



Canadian Water Network
Réseau canadien de l'eau

Building National Collaborative Partnerships

Nicola Crawhall, CEO, Canadian Water Network

November 9, 2022

National Water and Wastewater Conference, Halifax

Canadian Water Network

Our mission:

To enable Canada's water leaders to be at the heart of forging pathways for community success



"Water is a powerful convener and opportunity for collective action." — Carl Yates, Canadian Water Network Board Chair and Interim CEO of the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority

Our purpose:
Help communities achieve a resilient, equitable, healthy future through water

What does CWN do?



Mobilize Knowledge

Share international and domestic research, innovation & expertise

Catalyze Collaboration

Bring parties together for strategic sharing on key water-related issues



Accelerate Action

Assist water leaders to create pathways, overcome roadblocks and reach goals

Convene Leaders

Host strategic roundtables of peers and allies to share and gain insights



Canadian Water Network's Canadian Municipal Water Consortium



Current areas of focus

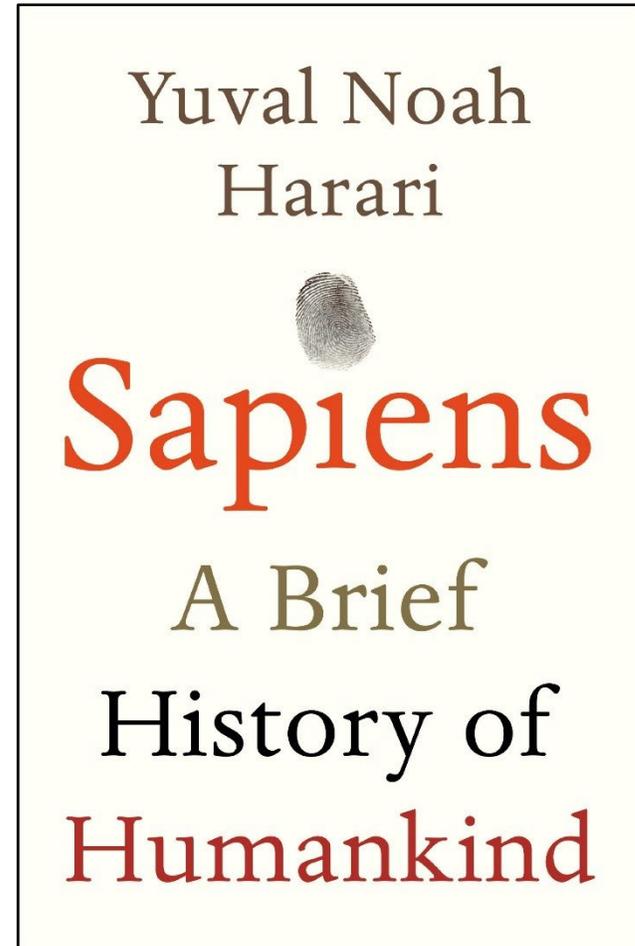
- Municipal Consortium, including Leaders' Roundtables, Strategic Sharing Groups on equity and affordability, net-zero wastewater targets, forever chemicals (CECs).
- Public health and water, focus on epidemiological wastewater surveillance.
- Integrated water management, including collaboration and governance models.
- In near future, undertaking work with Indigenous led water organisations, and on climate impacts and adaptation.

Towards a National Water Collaborative

- Canada needs a scalable approach to managing and protecting water resources across the country.
- Canada Water Agency provides us with an opportunity to build national water strategy from ground up, connecting national goals with priority watersheds, ‘place-based’ collaboration.
- Will require sophisticated, resourced approach to ‘nested’ collaboration.
- Will need help from national organisations that specialize in catalyzing collaboration.

Collaboration

- To collaborate is an evolutionary necessity, a system of survival.
- To communicate beyond your immediate network requires a shared narrative.



How to make partnerships and collaboration work



1. Collective intelligence



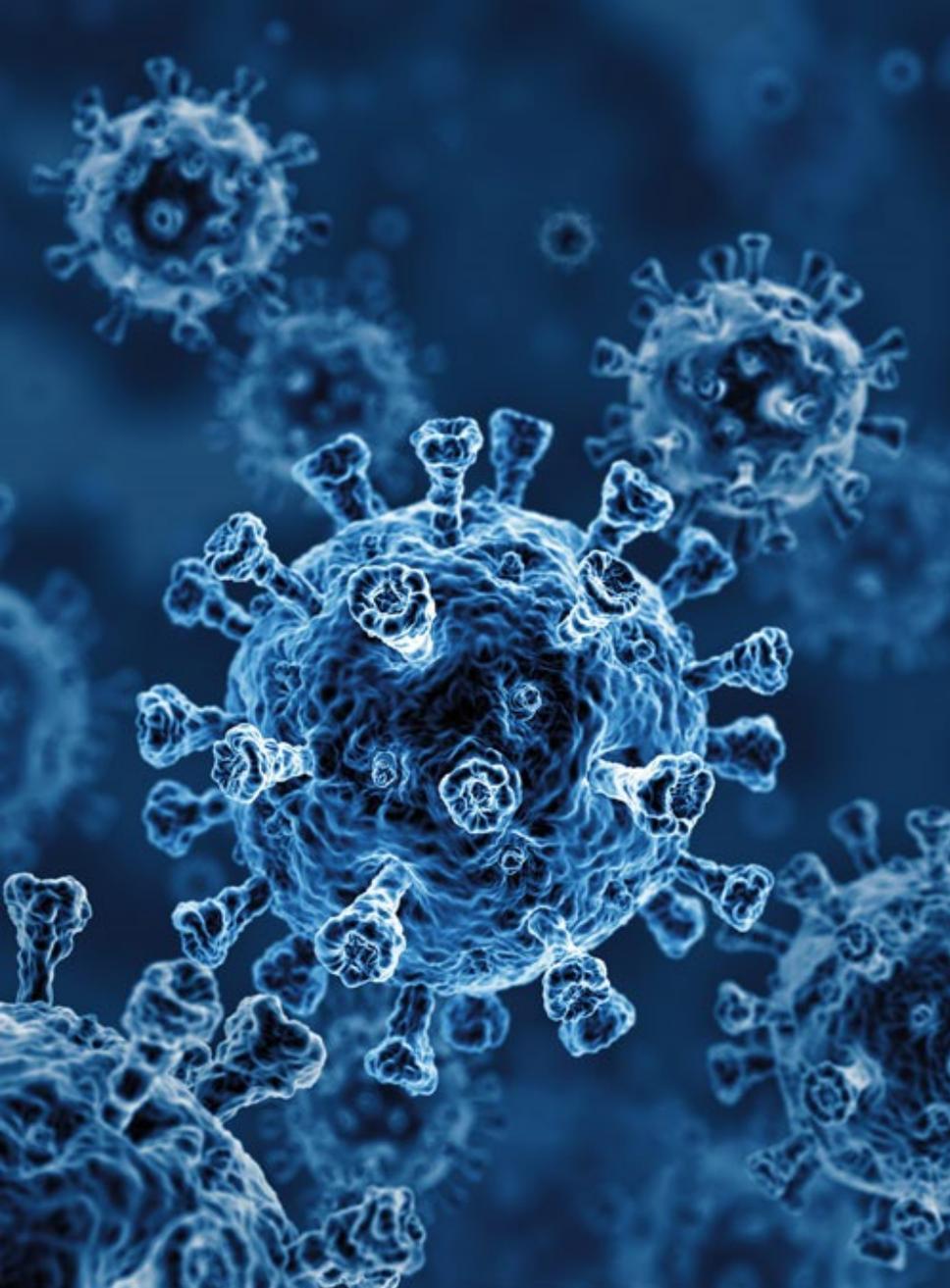
2. Trust



3. Shared purpose



4. Localized, scalable management



COVID Wastewater Coalition

- Guiding principles
- Ethics and communications guidelines for researchers
- Guidance documents for pilot research
- Inter-laboratory study
- Collective intelligence in action

Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative

- Partnership between Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and Ontario Federation of Agriculture.
- Collaboration amongst all parties with shared responsibility for management of runoff.
- Tested technology solutions at edge of field and at gathering points to capture phosphorus before entering Thames River.



For more information, visit: <https://www.thamesriverprc.com/>

Source water protection in Ontario

- Ontario's source water protection program, legislated through Clean Water Act, promotes collaborative solutions to threats to sources of drinking water.
- Source protection officials meet with party responsible for risk to drinking water source, negotiates plan to eliminate threat.
- Source protection plan overseen by multi-stakeholder committee with representation from key constituents in the watershed-industry, agriculture, municipalities, conservation organisations, NGOs, citizens-at-large.



Designing a collaborative partnership agreement

Equitable distribution of contributions and benefits.

Fair and inclusive decision-making.

Monitoring agreed behaviours.

Graduated response to helpful and unhelpful behaviour.

Fast and fair conflict resolution.

Structure to scale up.

Reach out to us



Nicola Crawhall
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Water Network



ncrawhall@cwn-rce.ca



www.cwn-rce.ca



[canadian-water-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/canadian-water-network)



[@CanadianWaterNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianWaterNetwork)



[@CdnWaterNetwork](https://twitter.com/CdnWaterNetwork)



Canadian Water Network
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo ON N2L 3G1