



The Fraser Basin Council 20th Anniversary Celebration in 2017



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2017–2018

Our Sustainability Commitment to BC Communities

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Fraser Basin Council

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Summers of Change and Challenge



In the summer of 2017 the Fraser Basin Council celebrated 20 years of working in the Basin and across British Columbia. The milestone was important. We reflected on our sustainability journey so far and renewed our commitment to a vision of “social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.”

And we asked, “What can we do to best serve BC communities now?”

This is a question we frequently ask, and it goes beyond blue-sky thinking. That summer it was quite the opposite. The skies were dark as BC suffered what was then its worst wildfire season on record – only to see the record shattered once again in 2018. Both years, people in Interior communities showed their mettle. They pulled together to offer help, share stories and demonstrate compassion for one other. In the wake of it all was a sobering truth: there is more danger on the horizon.

In their recent report to the Province of BC, *Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia*, George Abbott and Maureen Chapman had this to say: “The challenges faced in 2017 may not have been an anomaly, but a strong indication of a new normal our province and planet now face due to the unpredictable and increasingly volatile impacts of climate change.”

What’s needed, they stress, is to go beyond emergency response and to increase investments in disaster planning, preparedness and prevention.

Communities in the Cariboo-Chilcotin have advanced new community wildfire protection plans. FBC has been honoured to play a supporting role in this critical work, for the City of Quesnel and the City of Williams Lake. Northeast BC too is projected to endure more extreme weather events, increasing the likelihood of flood, wildfire, drought and erosion. These trends are critical when planning communities, infrastructure and natural resource operations. Launch of a new Northeast BC Climate Risk Network in March 2018, with FBC support, is a step to wider understanding of the issues.

The Lower Mainland too is vulnerable. The region will face more frequent and larger floods under climate change.

One of FBC’s priorities is to support the development of a Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy for both coastal and Fraser River freshet flooding. We look forward to a flood forum in 2019 where leaders will weigh policy options and regional priorities. And in the Thompson region, FBC is managing a risk assessment on flood, landslides and debris flows to yield better information for decision-makers.

Many climate change impacts are now unavoidable, so climate change adaptation is critical. Also critical is the reduction of greenhouse gases that drive climate change in the first place. FBC is passionate about innovative opportunities on this front. We manage Plug in BC, a collaborative effort to expand electric vehicle infrastructure, promote EV awareness, and help communities host EV “Ride and Drive” events.

In all, FBC delivered on over 30 projects in 2017-2018. These related not only to climate change and air quality, but to healthy watersheds and sustainable communities. As you’ll see in these highlights, the work is diverse.

FBC is known as a convenor and facilitator for multi-interest dialogues and planning processes. This is where sustainability solutions often emerge. As FBC founding Chair Iona Campagnolo once said, “Just as the entire concept of the Council is not the product of any one mind, but many, so too are the issues of our time not to be solved by any single entity in isolation from the communities they serve, but rather in combination with each other.”

Through our strategic plan, FBC directors and staff have made commitments to our way of working:

- We’ll focus on sustainability in all its dimensions – social, economic and environmental
- We’ll encourage collaboration
- We’ll work locally, regionally and province-wide
- We’ll support better relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

As always, we’ll also stay flexible – to meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve. If you think we can help, bring us in.

Colin Hansen
Chair, Fraser Basin Council

THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

FBC is a charitable non-profit society that brings people together to advance sustainability in the Fraser River Basin and throughout British Columbia.



THE CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The overall framework for the Fraser Basin Council’s work is the Charter for Sustainability. The Charter is a good-faith agreement, signed by multiple sectors in 1997, that reflects a shared commitment to collaborative action for a more sustainable future.



FBC Youth Event in the Fraser Valley (2017)

FBC Milestones: 20 Years of Bringing People Together

- Played a pivotal early role in the remediation of North America's worst acid rock drainage problem at the site of the former Britannia Mine
- Worked with over 125 local governments and First Nations across BC on community sustainability planning and climate change adaptation
- Helped BC communities with flood hazard management (including in the Fraser Valley, Prince George and Naver Creek) and interface fire planning and related measures (Williams Lake and area, Quesnel)
- Developed the strategy for and created BC's first council on invasive plants, which has received national recognition and expanded its scope
- Spearheaded Canada's first program to offer performance reviews and ratings for fleet vehicles; partnered on other transportation innovations, such as building a BC-wide network of electric vehicle charging stations and increasing public awareness of EVs
- Led a panel of independent experts, resulting in BC's first legislation on drinking water protection
- Worked with partners to improve Fraser Basin salmon habitat, stock management, fisheries information and monitoring, with a high level of Aboriginal engagement and legacy partnerships for the health of BC's watersheds
- Supported multi-interest planning processes for sustainable watershed management in BC
- Published four comprehensive *Sustainability Snapshot* indicators reports, and several regional sustainability reports for the Fraser Basin and BC, raising awareness and encouraging action across sectors on economic, social and environmental issues
- Negotiated multi-party, annual agreements (ultimately leading to a long-term funding agreement) to maintain the Fraser River debris trap, which avoids at least \$8 million yearly in downstream clean-up and repair costs
- Led multiple clean air initiatives, with support for multi-interest roundtables on air quality in Prince George and Kamloops

OUR DIRECTORS

The Fraser Basin Council has a unique governance structure, with a board of 38 Directors from the federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments in BC, and from the private and not-for-profit sectors.

OUR STAFF

We have a multi-disciplinary staff working out of Vancouver, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Prince George, Williams Lake, Quesnel and Vernon.

OUR PARTNERS

The Fraser Basin Council values the trust placed in us to serve British Columbia and its communities for the past 21 years. We look forward to future success together.

Working with BC Communities | Our Key Areas of Focus



HELPING YOU

Take Action on Climate Change and Air Quality

When it comes to climate change, there is a dual challenge for leaders in all sectors: to drive down harmful emissions that contribute to climate change and to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, some of which are already here. FBC has a track record of service on both fronts. We have partnered with senior governments and with communities on initiatives for greater energy efficiency in buildings, lower emissions, better performance of fleets, an electric vehicle charging network, an electric vehicle awareness campaign, and improvements in air quality. We are also helping BC communities and natural resource sectors understand the impacts of climate change and the importance of adaptation.



HELPING YOU

Support Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources

A year-round, abundant supply of clean water that meets all needs in BC can no longer be taken for granted. There are communities today, and Aboriginal communities in particular, that lack clean drinking water. And BC faces other water-related issues: pollution, erosion, flood risk and periods of insufficient water supply to meet the multiple demands of agricultural irrigation, industry, domestic use, recreation, fish and wildlife. The Fraser Basin Council is here to support leaders in finding innovative approaches to managing watersheds — and to help communities prepare for change. We have experience on a range of issues: flood hazard management, debris management, sustainable fish and fisheries, collaborative watershed governance, watershed stewardship education and water-related climate change adaptation.



HELPING YOU

Build Sustainable Regions and Communities

Communities today face a range of sustainability concerns — such as how to adapt to a changing climate, encourage water and energy conservation, improve social conditions, strengthen links between urban and rural areas, increase collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, encourage social inclusivity and diversify local economies. Our multi-disciplinary team, including regional staff, can help identify relevant social, economic and environmental issues and possible approaches for finding solutions. We often serve as a convenor and facilitator, helping to design and deliver planning and engagement processes that are tailored to local needs. FBC is also a delivery partner on many sustainability education and action programs.

The Fraser Basin Council works with BC communities on a range of issues – including sustainability planning, climate change action and adaptation, and innovative approaches to the management of watersheds and natural resources. Let us know how we can help!

Overview | 2017-2018 Partnership Projects

Here is a look at the Fraser Basin Council's BC-wide and regional projects in 2017-2018 – many of which are ongoing. This work is possible thanks to the sustainability commitments of our federal, provincial, regional, municipal and First Nations partners, as well as leaders in business and non-profit organizations.

Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy
(GVSS-Fraser Valley)

Thompson Watershed Risk Assessment on Flood,
Landslide & Debris Flows (Thompson)

Plug in BC electric vehicle charging education & incentives
(BC wide)

Emotive – The Electric Vehicle Experience
(BC wide)

West Coast Electric Fleets (BC wide)

BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative (BC wide)

Northeast BC Climate Risk Network (Northeast BC)

First Nations Home EnergySave (BC wide)

Elizabeth Henry Scholarship for Communities and
Environmental Health (BC wide)

Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable (Upper Fraser)

PG Ambient Air Monitoring Network (Upper Fraser)

Woodstove Exchange & Education (Upper Fraser)

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable (Thompson)

Pacific Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance Panel
(BC wide)

Wild Salmon Policy support (BC wide)

Thompson Steelhead strategy (Thompson)

Habitat projects (Thompson)

Watershed planning support:

- Shuswap Watershed Council (Thompson)
- Nicola Watershed Projects (Thompson)
- Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy (Fraser Valley)
- Nechako Watershed Roundtable (Upper Fraser)

Salmon-Safe BC (BC wide)

Barn Owl support projects (Fraser Valley)

Ecosystem restoration (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

BC Rural Network (BC wide)

Youth projects (BC wide)

Community Bridge to Housing First - Williams Lake
(Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Beetle Action Coalition (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Agriculture-Wildlife Mitigation Strategy (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Tsilhqot'in National Government-Province of BC Agreement
(Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Southern Resident Killer Whales and Shipping (GVSS)

Moose and Watersheds Stewardship Pilot (Thompson)

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy project (Thompson)

Would you like to know more about our work?

CONNECT WITH US



Project Profiles | FBC Working Regionally & Province-Wide



Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy

This initiative brings together all orders of government and other organizations interested in working on a common strategy to better protect Lower Mainland communities from the risks of a major coastal or Fraser River flood. Phase 1 (2014-2016) has shown the strong case for investment. We now know that larger and more frequent floods are projected in the region under climate change, and that such a flood would cause widespread disruption and losses estimated at \$20-30 billion. Phase 2 (2017-2020) is focused on developing a long-term strategy and action plan that reflects regional priorities. Policy option papers on risk reduction, funding and governance will be brought to partners at a Flood Forum in Spring 2019. Visit floodstrategy.ca.



Thompson Watershed Risk Assessment

FBC is managing a risk assessment on flood, landslide and debris flows throughout the Thompson River watershed. Over the last two decades, there have been high peak river flows in the watershed during spring freshet, as well as intense summer rain storms, with flash floods in some locations and winter ice jams in others. The risk assessment will identify flood hazards, potential impacts, and community and infrastructure vulnerabilities as well as the overall flood risk profile for the region. The aim is to raise awareness, support mitigation planning and action, and reduce the magnitude of future emergencies. Visit thompsonflood.ca.



Wildfire Protection Planning in the Cariboo-Chilcotin

In 2017 and 2018 BC experienced its worst wildfire seasons on record. FBC is helping communities in the Cariboo-Chilcotin with the critical task of preparing Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The City of Quesnel has completed a new plan and is now taking steps towards implementation in 2018, with ongoing assistance from FBC. The City of Williams Lake began work on its new plan in March 2018. Our role has been to engage key interests, organize a community meeting and oversee field assessments. The Williams Lake plan is expected late in 2018.



Connecting Community to Community & Nation to Nation

FBC has been honoured to help strengthen connections between local governments and First Nations communities, such as through the facilitation of Community to Community forums. We continue support for the TNG/BC Joint Resources Council, a committee that brings together the Province of BC and Tsilhqot'in communities to discuss land and resource management referrals under the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement. We've also recently aided the Skeetchestn Indian Band to outline stewardship and territorial patrol programs for several Secwepemc communities, as a component of managing traditional lands. We continue work with First Nations on strategic planning and on community energy efficiency projects through the First Nations Home EnergySave program.



Community Bridge to Housing First - Williams Lake helps homeless people secure housing and connect to services — one of the many examples of community leadership FBC is proud to support



Emotive Outreach & Electric Vehicle Incentives

For many years, FBC has supported a shift to cleaner transportation. Plug in BC is a broad collaboration of governments and non-governmental interests that have been laying the groundwork for electric vehicles in BC. Through Plug in BC, we have managed provincial incentives for the rollout of charging infrastructure in communities and businesses. The most recent round of incentives is helping people buy and install EV charging equipment in single-family homes, duplexes and multi-unit residential buildings and — for the first time — in workplaces too! Our outreach program is Emotive - The Electric Vehicle Experience. Through EV Ride & Drives, community-led events and Emotive social media, we are building more enthusiasm for electric vehicles every day. Learn more at pluginbc.ca.



Watershed Planning & Support

FBC encourages collaborative work in watersheds, including multi-interest community roundtables and planning processes. A prime example is the Shuswap Watershed Council, which focuses on water quality monitoring, water quality protection, recreational safety on the water and — most recently — steps to help boaters avoid introducing zebra and quagga mussels in the Shuswap: see shuswapwater.ca. Other watershed work is underway in the Nicola Basin, the Nechako Watershed and at Cultus Lake.



Salmon-Safe Communities for BC

FBC partners with the Pacific Salmon Foundation on Salmon-Safe BC, a program that recognizes environmentally friendly land and water management practices to protect Pacific Salmon and water quality.

Salmon-Safe Communities for BC, managed by FBC, is the part of the program that encourages best practices in urban and suburban settings. MEC's head office in Vancouver is BC's first Salmon-Safe certified urban site. YVR is the world's first Salmon-Safe certified airport. We're looking for more communities and developers ready to embark on the journey. Learn more at salmonsafe.ca.



Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change changes everything. FBC understands the pressures communities face when planning their future. We are here to support you two ways: by helping you tackle the emissions that drive climate change and by helping you advance climate adaptation strategies. Under the BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative initiative, we host educational webinars and workshops that serve both the public and private sectors. And we are a first stop for key adaptation resources: visit retooling.ca.

Over the past year, FBC helped the new Northeast BC Climate Risk Network share adaptation information across sectors, agencies and disciplines. In 2020 FBC will help organize a National Adaptation Conference in Vancouver. Watch for details.

Incentives for Specialty Use Vehicles

FBC manages provincial incentives for the purchase of eligible zero-emission specialty-use vehicles by public and private-sector fleets. Vehicles include electric or hydrogen fuel cell motorcycles,* low-speed utility trucks,* heavy duty transport trucks, passenger buses and airport and port service vehicles. Pass the word!

* Also available to individuals. See pluginbc.ca for details.



Connect with Us

Find out how the Fraser Basin Council can support you in managing your sustainability challenges. Connect with staff on partnership opportunities through any of our regional offices listed below or at our central office:

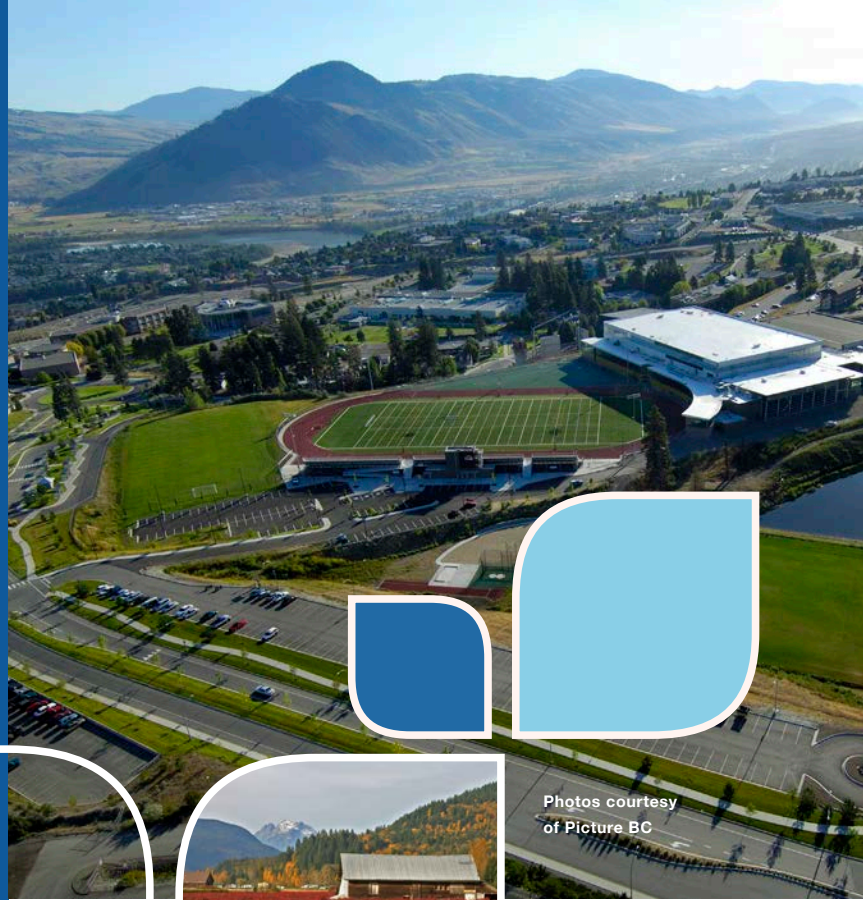
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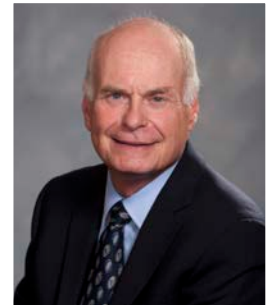
Regional Offices

FBC has staff working in the Fraser Basin and throughout BC.

- **Greater Vancouver-Sea to Sky**
T: 604 488-5350
- **Fraser Valley (Abbotsford)**
T: 604 768-9433
- **Thompson (Kamloops)**
T: 250 314-9660
- **Cariboo-Chilcotin (Williams Lake & Quesnel)**
T: 250 392-1400 | T: 250 992-1094
- **Upper Fraser (Prince George)**
T: 250 612-0252
- **Vernon**
T: 604 897-5350



Colin Hansen
Chair



Davis Marshall
Executive Director



Fraser Basin Council