



TOWARD THE CREATION OF A CANADA WATER AGENCY
NATIONAL FRESHWATER POLICY FORUM
January 27 and 28, 2021

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

11:00 a.m. EST	<p>Opening Indigenous opening</p> <p>Welcome Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change</p>
11:20 a.m.	<p>Keynote Address The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change</p>
11:30 a.m.	<p>National Freshwater Policy Forum overview Michael Goffin, Director General – Water Policy, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>Webinar Logistics Barb Sweazey, Stratos Inc.</p>
11:40 a.m.	<p>Panel 1: Transboundary freshwater management Transboundary freshwater management can be complex, as decisions made in one jurisdiction can have significant impacts on another. Through this panel, we will explore the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canada has many positive examples of transboundary freshwater management. What can we learn from these experiences and build on moving forward?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is needed to ensure that water boards have the science and data they need to manage and protect transboundary waters, including in the context of climate change adaptation? • How should the Government of Canada support Indigenous peoples in transboundary water management?
12:35 p.m.	Quick Break
12:40 p.m.	<p>Panel 2: Indigenous peoples and freshwater management</p> <p>Fresh water is often sacred and at the centre of all life for Indigenous peoples. This panel will provide an opportunity to learn more about the unique Indigenous relationships with freshwater and some of the key freshwater issues facing Indigenous peoples. Panelists will be invited to share their knowledge and experiences on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you describe the relationship with and importance of freshwater to Indigenous peoples? • What do you see as key freshwater issues facing Indigenous peoples? • How would you like to see Indigenous peoples engaged in freshwater management through the Canada Water Agency?
1:35 p.m.	Extended Break
2:00 p.m.	<p>Welcome Back Carla Torchia, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>Logistics Recap Barb Sweazey, Stratos Inc.</p>
2:05 p.m.	<p>Panel 3: Freshwater science and data</p> <p>Robust freshwater science and access to the best available freshwater data and information are paramount to supporting evidence-based decision-making. Through this panel, we will explore the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priority knowledge and research gaps to be filled to achieve effective freshwater management over the next 10 years? • How well is freshwater science and data coordinated today? If further coordination is needed, how might that be accomplished? • What advances in data analytics present opportunities for freshwater management and decision-making and what can

	the Government of Canada do to capitalize on these opportunities?
3:00 p.m.	Quick Break
3:05 p.m.	<p>Panel 4: Freshwater prediction to inform climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction</p> <p>Freshwater monitoring and powerful models underpin the ability to predict, reduce risks, and inform adaptation to floods, droughts, variability in soil moisture levels, and changing surface and groundwater supply and demand. Through this panel, we will explore the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What scale and geographic precision of modelling output is needed to support your decision-making and how do you see this evolving over the next decade? • What are your needs for water quantity prediction products, services, and applications? • Which of your needs are or are not being met now? How do you see your needs evolving over the next 10 years?
4:00 p.m.	<p>Wrap up of Day 1</p> <p>Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change</p>
4:10 p.m.	Adjourn

Thursday, January 28, 2021

11:00 a.m. EST	<p>Welcome to Day 2 Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change</p>
11:10 a.m.	<p>Keynote Address The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (TBC)</p>
11:20 a.m.	<p>Brief Overview of Day 2 Carla Torchia, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>Logistics Recap Barb Sweazey, Stratos Inc.</p>
11:25 a.m.	<p>Panel 5: Agriculture and Freshwater The agricultural sector is the largest consumer of water and faces many freshwater challenges, including drought and flooding, impacts of growing agricultural production on water quantity and quality, and availability of fresh water given the needs of other users. In this panel, representatives from the sector will comment on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should Canada support the agriculture sector to sustainably manage freshwater resources needed for production and to enhance resilience? • What new or improved tools or science-related information would help the agriculture sector to enhance water management?
12:20 p.m.	<p>Quick Break</p>
12:25 p.m.	<p>Panel 6: Economic sectors and fresh water Sufficient, dependable supplies of clean, fresh water are critical to the success of every Canadian economic sector. Industry also has a role to play in the sustainable use and management of these resources. Through this panel, panelists from different economic sectors in Canada will provide their perspectives on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the freshwater challenges facing your sector? • How is your sector addressing freshwater challenges? • How could a Canada Water Agency assist your sector?
1:25 p.m.	<p>Extended Break</p>
1:50 p.m.	<p>Welcome back</p>

	<p>Carla Torchia, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>Logistics Recap Barb Sweazey, Stratos Inc.</p>
1:55 p.m.	<p>Panel 7: Freshwater technology, innovation & infrastructure Water technologies and infrastructure mitigate freshwater pollution, provide drinking water and wastewater services, improve freshwater conservation, and help manage extreme water events. As part of this panel, panelists will explore the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your thoughts on the technology and infrastructure priority areas identified in the Discussion Paper? Should others be considered? • What are the most important freshwater infrastructure priorities for your community, including those needed to adapt to a changing climate? • What models should the Government of Canada consider to enhance coordination and collaboration on freshwater technology, innovation and infrastructure?
2:50 p.m.	Quick Break
2:55 p.m.	<p>Panel 8: Engaging Canadians in managing & protecting fresh water Community-based freshwater research and monitoring in Canada is growing and the quality of data produced is improving, as is the use of innovative technologies for monitoring and analysis. Through this panel, panelists will provide their experiences in engaging Canadians in managing and protecting freshwater, as well as comment on the following question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific tools and approaches will be most effective in advancing high-quality citizen and community science and data for freshwater decision-making, and in enabling involvement by all groups?
3:50 p.m.	<p>Forum Wrap Up Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>Closing Indigenous closing</p>
4:10 p.m.	Adjourn