

Working for Watersheds Roadmap



"A Gitanyow environmental scientist conducts hydrology surveys using an acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) on the Cranberry River. The project is in Gitanyow Territory, led by the Gitanyow Fisheries Authority and supported by the Indigenous Watersheds Initiative."

Photo credit: Mark Cleveland and Dustin Grey, 2022.



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**British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations**

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| The Process to Develop This Roadmap: Dialogue Series

Gathering feedback from the numerous organizations and people working for our watersheds and depending on healthy watersheds was essential to informing this Roadmap. The 2023 Water Innovation Dialogue Series brought together over 100 people and organizations with an interest in the watershed sector to identify near-term innovation and economic development opportunities in BC and beyond. Supporting these people and organizations is **why** this work is happening. Dialogue sessions included an in-person workshop at the University of Victoria, a virtual First Nations roundtable, three virtual sessions focusing on different aspects of the sector, and a survey to collect additional context and insights. Common challenges and opportunities relating to the economic development of the watershed sector (the **how**) were identified through these engagements. These challenges and opportunities in turn created a basis for the Streams of Action (the **what**).



A Vision for BC's Watershed Sector

BC's watershed sector is sustaining healthy, resilient watersheds and supporting prosperous local, Indigenous, and rural economies.

| BC's Watershed Sector in 2030

The year is 2030 and a cultural transformation has occurred in our relationship with water. There is now a broad public understanding that water is central to everything, including a healthy economy, the social fabric of our communities, and the future of all living things.

The people and professionals that are committed to restoring, maintaining, and improving healthy watersheds are respected and recognized as essential workers in the sustainable economy. Their work is understood as foundational to a broad range of economic activities that depend on healthy watersheds, such as growing food, generating hydropower, mining critical minerals, building new housing, and supporting BC's world-renowned recreation and tourism opportunities.

First Nations are leading the watershed sector and Indigenous watershed jobs are supporting strong Indigenous economies. This sector is collectively advancing the Rights of Indigenous peoples, and Indigenous knowledge is embraced and guiding the work of the sector. The efforts of the watershed sector have ensured that rural communities are strong, resilient, and safe in the face of climate change and the sector is providing well-paid, stable employment for rural residents and resource workers in transition.

Businesses, large and small, have fully integrated water risk into their operations, are prioritizing regenerative business models, and are driving innovation and new jobs in the watershed sector. The value of the watershed sector is now embedded in government mandates at all levels – provincial, federal, First Nation, and local governments. New collaborative institutions – local Watershed Boards – have become engines of community economic development.

Long-term, sustainable public and private financing has been secured to underpin a large and diverse watershed workforce that is working together to drive solutions to the many challenges facing our watersheds. This workforce is supported by a coordinated training network that provides clear pathways to employment for workers of all ages and backgrounds.

In short, BC's watershed sector is visible, valued, well-resourced, and highly effective.

Context for Roadmap

A high school graduate's first job getting their feet wet restoring a wetland; a heavy equipment operator decommissioning a logging road; an engineer installing greywater recycling; an Indigenous guardian monitoring water quality; a software designer creating a water data app; and an entrepreneur developing new technologies for mine waste reclamation. These jobs are all united by one mission, *working for watersheds*.

This work has never been more important. BC's watersheds are under severe pressure. Three consecutive years of drought culminated in 2023 with the worst drought and fire season in the province's history. This followed the devastating floods of 2021 that cost nearly \$9 Billion. Climate impacts are combining with decades of watershed degradation to reduce the security of communities and ecosystems.

There is both a critical need and a vital opportunity to grow and develop BC's watershed sector to meet the challenges facing our watersheds. Along with other partners, there is a vast opportunity for the private sector to act as leaders in addressing these needs and translating opportunities into action, while at the same time managing business risk associated with water and other climate impacts.

The watershed sector is already a significant piece of BC's economy. In 2021, the Working for Watersheds study defined BC's watershed sector for the first time and revealed that this sector was directly employing 27,200 people and more broadly supporting jobs for 47,900 British Columbians. It also contributed \$5 billion to the province's GDP. The study also demonstrated how this sector is poised for growth.

| Building on this previous study, the goal of this Roadmap is to present a clear strategy for growing and developing BC's watershed sector over the next 5-10 years.

The roadmap will inform important policy development work by provincial and federal governments, including the BC Watershed Security Strategy, Watershed Security Fund, the Canada Water Agency and federal Freshwater Action Plan. It will also catalyze partnerships and collaboration to spur new employment and economic opportunities.

| What is BC's Watershed Sector?

The watershed sector encompasses activities that directly support the maintenance, stewardship, or improvement of healthy watersheds, and is foundational to a range of economic activities reliant on healthy watersheds, such as mining, forestry, agriculture, and manufacturing.



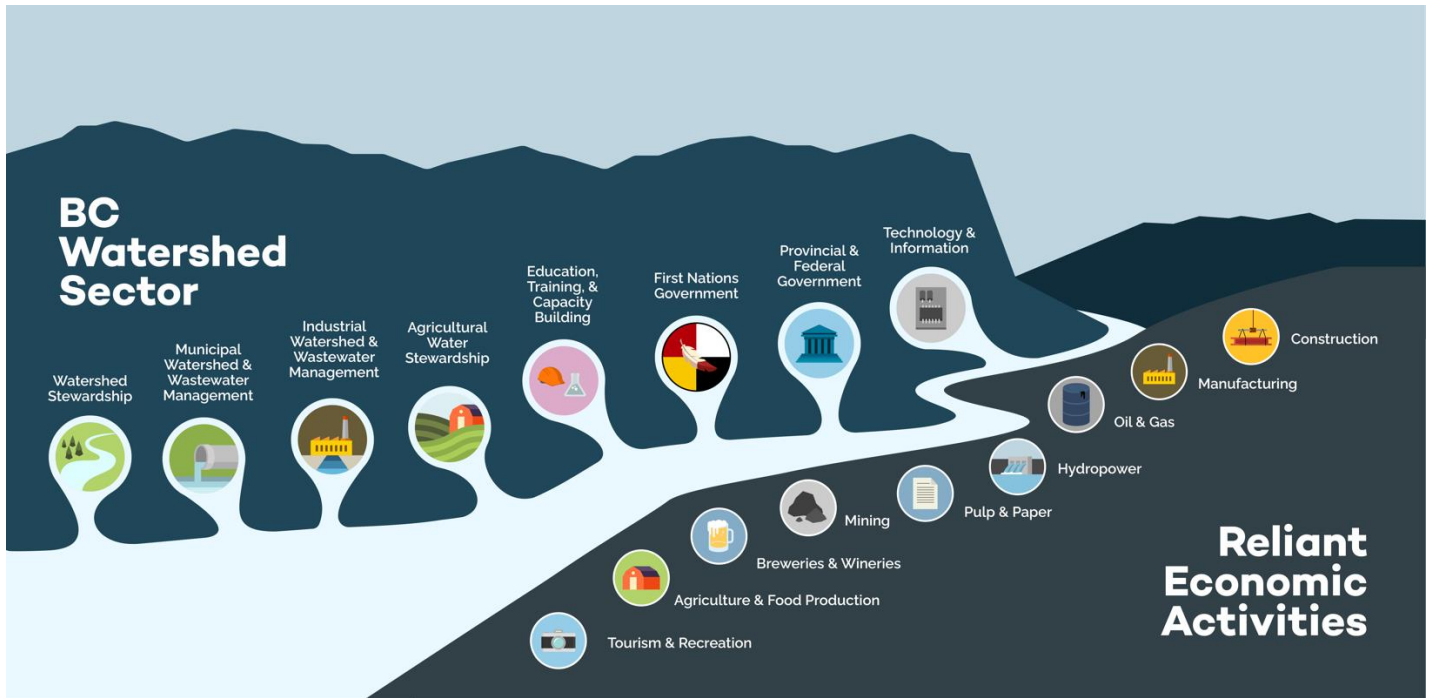


Figure 1: Subsectors of the BC Watershed Sector & Reliant Economic Activities

Subsectors And Activities Within the Broader Watershed Sector	
Watershed Stewardship	Habitat restoration, fisheries conservation, watershed planning, community monitoring
Municipal Water and Wastewater Management	Water supply, wastewater infrastructure, natural asset management
Industrial Water and Wastewater Management	Water reuse, wastewater reclamation, water management for hydropower, forest management and silviculture
Agricultural Water Stewardship	Ecosystem services, farm and livestock management practices, irrigation efficiency, nutrient management
Education, Training and Capacity Building	Project-based training, school and post-secondary, civil society, community stewardship groups
First Nations Government	Natural resources departments, guardian programs, Indigenous conservation initiatives
Provincial and Federal Government	Licensing, policy, funding, science, monitoring
Technology and Innovation	Software development, data and monitoring, modeling climate impacts

The Roadmap is the product of the ongoing Working for Watersheds initiative launched in 2020 with the goal of furthering the future economic impact of the watershed sector. The timeline below highlights key milestones of the Working for Watersheds initiative as well as parallel BC Government initiatives related to watershed security.

Working for Watersheds Timeline



KEY:

- Working for Watersheds
- Relevant Sector / Government Action

Figure 2: A timeline of the Working for Watersheds Initiative as well as significant government milestones for watershed security.

How the Watershed Sector can Advance UNDRIP

Indigenous Peoples have been the caretakers and stewards of watersheds since time immemorial, recognizing water as sacred, and “integral to ceremony, healing, and human sustenance.”¹ At the same time, Indigenous peoples are disproportionately impacted by threats to the health and resilience of watersheds in their territories.

In recognition of the importance of safeguarding Indigenous rights, the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007. In the context of watersheds, The UN Declaration identifies the minimum standards for upholding Indigenous systems, legal orders, knowledge, and free, prior, and informed consent related to activities that could impact watersheds. The UN Declaration further reinforces the need for meaningful inclusion and collaboration of Indigenous Peoples in decision making processes involving watershed management and governance.

Provincially, in 2019, British Columbia signed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* into law. The Declaration Act “aims to create a path forward that respects the human rights of Indigenous Peoples while introducing better transparency and predictability in the work we do together.”²

While water is only specifically mentioned twice in the text of the UN Declaration, references to “lands, territories and resources” throughout the document are interpreted to include water.³ The development of BC's watershed sector can be instrumental in advancing numerous articles in the UN Declaration (see table below). To do so, the sector should also align with the following themes that emerged during the First Nations Roundtable. These themes reflect the collective values and aspirations shared by participants in their commitment to protecting and preserving watersheds.

| Themes from the First Nations Roundtable

- Rights-based approach
- Honouring and respecting water
- Leading with courage and collaboration
- Healing and strengthening connections
- Stewardship, relationship, and responsibility
- Walking on two legs (balancing traditional wisdom and western knowledge)

¹ First Nations Leadership Council. (2022). Intentions Paper: Towards Revenue Sharing of Water Licence Rentals in British Columbia. https://www.bcafn.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/2022Nov24_FNLC%20Intentions%20Paper%20Water%20Revenue%20Sharing_FINAL.pdf

² Government of British Columbia. (n.d.). Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>. Accessed September 15, 2023.

³ Water Teachings. (n.d.). Water is Sovereign. <https://www.waterteachings.com/water-is-sovereign>. Accessed September 15, 2023.

Examples of the role the Watershed Sector can play in advancing the UN Declaration

UN Declaration Article	Role of the Watershed Sector
Article 18 - Decision Making	Support Indigenous watershed governance and shared decision-making through watershed plans/processes.
Article 23 - Development	Increase investments in Indigenous employment, businesses, and projects that support watershed health and community development.
Article 24 - Traditional Medicines	Protect and restore wetlands and riparian areas that provide traditional medicinal plants, animals, and minerals.
Article 25 - Spiritual Relationship	Strengthen Indigenous peoples' distinctive relationship with the land and waters in their territories; respect cultural protocols and ceremonies in the work of the sector.
Article 26 - Rights to Land	Support Indigenous programs and projects that strengthen governance, stewardship, and restoration of Indigenous lands and waters.
Article 28 - Rights to Redress	Restore watersheds to a more natural pre-contact state; ensure dedicated funding for Indigenous projects and jobs.
Article 29 - Conservation of Environment	Conserve and protect watersheds to support nature's needs, and the productive capacity of Indigenous lands and territories.
Article 39 - Rights to Financial Assistance	Ensure public and private funding and financing is available to Indigenous-led watershed initiatives, programs, and projects.



Needs & Opportunities for the Watershed Sector

The dialogue series revealed common challenges and opportunities relating to the economic development of the watershed sector. While many distinctive challenges and opportunities were identified, several key themes regularly emerged throughout the course of the dialogue series. We consistently heard that it is necessary to develop a public understanding that the watershed economy can be a thriving sector in BC. Moreover, participants also identified the need for recognition that all sectors in BC depend on water security. The critical role of Indigenous leadership and involvement, along with the recognition of traditional wisdom and knowledge, was underscored as central for the success of the watershed sector. We also heard that sustainable, multi-year core funding is necessary to support watershed project implementation and meet sector workforce demand.

The watershed sector includes many small and regional entities, and therefore is often fragmented. Furthermore, watersheds span multiple jurisdictions, yet governments often operate in silos, making watershed management and governance very complex. To support the economic development of the watershed sector we need collaboration, coordination, and collective communication both within the sector and across other sectors.

Additionally, updated water governance mechanisms are necessary, encompassing water-centric planning and the modernization of legislation, while reflecting community needs and values. This includes providing support to water boards and other watershed hubs to play an active role in catalyzing regional economic development.

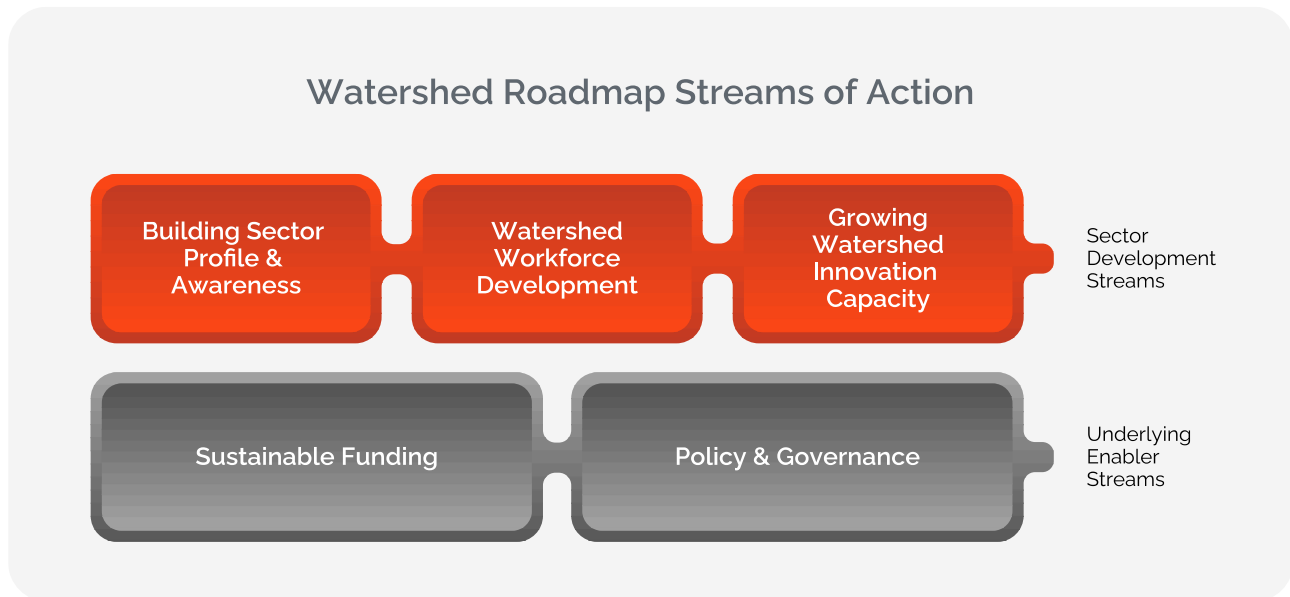
To harness the potential of technology and innovation, it is essential to connect problem holders and innovators. Many solutions to water challenges can be applied broadly and collaboratively. Bringing communities, industries, problem holders and solutions providers together for conversations is invaluable. Additionally, there was a call for improved valuation of water and more effective communication of its diversity of values such as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Lastly, climate change impacts such as flooding and droughts are threatening our food security and economic prosperity, and untapped solutions to address these impacts already exist within the watershed sector. Recognizing and acting on them will ensure BC's watersheds are more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The themes highlighted above provide a basis for the Streams of Action described in the next section. More specific details regarding the needs and opportunities identified throughout the course of the dialogues can be found in the Appendix.

Streams of Action

The Roadmap is structured into Streams of Action, which contain priority actions to advance the watershed sector and achieve the vision of a thriving and regenerative economy in the next decade. Existing literature, expert feedback, and the suite of engagement activities were used to identify the critical activities and recommended actions within each stream.



STREAM	DESCRIPTION	SPECIFIC ACTIONS
Building sector profile & awareness	<p>Actions to engage internal and external partners and raise the profile of the watershed sector.</p> <p>Example: Active cross-sector networks and communities of practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing networks for outreach and engagement with a diversity of sectors and interests and create communities of practice to fill gaps. • Engage broadly with water-reliant industries, to improve understanding of where water intersects with operations, supply chains, and infrastructure investment. • Communicate the value of the watershed sector to provincial and federal governments, including the impact beyond jobs and GDP, to ensure it is understood and embedded in government mandates across party lines. • Build public awareness of the watershed sector and the role the

		<p>public (as customers and stewards) plays within it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct further research to identify linkages between water and other priorities (e.g., climate resilience, energy, infrastructure, housing). • Showcase the connection between the growth of the watershed sector, the labour movement, and a just transition for workers.
<p>Watershed workforce development</p>	<p>Actions to develop a thriving skills training ecosystem and support existing / transitioning workers.</p> <p>Example: Embed water-related curricula into existing interdisciplinary programs in science, engineering, business, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct labour market research to better understand the supply and demand of skills and occupations necessary to support sector development. This research can engage post-secondary institutions to embed water awareness curriculum in mainstream professional education (e.g., engineering, business, etc.) • Develop watershed specific recruitment strategies, including communicating career opportunities and career paths within the sector.⁴ • Establish a Network or Centre for Watershed Security to serve as a hub for training and knowledge transfer. Initial priorities for the network: update competencies and education to align with industry needs; create new pathways to train under-employed individuals; conduct sector level succession planning and mentorship; support opportunities for intergenerational learning (prioritize future programs and funding decisions);⁵ expand educational programs beyond technical training to include practical components, leadership, communication, computer skills.
<p>Growing BC's watershed innovation capacity</p>	<p>Actions to support technology development, commercialization, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate Indigenous knowledge as an integral part of research, development, and innovation.⁶

⁴ BC Water and Wastewater Association. (n.d.). BC Water & Wastewater Sector Workforce Profile. <https://eocp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Water-and-Wastewater-Sector-Workforce-Profile-Executive-Summary.pdf#:~:text=Estimates%20based%20on%20survey%20results%20show%20that%20the,regional%20variations%2C%20as%20shown%20in%20the%20chart%20below.>

⁵ Healthy Watersheds Initiative. (2022). Our Water, Our Future: Major outcomes report on job creation, economic benefits, watershed restoration, UNDRIP implementation, and climate action. https://healthywatersheds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HWI_MajorOutcomesReport.pdf

⁶ Yukon University example: <https://www.yukonu.ca/about-us/indigenous>

	<p>deployment of solutions in response to BC watershed priorities.</p> <p>Example: Innovation funds for projects using tech to solve water-related problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing tools and open data infrastructure to support the growth of water-related data collection, standards, reporting, sharing (e.g., data mobilization for predictive monitoring and asset management).⁷ • Develop an ecosystem map to connect problem holders with solutions providers and identify active connections to researchers and innovators. • Conduct a landscape scan of local, regional, and provincial priorities and gaps for research and innovation. • Conduct resource planning, partnership development, shared decision making, long-term management and monitoring in combination with restoration projects.
<p>Sustainable funding</p>	<p>Actions to secure and maintain adequate and consistent funding directed at the watershed sector.</p> <p>Example: Adequately funded Watershed Security Fund with strong First Nation's leadership stewarding the work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and aggregate stable investment opportunities for solutions at all stages in process (e.g., research, deployment, etc.). • Establish minimum spending amounts for natural defences/nature-based solutions within government funding envelopes. • Support the ongoing co-development and implementation of the BC Watershed Security Fund and advocate for increased provincial funding with federal matching funds alongside philanthropy and private investments.
<p>Watershed policy & governance</p>	<p>Actions to create policy and governance mechanisms that allow for more cohesion and collaboration across different levels of government (and sectors).</p> <p>Example: Intermediary organization, co-governance processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Indigenous sector leadership in policy and governance. • Update governance mechanisms to reflect community needs and values, incorporating water-centric planning and modernizing legislation. • Ensure governments and communities work together to achieve outcomes as the scale needed for water security.

⁷ GHD (n.d.). Aquanomics: The economics of water risk and future resilience. www.ghd.com/aquanomics

The Path Forward

This roadmap is a call to action for people, organizations, and water users across the sector to work together to realize the vision of healthy and resilient watersheds. Water is vital to our economy and society, and watershed security is a critical piece of the climate imperative.

Investing in the actions outlined above will result in significant returns in the form of a just and prosperous watershed sector. We cannot afford to delay action, as the risks to watershed security are real and the costs of inaction on climate change continue to increase.

Workshops and other engagements in early 2024 will serve to surface details of our path forward, including leads for each stream of action, programs that can work in concert with this initiative, and support from governments.

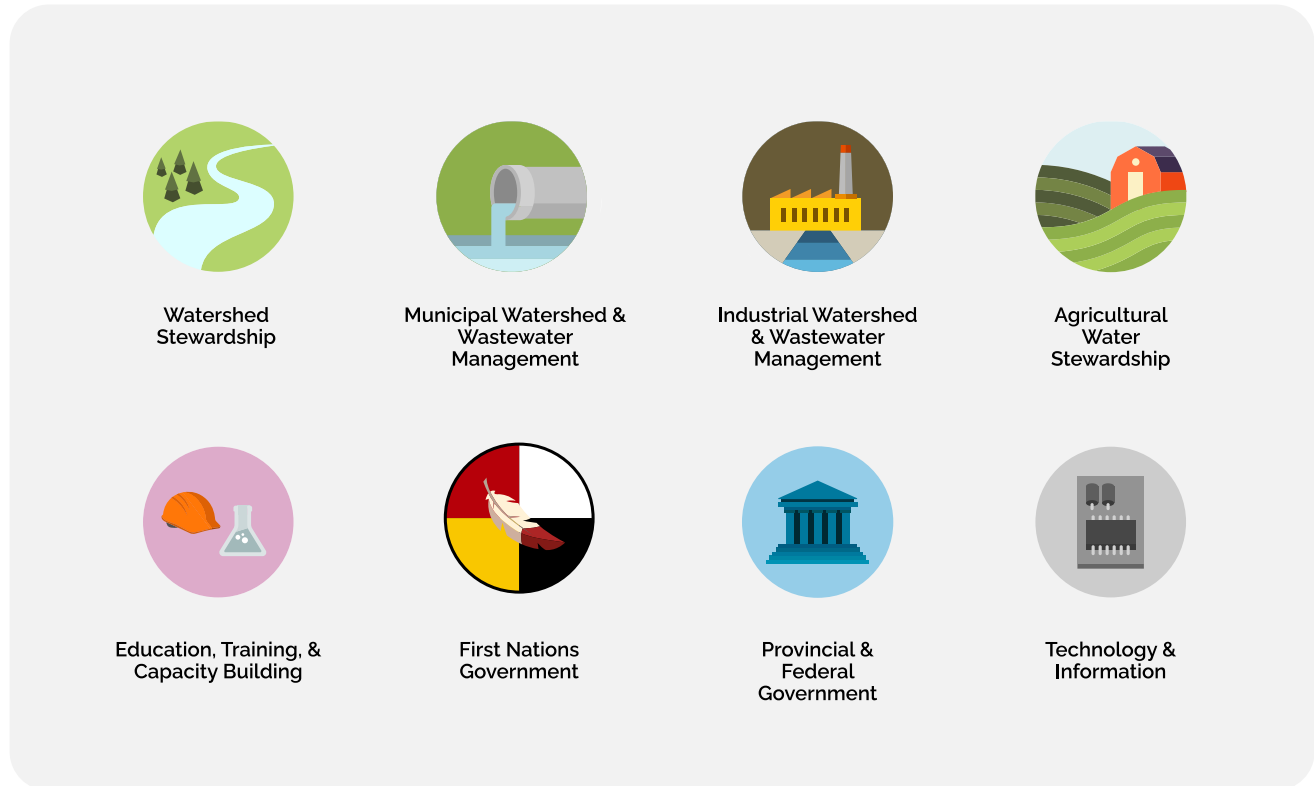
Working for Watersheds is a collective effort that is gaining momentum. The time, ideas, energy, and resources contributed are like raindrops slowly trickling down and ultimately combining in a flowing river; a thriving watershed sector as an integral component of a distributive and regenerative economy.



Appendix:

I Subsectors of the Watershed Sector

The watershed sector encompasses activities that directly support the maintenance, stewardship, or improvement of healthy watersheds. It has been categorized into several different subsectors that were first identified in an economic impact report ([Working for Watersheds Opportunities for Growth in BC's Watershed Sector](#) (May 2021)). The subsectors were expanded following dialogues series engagement. The new subsectors are shown below.



The table below shows the original subsectors identified in the 2021 economic impact report and how they relate to the newly refined subsectors.

ORIGINAL SUBSECTORS FROM 2021 ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT:	EXPANDED LIST OF SUBSECTORS FROM DIALOGUE SERIES (POST ENGAGEMENT):
Watershed Management and Restoration	Watershed Stewardship (e.g. habitat restoration, watershed planning & community monitoring)
Urban Water Management and Infrastructure	Municipal Water and Wastewater Management (e.g. water supply, wastewater infrastructure, natural asset management)
Industrial Water Management and Infrastructure	Industrial Water and Wastewater Management (e.g. water reuse, wastewater reclamation in Mining, Energy, Forestry, Pulp & Paper)

	Agricultural Water Stewardship (e.g. ecosystem services, best management practices, irrigation efficiency)
Education, Training and Capacity Building	Education, Training and Capacity Building (e.g. training organization, school, post-secondary education, non-profit organization)
Regulatory and Public Administration	First Nations Government (e.g. natural resources department, Guardians program)
	Provincial or Federal Government (e.g. licensing, policy, funding, science, monitoring)
	Technology and Innovation (e.g. software development, data and monitoring)

| Advancing UNDRIP: Relevant reports

The table below summarizes key issues and actions identified in relevant reports on the role of the watershed sector in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples:

REPORT	HIGHLIGHTS: ISSUES AND ACTIONS	ROLE OF WATERSHED SECTOR
Towards Revenue Sharing of Water Licence Rentals in British Columbia (September 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared decision-making frameworks must be central to the work ahead. • Increased capacity funding is essential • Full recognition of First Nations' jurisdictional water rights, including amendments to policies, regulation, and legislation that support shared decision making is needed • Co-development of resource revenue sharing policy frameworks is key (e.g. water revenue sharing) 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating traditional wisdom and western science into watershed work (stewardship, planning, governance) • Indigenous workforce development through training, funding, education • Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and wisdom into training programs • Indigenous representation, consultation, and meaningful involvement in planning and
Turning the Tide: Actions to Implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in the context of Fish, Fisheries, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive reforms must be made to all natural resource laws to bring BC's existing and future laws into alignment with UNDRIP. • Stable government-to-government structures and processes are required, and need 	

Aquatic Habitats in British Columbia (May 2021)

to be tailored to the appropriate levels, based on a foundation of joint and consent-based decision-making.

- First Nations lead or co-lead land and water planning and stewardship to address territory-specific issues.
- First Nations receive a fair share of the benefits derived from the use and harvest of water, fish, and other resources in their territories.
- First Nations must have access to secure, long-term core funding to implement long-term governance and management and capacity for engaging with Crown governments.
- Provincial decision making must actively be supported by Indigenous Knowledge, including through joint and consent-based decision-making, consistent with and respecting First Nations Indigenous Knowledge protocols, laws, processes, and protections.

decision-making processes

- Co-creation of watershed governance structures with First Nations
- Co-creation of water revenue sharing frameworks
- Ensuring First Nations have access to sustainable, multi-year funding to support capacity building for governance, engagement, employment opportunities and training, etc.
- Supporting development of First Nations' research databases and technologies

BC Watershed Security Fund: A Collaborative Vision. (December 2021)

- It is necessary to co-create governance with First Nations, ensure explicit roles for First Nations in the governance and leadership structure, recognize Indigenous rights and authority, and incorporate principles of Indigenous governance.
- It is important to engage in direct dialogue with First Nations governments about revenue sharing options that could be available for the Watershed Security Fund.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Healthy Watersheds Initiative Evaluation

Actions to advance UNDRIP

- Support First Nations to achieve recognition and respect for Indigenous laws

Framework and Report. (June 2022)

- Provide resources to support and develop land-based databases for First Nation's based on their own research and knowledge
- Remove barriers on funding
- Engage youth and elders to talk about watersheds
- Focus on communications, and visual storytelling
- Link revenues from the land base with restoration needs and priorities
- Prioritize Indigenous led projects;
- Decolonizing practices workshops;
- Develop an Indigenous leaders advisory;
- Integrate Indigenous knowledge;
- Prioritize Indigenous people in job creation;
- Provide resources for ceremony and engagement in project budgets;
- Engage senior Indigenous advisors and indigenous community connectors

Our Water, Our Future: Major outcomes report on job creation, economic benefits, watershed restoration, UNDRIP implementation, and climate action. (December 2022)

- Target future funding to Indigenous Nations/organizations as full partners in projects
- Provide funding directly to Indigenous-led organizations and hold non-Indigenous funding recipients accountable for Indigenous partnerships

| Needs & Opportunities

Common challenges and opportunities relating to the economic development of the watershed sector were identified through the dialogue series. This table provides a detailed summary and a basis for the Streams of Action.

THEME	NEED / CHALLENGE	ASSOCIATED OPPORTUNITIES
Awareness Building	Conveying the crucial importance of the watershed sector, how everything is connected by water, and the challenges being faced. Additionally, this involves communicating the career opportunities that exist within the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telling the story of the watershed sector to build public awareness (e.g. where water comes from, where it goes). This includes talking about career opportunities and career paths within the sector and can start with K-12 curriculum. Building recognition that all major industries in the economy depend on healthy watersheds and that watershed stewardship is a shared responsibility.
Internal and External Collaboration	The watershed sector includes many small and regional entities, and therefore is often fragmented. There is a need for more collaboration both within the sector, and across other sectors (e.g. forestry, mining).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting the problem holders with innovators more effectively. Supporting roundtables and other venues to hold cross-sector discussions, as solutions span multiple sectors. Helping different audiences think about water from a watershed/holistic perspective. Identifying linkages between existing initiatives, policies, planning work.
Indigenous Leadership and Involvement	Indigenous involvement, consultation and leadership is key, however, there are often capacity barriers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledging that Indigenous wisdom, knowledge, and leadership is critical to the success of the watershed sector. Securing adequate funding to support Indigenous communities in doing work in their territories. Developing water rental revenue sharing with First Nations.
Workforce Capacity Building	Ensuring there is adequate and diverse workforce capacity with the right skills in a sector where work ranges from seasonal manual labour to academic research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing education and training opportunities that are specific to the needs of communities. Training that brings together Indigenous knowledge and western science through traditional knowledge holders. Including succession planning and mentorship in training and workforce development. Supporting the growth of regional or industry-specific communities of practice.

Sustainable Funding	<p>Ensuring there is adequate and consistent funding to support project implementation and meet sector workforce demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that decision makers understand the scale of investment required to meet targets and achieve goals. • Creating awareness around the funding gap, identifying creative solutions to close the gap, and promoting infusion of investment into the watershed sector.
Climate Change Impacts (droughts, floods, etc.)	<p>Many sectors are highly reliant on watershed health, and disruption to these industries through droughts and other impacts threatens our food security and economic prosperity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to address climate change impacts lie in all of the above listed opportunities. Recognizing and acting on them will ensure BC's watersheds are more resilient to the impacts of climate change. • Embracing water management through a circularity lens, as the hydrological cycle is a loop.
Adequate Valuation of Water	<p>Water is currently not valued properly (BC has some of the lowest water rental rates). There is a need to communicate the value of water effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuing water and other natural assets in a holistic way to support more informed decisions about natural infrastructure. • Ensuring fair and appropriate water rental fees that are re-invested into the sector and the management of our watersheds. • Communicating the value of water.
Utilizing the Full Potential of Technology and Innovation	<p>Connecting the dots around the lifecycle of innovation and connecting the problem holders with the innovators more effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardizing water-related data and data sharing to reduce the effort that is spent analysing and managing it. • Bringing communities, industries, problem holders, and solutions providers together for conversations, as many solutions can be applied broadly and collaboratively. • Using technology and innovation to get the science into the hands of decision makers.
Watershed Governance	<p>Watersheds span multiple jurisdictions, but governments often work in siloes, making watershed management and governance very complex.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating governance mechanisms and structures to reflect community needs and values, incorporating water-centric planning, and modernizing legislation. • Providing support to water boards and other watershed hubs to play an active role in catalyzing regional economic development.