



# **Canadian Columbia River Forum**

## **AGENDA**

**Wednesday May 30, 2007  
Canadian Museum of Rail Travel  
57 Van Horne Street South  
Cranbrook, British Columbia**

*Building Our Collective Wisdom and  
Understanding around Water and Watershed  
Issues in the Columbia Basin*



## Background

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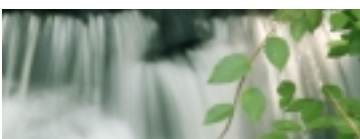
The entire Columbia Basin (in Canada and the United States) is 671,000 square kilometers, approximately the size of the province of Alberta or the State of Texas. It is the sixth largest river basin in North America, crossing one international boundary, and seven state boundaries. It contains a wide range of ecosystems from interior rain forests to grasslands to deserts, and is home to a diversity of wildlife with over 700 hundred species of reptiles, birds, fish and mammals. Archaeologists tell us that humans have inhabited the Columbia River Basin for more than 10,000 years . First Nations have traditionally used the river system for fishing, hunting, gathering, transportation, and cultural purposes. These uses are still an important way of life for First Nations in the Columbia River Basin.

The Basin's water resources have played a critical role in supporting the growth and development of human habitation in the region. Human use of water has expanded to include hydropower production, industry, agriculture, domestic water supplies, waste assimilation, transportation and recreation. These uses have placed greater demand on the finite water resources, and have resulted in water use conflicts. Regulation of the Columbia River and its tributaries has become commonplace, while the complexity of the system is increased by the number of national, provincial, First Nations, and state jurisdictions co-managing the system.

Management of water values within the Canadian Columbia Basin is driven by a wide array of laws, regulations, policies and international obligations. One major international agreement which heavily influences the management of Columbia River flows in Canada is the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). In 1964, Canada and the United States ratified the CRT. Its primary purpose is to provide flood control protection and optimize electrical energy production on the Columbia River system in both countries. Under the CRT, Canada agreed to build three storage dams: Duncan (1968), Keenleyside (1969), and Mica (1973), in exchange for a share of downstream (U.S.) flood control and power benefits. The CRT does not expire, but may be terminated (re-negotiation may also be possible) no earlier than 2024, given 10 years advance notice (2014).

The Pacific Northwest United States and British Columbia, Canada is dependent on the power and revenue generated from the hydroelectric system in the Columbia Basin. The Canadian Columbia Basin region provides about 50 per cent of the total hydroelectric power produced in BC. Power produced as a result of the Canadian Columbia Basin hydroelectric infrastructure, provides export revenues as well as relatively low-cost electricity to all British Columbians, and is a keystone to the provincial economy. In addition, the storage regulation in the Canadian system provides significant power generation benefits to a number of U.S. hydroelectric facilities downstream. The Columbia River reservoir storage system also provides critical flood control protection for many areas in the U.S. and Canada.

However, these benefits came at a cost to some areas in the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin. Areas of highly productive and fertile low elevation land were flooded, First Nations' traditional use and heritage areas were lost, communities were displaced and valuable fish and wildlife





habitat and species were lost. The communities that currently surround the reservoirs are continually affected by fluctuating reservoir levels, and aspects of the local economy are hampered due to changes in land use and transportation patterns, and the lost opportunities for use of the areas that were flooded.

The Canadian Columbia Basin is an evolving region with increasing population growth, and different societal values than those that existed at the time the Columbia River Treaty was created. There are a broader range of issues concerning both the use and the management of the water resources of the region. Potential climate change impacts on these resources are not clearly understood, and may further exacerbate these issues.

The challenge is to recognize and understand the complexities of the system and manage for a variety of interests and values.

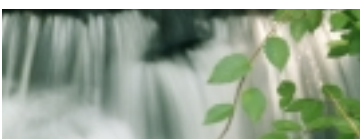
## **Why is this initiative important?**

1. The Columbia is a trans-boundary river system and we share the resources with the United States.
  - ⇒ There is an international treaty (Columbia River Treaty – CRT) between Canada and the United States that obligates Canada to operate storage at three Canadian reservoirs within the confines of the agreement. The CRT does not expire but may be terminated (or possibly renegotiated) if 10 year's notice is given by either party.
  - ⇒ We want to avoid conflict and plan in a cooperative, forward-thinking, strategic manner.
  - ⇒ We want to identify issues and resolve them before they become disputes.
  - ⇒ There are increasing demands in the US and Canada on the water resources of the Columbia River. This may lead to discussions with the US over a number of water-related issues.

How do we coordinate and effectively work on the Canadian side?

2. The Columbia is important to Canada for a number of reasons.
  - ⇒ It is a major element of the provincial economy (producing about 50% of the provincial hydroelectric power). The relatively inexpensive power produced in the region helps to keep power costs in BC amongst the lowest in North America.
  - ⇒ The Province of BC derives a large amount of financial benefit from the CRT in the form of downstream benefits.
  - ⇒ There are important fisheries issues.
  - ⇒ It has increasing values related to recreation, tourism, transportation etc.
  - ⇒ First Nation issues are emerging.

How will we manage for all these interests now and in the future?





## **Geographic focus**

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The parties will strive to work on a watershed level and work across political and jurisdictional boundaries. The objective is to work seamlessly in the entire Columbia Basin watershed in Canada and the United States.

## **What is the Canadian Columbia River Forum?**

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The Canadian Columbia River Forum provides an opportunity for a variety of federal, provincial, First Nations and regional organizations to gather and share information, and build a collective understanding about water and watershed issues in the Canadian Columbia Basin.

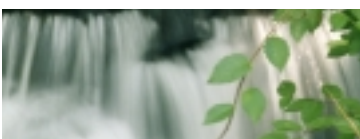
## **Objectives of this workshop:**

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*This public workshop is designed to provide information and stimulate discussion. It is a key "first step" to:*

- ⇒ Sharing information and building a common understanding of the current objectives and mechanisms in place for managing the Columbia River system in Canada;
- ⇒ Raising awareness and building a common understanding of water management related issues on the Columbia River system in Canada and the United States with a focus on the trans-boundary reach;
- ⇒ Providing a reminder for the continued need for various organizations to be actively and cooperatively involved in Columbia Basin issues.
- ⇒ Providing a forum for discussion, coordination and relationship-building amongst Canadian organizations and Basin residents;
- ⇒ Continuing to build a collaborative, strategic relationship amongst Canadian organizations and Basin residents for dealing with Columbia River issues.

In order to meet the objectives of this forum, it may be necessary to follow with a series of workshops that help to build our collective knowledge and understanding over time.



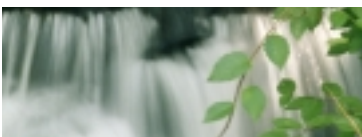


## **Who has organized this forum?**

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The following organizations have cooperatively worked together to facilitate this project:

- BC Hydro
- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
- Canadian Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Environment Canada
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- Natural Resources Canada
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- Regional District of Central Kootenays
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Shuswap Indian Band





## **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**Wednesday May 30, 2007**

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- **How is the Columbia River System Managed? Overview of Columbia River Treaty and other major management agreements.**
- **What are some of the major emerging water management issues in the Canadian Columbia River System?**
- **What are some of the major water management issues in the US portion of the Columbia River System? How might these issues affect Canadians?**
- **Climate Change in the Columbia Basin - How will climate change impact the water resources of the Columbia Basin? How will Climate Change impact the management of water between Canada and the United States?**

**8:00 am Registration**

**8:30 - 9:30 am Welcome  
Forum Opening**

Opening First Nations Prayer

Introduction by Facilitator – Bruce Fraser (Forum agenda and objectives)

Welcome Introduction on the Benefits of Collaboration

- Mayor Ross Priest, Cranbrook
- Chief Sophie Pierre, Chair of Ktunaxa Tribal Council
- Jack Blaney, International Joint Commission - Canadian Section

#### **Introduction of the Canadian Columbia River Forum (CCRF) Memorandum of Understanding**

Peter Ostergaard, BC Ministry of Energy and Mines  
On behalf of CCRF

#### **Overview of CCRF Workplan**

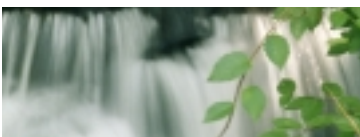
Steering Committee Members presentation

Dan Millar, Environment Canada on behalf of CCRF

#### **Overview of the Workshop Topics**

Facilitator, Bruce Fraser

**9:45-10:00am Refreshment Break**





## **Workshop 1**

**10:00-10:30 am**

- 1. How is the Columbia River System Managed? – Overview of Columbia River Treaty and other major management agreements on the Columbia River system.**

### **Columbia River System Management:**

- Columbia River Treaty
- Non-treaty storage
- Libby Coordination Agreement
- Kootenay Lake Operations

**Speaker: Kelvin Ketchum, BC Hydro**

**Questions and Answers – 5 minutes**

## **Workshop 2**

**10:30-12:00 am**

- 2. What are some of the major emerging water management issues in the Canadian Columbia River System?**

### **i) Mainstem Columbia – Outputs of the Water Use Planning Process:**

- Recreation
- Fish
- Reservoir Management

**Speaker: Pieter Bekker, BC Ministry of Environment**

### **ii) Water Quality Issues :**

Current water quality issues within the Columbia River (with a focus on the Canadian transboundary reach), including a very brief overview of emerging contaminants such as PBDEs and EDCs.

**Speaker: Jolene Raggett, BC Ministry of Environment**

### **iii) First Nations Issues:**

- Salmon restoration
- First Nations values associated with water

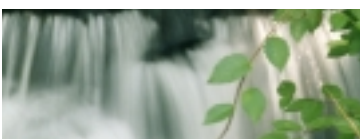
**Speakers: Chief Wayne Christian, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council**

**Kathryn Tennesse, Ktunaxa Nation Council  
Deana Machin, ONA Fisheries Department**

***Facilitated Round Table Discussion on Emerging Issues***

**12:00 -1:00**

**Lunch – Buffet Style – Munroe’s at the Prestige Inn  
3 Minute Fresh Air Walk to the Prestige Inn**



***Please join us! Everyone invited: Speakers, Delegates and Guests***



### **Workshop 3**

**1:00 – 2:30 pm**

**3. What are some of the major water management issues in the US portion of the Columbia River System? How might these issues affect Canadians?**

**i) Biological Opinion: An overview of the legal and political process for the management of endangered species:**

**Speaker: John Shurts, Northwest Power and Conservation Council**

**ii) Biological Opinion: An overview of the impacts on Water Management:**

- General Overview

- Libby and the Kootenay River System operations

**Speaker: Jim Barton, US Army Corps of Engineers**

**iii) Overview of Washington State Columbia River Water Resource Management Program:**

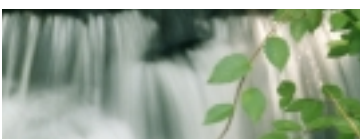
- Components of the program: Water Conservation, Changes to Water Licensing Storage and New Sources.

- Environmental Impact Statement Process

**Speaker: Gerry O'Keefe, Washington Dept of Ecology**

***Facilitated Round Table Discussion***

**2:30-2:45 pm Refreshment Break**





## **Workshop 4**

**2:45-4:30 pm**

**4. Climate Change in the Columbia Basin – How will climate change impact the water resources of the Columbia Basin? How will Climate Change impact the management of water between Canada and the United States?**

**i) Climate Change and our changing way of life in the Columbia Basin:**

**Speakers Bob Sandford, UN Water For Life Decade**

**ii) Key Findings From the Canadian Columbia River Basin - Climate Change**

What are some of the temperature and precipitation changes we have seen in the past and what can expect to see in the future in the Canadian Columbia River Basin?

**Speaker: Kindy Gosal, Columbia Basin Trust**

**ii) Comparison of Climate Change impacts on the hydrology of the Canadian and US portions of the Columbia River Basin and what this means for transboundary water management.**

**Speaker: Alan Hamlet, University of Washington**

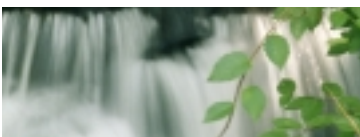
**iii) Climate Change in the Columbia Basin; Adaptation Strategies:**

Planning under uncertainty, what are some of the adaptation strategies that need to be considered. How do we develop policy that is more robust to a changing climate?

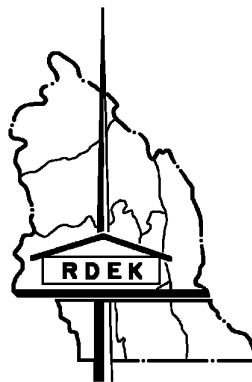
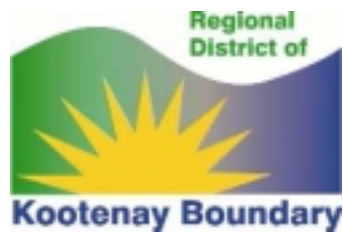
**Speaker: Lara Whitley Binder, University of Washington**

***Facilitated Round Table Discussion on Climate Change in the Columbia Basin.***

**4:30 pm Concluding Comments, Bruce Fraser**



# PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission

Shuswap Indian Band