



Advancing Sustainability Solutions
Throughout British Columbia

Strategic Plan

2021 – 2026



Fraser Basin Council

Contents

INTRODUCTION TO THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL	3
.....	
ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PLAN	5
The Next 25 Years	7
Sustainability Principles	8
Strategic Opportunities	12
.....	
INCREASE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	14
.....	
STRATEGIC PROGRAM PRIORITIES	17
Build Sustainable And Resilient Communities	17
Support Healthy Watersheds And Water Resources	22
Take Action On Climate Change	25
.....	
TRENDS IN THE COMING YEARS	28

On the cover: FBC's youth initiatives reflect the inspiration and commitment of the next generation of sustainability leaders.

Introduction to the Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC or the Council) is a charitable non-profit organization that brings people together from across BC to find shared solutions that advance sustainability by integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. Our approach is to create a safe place for diverse viewpoints and to help participants find common ground for informed collaboration in support of greater resilience.

Since our inception in 1997, the Council has served as a catalyst and facilitator in multi-interest dialogues, planning processes and problem-solving to advance sustainability. We understand sustainability to be: Living and managing activities in a way that integrates social, economic and environmental considerations to meet the needs of both current and future generations.

While the original focus of our work was the sustainability of the Fraser River Basin—BC’s largest watershed and home to over two-thirds of the provincial population—our geographic scope has expanded over the years to include the entire province. We encourage partners and participants in FBC-facilitated processes to think long-term and collaborate on decision-making. We lead programs that create opportunities for learning and positive action. We have partnered on hundreds of sustainability initiatives that have resulted in tangible environmental, social and economic benefits across the province.

Today in British Columbia, communities large and small, urban and rural, Indigenous and non-Indigenous are dealing with the consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic—while also grappling with increasingly challenging issues ranging from rising economic uncertainty and persistent social inequities to rapid decline in biodiversity. At the same time, the power of misinformation to foment mistrust and division makes it easy to see why the prospect of deepening conflict is very real in BC and, along with it, the danger that progress on broad-based efforts to advance sustainability could be derailed by intractable disagreement about whether and how to address these issues.

Within this broad context, we believe that the Council’s role as a strategic convener of safe, well-informed and inclusive tables for collaborative action on the challenges of our day is more important than ever before.

We understand sustainability to be:

Living and managing activities in a way that integrates social, economic and environmental considerations to meet the needs of both current and future generations.

Our Vision

Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment

Our Mandate

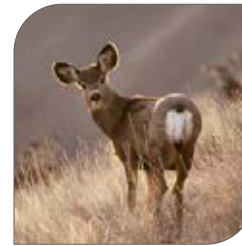
Advance sustainability solutions and practices in British Columbia

Achievements

The Council's solutions-oriented approach to bringing British Columbians together to address contentious issues and foster collaborative solutions has seen significant results. Here are some examples:



Addressing flood risks for the Fraser and south coast, in collaboration with 60+ organizations, and supporting other flood risk reduction work in BC



Increasing partnerships with Indigenous Nations and Peoples by convening support for Indigenous-led initiatives such as the First Nations-BC Wildlife Forum



Helping communities create sustainability plans, and prepare for natural disasters, such as through the work of community wildfire roundtables in BC's Interior



Restoring degraded lands through remediation of the site of the former Britannia Mine



Supporting multiple governments and agencies in their work to improve water quality in the Shuswap



Supporting the adoption of electric vehicles with diverse stakeholders through Plug In BC

About the Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan sets out the direction the Council will take to advance sustainability in British Columbia over the next five years and provides a framework for our annual operating plans, committee and program work plans, and all decisions about where we devote our time, financial and human resources.

In today's context, the Council's role as a strategic convener for collaborative action is increasingly important. Going forward, the Council will help support recovery from COVID-19 and work with partners and others to address long-term threats even in the midst of responding to immediate issues.

A Strong Foundation

As an internal priority, the Council is committed to remaining a healthy and viable organization with competent, dedicated and supported staff.

Strategic Program Priorities

The Council is well-positioned to continue to support public and private sector leaders through three interrelated strategic program priorities, which are to:

- Build sustainable and resilient communities
- Support healthy watersheds and water resources
- Take action on climate change

Looking to the Future

The Strategic Plan also identifies policy developments that we expect will influence our project portfolio over the next five years: see page 28 for Trends in the Coming Years.

Our Strategic Priorities





The 2021-2026 Strategic Plan straddles the end of our first 25 years and sets the stage to move into the Council's next 25 years of helping British Columbians to work together towards shared social and economic well-being fostered by an equitable and inclusive society and grounded in the rich, natural environment upon which we all depend.

The Next 25 Years

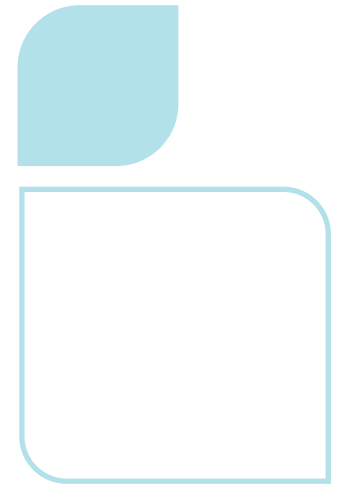
This plan is an opportune time to reflect on what the Council has learned in the past 25 years and what this means for our next 25 years of responding to sustainability challenges.

We have learned that our model works and is needed more than ever. The Council was conceived as a “big tent” that welcomes people of diverse perspectives who are willing to work with others to reach consensus. For the past two decades, we have set safe tables and demonstrated the value of an inclusive approach. We have seen constructive, well-informed, multi-interest dialogues produce results on tough social, environmental and economic issues. We have also seen how involvement in consensus-building processes fosters common understanding and trust among diverse interests—an outcome that is increasingly important.

We have learned that the problems we face are both chronic and urgent and that we need to do more to accelerate the shift to sustainability. While many actions have been taken across BC in support of sustainability, our province faces growing challenges as a result of climate change, including severe weather and stress on our forests, watersheds and ecosystems. Consensus among scientists and other knowledge holders, professionals and practitioners is that we are getting close to irreversible biophysical tipping points. At the same time, BC faces challenges related to traditional resource-based economies. On the social side, we are dealing with pressing issues, including income disparity, racial divisions, homelessness and the opioid crisis.

Finally, the current context of COVID-19 has highlighted society’s lack of preparedness for long-term threats. The Council has a role to play in helping BC to build back better and part of this is helping to increase awareness and responsiveness to long-term threats whether they take the form of pandemics or wildfires and floods.

Even as there is growing concern about the challenges we face, there is also growing polarization within society about how to respond. This is our call to action. The Council is uniquely positioned to invigorate democratic processes and build understanding across different interests and perspectives. The work of the Council seeks solutions at the intersection of social, economic and environmental well-being within the context of competing interests and with conscious consideration for future generations. In the coming years, the Council will intensify our impact by stepping up our role, laying out a larger welcome mat and bringing together unlikely coalitions in support of accelerating the shift to a resilient, sustainable BC.



Sustainability Principles

Drawing from our work over the last 25 years, the following principles have been developed in alignment with fostering a sustainability mindset and offering a foundation for action.

1. Take a long-term stewardship view

We manage our activities to steward the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. We support informed decisions that provide social, economic and environmental benefits today without compromising the ability of future generations to realize such benefits.

2. Foster equity and prosperity for all British Columbians

We treat all British Columbians in a respectful, equitable and inclusive manner so disparities are reduced and we all have the opportunity to meet our economic and social needs.

3. Redefine prosperity

We support efforts to explore new ideas for prosperity beyond material wealth through the articulation of how British Columbians can meet our social and economic needs and fulfil our highest aspirations as citizens while also ensuring the long-term vitality of the ecosystems upon which our society depends.

4. Recognize our dependence on a healthy environment

We recognize that the survival of all species depends on our natural ecosystems and that global ecosystems have biophysical limits beyond which there is increased risk of irreversible damage to life-sustaining systems and services. We strive to stay within these limits and adopt systems-based solutions to environmental challenges including stewarding the health of essential ecosystems and restoring degraded ones to good health.



FBC supports anti-dumping efforts in the Fraser Valley. Thanks to all who have participated in these efforts, including Fraser River clean-up volunteers.

5. Acknowledge that natural resources contribute to social well-being and economic prosperity

We recognize that responsible development of natural resources and management of the economy contributes to social well-being and economic prosperity in many areas of BC. This is reflected in sectors including tourism, agriculture, forestry, mining, oil and gas. As changes for sustainability are made within existing sectors of the economy, or as new sectors emerge that advance sustainability, there will be transitions in the economy. Some communities may face economic opportunities and others challenges, so fairness and equity should be a factor to help communities through these transitions.

6. Advance reconciliation in collaboration with Indigenous Nations and Peoples to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

We work collaboratively to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous Nations and Peoples and to recognize their Title and Rights to the lands and resources in their traditional territories.

7. Respect local solutions for local needs

We have learned that in order to be successful in the context of global, national and provincial challenges, sustainability solutions must be informed by and adapted to local needs and circumstances.

8. Implement informed and integrated decision-making

We integrate social, economic and environmental costs and benefits into all key decisions and strive to help all British Columbians be empowered to participate in decisions that affect collective well-being.

9. Take bold and decisive action

Given the urgency of many sustainability challenges—and the potentially dire consequences of inaction—we work to support partners to take bold and decisive action, through augmenting collaboration among diverse interests.



Governance

The Council is a charitable non-profit society with a collaborative governance structure. Our Board is made up of 38 directors from the four orders of Canadian government—federal, provincial, First Nations and local—as well as from the private sector and the community, including an impartial chair, directors representing different regions of BC, and a youth director. We continue to strive to enhance the diversity of the composition of the directors.



Our Roles

The Council advances integrated approaches to sustainability discussions, practices and action throughout BC. In doing this, we work with partners in three main ways.



Facilitator and Strategic Convener

We help plan and support inclusive processes that bring together people of different sectors, interests and perspectives to learn about sustainability issues, undertake relevant research, resolve jurisdictional or other conflicts that may create barriers, and find collaborative solutions.

Educator

We help people from different sectors or walks of life to better understand sustainability and opportunities to advance sustainability, including education on specific issues and initiatives, education for informed decision-making, and monitoring and sharing progress towards sustainability.

Program Manager

We manage and deliver sustainability education, planning and action programs in partnership with governments and others, and provide administrative, organizational or management support.

Right: Adaptation Canada 2020 was a national conference hosted by FBC where over 700 people gathered to exchange research and experiences on climate resilience. FBC is committed to supporting work on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Below: The Fraser Basin Council helps bring people together on sustainability issues, such as through the Nechako Watershed Roundtable.



Strategic Opportunities

The multiple social, economic and environmental challenges British Columbia is facing now and in the years ahead present several strategic opportunities where the Council can make a significant difference.

Encourage Collaborative Problem Solving in Challenging Times

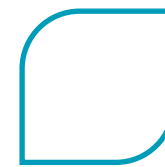
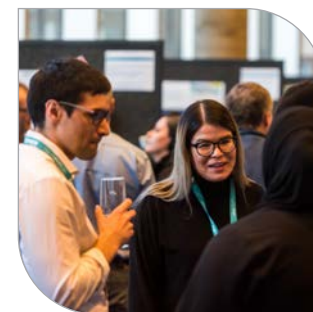
Solutions to the multiple challenges we face may require significant departures from today's status quo. However, proposals for major changes, regardless of their merit and urgency, can generate deep conflicts and divisions. While emergent conflict is, in some cases, a necessary step towards finding solutions, unhelpful entrenched conflict is costly for all of us. It is more important than ever to give people from all walks of life ample opportunities to get better informed, focus on shared goals and strive for consensus on solutions that all can support. Since its inception, the Council has engaged across communities, sectors and interests to facilitate broad-based collaboration. We have earned a reputation for setting safe tables where people with varied perspectives can be heard and, in many instances, find ways to work together. In the years ahead, the Council has an unprecedented opportunity to assume a leadership role in strengthening and better communicating the business case for collaboration as an essential response to multiple complex challenges.

Enhance Informed Engagement

False or misleading information that can be rapidly and broadly disseminated, such as through social media, stands in the way of collaborative work by fomenting unhelpful debates, creating “us versus them” divisions and deepening mistrust. The Council believes that there is a tremendous opportunity to further capitalize on our safe table approach and the trust it has earned over the years by further deepening our emphasis on sustainability education and ensuring comprehensive and unbiased information, including scientific evidence and traditional knowledge, is made available in a timely fashion in support of collaborative engagement and solution-finding.

Embrace UNDRIP as a Framework for Collaboration

The Council builds on our history of encouraging positive relationships between Indigenous governments and communities and other orders of government, the private sector and the non-profit sector. Initiatives in each of our strategic program priorities are informed by the objective of seeking meaningful Indigenous engagement. With the endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by Canada and BC, the Council has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to facilitate meaningful reconciliation through the collaborative application of UNDRIP principles.



Support Youth in Their Sustainability Aspirations

Young people have an enormous stake in the future and it is essential that they are supported and encouraged to contribute their voices towards building a shared vision in which they can see themselves thriving. As the Council has learned already, the bold and refreshing voices of youth can be a catalyst for the kinds of positive changes we need to make. Recognizing the valuable perspectives of young people and their clear interest in securing a sustainable future, the Council will continue to deepen its commitments to youth leadership development, supporting youth in practising collaboration, facilitating inter-generational dialogues and creating new opportunities for youth to exercise their leadership and have more influence in decision-making.

Continue to be Flexible and Adaptive

In today's world—and for the foreseeable future—change is the only constant. We recognize that the pace of change is quickening with respect to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of our world. This strategic plan is framed to empower our directors and staff based on knowing what we know now. We recognize that, inevitably, changing circumstances will change priorities and we have an opportunity to remain open and adaptable as an organization, but also to encourage others to adopt this same willingness to be open and flexible to the rapidly changing context and demands for new ways of thinking and doing.

Broaden the Reach and Impact of Our Work

The Council has made solid inroads in our work over the last 10 years in the three strategic priority program areas of building sustainable and resilient communities, supporting healthy watersheds and taking action on climate change. In our project work, we continue to team up with public, private and civil society partners to combine resources to achieve common sustainability goals that are in alignment with publicly mandated programs and policies that lie within these priority areas. Increasingly, our work highlights the need to take a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to sustainability. In the private sector, this approach complements efforts to develop environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) policies and practices. In this regard, the Council has an opportunity to work with corporate interests to implement ESG principles and practices through sound engagement strategies and trust building efforts with local communities and Indigenous nations. By building on the Council's excellent reputation, the years ahead hold tremendous opportunity to strengthen our work and involvement in our three intersecting priority program areas.



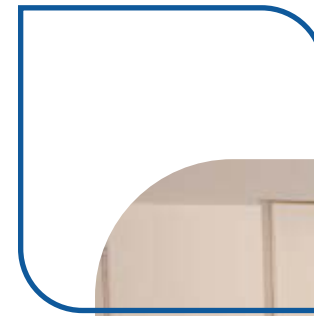
Strategic Internal Priority

Increase Organizational Capacity

The Fraser Basin Council strives to be a fiscally responsible, equitable and inclusive organization with a strong, diverse and dedicated staff team. We are committed to maintaining and expanding our profile and reputation for excellence within all the sectors and communities that we serve. The objectives and strategies for increasing organizational strength provide the foundation for success in delivering on our strategic program priorities.

Measuring Success

The Board sets the five-year strategic plan and each year ratifies and reviews annual operating plans to enable the Council to evaluate progress on meeting our objectives. The Council works in partnership with others; accordingly, our successes are often aligned with those of our partners, and measures of success are set in the context of joint initiatives. The Council is committed to measurable results from our work. A combination of quantitative and qualitative measures are used to evaluate success. The measures vary depending on the nature of each program and the evaluation criteria of partners. The primary scale for measuring and reporting on performance is through the Annual Operating Plan, which includes program objectives, primary projects and expected deliverables, outcomes and targets. At the end of a given fiscal year, a progress report summarizes the completed work and results achieved. The Council reports on progress internally through briefing notes and presentations to the Board, Operations Committee, and other regional and program committees.





Increase Organizational Capacity

Objective	Strategies
1. Maintain a healthy, strong and diverse staff team within a safe, inclusive and enabling workplace environment.	<p>Maintain and improve internal processes to ensure that the Council continues to be a safe, diverse and positive work environment for staff.</p> <p>Strengthen HR policies with respect to terms and conditions of employment, social equity considerations including ongoing operations and staff recruitment, opportunities for staff development, support for work-life balance and support for staff physical and mental well-being.</p>
2. Ensure that the Council continues to be a fiscally responsible organization in good standing with its funding partners.	<p>Build financial stability and resilience through annual planning, resource allocation strategies and fundraising efforts.</p> <p>Provide high-quality financial management throughout the organization.</p>
3. Increase the Council's financial stability through a multi-faceted fund development strategy aimed at increasing strategic, multi-year and discretionary funding.	<p>Maintain close working relationships with traditional funding partners (e.g., federal, provincial and local governments and foundations).</p> <p>Diversify funding sources and their focus (e.g., more private support, new sources that focus on new issue areas for the Council like social equity and sustainable economic development).</p> <p>Continue to track funding opportunities via an organizational fund development tracking mechanism.</p> <p>Explore ways and means to capitalize on the Council's charitable status.</p> <p>Enhance discretionary funding from private and public sources for the Sustainability Solutions Initiative to enable the Council to continue to identify and tackle BC's great sustainability challenges.</p>
4. Ensure the Council's brand and regions fully reflect the BC-wide scope of programs and services and raise our profile among existing and new target audiences.	<p>Undertake a branding and geographic regions review as part of the Council's communications plans to refine and promote our major programs, services and accomplishments throughout British Columbia.</p>
5. Monitor and report on progress towards implementing the Strategic Plan.	<p>Develop Annual Operating Plans including program objectives, primary objectives, expected deliverables, outcomes and targets. Develop progress report at end of fiscal.</p>
6. Maintain a diverse, informed and well-connected Board of Directors.	<p>Conduct regular review of the composition of the Council's Board members to ensure relevance to strategic issues and convene regular Board meetings.</p>



The Fraser Basin Council's 20th Anniversary celebration in 2017 brought together so many people whose commitment and contributions have inspired us over the years. We owe you a debt of gratitude.

Strategic Program Priorities

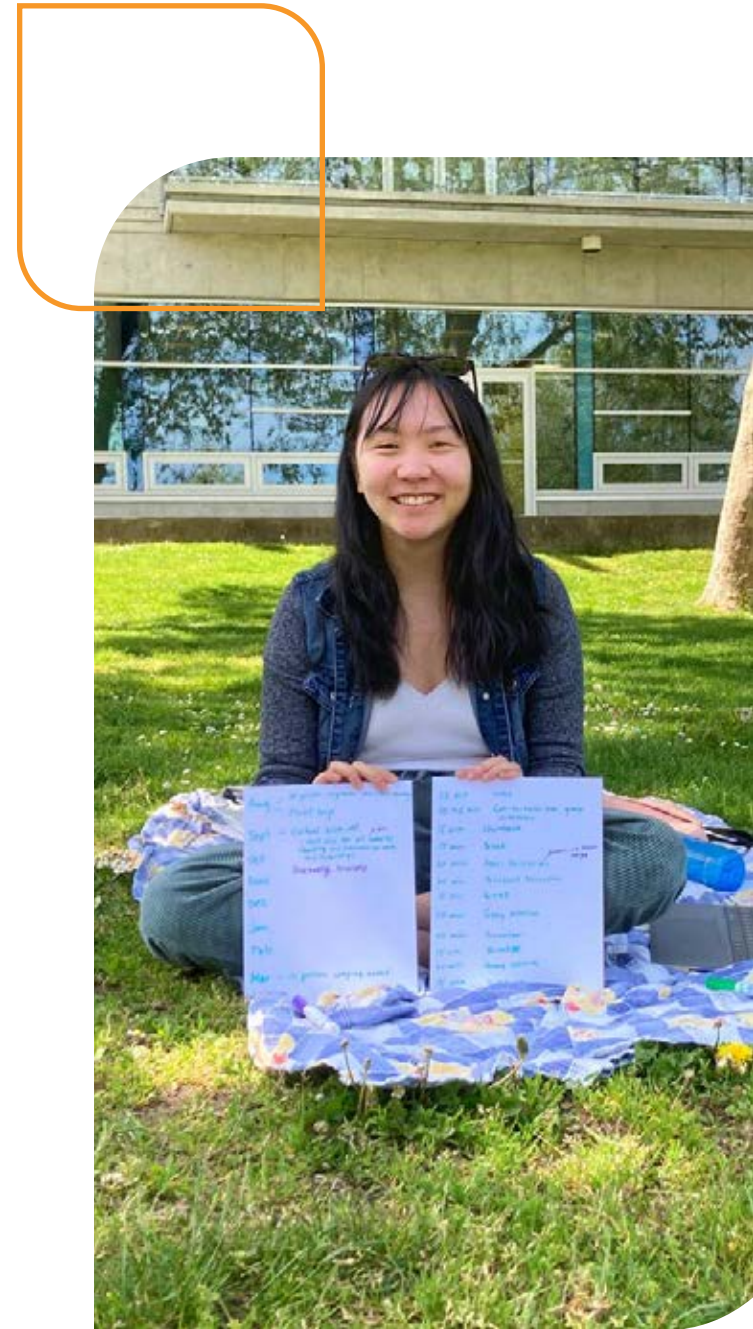
The current plan continues our focus on the three strategic program priorities set out in the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan. The Council has been working on these priorities for a decade and is well positioned to advance them further. While the priorities are clear, sustainability issues and solutions have multiple dimensions and, for that reason, some programs and projects may deliver progress on more than one strategic priority.

Strategic Program Priority

Build Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Resiliency is the ability to adapt in the face of adversity and respond well to destabilizing forces. Increasingly, communities across BC face a growing range of sustainability concerns that require greater resiliency. Pressing issues faced by communities run the gamut from climate change and extreme weather to infrastructure needs, economic diversification, pandemic recovery and mental wellness. Sustainability planning must be directly linked to action-oriented approaches to increased resilience in the future. The Fraser Basin Council works with communities to support planning, research, design and delivery of initiatives that help determine how best to, for example:

- Reduce risk from natural hazards such as flood, wildfire and drought
- Build and maintain infrastructure and provide community services
- Improve economic resilience by maintaining or encouraging the growth of sustainable and adaptive industries, generating revenue through taxes, and attracting and retaining a vibrant workforce
- Improve social stability by providing good paying jobs, affordable housing and inclusivity
- Restore and protect ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Engage, empower and support youth to take positive actions on sustainability
- Strengthen links between urban and rural areas, as well as Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities



Recent Contributions to Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Regional-scale flood mitigation

The Council is active on regional-scale, flood mitigation planning, having facilitated the Joint Program Committee for Integrated Flood Hazard Management for nearly 25 years and managed a number of flood research and public outreach projects. Most recently, we have overseen flood hazard and risk assessments and facilitated advisory and engagement processes to support the development of a Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy, with the participation of over 60 public and private partners (2014-2020). The Council has also overseen flood risk assessment and mapping projects in the Thompson region and province-wide flood strategy investigations.

Community and regional projects

The Council manages community projects across the province and supports discussions and consultations on local and regional sustainability issues. These include:

- Community wildfire roundtables and wildfire protection plans
- Work of the North Central Local Government Association, through FBC secretariat support
- Creation of the Northeast Climate Resilience Network to support Northeast BC communities in completing climate risk assessments and determining follow-up steps

Province-wide initiatives

We have been entrusted with various projects including:

- Innovative initiatives coordinated by the Fraser Basin Council Youth Program to build capacity and sustainability leadership skills among youth in BC, including as My Climate Story and Co-Creating a Sustainable BC
- Coordinating engagement on the Interior Forest Sector Renewal in 30 communities in 2019
- Facilitating numerous community-to-community forums between local and Indigenous governments, including the development of communications protocols



Air quality monitoring

Collaborative processes, such as the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable, Prince George Air Quality Monitoring Working Group and Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable, which are managed by the Council, have resulted in air quality improvements as multiple partners commit to reducing their own emissions in line with air quality targets.

Air quality education

We have managed air quality education programs, including:

- Cleaner wood burning practices (Northern Interior)
- Provincial wood stove exchange incentives

Moving Forward

Comprehensive plans for the sustainable development of natural resources and the emergence of new sectors are also critical to the strength and resilience of many BC communities, and we expect these to be a focus for the future.



Youth in the Thompson region show off a newly installed bear-resistant composter in a project for FBC's Co-creating a Sustainable BC.



Build Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objective	Strategies
1. Increase the sustainability of BC's communities and regions.	<p>Provide information, advice, facilitation services, and/or collaborative approaches to assist communities and governments to address local and regional priorities, such as natural resource management and development, governance, economic stability and diversification, based on sustainability principles and practices.</p> <p>Encourage economic and workforce resilience by minimizing exposure to boom-bust cycles in different industries through diversification.</p> <p>Encourage the attraction and retention of all demographic age groups within communities and the engagement of youth in skills and capacity development.</p>
2. Increase community resilience and reduce vulnerability to natural hazards such as flood, wildfire and drought.	<p>Collaborate with partners to identify local and regional priorities and develop mitigation strategies for implementation by local, provincial, federal and First Nations governments and other organizations.</p> <p>Encourage and support enhanced communication, coordination and collaboration amongst orders of government, the private sector and civil society.</p> <p>Encourage the use and sharing of the best available information and science, including traditional knowledge as appropriate.</p>
3. Increase the number of respectful working relationships between Indigenous and other orders of government.	<p>Facilitate partnerships between orders of government and create new collaborative mechanisms that bring all orders of government together to support sustainable communities and regions.</p> <p>Encourage collaboration and coordination between local and Indigenous governments on shared opportunities, such as service delivery or economic development.</p> <p>Foster learning and understanding of our shared history from multiple perspectives.</p>
4. Improve air quality in priority BC airsheds.	<p>The Council will facilitate collaborative processes, engagement projects and innovative research to reduce harmful emissions from key sources.</p>

FBC co-facilitated work for “Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative” – an Indigenous-led collaboration of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation, Canada and British Columbia to explore the reintroduction of Pacific salmon to the Upper Columbia River.



Strategic Program Priority

Support Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources

An adequate supply of clean water is vital to human health, social well-being, the environment and the economy. Water management is now a big challenge for BC leaders in the face of increasing demands for water from all sectors and the pressures of climate change on freshwater habitats, water supply, water quality and water-related hazards such as flooding. The Fraser Basin Council supports healthy watersheds and the sustainable use of, and decision-making around, water resources across British Columbia.

Recent Contributions to Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources

Wild salmon

The Council is ready to help decision-makers advance the Wild Salmon Policy, follow up on the Cohen Commission recommendations and conduct other priority work. We are also expanding delivery of Salmon-Safe BC, a certification program to encourage urban and rural land management practices that improve water quality, salmon habitat and other environmental outcomes in both urban and rural communities within BC's watersheds.



Water quality and watershed management

In recent years, we have provided program support to the Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) in its mandate to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap region for the long term. We also encourage multi-interest collaborative watershed management.

Ecosystem restoration

In 1998, one of our first projects was convening community discussions about North America's worst acid rock drainage site in Howe Sound at the Britannia Mine between Vancouver and Squamish. Through the ensuing efforts of the Province of BC and many others, a wastewater treatment plant was built to enable the local ecosystem to recover. Today, the adjacent community of Britannia Beach is a vibrant place and salmon are once again spawning in Britannia Creek.

This was the start of FBC playing a key role in many watershed and ecosystem restoration projects.



Moving Forward

In the coming years, the Council is ready to support initiatives under BC's Water Sustainability Act and regulations through research, education and collaborative watershed management projects.



Support Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources



Objective	Strategies
<p>1. Increase the sustainability of priority watersheds through improved planning and management.</p>	<p>Facilitate and support collaborative planning and governance processes and capacity-building among local, First Nations, federal and provincial governments, and other organizations to improve decision-making and reduce pressures on watersheds.</p> <p>Recognize consumptive uses of water and water resources to support industries and communities.</p>
<p>2. Improve watershed and ecosystem health including fish, wildlife and their habitats.</p>	<p>Undertake and support stewardship and restoration projects and advance best management practices in collaboration with a diversity of community and agency partners to improve the environmental health and functioning of watersheds.</p>
<p>3. Address water quality and quantity issues for the benefit of ecosystems and communities.</p>	<p>Facilitate collaborative processes, support technical analysis, educate stakeholders and the public, and inform decision-makers regarding sustainable uses of water resources to support social well-being, economic resilience and environmental health.</p>

FBC is program manager for the Shuswap Watershed Council to help enhance water quality and safe recreation.



CURIOUS ABOUT WATER QUALITY IN THE SHUSWAP?

The **Shuswap Watershed Council** has just released a summary of recent water quality monitoring results. Find it on our website!

shuswapwater.ca

Strategic Program Priority

Take Action on Climate Change

Climate change will remain a critical challenge now and for the foreseeable future, with wide-ranging impacts for British Columbia. There is a dual challenge before the province – to reduce the harmful greenhouse gases that drive climate change and to help BC communities adapt to those impacts of climate change that are now unavoidable.

The Council recognizes that BC is a diverse province with a wide range of experiences, which means different approaches may be required in different places and situations. We know the importance of being flexible and approaching issues and strategies collaboratively.

Over the past 20+ years, the Council has encouraged and supported climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and air quality improvement across all sectors in BC, with the guidance of our Climate Change and Air Quality Committee and program delivery by our staff and volunteers.

Recent Contributions to Action on Climate Change

Partnerships

In our work with partners across the province, the Council has made significant contributions including:

- Support BC fleets to electrify and/or use other clean energy fuels and technologies
- Manage the extension of BC's public charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, including in multi-residential developments and workplaces
- Educate members of the public on the value of electric vehicles
- Support First Nations and remote communities in implementing clean energy technologies.



Climate risk

The BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative program and other initiatives have helped BC's communities and natural resource sectors better understand climate change adaptation by connecting them with tools, case studies, resources and learning events and through the creation of the BC Climate Risk Network and Northeast Climate Resilience Network.

Moving Forward

We will remain a go-to organization on climate change and air quality. Over the next five years, we will strive to build on our track record through partnerships with the public and private sectors. Our initiatives will support the objectives of the province's CleanBC Plan, Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change and other clean energy initiatives.



Winners of the Indigenous Youth Climate Art Contest at FBC's Adaptation Canada 2020 conference.



Take Action on Climate Change

Objective	Strategies
<p>1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency in BC's transportation sector.</p>	<p>The Council will facilitate a 100% increase in the market share of zero emission vehicles through the provision of financial incentives, outreach and training as well as the expansion of charging infrastructure.</p>
<p>2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency in communities.</p>	<p>The Council will assist communities to reduce energy use and GHGs in communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the planning and implementation of renewable energy projects in remote communities, and • improving efficiency in new and existing buildings, through capacity-building, multi-interest processes, peer training and better access to resources.
<p>3. Increase the adaptive capacity of BC communities and businesses in the face of a changing climate.</p>	<p>Facilitate collaborative processes, support technical analysis, educate stakeholders and the public, and inform decision-makers regarding sustainable uses of water resources to support social well-being, economic resilience and environmental health.</p>



First Nations communities are leading many clean energy projects, and FBC is pleased to provide support, such as through the provincial Renewable Energy for Remote Communities initiative.

Trends in the Coming Years

Here are some of the sustainability issues and policies likely to influence the Council's work in the coming years.

Our Plug In BC and Emotive programs are supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure throughout British Columbia.

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

- COVID-19 pandemic impacts, including but not limited to stimulus funding, settlement patterns with remote work and impacts on various industrial sectors
- 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (of which Canada and the Province of BC are signatories)
- BC Flood Strategy and Emergency Program Act Modernization
- Forest sector renewal initiatives on the Coast and in the Interior
- Federal and provincial government commitments to infrastructure funding, including disaster planning and rural internet
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Report

Watersheds and Water Resources

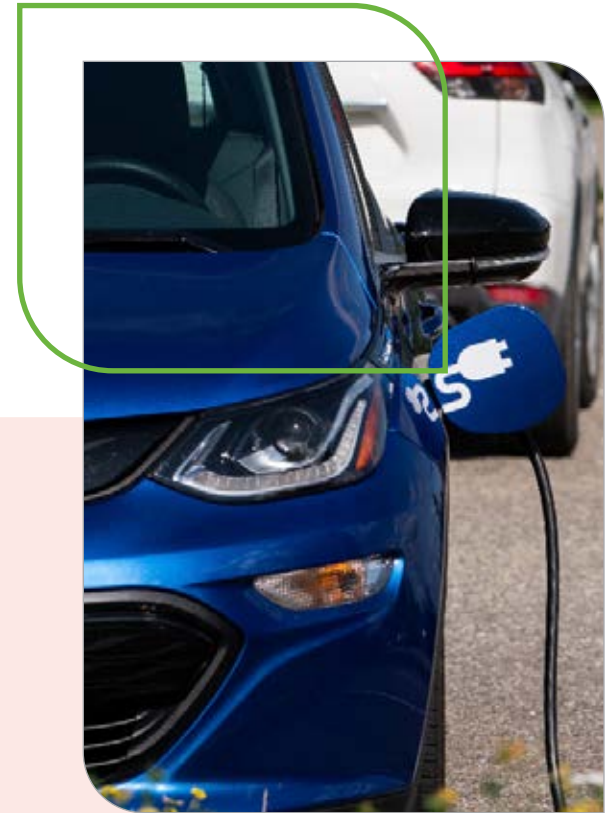
- BC's Water Sustainability Act and associated regulations
- Creation of a Canada Water Agency
- BC's Healthy Watersheds Initiative, which includes an investment of \$27 million
- A growing recognition of green infrastructure and natural assets as an opportunity to improve management of liquid waste, stormwater and rainwater while building community resilience
- Implementation of Canada's Wild Salmon Policy



*Gardom Lake
resoration work in
the Thompon region.*

Climate Change

- 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris and associated agreements on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, together with related opportunities for action
- CleanBC Plan, BC's most recent climate change action plan
- BC's Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Act, which includes a target of 100% zero emissions vehicles sales by 2040
- Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change
- Climate Ready BC Strategy, a climate adaptation and resilience strategy being developed by the provincial government
- Increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and fire and the potential impacts on public safety, community resiliency, water supply, food security overlapping claims
- Government of Canada's commitment to a nation-to-nation approach to relations with Indigenous communities, and the Province of BC's work to advance non-treaty benefit agreements



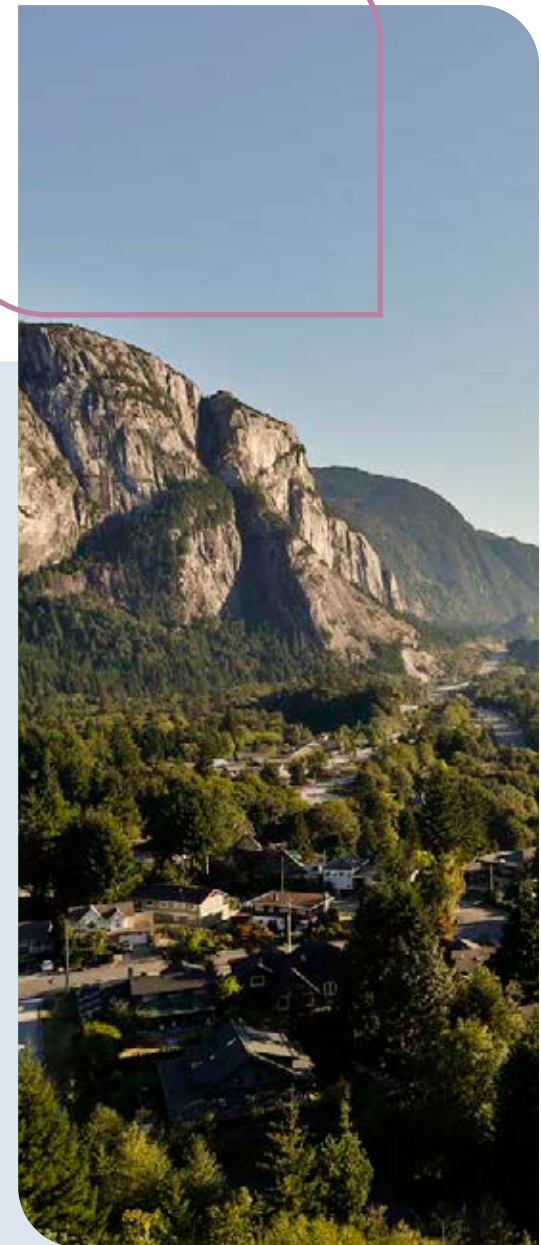
Natural Resources Management

- Cumulative effects assessment and management in BC
- Federal government pledge to review environmental legislation
- Land and natural resource planning and management



Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Relations

- Reconciliation initiatives in alignment with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act
- *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*, a 2014 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, which upheld the claim of Tsilhqot'in Nation to title and rights over a portion of its traditional territory
- *Daniels v. Canada* (Indian Affairs and Northern Development), a 2016 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that the federal government has constitutional responsibility for Métis and non-status Indians
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report, and the Government of Canada's commitment to implement its recommendations
- Efforts to advance the treaty process and resolve overlapping claims
- Government of Canada's commitment to a nation-to-nation approach to relations with Indigenous communities, and the Province of BC's work to advance non-treaty benefit agreements



Working in the Fraser Basin
and throughout British Columbia

HOW TO REACH US

The Fraser Basin Council works from six main locations and serves communities throughout the Fraser Basin and British Columbia:

Vancouver

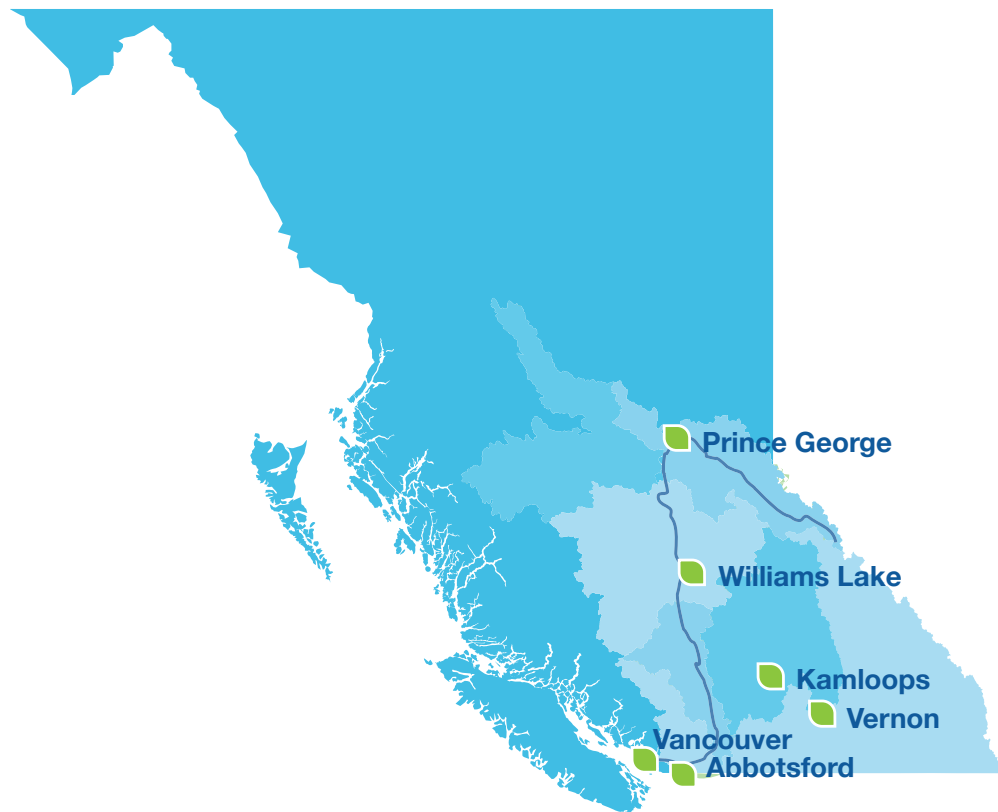
Abbotsford

Kamloops

Williams Lake

Prince George

Vernon



Fraser Basin Council

FBC Main Office

1st Floor, 470 Granville Street,
Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5

T 604 488-5350

E info@fraserbasin.bc.ca

For office and staff contact
information, visit us at

www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

