

## MEDIA RELEASE

15 November 2021 - For immediate release

### Shuswap Watershed Council launches third intake to Water Quality Grant Program

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) is inviting another round of applications to its Water Quality Grant Program.

“One of the SWC’s primary objectives is to protect and maintain the water quality in Shuswap and Mara Lakes,” explains Erin Vieira, program manager for the SWC. “In particular, we’re focussed on reducing nutrient inputs to rivers and lakes.”

Excessive amounts of nutrients, especially phosphorus, can contribute to algal blooms which reduce the quality of water for drinking and recreation, and can become toxic for people, pets, and livestock.

“The goal of our grant program is to help farmers and landowners keep nutrients on the land and in the soil, being used by crops and vegetation - not washing off into nearby creeks and rivers through rain, snowmelt, or flooding,” Vieira says.

Up to \$60,000 is available in the current intake. Farmers, agri-businesses, hobby farmers, and landowners within the Shuswap watershed are invited to apply for funding to go toward projects or land management practices that reduce, capture, or divert nutrients away from surface waters. Funding will be distributed to successful applicants in early 2022.

To-date, the SWC has provided funding to six farms in the Shuswap and to the BC Cattlemen’s Association in partnership with Splat’sin First Nation for projects that improve nutrient retention and management, including riparian restoration, livestock fencing, flood protection, manure and effluent storage, and cover crop trials. Prospective applicants can learn more from a short video the SWC produced last Fall, available on their [YouTube channel](#).

See [Shuswap Watershed Council shows off success of nutrient management projects](#).

“After the positive outcomes last year, we’re very pleased to be inviting another round of applications to our grant program,” says Paul Demenok, Chair of the SWC. “We look forward to creating new partnerships in the Shuswap to protect our water quality, and help farms and other land holdings reduce their phosphorus footprint.”

See [To cover or not to cover? Salmon Arm farmer shares knowledge from cover crop trial](#).



More information about the grant program and how to apply is available at [www.shuswapwater.ca](http://www.shuswapwater.ca). The application period closes on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

-30-

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

Contact: For more information, please contact Mike Simpson or Erin Vieira c/o the Fraser Basin Council in Kamloops at 250 314-9660 and visit [www.shuswapwater.ca](http://www.shuswapwater.ca).