

Sustainability Indicators for the Fraser Basin: A Tool for Change



Presentation by: Fraser Basin Council

To: 2nd Biennial ISIN Meeting

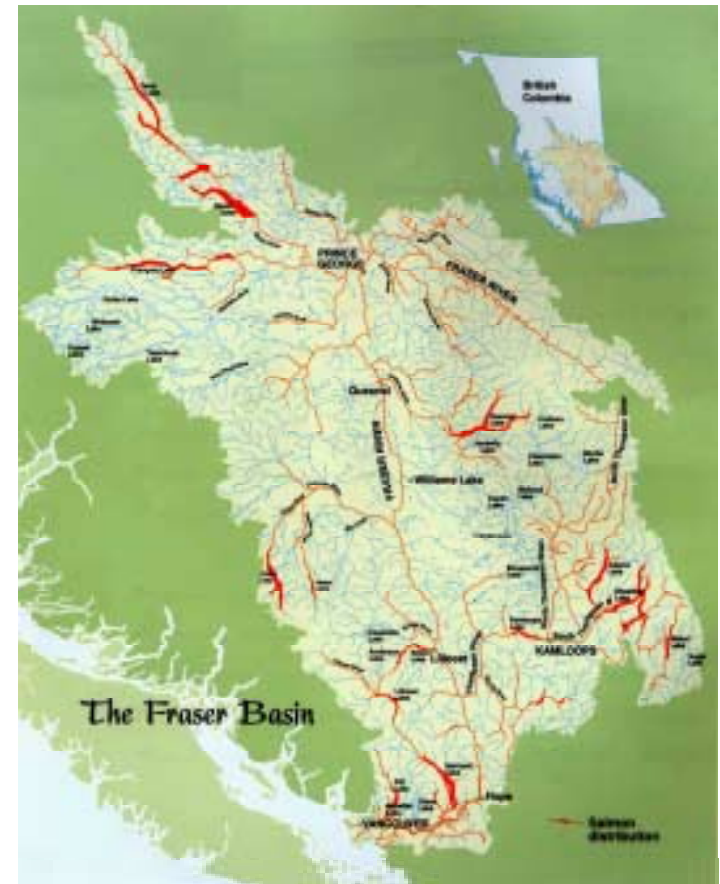
Toronto - March 13-16, 2003

Outline

- Fraser Basin Council
- Charter for Sustainability
- State of the Fraser Basin Report
- Next Steps and Lessons Learned

The Fraser Basin Council

- Board of Directors (36) includes four orders of Canadian government, private sector and civil society interests.
- Instrumental in solving complex, inter-jurisdictional sustainability issues.
- Impartial role as convenor of inclusive and constructive dialogue.
- Mandate to measure and report on progress towards sustainability in the Fraser Basin.



Charter for Sustainability

- Vision - “where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment”.
- Definition - “living and managing our activities in a way that balances social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations to meet our needs and those of future generations”.
- 12 Principles of Sustainability
- 26 Goals of Sustainability

Sustainability Indicators for the Fraser Basin - Process

- Sustainability Indicator Workbook
- Public and Stakeholder Consultation:
 - *State of the Fraser Basin Conference 2000*
 - *Eight Regional Workshops*
 - *Indicator Survey*
 - *Consultation Report*
- Technical Review and Analysis:
 - *Best available information*
 - *Indicator options*
 - *Trend analysis / telling the sustainability story.*
- Production of Sustainability Report

State of the Fraser Basin Report

- Sixteen sustainability issues
 - *Several indicators per issue*
- Highlights
 - *Getting Better, Getting Worse, Uncertain*
- Questions posed in the report:
 - *Why is this important for sustainability?*
 - *What are the trends and current conditions?*
 - *What can be done?*
 - *What are some future information needs?*
 - *Where can I learn more?*

Sustainability Trends in the Basin

Some Highlights of Indicator Trends:

- Population: Growth (Uncertain Implications)
- Education: Levels Attained (Getting Better)
- Income: Average Household Income (Getting Better)
- Community Engagement: Rates of Volunteerism (Getting Worse)
- Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Relationships: Treaties, Protocols and Agreements (Uncertain Trends)
- Water Quality: Boil Water Advisories (Getting Worse)
- Air Quality: Particulate Matter (Getting Better)
- Fish and Wildlife: Fraser River Salmon Stocks (Getting Better & Worse)
- Energy: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Getting Worse)
- Fraser River Flooding: Population Vulnerable (Getting Worse)

Using the Sustainability Report

- Monitor progress toward sustainability
- Increase information, education and awareness about sustainability
- Identify information gaps and research priorities
- Facilitate dialogue on sustainability issues and trends
- Priority setting and partnership building
- Land use and strategic planning
- Policy analysis and development
- Inspire actions to advance sustainability (e.g., individual behaviour, institutional change)

Sustainability Indicators for the Fraser Basin: Next Steps

- Communicate report findings
- Review and integrate feedback for next sustainability report and conference (November 2004)
- Networking and sharing lessons learned through communities of practice
- Advisory Process - continued dialogue and collaboration to develop better indicators and acquire better data (e.g., update data, new indicators, additional regional trend analysis)
- Track actions / progress towards sustainability

Lessons Learned

- Set Realistic Expectations
 - *What indicators are and are not*
 - *What can be achieved in the short vs. long term*
 - *Limitations of data and analysis*
- Design an Appropriate Process
 - *Diverse participation and consultation at all stages*
 - *Long-term commitment and evolution*
- Find the Right Balance
 - *Comprehensive yet concise*
 - *Social, economic, environmental sustainability*
 - *Technical merit and public interest / acceptance*