will continue to flourish under his leadership.

When saying my goodbye to the Fraser Basin Council, I note our Youth Conference on Sustainability as the highlight of my tenure as Chair. If we are to maintain a commitment to sustainability, FBC must find new and better ways of engaging youth. That I see as the main challenge for the future of a truly wonderful organization I have been privileged to serve.

Above: FBC directors in dialogue at the February 2014 board meeting, as Chair Charles Jago introduces incoming Chair Colin Hansen to the work of the Council. A hallmark of FBC is to make decisions on today's sustainability issues by consensus and to take action through collaboration.

2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Action on Climate Change & Air Quality

Steps to combat climate change, mitigate its impacts and improve air quality are all critical to the health and sustainability of BC communities. The Fraser Basin Council supports public and private sector organizations in this work. When it comes to climate change, there are two key challenges: climate change mitigation — reducing the emissions that drive climate change — and climate change adaptation — preparing for those impacts of climate change that are now unavoidable.





HERE ARE 2013-2014 HIGHLIGHTS OF FBC'S WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR QUALITY:

Leading the Charge – Electric Vehicles: Plug in BC is a multi-interest collaboration laying the groundwork for electric vehicles and related charging infrastructure in British Columbia.

For the past three years, the Province of BC and BC Hydro have led the initiative, in partnership with local governments, businesses, the Fraser Basin Council, PowerTech Labs and academic institutions.

FBC administered provincial incentives that led to installation of more than 450 Level 2 charging stations, available to members of the public and to fleets across BC. In all, there are now 550 Level 2 stations in the BC network, plus eight DC fast charge stations, with more fast chargers on the way. The network is now an integral part of BC's transportation infrastructure, serving residents, tourists and business travellers.

Plug in BC is now raising public awareness of electric vehicles and the EV charging network. Research from the United States shows that the experience of driving electric vehicles is a big motivator for new car buyers. Most people in BC still have no exposure to electric cars, so ride & drive events and demonstrations — coupled with practical information via social media — are integral to education in 2014. With the Province, Metro Vancouver, City of Surrey and City of Vancouver, FBC recently launched a public education campaign called *Emotive* to help people learn about electric vehicles and share their own experiences: **emotivebc.ca**.

Electric vehicles are often viewed as a clean energy choice for consumers, but they can also be a savvy choice for business owners. There is a business case for replacement of some fleet vehicles with plug-in electric cars, despite a higher purchase price, according to a recent feasibility study completed for FBC. In the nine fleets under review, analysis showed that electric vehicles could match the performance of the majority of logged conventional vehicles that were serving urban routes. On average, replacements would also offer cost savings over a seven-year service life, while reducing GHG emissions by 95%. Learn more at **pluginbc.ca**.



The UBC Building Operations Department has earned the first-ever E3 Fleet Platinum Rating. Between 2011 and 2013, the Department cut greenhouse gas emissions in the fleet by 217 tonnes, or 25%, and increased average fuel efficiency by 16%.

Canada's Greenest Fleets: E3 Fleet is Canada's first and only program to review the green performance of public and private sector fleets and to offer ratings for excellence. E3 Fleet has 120 member organizations or divisions, operating more than 50,000 vehicles.

Congratulations to the University of British Columbia Building Operations Department, which recently achieved the first E3 Fleet Platinum Rating, to the Township of Langley for moving up from a Silver to a Gold Rating, to the County of Simcoe for earning a Gold Rating, and to the Regional Municipality of Halton for its Bronze Rating. See how they did it at e3fleet.com.

Thanks to an incentive from the Automotive Recyclers of Canada, FBC was recently able to offer E3 Fleet Review to several fleets at a reduced cost. Participants in the program include a car cooperative (Modo), urban delivery businesses (AquaTerra and T&T Foods) and an airport operating a utility/multi-purpose fleet (Vancouver International Airport).

Clean Energy for BC's Remote Communities

BC's remote communities, many of which are First Nations, face the challenge of generating their own energy. Most power comes from diesel generators, which are expensive to operate and produce emissions that contribute to poor air quality and climate change. FBC has helped support cleaner, energy-efficient options through its Remote Communities Initiative.

Kwadacha First Nation is an inspirational example. This community of 300 near Fort Ware, 570 km north of Prince George, has actively pursued greater energy self-sufficiency with a focus on clean energy, such as geothermal energy for its health care centre and a new biomass plant, expected soon.

FBC assisted Kwadacha First Nation in 2013-2014 on a pilot project to upgrade the energy efficiency of 11 homes through new heating controls, windows, doors, sealants and attic insulation. The project was funded by BC Hydro, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and VanCity. A complementary education program led by a community energy champion encouraged residents to save energy. The result? Yearly savings of \$2,000 on average for each retrofitted home and a 37% drop in electricity consumption. BC Hydro also reduced its power generation costs for each home by \$5,000 per year.

Since 2012, FBC has worked on clean energy initiatives with other First Nations, including Dease River, Gitga'at (Hartley Bay), Lasqueti Island, Old Massett, Skidegate and Uchucklesaht Tribe.

By sharing experiences on energy projects, remote communities can help each other, and FBC is building connections through a mentorship program.

Kwadacha First Nation is a northern BC community committed to reducing its dependence on diesel. Results of a recent pilot project show that energy upgrades and conservation practices can save \$2,000 per household on average each year and can cut electricity consumption by 37%.







Climate change adaptation is a necessary priority for BC communities. FBC hosted adaptation workshops, webinars and online resources in 2013-2014 to help municipal and regional decision-makers in their work.

Getting Climate Ready: The BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative (BC RAC) program is a federal-provincial initiative managed by FBC to encourage climate adaptation planning. Over 5,400 public and private sector leaders have participated in BC RAC projects and educational events, and many local governments and First Nations have begun or completed climate adaptation plans.

A focus in 2013-2014 was on coastal adaptation, including the risks communities face because of sea level rise. This is of particular interest to BC local authorities and professionals with responsibilities in flood hazard management.

Climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events, also pose challenges for the natural resource sectors. FBC is helping the energy and mining sectors better understand the issues.

The challenge for these sectors is to identify regional climate change trends, weigh risks and opportunities for their operations and infrastructure, and evaluate adaptation options.

FBC began work in 2013-2014 to connect with local governments, First Nations and the oil and gas industry on a climate vulnerability assessment for northeastern BC.

FBC's adaptation case studies show how several mining companies in Canada are managing climate-related risks. The case studies were created in partnership with MIRARCO – Mining Innovation and the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources.





Climate Change Resources for Communities

Looking to cut community greenhouse gas emissions? You'll find the resources you need on the comprehensive **BC Climate Action Toolkit** website: **toolkit.bc.ca**.

Also visit **ReTooling for Climate Change**. This newly expanded website on climate change adaptation features over 140 tools, case studies and other resources for BC decision-makers. Start with our list of ReTooling Essentials – the perfect way to trim your research time: **retooling.ca**.

The Climate Action Toolkit is a partnership project of the Province of BC, Union of BC Municipalities and FBC's Smart Planning for Communities program. ReTooling for Climate Change is a partnership between the Province of BC and FBC, supported by funding from Natural Resources Canada.

Clearing the Air

Prince George Air Improvement: FBC's Upper Fraser office supports the work of the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (PGAIR), a multi-stakeholder non-profit society that includes representatives from the general public, business, industry, community groups, government, UNBC and Northern Health. PGAIR is committed to researching, monitoring, recommending and implementing air quality improvements in the Prince George airshed.

The 2013 provincial woodstove exchange program in Prince George, administered by PGAIR, was popular and fully subscribed, and the 2014 program is now underway. Residents are also encouraged to "Burn it Clean" by efficient operation of their wood-burning appliances.

Recent air quality research in Prince George includes studies on volatile organic compounds and on fine particulate matter. Learn more at pgairquality.com.

Radon Study & Awareness Campaign: Radon is an odourless, colourless radioactive gas that is a known carcinogen. It is released into the air through a breakdown of uranium in rocks and soil, and can enter homes through foundation cracks and other openings. Exposure to indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada after smoking. A public awareness campaign and an indoor radon study in the City of Prince George was underway in 2013-2014 as a partnership of the BC Lung Association, Fraser Basin Council and Canadian Cancer Society, in cooperation with community organizations.

Nearly 1,500 Prince George families installed radon detectors in their homes and had their test results included in the study. The testing allowed participants to determine if they had high radon levels in their homes and, if so, to consider options for remediation. The overall results of the study will paint a better picture of radon levels in Prince George and yield data relevant to provincial health policies and construction standards. Learn more at radonaware.ca.

Northern Health also promotes radon testing and offers test kits through its public health protection offices.

BC Clean Air Research Fund: The BC Clean Air Research Fund is a provincial partnership program, administered by FBC, that funds ground-breaking air quality research across British Columbia. Among the projects funded by BC CLEAR is innovative research by Dr. Ian McKendry at UBC who is looking at the long-range transport of air pollutants. LIDAR monitoring by Dr. McKendry's team will help communities in BC understand how they may be affected by pollutants that travel long distances, such as from industry in Asia, oceangoing ships and distant forest fires. Learn more at fraserbasin.bc.ca.



Air Quality & Kids

Prince George teachers will be interested in a new resource package on air quality, which includes lesson plans, project ideas and field trip information. Funded by PGAIR and Environment Canada, the package is online at pgairquality.com/teach.

2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Action on Watersheds & Water Resources

Clean water is a precious resource vital to every aspect of life. The Fraser Basin Council encourages a wider understanding of sustainable watershed management, stewardship and collaborative governance opportunities in British Columbia.



HERE ARE 2013-2014 HIGHLIGHTS OF FBC'S WORK FOR HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND WATER RESOURCES:

Towards Sustainable Watershed Management: How can we better manage BC's watersheds? In partnership with the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF), FBC has begun work on a series of discussion papers to tackle the question. Key issues are under exploration:

- A unifying vision for the sustainability of BC's watersheds and landscapes
- Long-term investments and capacity-building to support the health and sustainability of watersheds
- Collaborative funding and delivery models to address watershed and landscape sustainability at the local and regional levels
- Potential role and feasibility of a Natural Resources Practices Board
- Ecosystem indicators to measure watershed health.

The goal of this project is to educate British Columbians on the importance of watershed sustainability and protecting BC's diverse aquatic resources.

Sustainability in BC" workshop

For FBC, education is a cornerstone of understanding. In March we hosted the workshop "Advancing Watershed Sustainability in BC," with funding from the BCWF. This was a prime opportunity to share and discuss recent research and management options.

There were other watershed workshops and field tours during the year — in Salmon Arm and Vanderhoof and, with funding assistance from Spectra Energy, in Williams Lake and Fort St. John.

FBC participated in the three-day forum organized by POLIS Project, University of Victoria and other forum partners: *Watersheds 2014 Forum: Towards Watershed Governance in British Columbia & Beyond.* The conference drew nearly 200 participants plus another 75 virtual attendees. FBC was pleased to help with two workshops and to sponsor live-stream satellite locations in Vancouver, Chilliwack, Kamloops and Quesnel.

The 2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Seattle was a big success, attended by 1,200 delegates from Canada and the United States. Co-hosted by Western Washington University, the Puget Sound Partnership and the Fraser Basin Council, with funding from Environment Canada and others, the conference presented the latest scientific research on the state of the Salish Sea ecosystem as a foundation for its protection and restoration.





At Work in the Watersheds

Nicola Lake Action Plan: Nicola Lake, a jewel of the Thompson, is facing pressures from many sources – increased water use, invasive plant infestations, multiple recreational demands and rapid changes to foreshore habitat. The Thompson-Nicola Regional District and the City of Merritt began a planning process in 2012 for the management of Nicola Lake.

Thanks to the efforts of a multi-sector Nicola Lake Working Group and public input, a Nicola Lake Action Plan was completed in June 2013. The plan is aimed at ensuring public enjoyment of the lake and ensuring the lake's future sustainability.

FBC provides program support through our Thompson office. One priority is to create a management regime for Eurasian watermilfoil, which is an invasive aquatic plant. Students worked to raise awareness of the problem. A mobile wash station was piloted at the lake as an educational and practical tool to help boaters curb the spread of milfoil. The station was also demonstrated at local dirt bike races as a way of preventing the spread of invasive plants on land.

Other priorities are to learn more about nutrients coming into the lake and tributaries and to reduce lakeshore erosion at Monck Provincial Park. Visit **nicolaplan.ca**.

A diver examines Eurasian watermilfoil. Management of this invasive species is a priority under the Nicola Lake Action Plan.

Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process: A three-year pilot project of the Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP) came to a close in March 2014. The pilot, financed by four local governments in the Shuswap, was focused on water quality, sustainable shoreline development and recreation management.

SLIPP was designed to bring land and water management issues to a single table, with participation of all relevant agencies, First Nations and the public, and to identify cross-cutting issues that could be addressed through collaboration.

Here are the key successes of the SLIPP pilot project:

- A coordinated, comprehensive three-year water quality monitoring, analysis and reporting program on the Shuswap's lakes and tributaries
- Review of recreation management issues on the lakes and opportunities to encourage sustainable, safe recreation
- Improved collaboration among the agencies with responsibilities in and around the lakes
- · A more efficient process for development applications
- Research and public education to promote watershed health.

FBC provided program management support to SLIPP in 2013-2014, and had previously served as secretariat.





Water sampling on Shuswap Lake. A three-year water monitoring program was completed through the Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process. There is now an updated baseline on water quality in the region. This is important for tracking trends and setting priorities for water quality at the source. Water quality in the Shuswap is generally good, but high concentrations of phosphorus, nitrogen or fecal coliform bacteria were found in certain lake locations, rivers and streams.

Shuswap Watershed Council: The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) is proposing a five-year water quality program and recreation safety program for the long-term sustainability of the Shuswap watershed. Participants in the initiative are the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, District of Sicamous, City of Salmon Arm, Regional District of North Okanagan, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Province of BC (Ministry of Agriculture) and other agencies and interests. FBC is facilitator and program manager for the SWC.

There are two key components to the water quality program: 1) coordinated water quality monitoring, in priority locations, and 2) a water protection initiative to curtail the high load of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, coming from the tributaries into Shuswap and Mara Lakes. Public consultations were underway in 2014, and program details are being finalized for consideration in the fall. The program is proposed to begin in 2015. Learn more at **shuswapwater.ca**.

Salmon-Safe For Communities: Salmon-Safe BC is an ecocertification program recognized across the US Pacific Northwest. It was introduced in British Columbia in 2011 by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council. Salmon-Safe offers certification for environmentally friendly management practices that protect Pacific salmon habitat and water quality.

The early emphasis has been on agricultural lands, and so far 43 BC farms and vineyards have been certified. Opportunities are now available to BC municipalities and regional districts, land developers and other private and public sector entities that own and manage land. Certification can apply to such places as parks and natural areas, college or university campuses, business sites and residential developments. This includes land without watercourses on it since all activities, even those not immediately adjacent to streams and rivers, have cumulative impacts, positive and negative, for fish and other aquatic species.

Could your urban, suburban or rural property be among the first recognized as Salmon-Safe? Contact FBC to learn about the program: **fraserbasin.bc.ca/water_salmon-safe.html**.

Flood Management Strategy: With water comes risk.
FBC has long worked to encourage integrated flood hazard management in BC. In 2013-2014 we consulted extensively with all orders of government, secured funding commitments and wrote a business plan for a Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy.

Designed as a multi-interest collaborative initiative, the flood management strategy is aimed at better protecting Lower Mainland communities – from Hope to Richmond and from Squamish to White Rock – from the risk of catastrophic river and coastal flooding. For more on the launch of the strategy development process, visit fraserbasin.bc.ca/water_flood.html.

Support For Stewardship: The Fraser Basin Council is often invited to serve as a facilitator for multi-interest watershed groups. Over the year, we provided services to various groups, including:

- Nechako Watershed Alliance (Upper Fraser)
- Naver Creek Restoration (Upper Fraser)
- Horsefly River Roundtable (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
- San Jose Watershed Roundtable (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
- · Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy (Fraser Valley).

The Council also assisted the First Nations Fisheries Council on its BC-wide "Water for Fish" stewardship initiative to enhance participation of First Nations in the management of freshwater habitat.

2014 was the 10th anniversary of the BC Interior Stewardship Workshop, co-hosted by the Fraser Basin Council and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Over 60 people attended the two-day workshop in Salmon Arm in March, and there was a good turnout from the Shuswap region. Congratulations to Neil Brookes of the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society who was honoured with the Ecosystems Excellence award.



2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Action on Community & Regional Sustainability

BC communities are looking for practical, integrated solutions to today's sustainability challenges. FBC works to support communities as they plan and take action that will serve citizens now and in the future.

HERE ARE 2013-2014 HIGHLIGHTS OF FBC'S WORK IN BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND REGIONS:

Smart Planning in Action: The Smart Planning for Communities (SPC) program is managed by FBC in collaboration with a Smart Planning for Communities Advisory Group. SPC has helped over 125 local and First Nations governments over the past five years to understand community sustainability planning and to integrate social, environmental, economic and cultural priorities into local planning processes.

Here are some highlights of the SPC team's work in the three years from 2009 to 2012:

- 750 enquiries handled by offering information and process advice
- 200 presentations and workshops
- · 550 referrals to funding sources
- Facilitation services for 80 collaborative processes and 32 cooperative actions between local governments and First Nations neighbours.

SPC's sustainability facilitators are also available to offer direct support to local governments and First Nations, particularly those in rural and remote areas, to undertake sustainability planning or to implement existing plans. It's all on the path to fulfilling the vision and sustainability priorities of each community on such issues as economic development, energy conservation, greenhouse gas reductions, social improvements and infrastructure efficiencies.

Building strong rural communities and effective relationships between local governments and First Nations are important priorities under the 2013-2016 Smart Planning for Communities business plan. Learn about SPC's services, news, events and resources at **smartplanningbc.ca**.

Thanks are owed to the SPC advisory committee and also to the BC Real Estate Foundation for providing financial support for this work in 2013-2014.



The Village of Kaslo recently completed and adopted an integrated community sustainability plan, and FBC was pleased to have supported the planning process. Our sustainability facilitators are now working with 100 Mile House, Clinton and Granisle.



Project Comeback – Youth & Rural Communities: What does it take for young people to stay in, or return to, BC's rural communities?

Many communities are grappling with the question as they face the twin demographic trends of youth out-migration and an aging baby boomer population. The trends trigger concerns, including the prospect that some local businesses will close because fewer young people are available to take them over.

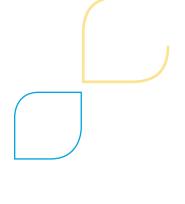
Project ComeBack is helping small and rural communities in BC understand how they can better meet the needs of their younger citizens, including skilled and professional workers. The City of Williams Lake, Smithers District Chamber of Commerce, Regional District of Mount Waddington, Village of Chase and Kaslo's North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society are all participants.

The project includes a survey specific to each community, a review of best practices, and local pilot projects and action plans to attract, engage and retain youth.

Project ComeBack is hosted by the BC Rural Network, in partnership with the Fraser Basin Council, and is supported by federal-provincial funding.

Each community is unique, yet common themes have emerged from consultations with youth so far: the importance of a sense of community, employment, education and training opportunities, access to recreation and health services, and quality of life.

The project completes in December 2014. Find reports on the BC Rural Network website: **bcruralnetwork.ca**.





Youth Diversity Dialogue: In the spring of 2014, 22 BC youth from rural and urban communities (including the five Project ComeBack communities) gathered in Richmond to share cultural, social and economic perspectives during a two-day dialogue and skills development workshop. The event was hosted by FBC and the BC Rural Network, with funding from the Inspirit Foundation.

Workshop participants talked about what changes would enable them to stay in their home communities for their early career and family years. Here's what they said was most important:

- · Diversification in the economy and in job opportunities
- · Affordable cost of living and housing
- · Readily accessible health care
- Better connections between First Nations and non-First Nations communities (and between First Nations bands)
- Arts and cultural events that help to build community networks and bridge gaps between cultures
- A sense of belonging and acceptance in their communities, including opportunities to participate in local governance and decision-making processes.

Sustainable Purchasing

Hosted by FBC, the BuySmart Network is an education hub for public and private sector organizations interested in the power of purchasing to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits. The Network organized four learning events during the year, in Vancouver and Burns Lake, and was featured at the Sustainability and Legacy Summit in Prince George.

Events included "Maximizing the Impact of Sustainable Purchasing" and "Buyer-Supplier Collaboration," which focused on creating sustainability benefits in supply chains. Both buyers and suppliers at the workshop flagged the need for sustainability criteria that are precise, achievable and effective, and saw great value in working together on innovations.

BuySmart also recently worked with Tourism Vancouver and its members to explore sustainable purchasing strategies, benefits and opportunities. The session helped Tourism Vancouver advance its sustainability strategy and complemented the work of the Vancouver Economic Development Commission and City of Vancouver under its Greenest City 2020 action plan.



Metro Vancouver and Mills Office Productivity, an office supply company, are working together to reduce carbon and waste. Mills has switched from cardboard to Frogbox reusable boxes for its Metro Vancouver deliveries, at a substantial saving. Metro Vancouver keeps the boxes for deposit of recyclable materials, and Mills later picks up both the boxes and the recyclables. The company's deliveries are batched when possible, and many are made by electric vehicle. The service is now popular with a growing number of other Mills customers. This outside-the-box innovation was shared at a BuySmart learning event as an example of buyer-supplier collaboration.

Below: The Surrey Leadership Action Conference featured an FBC watersheds workshop for youth. Participants pledged to reduce their own water use and help enhance local waterways. Kudos, all!







Above: A Community to Community Forum in the Shuswap brought together local governments and First Nations neighbours, with FBC serving as facilitator. C2C forums are an initiative of the Union of BC Municipalities and First Nations Summit. Left: Joan Chess and Donnella Sellars facilitate a C2C forum in the Okanagan.

Building Connections

The Inspiration of Youth: FBC's Youth Committee brings a fresh perspective to the work of the Council.

In 2014 the Committee produced a video to profile three stewardship success stories – part of the legacy created by the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds program. Watch the video on FBC's YouTube channel to learn about the Seton River Restoration Project, Salmon-Safe BC program and Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP).

Stronger Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations: The Fraser Basin Council was honoured to facilitate three Community to Community (C2C) Forums in 2013-2014 at which First Nations and local governments met to discuss common goals and opportunities for joint action.

In the fall of 2013 we worked with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Penticton Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band. The meeting focused on a protocol agreement for shared stewardship of regional resources, building a trusting relationship to develop future agreements on social, economic and environmental goals, and respect for the governance structure of each organization.

Another C2C Forum facilitated by FBC was in the Shuswap region with participation of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, four First Nations (Little Shuswap Lake, Adams Lake and Neskonlith Indian Bands and Splatsin First Nation) and three municipalities (Chase, Salmon Arm and Sicamous). Discussion centred on economic development, tourism and emergency services.

A third forum, in late January 2014, brought together the High Bar First Nation and Village of Clinton.

FBC welcomes opportunities to facilitate C2C Forums and other dialogues that encourage productive, lasting relationships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities. Here are other examples of recent work:

- Ongoing support for the Province of BC, Tsilhqot'in National Government, and the communities represented by the Tsilhqot'in Nation in advancing their framework agreement for cooperative land and resource management
- Workshops on "Building Respectful and Effective Relationships with First Nations" in Squamish and the Cowichan Valley
- A planning process for the Canim Lake Band, the Province of BC and industry on salvage logging, watershed values and biodiversity.

All About Community: Healthy, vibrant communities are at the heart of many Fraser Basin Council initiatives. Here are examples of other work underway in 2013-2014:

- FBC facilitated a community economic development process that included seven community workshops and a regional workshop to engage residents in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Areas A and B, District of Lillooet and St'at'imc communities
- In northern BC, FBC facilitated an independent review of the feasibility of a heliport to serve the Fort St. John Hospital
- FBC initiated a new agriculture program to support local food production and food security in BC communities
- FBC began a project for the Northern Health Authority and BC Emergency Health Services to help develop a strategy framework for the recruitment, training and retention of paramedics in northeastern BC.

Our People

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John Massier

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Linda Nowlan

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Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Vavenby

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Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Victoria

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Director, Metro Vancouver, Surrey

Barb Strachan

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Maureen LeBourdais

Senior Program Manager and Senior Regional Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Steve Litke

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Bob Purdy

Director, External Relations & Corporate Development and Senior Regional Manager, GVSS and Fraser Valley

Terry Robert

Senior Regional Manager, Upper Fraser

Adriana Ruso

Chief Financial Officer

Mike Simpson

Senior Regional Manager, Thompson

Jim Vanderwal

Senior Program Manager, Climate Change & Air Quality

To connect with our 2014 FBC staff team, visit our website or contact our offices – see back cover for details.



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