

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shuswap Watershed Council publishes Annual Report for 2024-25

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) has published its Annual Report for 2024-25, covering activities and accomplishments from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

The report summarizes the SWC's work last year on water monitoring and research; water quality protection and improvement; a new wetland strategy; aquatic invasive species prevention; safe boating and swimming; communications, education and advocacy; and funding and expenditures.

"The Shuswap watershed is a very special place, however it – and many watersheds across the land known as British Columbia – faces threats posed by climate change, fires, drought, pollution, and invasive species," says Rhona Martin, Chair of the SWC. "I am pleased to see the continued involvement of First Nations, regional and local governments, Provincial government agencies, scientists, the agriculture community, water monitors, and stewardship organizations in our Council."

Over the past five years, the SWC has invested \$268,000 in the Water Quality Grant Program, which provides funding to farms in the Shuswap area for projects focused on protecting water quality. Additionally, the SWC has leveraged another \$393,000, bringing the total investment to over \$660,000.

Additionally, the SWC has continued work on one of its highest priorities: preventing the spread of invasive Zebra & Quagga Mussels (ZQM) and whirling disease to the Shuswap watershed from other watersheds. The SWC reports that while there are no known infestations of invasive mussels in BC, an invasion would cause many devastating impacts to the lakes, water quality, fish and wildlife, and that the cost to manage ZQM infestations in BC would be up to \$129 million per year. Residents and visitors are asked to be diligent in preventing the spread by following clean-drain-dry practices for boats and watercraft including pulling the watercraft drainplug to travel, and stopping at watercraft inspection stations along travel routes into or around BC.

The report is available on the SWC's website, www.shuswapwater.ca.



About: The Shuswap Watershed Council is a watershed-based partnership that works on water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap.

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