

16 Appendix Two: List of regional workshops

As part of the *Water Act* Modernization engagement process, a series of full-day workshops were conducted across the province during March and April 2010 at the locations listed below. More detailed information and workshop summaries are available online at <http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/water-act/workshops>.

Multi-stakeholder workshops

Nanaimo – March 5
Best Western Dorchester
70 Church Street, Nanaimo

Prince George – March 8
Prince George Civic Centre
808 Civic Plaza, Prince George

Kamloops – March 11
Coast Canadian Inn
339 St. Paul Street, Kamloops

Kelowna – March 12
Coast Capri Hotel
1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna

Langley – March 29
Coast Hotel & Convention Centre
20393 Fraser Highway, Langley

Smithers – April 13
The Hudson Bay Lodge
3251 E Highway 16, Smithers

Nelson – April 16
Prestige Lakeside Resort & Convention Centre
701 Lakeside Drive, Nelson

Fort St. John – April 20
Quality Inn Northern Grand
9830 – 100 Avenue, Fort St. John

Vancouver – April 21
Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver



First Nations workshops

Kamloops – March 31
 Ramada Kamloops
 555 West Columbia Street, Kamloops

Terrace – April 14
 The Sandman Inn
 4828 Hwy 16 West, Terrace

Nanaimo – April 1
 Coast Bastion Inn
 11 Bastion Street, Nanaimo

Sample of the *Water Act* Modernization workshop agenda.

Water Act Modernization Workshop

Purpose:

- To understand the opportunities and challenges that modernizing the *Water Act* represents.
- To consider the principles and values that determine the way water is managed in B.C.
- To explore and discuss solution-oriented options for water management.

AGENDA

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Welcome and Session Overview
9:10 am – 10:00 am	Introduction to Water Act Modernization
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Conversation on Water Values
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Coffee Break
10:45 am – 11:05 am	Proposed objectives and possible solutions
11:05 am – 12:15 pm	Break Out Session # 1 - Proposed objectives and possible solutions

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Protect Stream Health and Aquatic Environments	Improve Water Governance Arrangements	Introduce more flexibility and efficiency in the water allocation system	Regulate groundwater extraction and use in priority areas and for large withdrawals

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break Out Session # 2 - Proposed objectives and possible solutions

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Protect Stream Health and Aquatic Environments	Improve Water Governance Arrangements	Introduce more flexibility and efficiency in the water allocation system	Regulate groundwater extraction and use in priority areas and for large withdrawals

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Coffee Break
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Reporting on Break Out Session Outcomes
3:15 pm – 3:45pm	Open Discussion
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Next Steps and Closing

17 Appendix Three: Full text of proposed principles & goals

Proposed *Water Act* Modernization principles:

1. BC's water resources are used within sustainable limits.
2. First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water are respected and accommodated.
3. Science informs water resource management and decision making.
4. Water resource legislation, policy and decision making processes as well as management tools are integrated across all levels of government.
5. Rules and standards for water management are clearly defined, providing a predictable investment climate across the province.
6. Flexibility is provided to adapt to extreme conditions or unexpected events on a provincial, regional or issue-specific level.
7. Incentives are created for water conservation that consider the needs of users and investors.
8. Rights to use water come with responsibilities to be efficient and help protect stream health.

Proposed *Water Act* Modernization goals and objectives:

GOAL ONE Protect stream health and aquatic environments

- Objective One: Environmental flow needs are considered in all water allocation decisions to protect stream health
- Objective Two: Watershed or aquifer-based water allocation plans include environmental flows and water available for consumptive use
- Objective Three: Habitat and riparian area protection provisions are enhanced

GOAL TWO Improve water governance arrangements

- Objective One: Governance roles and accountabilities are clarified
- Objective Two: Governance arrangements are flexible and responsive to future needs and values
- Objective Three: Management is coordinated with neighbouring jurisdictions across all levels of government and those with a major interest in the watershed

GOAL THREE Introduce more flexibility and efficiency in the water allocation system

- Objective One: The water allocation system emphasizes and encourages efficiencies in water use and in the administration of water as a natural resource
- Objective Two: Water users and decision makers have flexibility to quickly adapt to changing environmental, economic and social conditions
- Objective Three: The water allocation system integrates the management of groundwater and surface water resources where required in problem areas
- Objective Four: Water users will be required to conserve water during drought or when stream health is threatened

GOAL FOUR Regulate groundwater extraction and use

- Objective One: Groundwater extraction and use is regulated in priority (critical) areas and for all large withdrawals

Water is everyone's concern

and we can all play a role in determining BC's water future. To follow the on-going progress of the *Water Act* Modernization, visit the [Living Water Smart Blog](#).



British Columbia's
Water Act
Modernization
Report on Engagement

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