

STRATEGIC PLAN

Photo Credit: Darren Robinson Photography

shuswapwater.ca

Who We Are

About the Shuswap Watershed Council

The SWC was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap. There are 18 members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, two provincial government agencies, and Shuswap communities. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group. It works alongside organizations that have regulatory roles in managing the Shuswap watershed, complementing their work and carefully avoiding duplication.

Our Vision

Enhanced water quality that supports human and ecosystem health and the local economy in the Shuswap watershed.

Staff

The Fraser Basin Council, a provincial non-government organization, provides staff services to the Shuswap Watershed Council.



GOAL 1

Water quality is maintained and improved in the Shuswap for the benefits of a healthy ecosystem, a thriving tourism economy and a desirable lifestyle for residents

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Ensure water quality is monitored at various locations and times of the year across the watershed

Strategies

- Convene water quality monitors on a regular basis for planning and dialogue
- Coordinate water quality monitors' activities to ensure the watershed is sufficiently and efficiently monitored
- Collate water quality data
- Provide financial support and coordination for additional water quality monitoring, as necessary or desired

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Protect water quality through on-the-ground projects and action

Strategies

- Fund water quality improvement projects focused on nutrient management
- Develop a phosphorus action plan
- Encourage other actions to protect water quality, such as septic system maintenance, storm water management, and source water protection plans

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Support in principle the protection and restoration of wetlands

Strategies

- Investigate and learn from other organizations' wetland strategies

OBJECTIVE 1.4

Consider climate change impacts on water quality from flooding, drought and other climate factors

Strategies

- Assess risks and what other governments and organizations are doing for drinking water source protection, sediment transport, erosion control, extreme events, run-off, algae, bacteria and other factors

OBJECTIVE 1.5

The Shuswap remains free of invasive zebra and quagga mussels, and other pertinent aquatic invasive species of concern

Strategies

- Promote Clean-Drain-Dry practices and watercraft inspection
- Provide support for early detection monitoring
- Advocate for resources and action from provincial and federal governments

GOAL 2

SWC is the trusted, go-to source for water quality information in the Shuswap

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Report publically on water quality

Strategies

- Prepare annual water quality summary reports
- Prepare special articles on water quality issues or projects

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Communicate with people in the Shuswap about water quality and watersheds

Strategies

- Make water quality information available through various media such as websites, print, and social media

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Enable public access to water quality data

Strategies

- Promote existing provincial and regional databases

GOAL 3

People in the Shuswap practice safe water-based recreation

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Residents and visitors are informed about safety risks

Strategies

- Communicate about safety hazards and best practices through various media

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Essential safety equipment is readily available to recreationists

Strategies

- Partner with the Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue (Station 106 Shuswap) to equip and promote children's lifejacket loaner kiosks
- Make marine safety whistles readily available

GOAL 4

The SWC is a well-governed, transparent, collaborative organization

OBJECTIVE 4.1 Abide by a governing terms of reference and statement of principles

Strategies

- Have an inclusive council membership
- Be transparent about SWC operations, decisions and expenditures
- Facilitate two supporting technical committees

OBJECTIVE 4.2 Complement government agencies and regulators, and avoid duplication

Strategies

- Communicate with other government agencies and organizations when the SWC considers new initiatives
- Continually endeavour to be fiscally responsible and reduce costs to all monitoring organizations through collaboration and cutting duplication

OBJECTIVE 4.3 Collaborate with other organizations with similar goals, interests and operations pertaining to water governance, water quality and water safety

Strategies

- Maintain regular two-way communications with watershed organizations, educational institutions, academia and researchers, industry and governments
- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into SWC programs
- Encourage, and support in principle, research on local crop production and nutrient usage with BC Ministry of Agriculture, Kamloops Okanagan Dairy Association and others
- Liaise with BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development about upper watershed sediment transport, erosion control issues and concerns

OBJECTIVE 4.4 Advocate to all orders of government as necessary

Strategies

- Elevate concerns and requests for resources and action to senior orders of government on pertinent issues
- Advocate for the completion of water quality objectives for Shuswap Lake by the provincial government; advocate for the completion of attainment monitoring and reporting in the Shuswap watershed by the provincial government
- Advocate to all monitoring organizations to make water quality data publically available
- Receive presentations and updates from federal or provincial government representatives

OBJECTIVE 4.5 Partner with funders and leverage funds

Strategies

- Investigate and identify external funding opportunities for the SWC, and their priorities and criteria
- Leverage SWC funds to the greatest extent possible
- Partner with organizations with similar goals and objectives

The following organizations are partners in the Shuswap Watershed Council:

- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- City of Salmon Arm
- District of Sicamous
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Secwepemc Nation
- Regional District of North Okanagan
- BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- BC Ministry of Agriculture

There are also four members-at-large from Shuswap communities

Governance and Principles

The SWC is governed according to a Terms of Reference that describe the roles, responsibilities, membership, and decision-making by Council members. The SWC also abides by a Statement of Principles that guides Council members and committee members in their work.

Funding

Funding from the CSRD, TNRD, City of Salmon Arm, District of Sicamous, and Adams Lake Indian Band supports the work of the SWC. Each of these governments has its own means of contributing. Whenever possible, the SWC obtains additional funding from third parties such as universities, foundations, or government grants on a project-by-project basis.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Programs, key actions, and annual budget for 2021–2026

Program	Key actions	Annual budget
Water Monitoring	Convene the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group 2x/year for dialogue and planning	\$10,000
	Implement watershed monitoring plan (SWC funds pay for special projects over and above those carried out by regulators and others)	\$20,000
Water Protection	Convene the Water Protection Advisory Committee 2x/year for dialogue, proposal review	\$7000
	Water Quality Grant Program (Receive, approve applications on an annual basis)	\$60,000
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention	Education and outreach campaigns	\$35,000
Safe Recreation	Education and outreach campaigns	\$25,000
	Safety equipment	\$5000
Communications and Advocacy	Communications collateral (e.g., Annual Reports, other documents for print and online)	\$6000
	Public engagement	\$20,000
	Annual Water Quality Report	\$18,000
	Correspondence with other organizations, regulators, and orders of government on key issues of concern	\$8000
Administration	SWC meetings (4x/year), correspondence, budgeting and work planning	\$30,000
	Financial management and fund development	\$16,000
TOTALS		\$260,000