

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Shuswap Watershed Council

The **Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC)** was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership of several organizations with an interest or responsibility for protecting water quality. There are 20 members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, three Provincial government agencies and Shuswap communities. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group that focuses on **strategic initiatives to protect, maintain and enhance water quality and to promote safe recreation in the Shuswap.**



Protecting and improving
water quality



Educating and advocating for
better protection
against invasive mussels



Promoting safe boating
and recreation



Water monitoring
and research

Who is involved with the SWC?

There are currently **20 members of the SWC** that represent the following organizations: 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 & Climate Change Strategy, BC Ministry of Forests, and BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food. There are also three community representatives at-large and a senior scientific advisor.

For more info: there is a membership list on the SWC's website (www.shuswapwater.ca).

What is the role of the SWC?

The SWC is an **advocate** for the Shuswap watershed by raising key issues and concerns with regulatory agencies, and asking for more resources and action to protect the Shuswap from critical threats.

The SWC is an **educator**, informing residents and visitors about the Shuswap watershed, local water quality, and local water issues and concerns. The SWC also encourages stewardship such as preventing the spread of invasive species and minimizing pollution.

The SWC **contributes to water quality monitoring and research**, and ultimately to a greater understanding of the Shuswap watershed.

The SWC is a **convenor**. The management and governance of water is complex, and many different agencies and organizations have roles and responsibilities related to water. The SWC brings many of these organizations together to work on water quality.



Photo credit: Shuswap Tourism / Darren Robinson Photography

What does the SWC do?

The SWC focuses on strategic initiatives that **protect, enhance, and maintain water quality** in the Shuswap watershed. It does this through non-regulatory means.

The SWC has an annual work plan and budget. Key work plan items include: water quality monitoring; annual water quality reporting; administering grant funding to support watershed restoration and improve water quality; educational campaigns to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to BC; advocacy to government regulators to better protect the Shuswap watershed from critical threats; and educational campaigns for safe boating and water recreation.

For more info: there is an **Annual Highlights Report for 2023–24** and a Workplan and Budget for 2024–25 on the SWC’s website (www.shuswapwater.ca).

Who pays for the SWC?

There are four organizations that provide core funding to the SWC: the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), the City of Salmon Arm, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), and Adams Lake Indian Band. Each of these funders has its own means for providing funding to the SWC. The contribution from the CSRD will be complete in 2024. The SWC has also sought received project-specific grant funding from Federal government agencies including Transport Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

What is the Fraser Basin Council? What role do they play with the SWC?

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a BC non-profit, non-government organization established in 1997. The FBC specializes in facilitating and supporting multi-party collaboratives, helping them to find solutions to today’s sustainability challenges. The FBC has a particular focus on healthy water and watersheds.

The FBC provides staff services to the Shuswap Watershed Council. There are two dedicated staff in FBC’s Kamloops office that lead all the SWC programs and initiatives.

How can I get more information on the SWC?

Check out the SWC’s Annual Highlights Report for 2023–24. The report covers the key activities, major achievements, and expenses for last year. Find it on the SWC’s website: www.shuswapwater.ca.

Follow the SWC’s social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn) for regular updates and announcements.

Email the SWC Chair **Rhona Martin** (rmartin@csrd.bc.ca) or **Natalya Melnychuk** (nmelnychuk@csrd.bc.ca).

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