

Building a National Freshwater Data Strategy

National Water and
Wastewater Conference
November, 2024

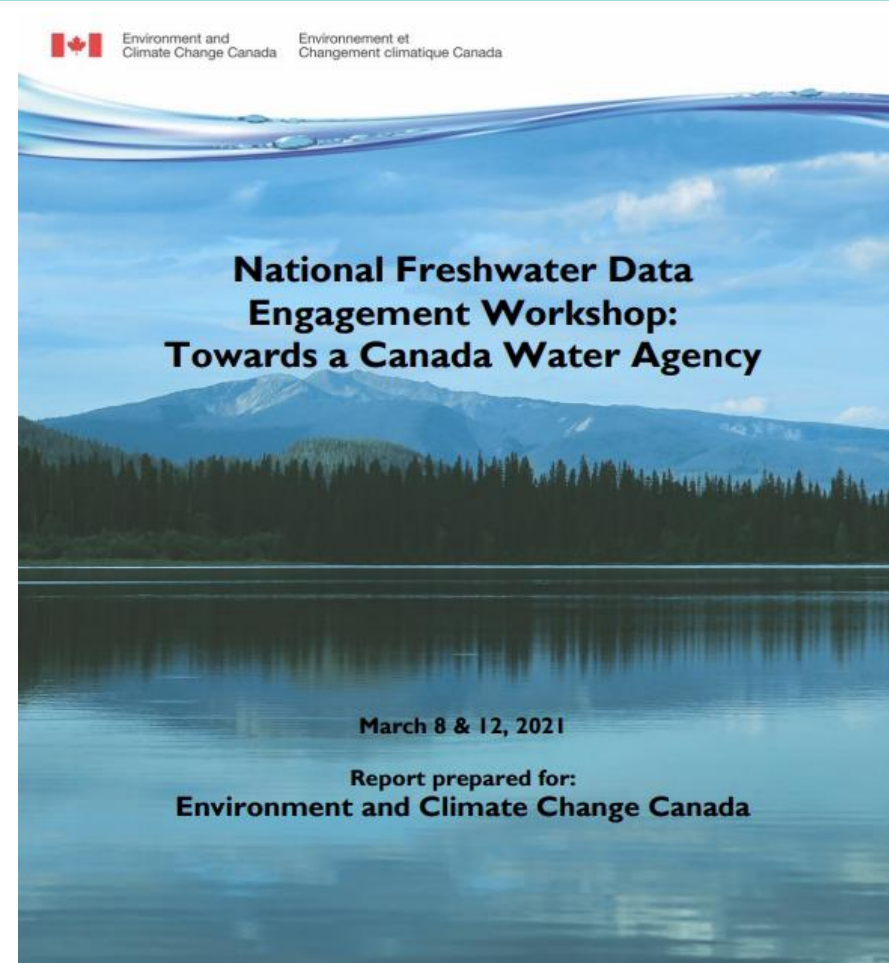
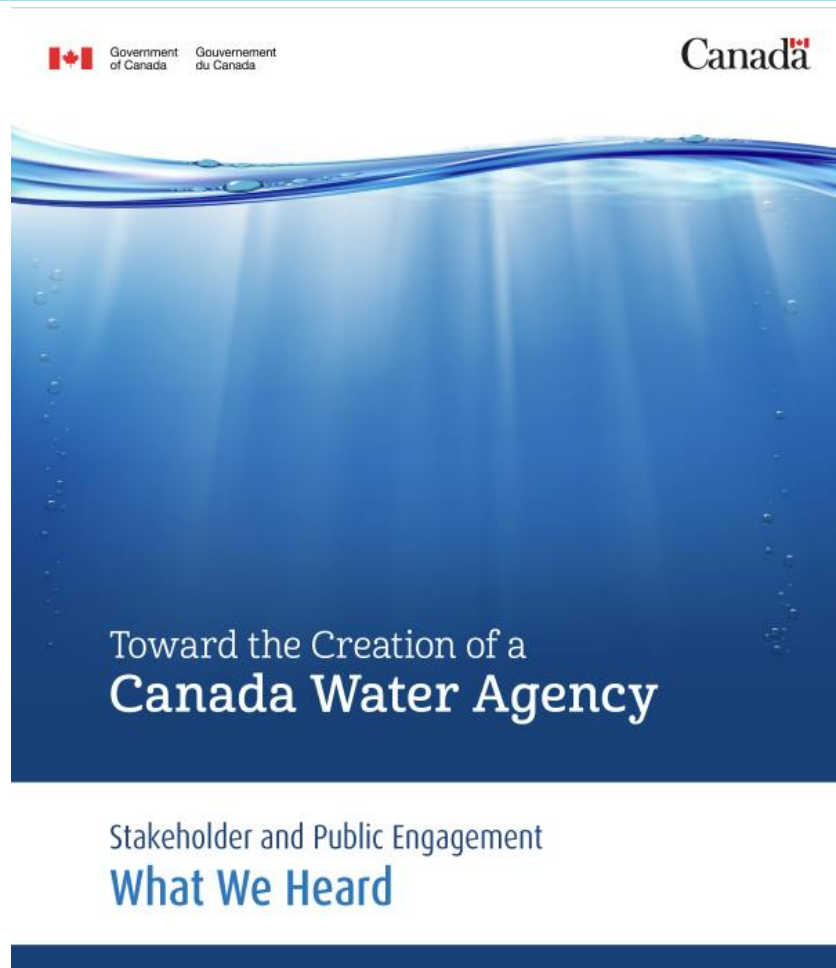


Canada
Water Agency

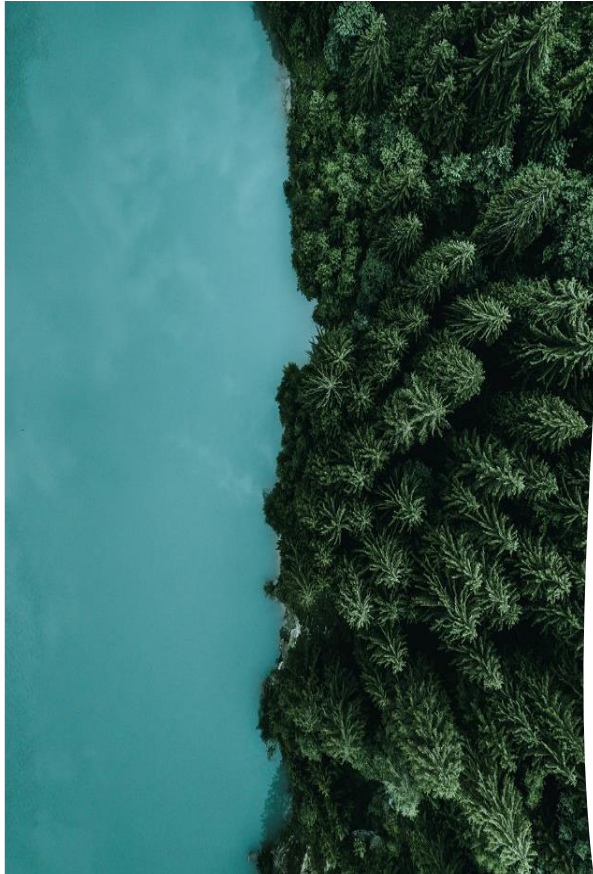
Agence de l'eau
du Canada

Canada

Building the agency



What we heard



Towards the Creation of a Canada Water Agency (2021)

'Availability of data and information to support informed decision-making at all levels' was a highly-ranked objective.

We must coordinate and standardize approaches to data collection, management and sharing in the Government of Canada and across organizations.

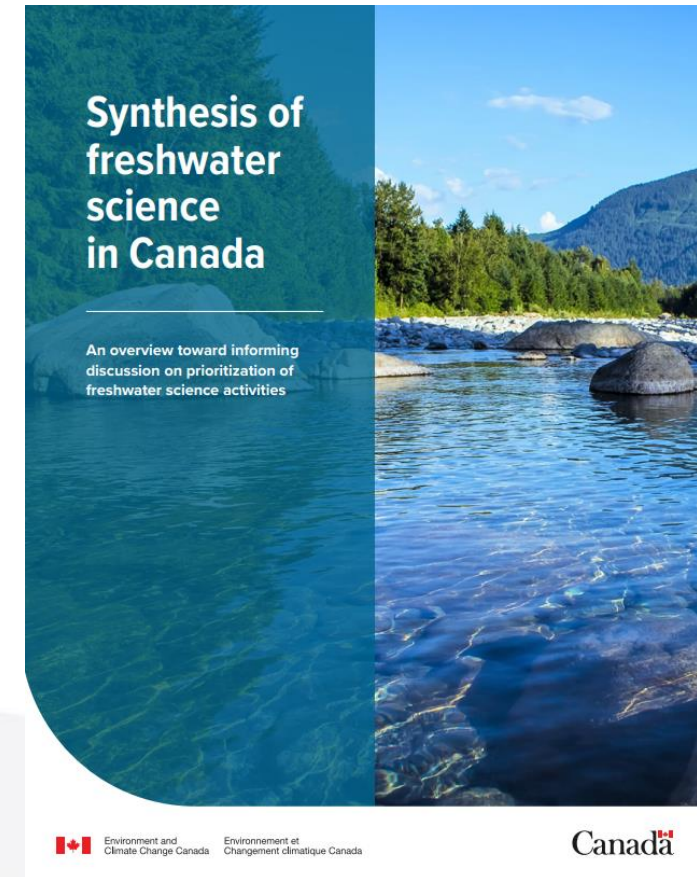
Work closely with Indigenous partners to ensure data accessibility aligns with the needs of Indigenous communities and that their knowledge is appropriately reflected.

Alignment



The CWA will support other water- and data-related initiatives, such as:

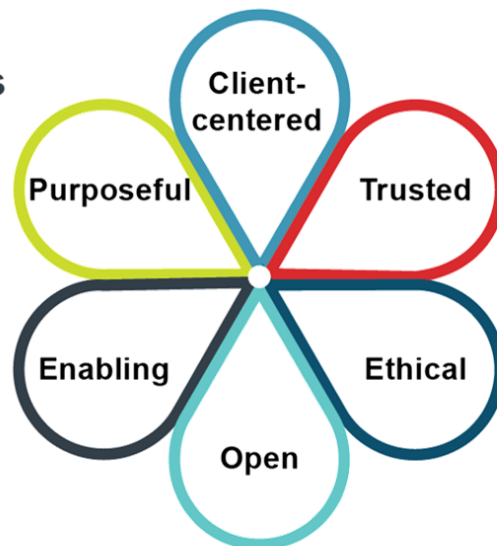
- **The National Freshwater Science Agenda (ECCC)**
 - The Agenda will identify national freshwater science priorities and gaps and provide a roadmap to guide science users, funders, and knowledge providers in mobilizing knowledge and addressing these priorities in a more coordinated way. For more information, please contact: PSNED-NFSA@ec.gc.ca
- **Climate Risk Data Strategy (ECCC)**
- **Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (AAFC)**
- **Housing Accelerator Fund (HICC)**
- **Data Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2023-2026 (TBS)**



Data Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2023-2026



Guiding Principles



Desired outcomes

- Effective, equitable, ethical and inclusive services, programs and policy
- Trusted and accountable government
- Greater public value from data
- Enhanced evidence-informed decision-making
- Support for Indigenous data sovereignty

Culture, communication and change management

Data as an asset

Data is fully integrated into how outcomes are delivered to Canadians and valued like any other critical asset.

Foundation

Talent

The government has the talent and capacity it needs to leverage data to inform its decisions.

Governance

Governance is effective and ensures that data is managed horizontally and holistically as a strategic asset.

Processes and tools

Processes and digital infrastructure enable secure cross-governmental integration and the use of data for the benefit of Canadians.

Respecting for data sovereignty







Indigenous data sovereignty is a key component of Indigenous self-determination, supporting effective program and service design by Indigenous Peoples that reflects their communities' unique needs, perspectives and circumstances.

Support for Indigenous data sovereignty is a government-wide priority that contributes to Indigenous self-determination. Over the next three years, work co-developed with Indigenous partners will lay a strong foundation for a whole-of-government approach to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nations as they realize their respective visions for data sovereignty.

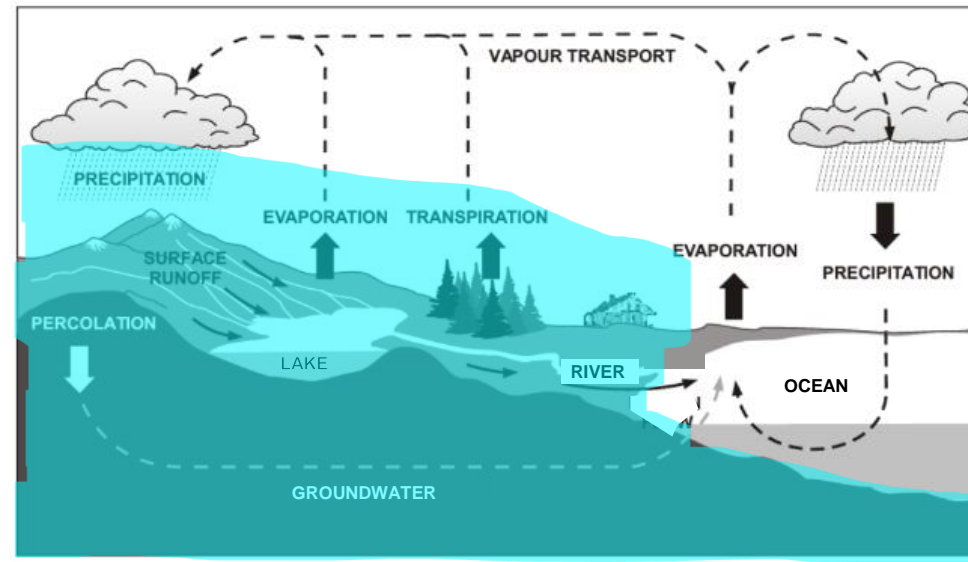




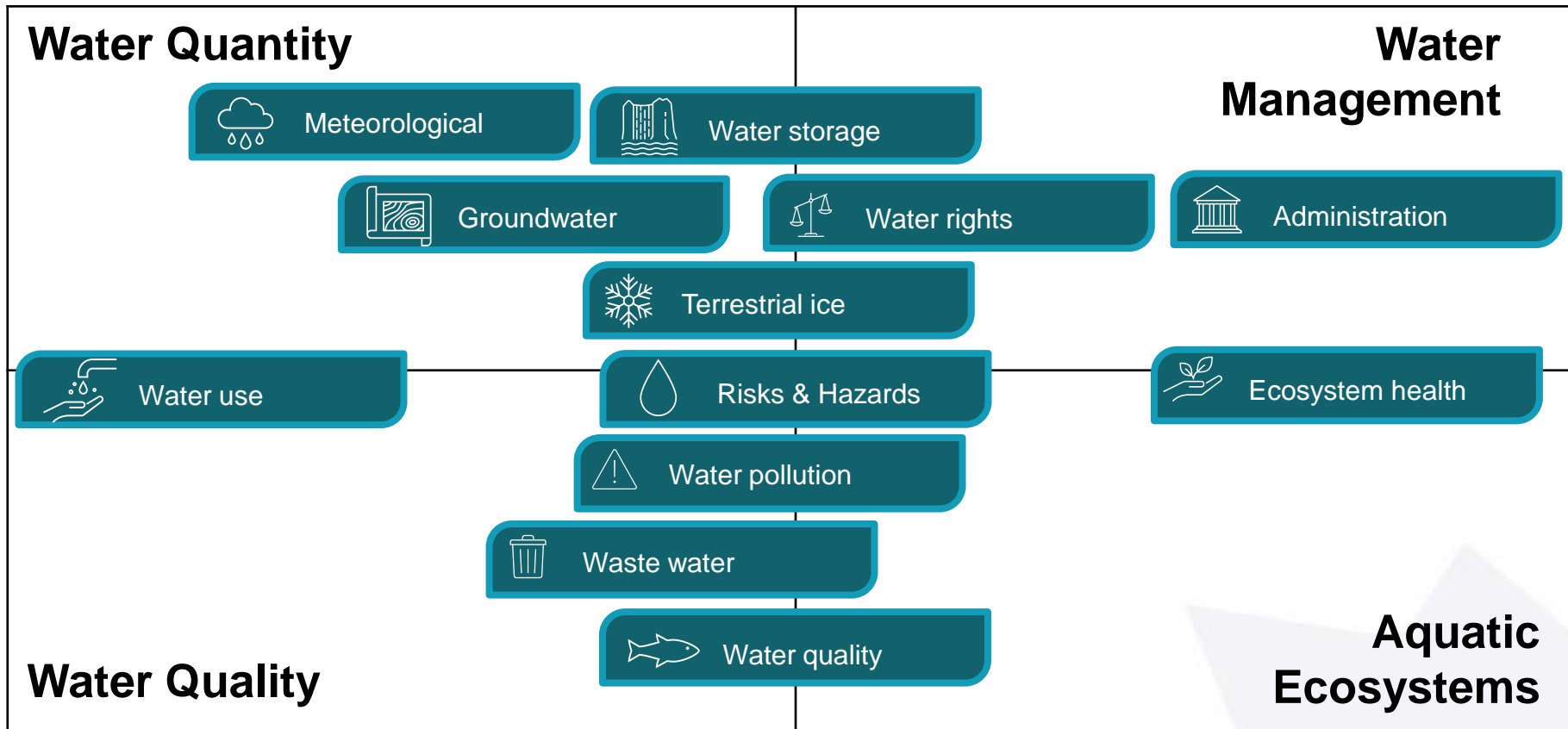
DATA DOMAINS

	Water Quantity
	Water Quality
	Water Management
	Aquatic Ecosystems

GEOGRAPHIC DOMAIN



Working across domains



National Freshwater Data Strategy Vision



Recent workshop marked engagement on *National Freshwater Data Strategy Vision...*



September 25 & 26, 2024

**Canada Centre for Inland Waters,
Burlington, Ontario**



Workshop Update

Over 110 participants met to discuss a national approach to freshwater data.

- Better understanding of functions of CWA and a vision for more accessible and valuable freshwater data.
- Discussion about collaboration opportunities and ideas.
- Engagements continue.

Project Phases



Spring 2024

Phase 1: National Vision Engagement

Conduct a current state readiness assessment of the national freshwater related data partners (producers and consumers)

Fall 2024

Phase 2: Engagement & Development

Data partners formulate and co-develop an effective data strategy

Spring 2025

Phase 3: Review and Approvals

Obtain the endorsement for a new national freshwater data strategy from data governance committee(s) and final approval from the Federal Freshwater Management Committee

Role for utilities, industry and experts



What we have heard:

- “By consulting with the companies and industry organizations...CWA could become **better informed on tangible ways to harness data** from emerging sources and **strengthen decision-making and knowledge mobilization** in the real world.”
- “...complete **standardization of data is not neither achievable nor desirable**. Instead the primary effort should focus on providing station metadata and documentation of data production processes that help with interpreting the data...”

Act now: Review discussion paper, send feedback, suggest a technical working group, contact us for discussion.



Thank you!

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