

The CANADA WATER AGENCY (CWA)

Providing Federal Freshwater Leadership and Promoting Coordination

November 5, 2024

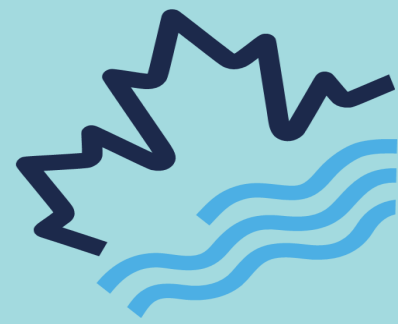


Canada
Water Agency

Agence de l'eau
du Canada

Canada

Objective

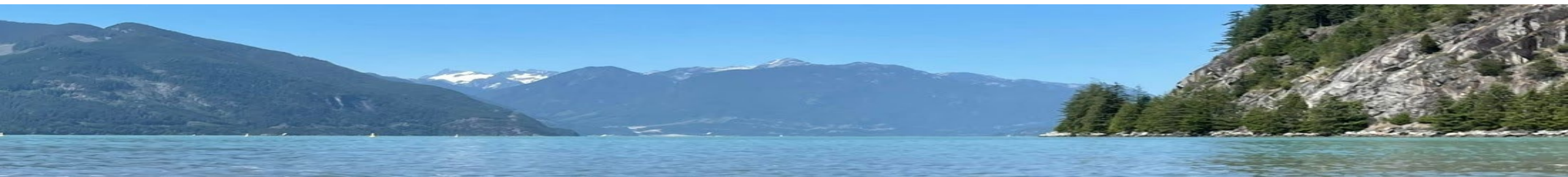


- Context
- Current Status
- Our Mandate
- Ongoing Initiatives
- Strengthening Federal Coordination
- Next Steps

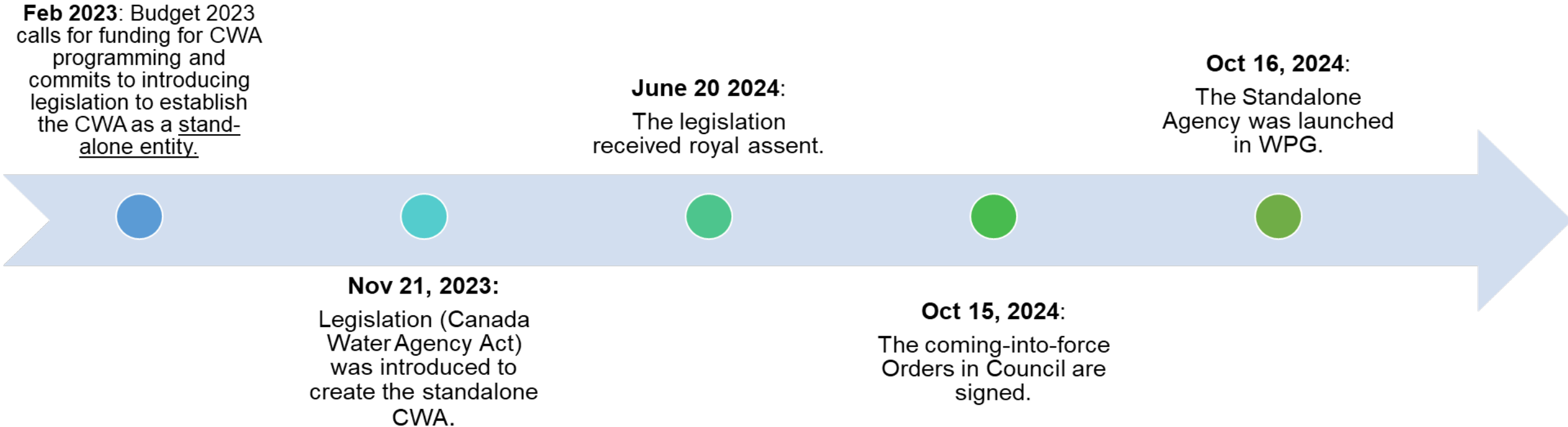
CONTEXT



- Freshwater challenges are on the rise in Canada (scarcity, water quality, availability, extreme events, etc.)
- Water challenges are linked to biodiversity, climate, economic and social issues.
- Water is central to First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultural, spiritual and social life.
- Water realities vary across Canada's regions
- There is a recognized need for national coordination on water management
- Over 20 federal departments are working on freshwater activities
- Canadians and Parliamentarians are increasingly paying attention to water issues



CURRENT STATUS



- The agency headquarters are in Winnipeg, a historical gathering place for Indigenous peoples and home to Lake Winnipeg.
- The CWA also has regional offices throughout Canada.

WHAT DOES A STAND-ALONE AGENCY MEAN?

1. Direct reporting relationship with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
2. Greater visibility on freshwater challenges and opportunities.
3. CWA's work will be complementary with other water functions from ECCC (i.e. freshwater science and monitoring)
4. Responsible to provide Minister with a whole-of-government perspective
5. Responsive organization that is committed to delivering results



OUR MANDATE



1. Provide federal freshwater policy leadership and a whole-of-government approach to freshwater management



2. Collaborate with provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners



3. Facilitate access to federal freshwater information



4. Collaborate with stakeholders and provide funding and support for partner-led projects



5. Leverage freshwater data and science for better outcomes



6. Enhance cooperation on transboundary watersheds



ONGOING INITIATIVES



Freshwater Policy

- Future and foresight
- International Water Policy
- Parliamentary affairs
- Cabinet affairs
- Strategic policy



The Freshwater Action Plan

The CWA is investing in partnered projects to restore and protect water quality and ecosystem health in waterbodies of national significance.



Canada Water Act Review

A two-step process engaging Canadians on reviewing the Act to better reflect modern freshwater realities.

STRENGTHENING FEDERAL COORDINATION



A Federal Freshwater Committee

A permanent committee involving all 25+ depts/agencies with freshwater activities.



A Federal Freshwater Hub

An innovative hub that co-locates employees from depts/agencies with freshwater activities for 1–2-year assignments.



Water One Window (WOW)

A user-friendly online portal through which Canadians can easily access freshwater data and information.



National Freshwater Data Strategy

Developing data standards to enhance data accessibility and interoperability.

KEY MESSAGES



- Freshwater challenges are becoming an increasing issue across Canada, we have heard from Canadians, and we are taking action.
- The Canada Water Agency is here to provide leadership and coordination to protect our freshwater resources.
- Funding to restore and protect Canada's water bodies of national significance has been secured and is being rolled out now.
- We are here to listen to your concerns and perspectives and are ready to take on these challenges together.

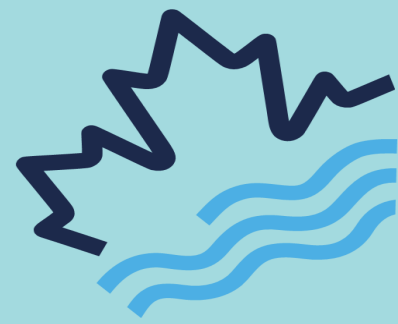


NEXT STEPS

- Continue to:
 - Engage on the review of the *Canada Water Act* and the National Freshwater Data Strategy.
 - Implement the Freshwater Action Plan
 - Listening to Canadians –You- to help define key freshwater priorities.
 - (e.g. what are potential areas of collaboration between the CWA and municipalities?)



CONTACT US



Email: Water-Eau@ec.gc.ca

Website: [Canada Water Agency - Canada.ca](https://CanadaWaterAgency-Canada.ca)

LinkedIn: [Canada Water Agency | LinkedIn](#)

X: [Canada Water Agency \(@WaterAgencyCAN\)](#).

