

Why Watershed Governance?

Why Now?

From record-breaking droughts to conflicts over use and rights, British Columbia's fresh water is facing increasing threats.

*Addressing current and looming freshwater challenges requires **new partnerships** and innovative forms of **collaborative governance** to respond to the many social and ecological needs of our watersheds.*

Watersheds 2016 is the place to start.

The freshwater movement in British Columbia is sophisticated and evolving. Dozens of water stewardship groups, Indigenous-led initiatives, local and regional governments, and watershed boards are taking action to protect our fresh water.

At a provincial scale, British Columbia's new *Water Sustainability Act* also offers new opportunities for formal shared or delegated decision-making and watershed-based water sustainability planning.



Event Organizers, Partners and Sponsors

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WATER CANADA
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Watersheds 2016



Building capacity for
collaboration and
watershed governance in
British Columbia

A hands-on forum for watershed
groups, water practitioners,
researchers, First Nations,
and other decision-makers

September 30 – October 1, 2016

SFU Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Vancouver, British Columbia

What is Watersheds 2016?

Watersheds 2016 is a 1.5 day forum that builds directly on the learnings and successes of *Watersheds 2014*. Through panel sessions, field trips, breakout workshops and structured peer-to-peer learning, participants will build skills and enhance capacity for watershed governance in British Columbia.

The Watersheds 2016 agenda reflects identified water community needs and priorities, with a focus on the following topics:

- New *Water Sustainability Act* planning and governance opportunities
- Collaborative governance
- Environmental flows and communities
- Sustainable funding for watershed governance
- Practical governance tools
- Indigenous-led planning and governance initiatives
- Water ethics and cross-cultural values

What Can I Expect?

Conference Goal:

“To enhance the capacity of watershed groups, First Nations, resource managers, researchers, and other decision-makers and influencers to better collaborate and improve shared decision-making at the watershed scale.”

Come prepared to share your experiences and learn about programs and strategies from other regions. You will deepen your connections with a network of engaged water leaders from across the province, and learn how to better collaborate with stakeholders, governments, First Nations, not-for-profits, and industry with the goal of improving governance.

This forum will bridge with and complement the *Living Waters Rally 2016*, a national event to be hosted by the Canadian Freshwater Alliance from September 27 – 30, 2016. Learn more about the rally online: www.freshwateralliance.ca/lwr16

Attendance & Registration

Who Should Attend

Those who want to get engaged, be inspired or make a difference in their watersheds, including watershed groups, water practitioners, researchers, First Nations and other decision-makers. Students, youth and young professionals are encouraged to participate.

Registration

For registration information, please visit the event website.

Want to Learn More?

Web: www.watersheds2016forum.wordpress.com

Twitter: #watersheds2016

Contact: Rosie Simms: water@polisproject.org

For sponsorship and partnership opportunities, please contact Megan Spencer at ra@polisproject.org

Watersheds 2014 Testimonial

“The main thrust of the gathering was one of warmth, giving, sharing, and unity of purpose... I must say I have waited three decades to witness such a coming together as what happened at Duncan.”

—Watersheds 2014 Participant