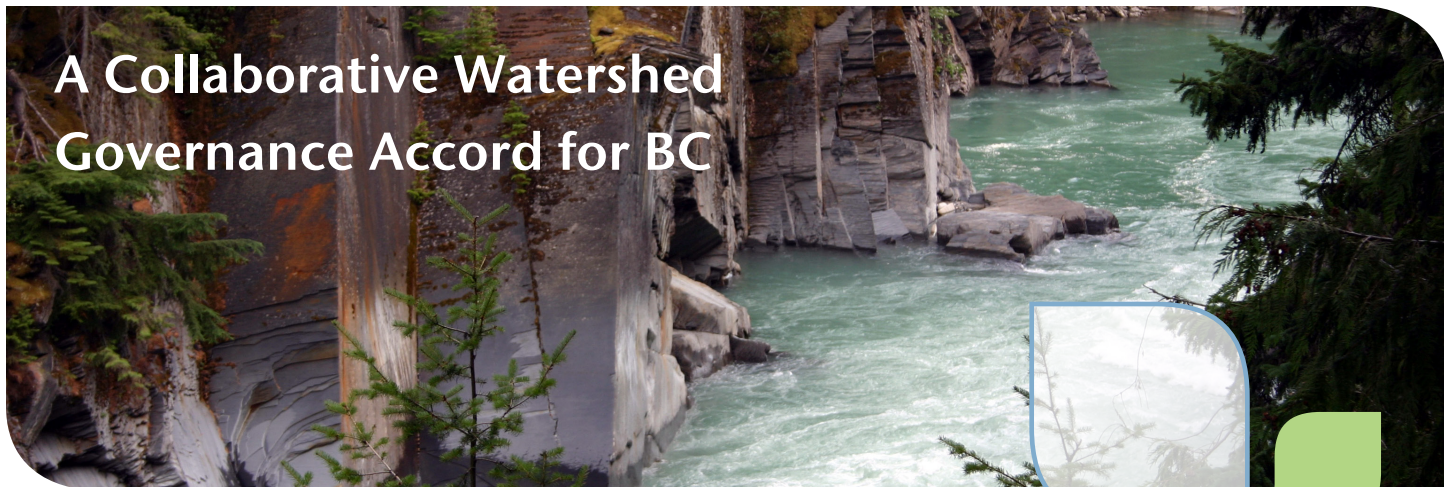


A Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord for BC



Purpose of the Accord

To encourage all orders of government (local, First Nations, provincial, and federal), organizations and commercial interests throughout BC to work collaboratively to attain enduring healthy, resilient watersheds for the benefit of those ecosystems, communities, resource users and economies that depend on them.

The signatories of this Accord will:

1. Encourage interests in watersheds throughout the province to adopt these principles;
2. Encourage participation of those active in watersheds to engage collaboratively in watershed planning processes;
3. Encourage implementation of measures in support of collaborative watershed planning and management; and
4. Apply lessons learned from other models of collaborative watershed governance¹

Guiding Principles of Collaborative Watershed Governance

The following interdependent principles will guide activities in watersheds:

1. Ecological, social, cultural and economic considerations are integral parts of decision-making.
2. Best practices are to be employed to contribute to watershed sustainability in new and existing obligations, jurisdictions and plans.
3. Effective collaborative watershed governance is to be carried out in a transparent, accountable and inclusive manner.
4. Effective working relationships are to be developed and maintained through open communication, trust and cooperation.
5. Decisions are to be based on the best available scientific information and First Nations traditional ecological knowledge, with the goal of achieving watershed sustainability.
6. Authorizations to use water are to take into account the interests of present and future generations.
7. Effective watershed management is to be integrated with land-based resource objectives and activities on a watershed scale.
8. Watershed governance is to include shared responsibilities and enable those affected to have input in decision-making processes.

“We, the signatories of this Accord, will strive to promote application of the the Guiding Principles in this Accord.”

Province of British Columbia

Union of BC Municipalities

First Nations Summit

BC Assembly of First Nations

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Council of Forest Industries

Mining Association of BC

BC Agriculture Council

Clean Energy BC

The Federal Government, represented by Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, supports the principles in this Accord.

¹ “Collaborative watershed governance” refers to a coordinated and collaborative decision-making process that involves all interests within a watershed.

² “Watershed sustainability” refers to sustaining the natural attributes of watersheds for present and future generations.