



our water bc

Terms of Reference

Our Water BC

June 2019

I. INTRODUCTION

Our Water BC is a province-wide network of organizations working collaboratively to ensure waters in BC are healthy and thriving for everyone who lives here. We were initiated to build collaboration around the passage of the Water Sustainability Act in BC and we have evolved to both ensure its implementation and to build a tent for water defenders to join together and advance significant provincial-level wins for water in British Columbia.

II. PURPOSE

To unite freshwater advocates, defenders and stewards in an alliance focused on building a public movement that supports greater legal protections for the health of BC's waters.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We endorse the key [freshwater priorities](#).
2. We acknowledge and value the diversity of participants and priorities within all member organizations.
3. We agree that collaborative relationships are key to a successful coalition.
4. We work within an environment of respect.

IV. STEERING COMMITTEE

Inaugural steering committee is made up of founding members of the network, including: Canadian Freshwater Alliance and Watershed Watch Salmon Society.

A. Responsibilities

1. Day to day operations
2. Seek out and incorporate policy advice from key experts (e.g. Polis Water Sustainability Project - University of Victoria, Organizing For Change, BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative, and BC Water Funders Collaborative)
3. Recruit and onboard new member organizations
4. Create networking opportunities for members
5. Host regular meetings

6. Develop campaign materials within scope of priorities
7. Act as spokespeople for Our Water BC

V. MEMBERS

A. Definition

1. Organizations who engage proactively in some or all OWBC activities.
2. Members self-identify when and how they engage beyond membership endorsement.

B. Opportunities

1. Join networking opportunities with other groups working on freshwater health in BC.
2. Access to trainings, webinars and other knowledge-based opportunities for your group and your members.
3. Member stories and projects can be profiled on the OWBC website, within media, etc.
4. Opportunity to access support for events focused on freshwater priorities (financial, marketing, etc.).
5. We all get to be part of a larger movement to leave a lasting legacy for healthy freshwater in BC!

C. Responsibilities

1. Endorse the key [freshwater priorities](#)
2. Participate in, and encourage your members and supporters to participate in, action appeals, when/where appropriate.
3. Host events profiling key freshwater priorities
4. Members agree to acknowledge Our Water BC membership on their website.
5. Share logos

D. Data-sharing

1. In cases where members engage in campaign dissemination and list-building opportunities the following protocol for data-sharing will be followed:
 - a) Either via a microsite development or by using a unique recruiter URL, the recruiting entity will be supplied, as requested, with a complete list of the names and contacts they have recruited in to the initiative. They are welcome and invited to engage those supporters as they wish.
 - b) The Canadian Freshwater Alliance will retain a master contacts list and will engage that list on specific opportunities within the scope of OWBC priorities.

E. Communication

1. Members of the network are invited to participate in regular calls to share resources, successes, challenges, etc. and build collective strategies, when/where appropriate
 - a) Quarterly OWBC Member Calls
 - (1) To share local conversations
 - (2) To promote upcoming opportunities
 - (3) To evaluate the success of tools
 - (4) To explore new tools to advance our mission
 - (5) To share/promote communications and promotional opportunities
 - b) Join closed Facebook Group for members

F. Decision-making

1. We strive for consensus among members and steering committee in all decisions affecting directions for OWBC.
2. In times when consensus can not be achieved, we will default to a 2/3rds majority vote of members.

The Terms of Reference for OWBC shall be reviewed annually by the members.