

Stewarding Agricultural Watercourses (SAW) Project

The Stewarding Agricultural Watercourses (SAW) project aims to uncover key challenges and opportunities that will allow the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) to build on the programs currently in place and further advance water resource stewardship on agricultural lands.

Over a period of decades, AF has worked with producers, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and agencies to enhance stewardship of riparian areas threaded throughout agriculturally productive lands. Building on the work undertaken by AF and the farming community there is a desire to identify challenges and barriers, in order to provide further opportunities to improve the rate and success of participation in riparian stewardship.

The SAW is separate from the ongoing development of a provincial [Watershed Security Strategy](#), however results of the SAW will be shared with those leading the Watershed Security Strategy to help inform its development and implementation.

The Province is gathering feedback through a Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper and the feedback received will inform the development of the SAW Action Plan. The Action Plan will provide strategic direction for AF to act on the recommendations proposed by agricultural stakeholders to improve farmers' and ranchers' ability to steward watercourses on their properties. The Action Plan will be released in late spring of 2023.

Please read and [provide input](#) on the [Discussion Paper](#) that outlines some suggestions for actions AF can implement and why. The Discussion Paper provides some objectives and recommended actions to achieve better outcomes for watercourses throughout agricultural land in B.C. **The [survey](#) will be open from April 12th until May 10th, 2023.**

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