

# Watersheds as settings for health and well-being

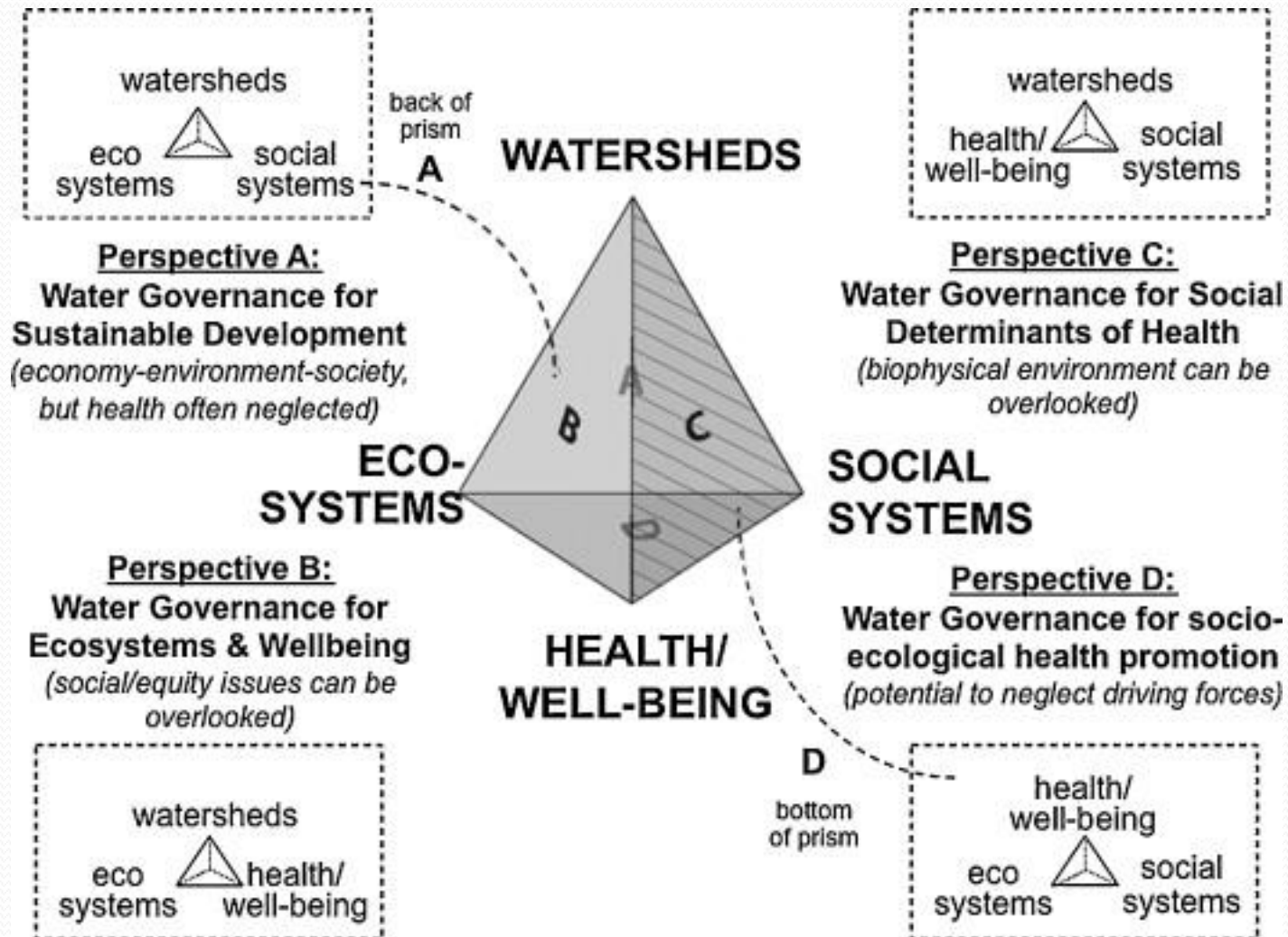
- Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health (NESH)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Five or six Canadian watersheds:  
Ontario (2) BC(2) Alberta (1) Manitoba (1)

# Watersheds as settings for health and well-being

NESH: Two key approaches to understanding social-ecological systems:


- Ecohealth: human health is dependent on ecosystems
- Watershed based integrated water resources management (IWRM): watersheds are appropriate units for water governance and managing ecosystems

# Linking Different Perspectives on Governance



# Watersheds as settings for health and well-being

- Study will include:
  - Self assessment framework
  - Report synthesizing findings from 5 self assessments
  - Emphasis on policy implications of watersheds in support of human health and wellbeing
- Resources:
  - small grant (~6000)
  - Travel support for two: conference in Winnipeg in March

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- Water is human society's principal natural resource.
  - Its distribution and abundance lie at the basis of human settlement, the growth of urban areas, the provision of food for those metropolises, and expulsion of their wastes. (Parkes)
  - A watershed ecosystem provides upstream determinants of health: food, water, work
  - Human wellbeing is dependent on ecosystem 'services

# Water for people and nature

...the upshot of this shift in thinking is a new movement in water management that is more about ideas, ingenuity and ecological intelligence than it is about big pumps, pipelines, dams and canals.

Sandra Postel Yes! Mag summer 2010