



Fraser Basin Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment



Fraser Basin Council

Fraser Basin Council Annual Report 2003 – 2004

The Fraser Basin Council's seventh Annual Report provides an overview of the mandate and structure of the Council, highlights from the Council's first seven years, a summary of the Council's activities over the past year, and audited financial statements for the 2003/2004 fiscal year, April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

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COVER PHOTO: *Mount Robson at the headwaters of the mighty Fraser River*

Message from the Chair



Patrick Reid has been chair of the Fraser Basin Council since May 2003. He succeeded Dr. Jack Blaney who was appointed as the Chair of the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Mr. Reid is well known as the Commissioner-General of Expo 86. He is also chairman of the Rick Hansen Man In Motion Foundation and was former chair of GLOBE 90 and 92, founder and chair of AirShow Canada, former chair of the Vancouver Port Corporation, and first independent chairman of the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

Mr. Reid has had a distinguished career as a senior Canadian diplomat, serving as Commissioner General for a number of major world expositions, President of International Bureau of Expositions in Paris and Consul General of Canada in San Francisco. He is currently Honorary Colonel of the British Columbia Regiment. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has received many other awards.

Patrick Reid, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council

"THIS IS THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH!" is the theme of recent provincial tourism advertising – a sentiment applauded by most British Columbians. However, it merits a simple rejoinder – "Keep it that way!"

To ensure that we, our children, and especially our grandchildren, will continue to inhabit the best place on earth demands a solid commitment, and positive action, on the part of all of us, and in particular on those we elect to local, provincial and federal office, to ensure the protection of the environment around us and to provide for the sensible stewardship of the bountiful resources we have inherited.

If these lofty goals were readily attainable by existing means, there would be no need for a Fraser Basin Council. For the Council is not only, in a way, the conscience of those who choose to live in the Fraser Basin, but is also a reflection of the interests that act on our collective behalf, and – most of all – a catalyst for meaningful change.

When the Mayors of Prince George and Vancouver challenged each other, over a decade ago, to "clean up" their respective parts of an increasingly polluted Fraser River system, they knew that an independent institution which could encourage widespread cooperation would be necessary to get the job done.

Today, the Fraser Basin Council is that institution. It has already achieved such an impeccable reputation for non-partisan insight, collaboration and getting results "on the ground" that the model is now being exported to places as far away as the Philippines.

There is nothing easy about maintaining and enhancing the sustainability of the Fraser Basin. Sustainability often means different things to different people — from the protectionists who wish to deny access to resources to those whose livelihoods depend on that access. We believe that sustainability is achieved when we integrate the social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations of each problem or opportunity to

create solutions that accommodate the needs and aspirations of all interests – not just of one interest at the expense of others.

Fortunately the governments – including First Nations – and individuals who created the Fraser Basin Council knew what they were about. They brought 36 directors to the table who were, and are, prepared to give of their experience in reaching common collective goals, and to give solid, principled direction to an Executive Director and a small group of quite extraordinary staff. It has been my privilege to serve on many boards, but I can say without reservation that I have never before experienced such a group of inspired, dedicated and consistently hard-working individuals, both Board members and staff. It is a rare privilege, and a great morale-booster, to be among them.

The many accomplishments of the Fraser Basin Council this year are detailed elsewhere in this Report. They are full testimony to the Council's ability to achieve cooperation and collaboration through very diplomatic and quite subtle leadership. However my lasting impression is not of the quality of the work of the Board and staff of the Council, exemplary though it is.

In this past year I have, for the first time in a life that has known many countries, come face to face with the realities of living in the heartland of what is indeed a magnificently beautiful and elemental place. The far reaches of the mighty Fraser and its tributaries are home to some of the most resilient people on earth, as well as being the most forthcoming and friendly. They have faced, and faced down, fire, flood, infestations, unemployment, depleted fisheries and forests, and even drought. It would be good, between now and 2010, for every Lower Mainlander to get to know as much about McBride, Wells and the Nicola Valley as they do about Whistler. Doing so would also provide a tremendous boost for tourism.

It is always useful to have a clear timetable in pursuit of a tangible dream. The organizers of the 2010 Olympics have

pledged to deliver the most sustainable Olympics ever, not only for the athletes but for the wider community as well. The Fraser Basin Council hopes to be helpful in the attainment of that goal.

At the same time the Council has its own goals, and comparable urgency, in bringing collaborative leadership to long-standing sustainability issues in the Basin. Issues such as Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal cooperation, flood hazard management, fish and fisheries, and strengthening communities. The list is, in fact, endless simply because there is always a new challenge – from managing the spread of invasive plants to creating sustainable economies to replace those that have undergone steep declines.

It is a complex place, this Fraser Basin, and it demands the best of all of us. In return, it gives us the best of the “best place on earth” — for today, and for generations to come.

I consider myself one of the most privileged British Columbians, to have been given the opportunity to work with people who care passionately about sustainability, and give of their best every day.

Sincerely,



Patrick Reid, OC
Chair

Roy Mussell — President of the Fraser Basin Council Society

FOLLOWING the resignation of Dr. Jack Blaney as Chair of the Council and President of the Fraser Basin Council Society, Roy Mussell was appointed as the new President of the Society in May 2003.

Mr. Mussell is Vice-Chair and a founding Director of the Council. He is Chief of the Skwah First Nation in Chilliwack, Co-Chair of BC First Nations' Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements Management Committee, Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations' Chiefs' Committee on Human Resources Development Agreements and a Director on the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada.

Roy is also President of the Aboriginal Policy Institute. This organization supports Aboriginal policy capacity building. More recently, Roy has turned his attention and considerable skills to the challenge of enhancing construction trades and apprenticeship for Aboriginal people.



Roy Mussell, President of the Fraser Basin Council Society and Vice-Chair of the Fraser Basin Council

Fraser River Basin



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S Fraser River Basin – it's one of the most beautiful, prosperous and healthy places on earth. If you are reading this, you are probably one of the 2.7 million people who live, work and play in the Basin – but you may not know it.

The Fraser Basin – the area drained by the Fraser River and its many tributaries – is almost as large as the State of California. Stretching 1377 kilometres from the Rockies to Richmond, the Basin covers more than 25% of BC. For two out of every three British Columbians, it's the place we call home.

Prince George, Vanderhoof, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Kamloops, Lillooet, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Surrey, Delta, Coquitlam, Vancouver, Whistler and many other cities and towns are all located in the Fraser Basin.

For thousands of years, the Basin has been home to Aboriginal peoples including the Halquameelem, Hun Qui Min Um, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepmec, Stl'atl'imx, Tsilhqot'in, Carrier and Okanagan speaking First Nations. The sustainability of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in the Fraser Basin is critical to the long-term health of the Basin as a whole.

Economic activities in the Basin account for 80% of British Columbia's gross domestic product. Its forests cover nearly three times the area of New Brunswick, and its farms, ranches and orchards comprise half of all BC's agricultural lands. There are eight major producing mines, as well as some of the province's – and the world's – most spectacular natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

The Basin also boasts one of the world's most productive salmon river systems, supporting five salmon species and 65 other species of fish, including steelhead and sturgeon. The Fraser River and its tributaries comprise BC's most productive waterfowl breeding and overwintering area, and the mouth of the River in particular is recognized as a globally significant estuary. Hundreds of species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals, not to mention trees, plants and insects, form the basis of the Basin's diverse ecosystems.

The Fraser River Basin – a very special place and worth taking care of!

Fraser Basin Council

THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL (FBC) was established in the Spring of 1997 with a mandate to ensure that the decisions we make now about how we live, work and play in the Fraser River Basin will protect and advance its social, economic, and environmental sustainability into the future. Individuals, organizations and four orders of government have signed a *Charter for Sustainability* that sets a path for achieving sustainability of the Basin. The FBC now oversees the implementation of the *Charter*.

The *Charter* embodies two sets of values that have been critical to the FBC's effectiveness. One set incorporates the fundamental principles and integrated elements of sustainability, namely strong communities, a healthy environment and a robust economy. The second set asserts the FBC's culture and how it will work together toward sustainability. These values include understanding and respecting the opinions of others, accepting all members as peers, valuing balance over extreme positions, taking action based on consensus and building strong trust among members. These shared values have enabled members to learn how to make decisions that will enable sustainability.

These shared values have also enabled the FBC to become an unprecedented mechanism in which the four orders of Canadian government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations), the private sector and civil society can work together to enhance sustainability in a practical way. The FBC has helped change the approach to managing the Fraser River and its watershed to address the social, economic and environmental considerations of the entire system. This collaborative governance model is the first of its kind in Canada and addresses the limitations of the traditional hierarchy of multiple jurisdictions operating independently in a common system.

The encounter that crystallized concern over the health of the Fraser River and the Basin it drains took place more than thirteen years ago. Gordon Campbell, then Mayor of Vancouver, and John Backhouse, then Mayor of Prince George, challenged each other to "clean up their parts of the (Fraser) River." The joint challenge was itself recognition that making progress towards sustainability for the whole Fraser River Basin would require a collaborative effort all along the River and across all jurisdictions.

The FBC is a unique non-governmental, not-for-profit

organization founded on the belief that a more effective, potent and sustainable kind of leadership emerges when diverse interests coalesce around core values, and when consensus and joint action are chosen over confrontation and inaction. In all of its work, the FBC remains impartial, transpartisan, independent and non-political in its primary role as an advocate for a sustainable Basin.

To achieve its goals, the FBC acts as an impartial, trusted facilitator operating under a unique model of collaborative governance. Under this model, the four orders of Canadian government, the private sector and civil society work together as equals to overcome conflict, find common ground, make informed and responsible decisions, generate long-term solutions to complex issues and take advantage of opportunities to enhance sustainability "on the ground."

The FBC's 36 member Board of Directors represent all regions of the vast and diverse Fraser River Basin. Decisions, which are reached by consensus, require a commitment among Directors and project team members to not only learn the facts of any one issue, but also to learn and understand how different experiences, beliefs and values can influence the interpretation of a given set of "facts."

The FBC has helped change the approach to managing the entire Basin by focusing on new ways of doing business that address the need to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability into all decision-making. In addition, the FBC considers the needs of the entire Basin rather than those of any single jurisdiction, interest, organization or individual.

The FBC fulfills its mandate by working with the vision, principles and goals articulated in its *Charter for Sustainability*. The *Charter* is not a legally binding document, but rather a good faith agreement among all those with interests in the Basin to work collaboratively toward a more sustainable future. To ensure that the FBC has a local presence and is addressing issues of real concern from all parts of the Basin, it has established Regional Committees and offices in each of the Basin's five sub-regions – Upper Fraser, Cariboo-Chilcotin, Thompson, Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton.

To learn more about Fraser Basin Council programs and accomplishments, visit our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.



Fraser Basin Council

Fraser Basin Council Achievements 1997 — 2004

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council has played a pivotal role in finding enduring, workable solutions to many difficult sustainability challenges and in some cases, resolving entrenched conflicts that began as long as fifty years ago. It has also worked to increase public awareness about sustainability issues throughout the Basin and motivate people to take action to make their part of the Basin more sustainable.

Our pursuit of sustainability is not challenged by our technical capacity, but by our capacity to work together effectively towards common goals. The work of the (Fraser Basin) Council focuses primarily on this challenge.

—The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and former Chair of the Fraser Basin Council (1997-2001)

One of the Council's principal strengths has been its ability to bring people together to solve complex problems and resolve longstanding conflicts. Over the past seven years, the Council has worked with all orders of government including First Nations, community and environmental groups, business and industry on a wide range of important issues and projects. Some of these include:

2003/2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference and Sustainability Awards – FBC convenes a biennial conference that brings together community and business leaders, government representatives, environmentalists and other non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness about sustainability, report on the Basin's progress in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, and recognize those who have made significant contributions toward a more sustainable future. The 2003 conference was a tremendous success and work is underway for the 4th biennial conference and awards ceremony to be held in November 2004.

The (State of the Fraser Basin) Conference... brought forward many ideas and strategies to provide the information and guidance needed to bring sustainability to the Fraser Basin. It is conferences such as these that allow a large number of people to come together and work towards a common goal.

—Richard Prokopanko, Director, Corporate Affairs, Alcan

Overall, the conference was an example of diverse groups of people sharing information and mobilizing into action in response to the need for change. It was inspiring to see so many levels of government and society focusing on the issue of sustainability... (it) left me with the impression that if this many heads are put together, there is no doubt that creative and effective solutions will result.

—Lisa Bland, conference delegate and student at University College of the Cariboo in Williams Lake

2003/2004 Sustainability Indicator Reports – FBC released its first *State of the Fraser Basin Report: A Snapshot on Sustainability* at the 3rd State of the Fraser Basin Conference in January 2003. The report is used to track and report on progress towards a more sustainable Basin. To date, 12,000 copies of the report have been distributed. Work on the second report, *State of the Fraser Basin Report: Sustainability Snapshot2*, is underway, and will be available in time for the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference.

Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations – FBC staff and directors – including eight First Nations directors on our Board – developed this action plan to provide a roadmap for how the FBC will recognize Aboriginal rights and title, and develop greater opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in all Council activities.

BC Climate Exchange and Climate Change – FBC was selected to host Environment Canada's Climate Change initiative in BC. The BC Climate Exchange promotes learning about climate change, works with communities to identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gases and produce clean energy from local waste resources, and supports the work of business, government and community organizations engaged in public education and outreach on this important sustainability issue.

This (Green Energy) workshop provided me with new ideas to take back to my community. I had never thought of the climate change issue from the point of view of providing opportunities, rather than creating problems for northern BC.

—Mayor Fred Jarvis, District of Taylor

Britannia Mine Remediation – FBC encouraged collaboration among government agencies, property owners and the community of Britannia Beach to develop a solution to North America's largest point source metal pollution problem at the site of the former Britannia Mine.

The Fraser Basin Council has had unprecedented success at involving the regulatory agencies on (the Britannia Mine) project and in facilitating a public review process that has brought us closer than ever before to solving this environmental nightmare.

—Susan Gimse, Chair, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Debris Management on the Lower Fraser – FBC helped prevent severe property damage and may have even saved lives by ensuring that the Fraser River debris trap continued to operate while developing a comprehensive business plan for sustained operation of this critical waterborne debris capture facility near Hope.

Drinking Water Review – FBC’s Executive Director David Marshall chaired the independent Drinking Water Review Panel, appointed by the provincial government to evaluate and make recommendations on ways to strengthen the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Fraser River Integrated Flood Hazard Management – FBC raised awareness, promoted inter-jurisdictional cooperation and developed a collaborative course of action to help prepare for and minimize the threat of a major Fraser River flood. Over the past year, FBC has worked with the provincial and local governments to develop a range of essential flood hazard management tools to assist local government, First Nations and other agencies to better understand, plan for and mitigate potential flood hazards.

Residents and communities throughout the province that are vulnerable to significant flood threats certainly welcome this initiative. The products that the Council and its partners (have produced) will strengthen our capacity to better understand, plan for, prevent and mitigate the damages from the next great flood of the Fraser River and other rivers in BC.

—Sylvia Pranger, Mayor of the District of Kent and FBC Director

Fraser River Gravel Management Plan: Hope to Mission – Significant amounts of gravel are deposited each year in the “gravel reach” of the lower Fraser River during the spring runoff. In recent years there has been growing conflict over the management and use of in-river gravel in this region. Gravel movement and build-up in some areas of the river reduces the ability of local communities like Agassiz and Chilliwack to protect themselves from floods; it also affects commercial navigation in the river. The removal or movement of in-river gravel, however, has implications for fish habitat as well as in-river infrastructure such as bridges, pipelines and bank protection. To address this complex

issue, the FBC brought together all interested parties to facilitate the development of a plan that would address key issues including flood and erosion protection, gravel resources, fish and aquatic habitat, and navigation, as well concerns of First Nations.

Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia – FBC has worked with community groups, business sectors, and local, provincial, federal and First Nations government representatives to develop an *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*. The comprehensive strategy and action plan address the growing problem of non-native, invasive plants – often called noxious weeds – that are destroying natural ecosystems, harming human and animal health, and costing BC’s economy tens of millions of dollars in damage each year. As recommended in the strategy, a new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia has been established.

British Columbia is being attacked by foreign invaders! They are destroying our environment, impacting our economy and we are losing the battle. The Fraser Basin Council has played a pivotal role in bringing this little known but important issue to public attention, and has spearheaded the development of a comprehensive strategy to fight back and defeat invasive plants.

—Dave Chutter, MLA, Yale-Lillooet

Nechako River Watershed – FBC continues to help develop solutions to resolve 50 years of conflict over water management in the Nechako River Watershed and to facilitate broad agreement on how to improve the health of the watershed.

Nutrient Management – FBC facilitated the development of a plan to protect water quality and the viability of agriculture through enhanced nutrient management of manure and fertilizer in the Fraser Valley.

Shuswap Lake Reports – FBC worked with citizens and local government to address deteriorating water quality in Shuswap and Mara Lakes, and produced a number of reports to assist the Columbia Shuswap Regional District to better plan development on the lakes.

Strengthening Communities – FBC and its partners such as the Canadian Rural Partnership are working together to develop an action plan to address rural concerns, improve the delivery of services to rural communities and strengthen community capacity. Five projects are underway – one in each region of the Basin.

Sustainable Fish and Fisheries Strategy – This strategy – also called “Fraser Fish and Fisheries Together” – aims to develop a new and collaborative approach to sustainable management of fish, fish habitat and fisheries throughout the Basin.

Organizational Structure

Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors

THE FRASER BASIN COUNCIL'S Board of Directors is comprised of 36 individuals who reflect the broad diversity of people living in the Fraser Basin. Twenty-two Directors are appointed by the four orders of government: three by the federal government, three by the provincial government, one by each of the eight regional districts in the Basin, and one by each of the Basin's eight First Nations language groups. The remaining 14 Directors are non-governmental representatives appointed by the FBC – citizens from all walks of life. These 14 include two representatives from each of the Basin's five geographic regions, one Basin-wide

representative for each of the three dimensions of sustainability (economic, social and environmental), and an impartial Chair.

The FBC's Board of Directors undertakes all of its business through both standing and task committees and makes all of its decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the FBC's bylaws outline a process for facilitating decision-making.

The following is a list of the Directors who served on the FBC during the 2003/2004 fiscal year. (Please note that the list includes more than 36 Directors because it includes all those Directors whose terms ended or began part way through the year.)

Patrick Reid	Chair, Fraser Basin Council, Vancouver
Roy Mussell	Vice Chair, Fraser Basin Council; Chief of the Skwah First Nation, Chilliwack
Deborah Abbott	Executive Director, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, Lytton
Ted Bacigalupo	Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Blind Bay
David Barratt	Former Regional Director, Harbour & Ports, Transport Canada, Mission
Nolan Charles	Councillor, Musqueam Indian Band, Vancouver
Ervin Charleyboy	Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government, Williams Lake
Tom Coombes	Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Anglemont
Don Gould	Retired President and Chief Operating Officer, The Pas Lumber Company, Prince George
Caroline Grover	Economic Development Officer, Salmon Arm Economic Development Corporation, Salmon Arm
Judy Guichon	Rancher, Gerard Guichon Ranch Limited, Quilchena
Ronald Hawkins	Retired Forest District Manager, McBride
Dave Hendrixson	Director, Cariboo Regional District, Wells
Cheeying Ho	Executive Director, Smart Growth BC, Vancouver
Duncan Jeffries	Director, Career & Business Development, University College of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford
Eddy Jules	Chief, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Kamloops
Colin Kinsley	Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Prince George
Colin Masson	Area Director, Lower Fraser River Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Delta
Athana Mentzelopoulos	Regional Director, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment Canada, Vancouver
Michael O'Brien	Vice President, Vancouver International Airport Authority, Vancouver
Hugh O'Reilly	Director, Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Whistler
Jon O'Riordan	Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Victoria
Alan Osborne	Executive Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Victoria
Robert Patterson	Mine Superintendent, Gibraltar Mines Ltd, 150 Mile House
Ardath Paxton-Mann	Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Vancouver
Bob Peart	Executive Director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Vancouver
Jerry Petersen	Director, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, Vanderhoof

Harry Pierre	Chief, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George
Joe Post	Director, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Merritt
Harold Prince	Vice-Tribal Chief, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council, Prince George
Sylvia Pranger	Director, Fraser Valley Regional District, Kent
Perry Redan	Chief, Sekw'el'as Band, Cayoose Creek Stl'atl'imx, Lillooet
George Saddleman	Chief, Upper Nicola Indian Band, Merritt
Bruce Sampson	Senior Vice-President, Strategic Planning and Sustainability, BC Hydro, Vancouver
Greg Savard	Area Director, Lower Fraser River Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Delta
Barbara Sharp	Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District, North Vancouver
Coro Strandberg	Principal, Strandberg Consulting, Burnaby
David Van Seters	President, Small Potatoes Urban Delivery, Vancouver
Morgan Wells	Band Councilor, Mount Currie Band, Mount Currie
Jim Wild	Area Director, Lower Fraser River Area, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Delta
Bill Young	Consultant, Bill Young Forest Management Inc., 150 Mile House

Fraser Basin Council Staff

David Marshall	Executive Director
Elizabeth Balkwill	Administrative Assistant, Operations
Jessica Bratty	Program Manager
Laura Brend	Administrative Assistant, Council Operations and Information Technology
Narissa Chadwick	Assistant Project Coordinator
Joan Chess	Regional Manager, Upper Fraser
Diana Dilworth	Manager, Council Operations
Marni Gillis	Program Coordinator (joined FBC in April 2004)
Phil Hallinan	Regional Manager, Thompson
Cheri Hamilton	Administrative Assistant, Financial Administration
Steve Litke	Program Manager
Raymond McAllister	Communications Consultant
Dave Pehl	Assistant Regional Manager, Thompson
Bob Purdy	Director of Corporate Development and Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton
Marion Robinson	Regional Manager, Fraser Valley
Jim Vanderwal	Program Manager
Gail Wallin	Regional Manager, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Basin Wide Highlights 2003 — 2004

Chair

Jack Blaney
Patrick Reid

Directors

Colin Masson, succeeded by
Greg Savard, succeeded by
Jim Wild
Athana Mentzelopoulos
Michael O'Brien
Jon O'Riordan
Alan Osborne
Ardath Paxton-Mann
Bob Peart
Bruce Sampson
Coro Strandberg

Staff

David Marshall,
Executive Director
Elizabeth Balkwill
Jessica Bratty
Laura Brend
Narissa Chadwick
Diana Dilworth
Marni Gillis
Cheri Hamilton
Steve Litke
Raymond McAllister
Bob Purdy
Jim Vanderwal
Gail Wallin

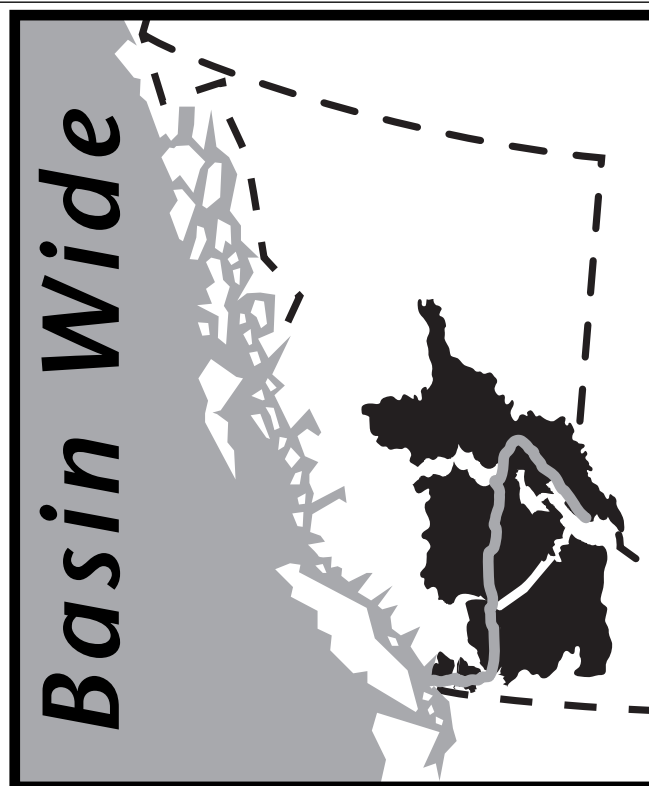
Highlights

2003/2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conferences

As part of the Fraser Basin Council's mandate to report on its activities and on progress toward sustainability of the Basin, the FBC holds a biennial State of the Fraser Basin Conference. The third conference, held in Richmond in January 2003, brought together over 350 delegates from community and environmental organizations, business and industry, and four orders of government to look at the state of the Fraser River Basin. The conference focused on new models of collaborative leadership – new ways of working together to achieve a sustainable future.

What became evident at the conference is that grappling effectively with such major issues such as preparing for the next great Fraser River flood, strengthening rural communities, building constructive Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relationships, managing the impacts of climate change, restoring a healthy salmon fisheries and controlling invasive plant species requires new ways of thinking. Old "top down," status quo, single jurisdictional models of dealing with these complex issues are not up to the challenge. They simply don't work any more. New models of leadership are required that are collaborative, courageous, compelling and committed.

The three-day conference included the following: an advance workshop for business, government and community groups to learn how to put sustainability into practice; the opening banquet with former Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray and adventurer Bruce Kirkby; the release of the *Snapshot on Sustainability: State of the Fraser Basin Report*; Dr. Jack Blaney's "State of the Basin Address"; responses to the address by a panel of business, labour, First Nations and environmental



leaders as well as the four orders of Canadian government; trade show displays; opportunities for networking; and extensive media coverage.

Work is well underway for the 4th biennial Conference to be held in downtown Vancouver November 26 and 27, 2004. The theme this year is: "Sustainability Works!"

For information on the State of the Fraser Basin conferences, go to: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

2003/2004 Sustainability Indicator Reports

A major highlight of the 2003 conference was the release of the first *State of the Fraser Basin Report: A Snapshot on Sustainability*. The report provides a "medical check-up" for the Fraser Basin and its communities, and gives a broad picture of where we stand today and how we can create a more sustainable future.

The groundbreaking report examines a wide range of environmental, social and economic indicators. These indicators help to measure trends in such topics as population, water and air quality, fish and wildlife, health, education, housing, Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations, income and employment, economic diversity, corporate social responsibility, forestry, agriculture, energy and flood management.

The FBC has received an overwhelmingly positive response to its sustainability report. The report has already been distributed to almost 12,000 individuals, organizations and agencies.

Work on the *State of the Fraser Basin Report: Sustainability Snapshot2* is well underway, and the report will be released at the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference in November. The

next report will include updated indicator trends, some new indicators, and more details about sustainability trends in each of the five regions of the Fraser Basin.

Contact Program Manager Steve Litke for more information at (604) 488-5358 or slitke@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

2002/2004 Sustainability Awards

The Fraser Basin Council Sustainability Awards recognize the achievements of dedicated people and organizations throughout the Fraser River Basin who have worked so hard on behalf of sustainability. Of the 100 organizations and individuals nominated for the awards last year, 22 organizations were short-listed in five categories. As interest in the Awards grow, we anticipate a larger number of nominations. Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo has confirmed her attendance at the 2004 Sustainability Awards that will close the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference on November 27.

For a complete list of finalists and winners in each category, or for nomination information for the 2004 Awards, go to our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations

One of the unique features of the FBC is that Aboriginal people are original signatories to the *Charter for Sustainability* and have participated fully on the FBC Board and its activities since the Council was established in 1997. Eight Aboriginal Directors, representing the eight First Nations language groups in the Basin, sit as equal partners with local, provincial and federal government representatives and other non-government Board members from the private sector and civil society.

The FBC is working to identify ways that it can more effectively apply the Charter's 11th Principle that states: "*We recognize that Aboriginal nations within the Fraser Basin assert Aboriginal rights and title. These rights and title now being defined must be acknowledged and reconciled in a just and fair manner.*"

The FBC Board recently approved an "Action Plan on Building and Improving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Relations in the Fraser Basin". The plan provides a roadmap for how the FBC will recognize Aboriginal rights and title, and outlines greater opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in all Council activities. It commits to goals and objectives to be achieved by June 2005.

The FBC is working with partners and is seeking financial support to accomplish specific outcomes including:

- Publishing a book and other communications materials that showcase examples of how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are working together to achieve sustainability in the Fraser Basin, and summarize key Aboriginal issues, traditional and contemporary practices of sustainability, and prospects for the future of sustainability in the Basin.
- Developing an indicator on Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations by tracking the number and substance of protocols, agreements, and other formal and informal mechanisms in the Basin.
- Sharing lessons on how to establish effective Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations.

For more information, contact Jessica Bratty, Program Manager, at (604) 488-5361 or email jbratty@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

BC/Yukon Community Learning Network Forum

Community Learning Networks exist in many BC communities as a means to increase understanding of learning resources, especially those related to the Internet. Both the provincial and federal governments have been important players in helping rural communities gain online access and increasing local residents' understanding and awareness of their potential use.

Held in Kamloops in March 2004, the BC/Yukon Community Learning Network Forum was a major success, attracting almost 100 people from across the province to share ideas and information about effective community learning. The keynote speakers focused on social and economic trends from a First Nations perspective. One special session focused on Aboriginal communities and the related issues and challenges for community learning. The other looked at youth issues and their needs and interests across BC communities. The forum and report were supported by the FBC, CFDA and federal and provincial agencies.

A copy of the Summary Report from the Forum is available on our website under Publications/FBC Reports: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Climate Change and the BC Climate Exchange

In Spring 2002, the FBC was selected to host a Public Education and Outreach "Hub" for Climate Change in BC, subsequently renamed the BC Climate Exchange. The purpose of the initiative is to promote learning about climate change and support the work of business, government and community organizations engaged in public education and outreach on this important sustainability issue. Partners in this initiative include the federal Climate Change Action Fund and the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Over the past year, the FBC/BC Climate Exchange has been involved in a number of climate change activities, including:

- The One Tonne Challenge – a program to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- "Cool" Communities – a program to assist communities to become stronger through energy efficiency.
- Greenhouse Gas Action Guide – a web-based guide that will outline simple actions that local governments and First Nations councils can take to reduce GHGs using existing resources or with support from federal and provincial programs. This guide will be hosted on the BC Climate Exchange website.
- Hosting public forums on Transportation Demand Management, workshops on Green Energy Opportunities and Challenges, and seminars for the Vancouver and Victoria chapters of the Planning Institute of BC.
- Production of the *BC Climate Exchange Newsletter* that highlights recent climate change events, programs and resources available.

Contact Program Manager Jim Vanderwal for more information at (604) 488-5359 or jvanderwal@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Communications

Over the past year, the FBC has focused on improving communications to target audiences that include individuals, community groups, government and corporate supporters of the Council, as well as to residents throughout the Fraser Basin. Enhanced communications activities have been developed to

support a key mandate of the Council, which is “to be a strong advocate for sustainability of the Fraser Basin by enhancing the understanding of what sustainability means, why it is important and the key role the Council plays in advancing sustainability.”

Communications activities have included:

- Increasing media coverage of the Fraser River Basin in general and of specific FBC programs. Beginning with extensive coverage of the 2003 State of the Fraser Basin State of the Basin Conference and Sustainability Awards, the FBC has received media coverage for a wide variety of programs including Strengthening Communities, the *Invasive Plant Strategy for BC*, flood hazard management, the Lillooet Economic Development Conference, debris management and gravel extraction in the Fraser Valley, various Climate Change programs, drought management, appointment of our new Chair and Board activities throughout the Basin. A highlight was a series of full-page articles on the Fraser Basin in *The Vancouver Sun* and *Province* as part of the “BelieveBC” campaign.
- Development of a new FBC website (www.fraserbasin.bc.ca).
- Upgrading of all graphics and print materials including the *Basin News* newsletters and *FBC Annual Report*.

Contact Raymond McAllister, Communications Consultant, for more information at (604) 488-5356 or rmcallister@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Flood Hazard Management

Two devastating floods inundated the Fraser Valley and other parts of the Fraser Basin in 1894 and 1948. Scientists predict that there is a one-in-three chance that a flood of similar magnitude will occur again within the next 60 years.

A catastrophic flood would result in severe social, economic and environmental impacts. These include the risk of injury and loss of life, billions of dollars in damage to private and public property, temporary loss of infrastructure and community services, disruption of business and trade, and numerous impacts on water quality as well as on fish and wildlife habitat.

The FBC provides the lead role in chairing and facilitating the Joint Program Committee (JPC) comprised of 36 federal, provincial and local government agencies working towards Integrated Flood Hazard Management. During the 2003/04 fiscal year, the FBC was awarded a \$1 million conditional grant from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to develop a variety of flood hazard information tools, including flood hazard maps, a database and maps of existing dikes in BC, and floodplain maps for the lower Fraser River. These information tools will be available in the fall of 2004 and a series of workshops will be held. In addition, Floodplain Mapping Guidelines and Specifications were prepared. A technical workshop on floodplain mapping and modeling was held in January 2004. The workshop was sponsored jointly by the FBC and the BC Branch of the Canadian Water Resources Association. These projects and initiatives support the objective of developing tools and resources for local governments and others to increase their capacity with respect to flood hazard management.

Contact Program Manager Steve Litke for more information at (604) 488-5358 or slitke@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia

Invasive plant species – often called “noxious weeds” – are taking over large tracts of land throughout the province. Annual economic losses from invasive plants in BC are in the tens of millions – or perhaps even hundreds of millions – of dollars each year. Without natural enemies to control their populations, these alien plant species have a competitive advantage over local native plants that make them very difficult to control. Invasive plants adversely affect crop yields, reduce range productivity (as many weeds are non-palatable or injurious to domestic livestock), reduce wildlife forage and the land’s recreational values, impact conifer regeneration efforts by the forest industry, and even impact personal health.

Following the Board’s field trip to the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region in June 2001, it recommended the FBC consider actions to assist in the struggle to minimize the impact of invasive plants on the natural ecosystems and help to protect local economies and community viability. Working with a committee comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Ministry of Forests, Cariboo Regional District, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC and Cariboo Cattlemen’s Association, the FBC organized and co-hosted a symposium – “Weeds Know No Boundaries.” The symposium recommended the development of a province-wide invasive plant management strategy. The FBC established a writing group to produce the strategy.

The FBC released its comprehensive *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* in March 2003. As recommended in the strategy, a new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia has been established to coordinate invasive plant management province-wide, improve compliance with current and new legislation, establish research priorities and coordinate public awareness programs. Based on an October 2003 workshop, a Start-Up Committee with representatives from many business sectors, community groups and government agencies was established to draft a constitution and bylaws and establish a Board of Directors in preparation for the official launch of the Council in 2004.

Contact Program Manager Gail Wallin for more information at (250) 392-1400 or gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Sharing Lessons Learned

The FBC and its partners such as the Canadian Rural Partnership are working together to develop an action plan to address rural concerns, improve the delivery of services to rural communities and strengthen community capacity. In 2001, the FBC initiated a three-part program called “Sharing Lessons Learned” focused on strengthening smaller and rural communities. Phase One of the plan included the completion of an inventory of BC projects that focus on building economically vibrant, sustainable communities. Phase Two involved documenting 40 case studies that reflect the Lessons Learned from projects across BC where sustainability issues have been addressed in local communities. Phase Three was to extend the information out to interested communities. The *Lessons Learned* documents are available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Phase Three concluded with a province-wide conference in Prince George in May 2003. The objective was to bring people

together to share their experiences from local initiatives that can be transferred to other communities. Attended by over 100 people from across BC, the conference developed an action plan to ensure the ongoing transfer of knowledge and experience among rural communities. Participants expressed strong support for continuing the exchange of information across rural communities. They also recommended that a BC Rural Network be established to help link and share knowledge and resources across small rural communities. The Final Report is available on our website.

Since the forum, the FBC has worked in partnership with the Community Futures Association of BC, BC CED-Net, Pacific Community Network Association and BC Rural Team to facilitate the establishment of a BC Rural Network. This network will serve to link existing organizations and resources to interested rural communities. Plans call for the Network to be in place later in 2004.

Contact Program Manager Gail Wallin for more information at (250) 392-1400 or gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Strengthening Communities

Strong and economically diversified communities are essential for the sustainability of the Fraser Basin. In BC, many rural communities face challenging economic transitions as traditional forestry, mining and fishing industries undergo profound restructuring. To help address these challenges, the FBC launched a new initiative called "Strengthening Communities."

The FBC worked with local communities to seek input on the potential role and projects for the FBC throughout the Basin. Meetings were held in a diverse range of pilot communities in each of the five FBC regions, including Aboriginal communities. FBC staff and Directors met with local "movers and shakers" to gain their interest and support for the Strengthening Communities program, and to identify practical actions that could be undertaken to make a positive difference in their communities.

Five initial projects have been undertaken, one in each region:

- Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton Region – Squamish: Development of an imaginative new plan to revitalize the downtown waterfront.
- Fraser Valley Region – District of Kent: Enhancing Small Lot Agriculture, as strengthening agriculture is synonymous with strengthening communities in the region. A base-line survey will be the starting point for future agricultural area planning and community development.
- Thompson Region – Lillooet Economic Development Conference and developing broadband Internet with the Siska Indian Band and the towns of Boston Bar, Lytton and Spences Bridge.
- Cariboo-Chilcotin Region – Bringing together a number of small rural and First Nations communities to research and compile a South Cariboo Community Profile and build an action plan to retain community residents.
- Upper Fraser – McBride and Dunster: Developing a community vision, improving communication and coordinating community events.

Contact Program Manager Gail Wallin for more information at (250) 392-1400 or gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Sustainable Fish and Fisheries

The Sustainable Fish and Fisheries program, also known as "Fraser Fish and Fisheries Together", seeks to find a way for key interests, communities and governments to work together to restore and sustain the Fraser Basin's valuable fish and fisheries resources and to meet the needs of people and ecosystems into the future.

In 2003/04, the FBC worked on a variety of fronts to bring groups together to find solutions to fisheries issues in the Basin. Activities included: developing ways to enhance dialogue and understanding between Fraser First Nations and Department of Fisheries and Oceans; providing strategic planning and process design support to BC stewardship groups and; working with partners to develop a plan to conserve and sustain Fraser River White Sturgeon.

Concurrent with these short-term activities, the FBC is also raising awareness among key partners on the need to develop a common overall vision and strategy to sustain Fraser River fish and fisheries. While many have brought forward recommendations for what governments, organizations and individuals should and can do, efforts to date have been neither fully inclusive nor fully collaborative. The FBC believes the time is right for a focused but inclusive discussion on what groups are willing to do together to achieve a sustainable fisheries on the Fraser.

The FBC is currently focused on securing government support for developing a common vision and strategy for achieving this goal. Once this is accomplished, broader communities of interest will be engaged to share in the development of the initiative's goals and objectives.

For more information on FBC's Sustainable Fish and Fisheries program, contact Executive Director David Marshall at (604) 488-5357 or Program Manager Jessica Bratty at (604) 488-5350.

Youth Program

Sustainability is all about creating a great future for the next generation – a future where communities are strong, the environment is clean and healthy, and the economy is vibrant. Making a sustainable future a reality must, of course, involve young people – for it is they who will inherit our legacy and have to live with the decisions we make today.

Over the past year, the FBC Board and staff have developed opportunities to involve youth more closely in FBC activities throughout the Basin. Marni Gillis, who joined FBC after five years as Environmental Coordinator with the City of Kamloops, has been hired to head a new youth program, in addition to her work with FBC's BC Climate Exchange.

Planned FBC youth engagement activities include:

- Ensuring effective involvement in the 2004 State of the Fraser Basin Conference and Sustainability Awards.
- Working with the BC Rural Team and Canadian Rural Partnership to develop a Fraser Basin Youth Action Forum.
- Adding a youth information page on the FBC website to showcase youth sustainability projects.
- Developing an inventory of youth related sustainability projects.
- Involving youth in BC Climate Exchange activities.

For more information, contact Program Coordinator Marni Gillis at (604) 488-5360 or email mgillis@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Regional Highlights 2003-2004

Upper Fraser Region

Directors

Ron Hawkins

Colin Kinsley

Valerie Kordyban, succeeded by Don Gould

Jerry Petersen

Harold Prince, succeeded by Harry Pierre

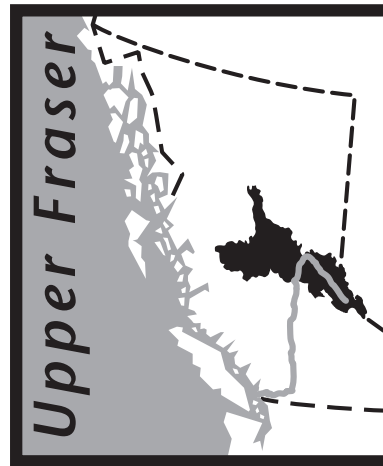
Staff

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Email: jchess@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Feature Programs

Strengthening Communities

The Strengthening Communities program in the Upper Fraser region is focused on coordinating and promoting community events and boosting tourism in the McBride-Dunster area in the Robson Valley.

At the initial meetings in 2003, residents felt that the FBC could best help them with developing a community vision. Two workshops were held in January and February 2004, resulting in a community vision statement and a number of projects that move the statement from words into action. With a common vision, the community then selected its first hands-on project for the coming fiscal year. In March 2004, the first "Network Night" attracted 35 people who represented 75 organizations – an amazing level of volunteerism for a town of 700 people! The participants filled out calendars with the events scheduled for the coming six months. Each month, the calendar of events is updated on the community bulleting board.

Nechako Watershed Council (NWC)

For the past 50 years, concerns about the development of the Nechako River to generate hydroelectricity for Alcan's smelter in Kitimat have generated tremendous controversy over the management of the Nechako, a major tributary of the Fraser. The situation resulted in decades of entrenched positions and strained relationships amongst those involved. However, in recent years, a different approach and changed attitudes have led to a collaborative effort to resolve outstanding issues.

In June 1998, the FBC helped establish the Nechako Watershed Council (NWC), a multi-interest group with First Nations, business, community and government representation. The NWC has accomplished much towards its goal of developing new water management strategies that incorporate solutions to the longstanding conflicts in the watershed.

During 2003/04, the FBC continued to work with the NWC, providing staff support on projects and at meetings. The

NWC implemented Year 2 of the Cold Water Release Facility (CWRP) Work Plan in cooperation with its provincial and corporate partners. The provincial government and Alcan BC have each committed to providing \$100,000 per year for three years to implement Phase 1 of the CWRP Work Plan. NWC members also worked on new flow regimes that would be possible to implement after the proposed CWRP has been constructed. Staff from the BC Water Management Branch and Alcan have provided data, analyses and computer modeling to link reservoir levels, releases to Kemano and releases to the Nechako River. The ultimate goal is to develop a range of flow regimes that accommodate a variety of ecological, social and economic needs.

The NWC has also been discussing its future role and possible relationship with the Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program and the Nechako River White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative. As one of several research projects, the Recovery Initiative is attempting to correlate water flow and temperature data with times when sturgeon spawning was believed to have occurred decades ago. This latter study is key to establishing flow requirements for sturgeon; this information is crucial for the NWC to be able to complete its work on flow regimes.

The FBC was instrumental in establishing the Nechako Watershed Council (and) since then, has continued to provide valuable support to the NWC in its efforts in finding long-term solutions to issues identified in the Nechako Watershed.

—Henry Klassen, Chair, Nechako Watershed Council

Other Highlights

BC Rivers Day

The 3rd annual Prince George BC Rivers Day Music Festival on September 28, 2003 was another great success, attracting over 2,000 participants. The focus of this year's event was on the Nechako River White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative. The Upper Fraser Regional Manager served as Chair of the organizing committee for this year's event.

Held at Fort George Park at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers, the festival featured Marcel Gagnon, 2003 Juno Award nominee for Best Aboriginal Artist. Other blues, country and rock musicians included Lucas Blind, The Rainbow Dancers, Mama Guroove, David Gogo and Duane Steele.

Chilako Watershed Council (CWC)

The FBC has supported the efforts of rural residents and agency staff to improve the riparian area of the Chilako River and help address residents' concerns about flooding and erosion. Work undertaken by the CWC was intended to benefit fish habitat and populations, as well as farming operations. Since 2000, ten projects have been completed including riparian planting, fencing for alternate grazing strategies, off-stream livestock watering sites and stream bank restoration. As of March 2003, the Chilako River Stewardship Project officially ended. However, the FBC's Regional Manager continued to work with the Chilako project coordinator to document the information gathered on the watershed's resources, land uses and additional sites identified for restoration. The document will serve as a reference for residents to use for future riparian projects.

Regional and Community Support

The FBC supports a number of other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. The Upper Fraser Regional Manager:

- Liaised with the Omineca Peace Interagency Management Committee and attended the IAMC's quarterly meetings.
- Participated at meetings of the McGregor Model Forest Association to advance sustainable forest management in BC as part of the National Forest Strategy.
- Is a member of the Action Planning Group, Nechako River White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative that promotes public awareness about the initiative.

Regional Highlights 2003-2004

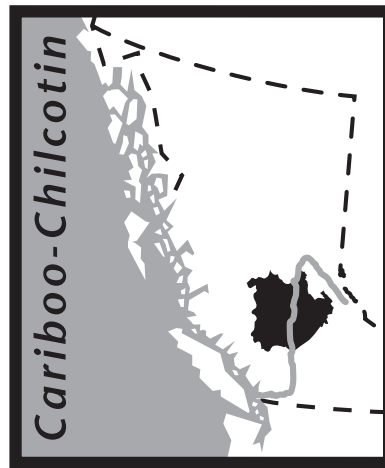
Cariboo-Chilcotin

Directors

Ervin Charleyboy
Dave Hendrixson
Robert Patterson
Bill Young

Staff

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Gail Lucier



Feature Programs

Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia

While the issue of invasive plant species impacts all regions of the Basin and the province, it is of particular concern to ranchers, farmers, the forest industry and communities in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. The Regional Manager has been the lead FBC staff member in the process to develop the Strategy and the new Invasive Plant Council of BC. See: Basin-Wide Highlights for more information on the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*.

Strengthening Communities

Cariboo-Chilcotin Directors originally selected the 100 Mile House area as the region's pilot community for the initiative, but expanded the project to the South Cariboo based on the input of local people. Dialogue sessions on potential practical approaches were held in the spring and fall of 2003 with representatives from communities across the South Cariboo including 100 Mile House, Clinton, Canim Lake Band and Forest Grove. Meeting participants represented a wide range of interests including the Chamber of Commerce, Lower Bridge Creek Watershed Group, small entrepreneurs and other interested individuals. They provided input on how the FBC can effectively work with the local community to help build strong and stable communities, and identified critical issues, key priorities and possible projects in each community.

The first priority from the workshops was to compile existing research and information on local demographics, economic plans and community plans. Once the FBC summarized these documents, a local sub-committee reviewed the information and identified areas that could be improved prior to circulating the document. The objective was to further clarify why people have stayed or left the South Cariboo and what needs to be done to retain and attract residents. Based on the initial report and the outcome of

a survey, a proactive Action Plan will be developed to identify local initiatives to attract and keep residents in the area. Stakeholders in the South Cariboo identified the need for a "community profile" for the area to determine regional demographic information about who lives and works in the area and bring together information on community services. A literature review was conducted and over 15 reports were researched, as well as Internet and Census Canada 2002 data. The information has been compiled into a Draft South Cariboo Community Profile (June 2004). This report is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Other Highlights

Building Partnerships

The FBC facilitated a joint meeting between the Cariboo Regional District and the City of Williams Lake to build clear understanding and acceptance of their Memorandum of Understanding that provides direction on shared responsibilities for a wide range of services such as recreation, landfill and shoreline management.

Caribou Management

The population of the Eastern Mountain Caribou is recognized as needing special management to help ensure that the sub-species population is sustainable. To help increase public awareness of caribou and related management concerns, the FBC facilitated a broad-based panel to encourage public discussion and invite recommendations for protecting these animals. The panel brought together representatives from the forest industry, environmental groups, guide outfitters, snowmobilers and recreationists to identify possible volunteer actions. The panel identified what actions recreationists, community organizations, industry and governments can take to help ensure the viability of the local population. A key message was the need to work cooperatively together in planning, and in the field, to minimize negative impacts on the caribou herd.

Community Economic Development Skills Initiative

The Regional Manager has been invited to sit on the Advisory Committee for the "Community Economic Development (CED) Skills Initiative for Sustainable Northern Communities" in partnership with Simon Fraser University. The overall objective of the project is to build northern regional capacity to sustain CED training and activity in the future.

Community Learning Network

Community Learning Networks exist in many BC communities as a means to increase understanding of learning resources, especially those related to the Internet. Both provincial and federal governments have been important players in helping rural communities gain on-line access and increasing understanding and awareness of its potential use by local residents.

In this region, the Cariboo Chilcotin Learning Network worked in many rural areas including Tatla Lake, Horsefly, Wells and many First Nations communities to provide and improve local rural access to Network service and support. With the completion of their contracts, the Network brought all their local coordinators together to discuss potential future steps. The FBC facilitated this planning session that resulted in an agreement to work towards a regional proposal for ongoing networking.

At the provincial level, the FBC partnered with the Community Futures Development Association (CFDA) of BC to help organize the BC/Yukon Community Learning Network Forum held in Kamloops, March 23 and 24, 2004. This brought together almost 100 people from across the province to share ideas and information about effective community learning. FBC emceed, facilitated and handled the registration for the event. The report from the Forum is on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Regional Visioning

At the request of the Cariboo Tribal Council, the Federal Treaty Office and the Regional Treaty Negotiating Team, the FBC planned and facilitated two regional visioning sessions. Each session aimed to have all participants identify what actions they could jointly take to help make the local area a better place for all. The first session looked at lands and resources and the second focused on wildlife. Over 70 people came together for each session to identify what local actions could create practical outcomes over the next three years. The actions generally focused on building partnerships between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. The next session will focus on fisheries; other sessions will follow-up on actions related to land and resources.

Rural Networking in BC

Based on the past three years of work with rural communities in BC, there has been a clearly defined request to improve linkages and networks among rural communities and organizations.

To help initiate this work, the FBC has compiled and updated a BC Rural Network directory listing those organization that have a prime focus on rural BC. This directory provides easier access to

numerous organizations that are attempting to address rural needs, and demonstrates the need to build communication across groups. This directory is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Based on this directory and the Sharing Lessons Learned conference, FBC will work as a catalyst to initiate more formal networking among BC rural organizations. FBC will work in partnership with BC Rural Team, CFDA and BC CED-Net to help organize a BC Rural Network, expected to be in place later in 2004.

Sharing Lessons Learned Phase Three

As rural BC experiences economic transition with changes in the traditional resource sectors, many communities have inspiring stories about how they have diversified their economies and taken advantage of new opportunities. As a follow-up to the 2002 conference at Silverstar, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Manager along with an organizing committee organized the "Sharing Lessons Learned" Forum that was held at the University of Northern BC in Prince George in May 2003. FBC did a series of presentations on our work, including our activities with the BC Rural Team. The successful Forum received excellent feedback from the over 100 participants, some of whom stated that this was the most 'inspiring session' they had attended.

The Summary Report from the Forum is available on our website: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Regional and Community Support

The FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin.

- The Regional Manager participated actively with the BC Rural Team – a federal/provincial partnership focused on improving services to rural communities.
- Bridge Creek Watershed Group has asked the FBC to facilitate a multi-party information session that could lead to the development of a local drought strategy.
- The Cariboo Regional District has asked the FBC for support in formulating a clear vision and actions that would enable the region to benefit from the 2010 Olympics. In addition, the FBC would facilitate discussion regarding the role of the Regional District in economic planning for the region. FBC staff will be discussing these concepts and then recommending a suitable role for the Council. In addition, the FBC has indicated its interest in working with the local Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and community groups to develop a sustainable development plan for the Cariboo.
- Regional staff participated in Inter-Agency Management Committee meetings to discuss and identify upcoming natural resource issues in the region. The IAMC committee's Terms of Reference recognize the unique role of the FBC and its participation in their meetings.

Regional Highlights 2003-2004

Thompson

Directors

Deborah Abbott
Ted Bacigalupo, succeeded by Tom Coombes
Judy Guichon
Eddy Jules
Joe Post
George Saddleman
Morgan Wells, succeeded by Perry Redan

Staff

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Kelly Flexman
Jennifer Krotz
Dave Pehl

Feature Program

Mid-Fraser Economic Development Conference

“Working together to share ideas and make them a reality” was the theme of an ambitious conference held in Lillooet in March 2004. Organized by the FBC as part of its Strengthening Communities program, this conference attracted over 140 business men and women, First Nations leaders, young entrepreneurs, local and provincial politicians, media and residents from the mid-Fraser region.

Over the past decade, this region – including the communities of Spences Bridge, Boston Bar, Lytton and Lillooet – have been hard hit by everything from reduced traffic and tourism on the Trans Canada Highway to the softwood lumber dispute, cutbacks in government services and the closing of BC Rail passenger service from North Vancouver to Lillooet.

The conference provided people wanting to start new businesses in agriculture, tourism, forestry, mining and other sectors with practical, hands-on tools on how to get started, plan and market their business, secure financing, build effective partnerships and take advantage of opportunities from the 2010 Olympics. The conference was a small step on the road to helping Lillooet and the entire mid-Fraser region recover economically, but it was an important first step.

Partners in the conference were the FBC, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd., BC Hydro, and Community Futures Development Association. (Central Interior First Nations and Sun Country CFDA).



This type of event is critical to the success of our communities, especially in these trying economic times.

—Greg Kamenka, Mayor of Lillooet

Other Highlights

Building A Stewardship Ethic

The FBC has worked closely with the Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) to assist them in building a stewardship ethic. In 2000, the TNRD adopted a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) to implement sustainable planning policies for the region. The TNRD focused on the South Thompson Settlement Strategy (STSS), specifically targeting the geographic area experiencing the most growth pressure.

The FBC has contributed to, and played an active role in, the STSS Intergovernmental Advisory Committee and the Working Committee. The FBC's work focused on public consultation and sharing information with, and gathering data from, various governmental agencies. The goals were to build relationships amongst the four orders of government, share information and develop and implement policies. The FBC's contribution helped ensure that the STSS Policy Document (adopted by the TNRD Board of Directors in 2002) will be sustainable. The FBC has also contributed to a number of other short- and long-term stewardship planning projects with the TNRD.

In 2003, the TNRD undertook to rewrite its Lakeshore Development Guidelines to ensure they met the principles of the established growth management initiative. The FBC has assisted in gathering information and serving in an advisory capacity for this project.

Nicola Valley Coho and Drought Programs

Interior Coho are a key species in the Nicola River system. The FBC is serving on the Recovery Team now being structured by

DFO to meet their Species At Risk Act (SARA) requirements. FBC has been asked by the Regional District to act on their behalf. In addition FBC staff are also doing hands-on research on Coho fry survival in the Coldwater River. The objective of this research is to gain greater knowledge on the freshwater life history of Interior Coho in this region.

FBC staff will also be developing drought and low flow data gathering techniques and monitoring criteria to ensure proper knowledge of the impacts on the resource can be measured and alleviated. This should also encourage irrigators and fisheries personnel to begin to agree on baseline water flows and allow for more informed decisions in the future allocation of this precious resource.

Partnerships with MSRM

FBC continues to partner with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) on various projects throughout the Region. FBC has assisted in the development of an information process for the Stat'leu'mx Nation to understand the Lillooet LRMP. FBC has also assisted in the planning for helicopter skiing and timber harvesting in the Blue River area, and in the development of monitoring reports for the various LRMP's in the region.

Shuswap Lake Library, Map and Database Project

To determine or assess the land's natural value when subdivisions are proposed, Regional Districts often can rely only on public hearings and anecdotal knowledge of its staff and other government agencies. In the case of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), local planners and citizens believed that these sources of information were inadequate.

When an opportunity arose through a partnership between the former BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to place a Habitat Steward with the FBC's Thompson regional office, the CSRD worked with FBC staff to research and compile extensive data and other relevant information on the Shuswap and Mara Lakes. The challenges were in identifying information sources, designing a tool that would encourage all parties to share their information, and making it accessible to all. The task has been completed and the report and extensive data are now being used by a wide range of interests around Shuswap and Mara Lakes. The complete report is available on FBC's website and can be accessed and used interactively: www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Strengthening Communities:

Fraser Canyon Economic Development Initiatives

When the Coquihalla highway was opened, economic development in the Fraser Canyon slowed and almost stopped. In order to address the needs of canyon residents, a program called "Bridging the Canyon" was initiated. The program consisted of gathering, through interviews, recommendations from residents regarding the future of the canyon. Three coordinators were hired for the work and their report outlined several projects that could be implemented by local people and would have an impact on the future of the area.

Three of their recommendations have been implemented. The first was a Farmer's Market in Lytton that sells the produce that is grown by the residents of the area. The event has proven so successful that some of the produce is being trucked to Whistler using funds generated by the society. The quality of this food is so good chefs from the hotels are booking it in advance.

As part of the "Bridging" program, the FBC Strengthening Communities task group also identified the need for broadband Internet development. Acquiring broadband access is key to operating in today's world, as dial-up access is far too slow to obtain even the simplest of documents.

The towns of Boston Bar, Lytton and Spences Bridge, led by the Siska Indian Band, began a process to create a "Learning Communities" network within the Fraser Canyon. The initiative includes all the communities between Spuzzum and the Ashcroft Indian Band, and may be expanded to include the Nicola region and Lillooet.

The Siska Indian Band made the appropriate applications for subsidies and submitted it to the federal government. In the meantime, FBC allocated funds to bring people from the Canyon into Kamloops where they could be trained in wireless do-it-yourself installations. The Siska proposal failed to get support, but two of the people brought in for the training session convinced Telus that the idea was practical. They are now working on implementing a network. This is an example of a small investment with a big return.

After several years of working its way through various approval agencies, the Learning Communities Proposal for the Canyon area – the third recommended program – has now been accepted, demonstrating once again that when communities work together, they can achieve remarkable results.

Regional and Community Support

The FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. The Thompson Regional Manager and staff:

- Supported the village of Lillooet with its infrastructure application for a sewer upgrade.
- Supported Fisheries and Oceans Canada in developing and measuring transects and low flow monitoring on nine streams within the region.
- Attended LRMP, LRUP and LWMP processes to suggest sustainable actions to be incorporated in their planning processes.
- Continued dialogue with members of the IAMC as well as their supporting staff.
- Served on the City of Kamloops Technical Advisory Committee for the Liquid Waste Management Plan.
- Served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the TNRD's Growth Management Program.
- Chaired the Committee on Watershed Sustainability that included the BC Cattlemen's Association, Grasslands Council, DFO, WALP, MAFF and the FBC.

Regional Highlights 2003-2004

Fraser Valley

Directors

Dave Barratt
Duncan Jeffries
Roy Mussell
Sylvia Pranger

Staff

For information on any of the programs listed below, contact:
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Feature Programs

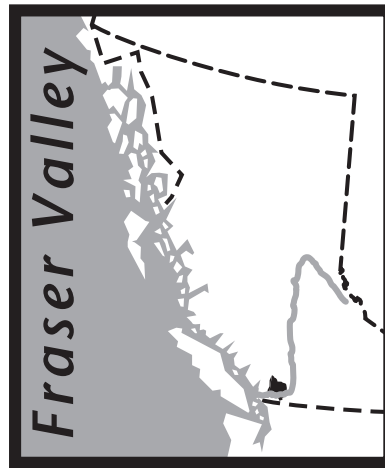
Fraser River Management Plan: Hope to Mission

Significant amounts of gravel are deposited each year in the “gravel reach” of the lower Fraser River during the spring runoff. In recent years there has been growing conflict over the management and use of in-river gravel in this region. Gravel movement and build-up in some areas of the river reduces the ability of local communities like Agassiz and Chilliwack to protect themselves from floods; it also affects commercial navigation in the river. However, the removal or movement of in-river gravel has implications for fish habitat as well as in-river infrastructure such as bridges, pipelines and bank protection.

To address this complex issue, the FBC brought together all interested parties to facilitate the development of a plan that would address key issues including flood and erosion protection, gravel resources, fish and aquatic habitat, and navigation, as well as First Nations’ concerns. The resulting plan developed by the Fraser River Management Plan (FRMP) Steering Committee defined the location, timing and quantity for potential gravel removals in order to focus efforts on flood, erosion and navigation hazards, while avoiding impacts to habitat.

In 2003/04, the FBC worked with Land and Water BC (LWBC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), to facilitate discussions with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities along the river to share traditional knowledge about the river, identify concerns regarding flood, erosion and navigation, and provide input on preferred sites of gravel removals. The FBC also compiled a large number of technical studies on the river, summarizing the key findings in common, non-technical language.

For the winter of 2003, gravel removals totaling approximately 460,000 cubic meters were approved by federal and provincial agencies in areas of flood concern. Of the approved quantities, 185,000 cubic meters of gravel were removed, equivalent to about 10 football fields piled three meters deep. Two of the four removals



were carried out by the Cheam First Nation and Seabird Island First Nation.

In order to create more certainty, the FBC will be working with LWBC, DFO and communities along the river to develop a longer term plan that sets out approximate removal levels, monitoring requirements and common timelines for decision-making.

Contact Program Manager Jim Vanderwal for more information at (604) 488-5359 or jvanderwal@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The Fraser Basin Council is providing a very valuable service by bringing together diverse interests to proactively address difficult issues.

—Mayor Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent

Strengthening Communities

For Fraser Valley farmers in Kent and Agassiz, strengthening communities is synonymous with strengthening agriculture. Small lot agriculture is a sector with the most potential for economic, social and environmental changes that benefit the larger community. The FBC Strengthening Communities program is working with the District of Kent, Kent Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Seabird Island First Nation to strengthen the local market opportunities and stimulate small lot agriculture, economic activity and community development. FBC seed funding was used as a catalyst to attract additional funding from the BC Small Lot Agriculture Industry Development Initiative. It was identified that baseline measurements needed to be collected to establish what crops and products were already in production and what new products could be economically viable in the area. During 2003/04, a Kent Agriculture Data Collection Survey and workshop were completed.

Other Highlights

Business Environmental Pledge Programme (BEPP)

The primary goal of Abbotsford's BEPP is to improve the health of the internationally significant Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer. Abbotsford businesses, together with the City of Abbotsford and the Chamber of Commerce, have formed the BEPP Committee to develop and implement the Programme. Together with Community Futures of the South Fraser, the FBC is facilitating the implementation of BEPP.

The concept is for businesses to "pledge" to undertake actions that benefit the ecosystem. The goal is to help create changes in business management practices that benefit the ecosystem while also demonstrating economic viability, and to develop a model of cooperation on sustainability-related activities in the Fraser Valley that can be exported to other communities in the Basin.

The two-year, EcoAction-funded toxics and hazardous waste reduction component of the BEPP (as administered by Community Futures) is now completed. The successes of the program have included increased environmental awareness by the general public and over 1,000 businesses that were given information about the project, 45 of which pledged new actions protect local ecosystems.

To reassess and be of greater service to the business sector, the BEPP Committee has planned a survey and research into the environmental actions that businesses are undertaking and what actions they require help with. Results will be available in September 2004.

Canadian National Energy Board (NEB) Hearings

The Canadian National Energy Board has turned down the application to construct international power lines integral to the proposed gas fired 660 Kilowatt power generating plant in Sumas Washington, known as Sumas Energy 2 or SE2. Citizens, businesses, agencies and governments have expressed concerns about the environmental effects of the plant, the impacts of power lines running through communities and possible pollution that may be generated. The FBC was asked to provide basic information and to help district residents, including local First Nations, understand how to access the process. Currently the SE2 proponents have appealed to the Canadian Federal Appeals Court for review.

Celebration of Community

The purpose of this initiative is to make citizens aware of services and volunteer opportunities in their community and encourage them to get involved. The Celebration takes place in Mission on the 3rd Saturday in September, and combines BC River's Day with other social and environmental initiatives. Organized by the FBC, Mission Parks and Recreation, Mission Association for Community Living and Fraser River Heritage Park Society, this free, day-long event attracts over 2,000 citizens who meet with over 100 groups, agencies or clubs. Food and entertainment are sponsored. Evaluations indicate that this annual event has increased rates of volunteerism and citizen engagement.

Flood Relief

Last fall, a number of Fraser Valley and Lillooet River Valley residents were evacuated due to high rainfall events and flooding. Emergencies were declared. The FBC Regional Manager assisted flood victims by providing emergency information and coordination services and securing donations of wood, blankets, clothing, food and financial assistance for Mount Currie and other communities north of Harrison Lake.

Mission Community Justice Council

FBC activities have stimulated new understandings of "social sustainability" in the Mission area. Since the completion of "Crime Prevention: A Social Approach" in 2001, many actions are underway both with government and community groups. The plan has identified a number of action areas, most of which are underway, and has evolved to meet current community needs.

FBC chairs, facilitates and convenes the city-appointed Mission Community Justice Council, which in turn stimulates and works with all major service providers and community groups.

The recent focus of the Council has been on:

- developing restorative justice programming;
- establishing sub-committees on youth, a downtown coalition, neighbourhood support, and targeted help for marginalized citizens;
- joint funding strategies; and
- better agency networks.

Sustainability and Agriculture

Food production is key to sustaining ourselves. In BC, we produce half of our food on less than 5% of our land base. Since land use is critical to our future well-being, the FBC has facilitated dialogue on many agricultural issues. For example, FBC has provided information, organized tours and information sessions for local and national groups regarding the rural/urban interface challenges and opportunities, enhanced communications between agriculture and urban communities, and taken part in major agricultural conferences.

Regional and Community Support

The FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. Over the past year, the Fraser Valley Regional Manager:

- Supported Fraser Valley Regional District interests in solid waste management and agricultural advisory committees.
- Chaired the Sto:lo Agriculture Conference.
- Assisted many local watershed stewardship groups.
- Worked with many community organizations and local governments with strategic planning and accessing resources.
- Took part in the Treaty dialogue at Yale First Nation.
- Hosted the China Council Integrated River Basin Management Task Force re: watershed management and water allocation.
- Provided input to the United Way consultation on program delivery priorities.
- Hosted *Vancouver Sun* reporters doing a feature story of Islands in the Fraser River.

Regional Highlights 2003-2004

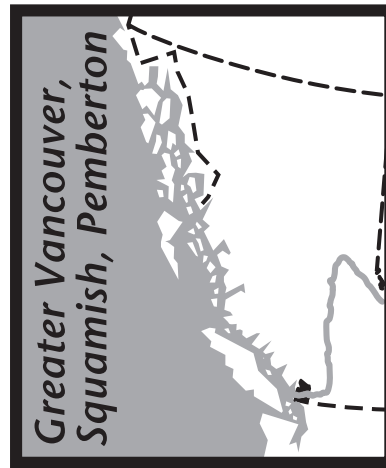
Greater Vancouver-Squamish-Pemberton

Directors

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Feature Program

Strengthening Communities: Reinventing Squamish

In recent years, Squamish – a community of 15,000 along the Sea-to-Sky Corridor – has undergone rapid change as traditional industries suffered economic downturns and companies such as Interfor and BC Rail reduced their presence in the community. At the same time, the 2010 Winter Olympics, increased tourism and the growth of knowledge-based industries have provided new opportunities to diversify the local economy.

In Spring 2003, the FBC convened a Strengthening Communities dialogue session to identify key issues, existing strengths and emerging opportunities in Squamish and to seek input on ways the FBC could help Squamish capitalize on them. At this session, community leaders asked the FBC to undertake consultation on potential futures for its downtown waterfront.

Using sustainability and “smart growth” principles and a design “charette” process to stimulate creative ideas for the waterfront, the FBC, in partnership with the District of Squamish and with the assistance of the UBC Sustainable Communities Program, worked with the community to develop an innovative and distinctive “working waterfront” concept plan for the downtown waterfront. The plan, which engaged a broad cross-section of interests in the community, includes marinas, ocean walkways, seaside residences, parks, a public market, restaurants, and a distinctive arts and cultural centre, in addition to traditional industrial uses and a deep sea port.

Partners in this innovative program include the FBC, BC Hydro, District of Squamish, Western Economic Diversification, Community Futures Development Corporation of Howe Sound and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

I am delighted that the Fraser Basin Council was able to contribute to the long-term sustainability of Squamish through our Strengthening Communities initiative. The goodwill and practical outcomes resulting from this project show how win-win solutions can arise from shared learning, respectful dialogue and collaboration around common interests.

—Hugh O'Reilly, Mayor of Whistler and FBC Director

Other Highlights

GVRD Sustainable Region Initiative

The Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI) is a comprehensive approach to realigning current projects and practices and longer-term plans and strategies to ensure a sustainable future for the Greater Vancouver region and its citizens. Although initiated by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), a broad range of interests, including other orders of government, non-government organizations, business, academia and individual citizens, will play roles in the design and implementation of the SRI.

The SRI embraces the inclusive governance model embodied by the FBC – a model that recognizes that unprecedented collaboration across organizations and individuals reflecting environmental, economic and social perspectives is essential in order for sustainability to be achieved “on the ground”. The FBC continues to support the SRI through its participation on the SRI Partners Group, which assists the GVRD with SRI design and implementation. Under the auspices of the SRI, the FBC and the Business Council of BC are planning to co-host meetings involving business, community and government leaders to develop

a vision for a sustainability-informed Greater Vancouver regional economy and determine what collaboration is needed to move towards this vision.

Contact the Regional Manager Bob Purdy for more information on the SRI or check out the GVRD website: <http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/sustainable/index/asp>

Collaborative leadership is a hot topic in management circles these days and is central to the approach to governance being explored in the GVRD's Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI). That is why it has been so useful to have the Fraser Basin Council as one of the initial four partners in the first phase of the SRI. The Council has blazed new paths in building partnerships for governance for sustainability, paths that we must all follow. Council staff have helped shape the SRI process through advisory committees, conferences, partnership building and participation in strategic planning sessions. They have been critical to the early success of the Initiative and their pledge of continued involvement is one of the reasons we are so optimistic about its future success.

—Johnny Carline, Chief Administrative Officer, GVRD

Fraser River Debris Trap

Imagine a pile of wood debris as big as a football field and as high as a 13 story office tower. Now imagine the damage that amount of wood – 100,000 cubic metres – would cause if it were allowed to flow unfettered downstream from Hope to the Strait of Georgia. The Fraser River Debris Trap, a unique facility near Hope, captures up to this amount of debris each year as uprooted and fallen trees careen down the Fraser River from as far away as Mount Robson in the Rocky Mountains.

Without the debris trap, this mountain of wood debris would threaten public safety, interfere with commercial and recreational navigation, damage infrastructure such as docks, dikes, bridges and submarine cables, clog sensitive habitat and hinder foreshore access.

The FBC plays a leadership role in addressing funding uncertainty and air quality issues associated with the debris trap. For six years in a row, the FBC has worked with government and private sector partners to ensure that funds are in place to operate the debris trap.

In late 2002, the federal and provincial governments expressed their support for a multi-year Business Plan for operating the debris trap prepared with the FBC's assistance by the Interim Operating Committee (IOC) of the Debris Management Partners

Group. The Plan includes a number of strategic research programs and partnership-building efforts focused on finding economically, environmentally and socially acceptable methods of processing captured wood debris. In order for this Plan to be realized, a multi-year debris trap funding agreement needs to be established between senior governments and the coastal forest industry. On the operational front, through an agreement between NorskeCanada and the debris trap contractor, open burning has been largely eliminated as a debris disposal method, improving air quality in the Fraser Valley.

Partners in the program include the FBC, BC Ministry of Forests, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Western Diversification Canada, the coastal forest industry, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Ferry Corporation, Fraser River Port Authority, BC Ministry of Transportation, Parks Canada, Translink/Albion Ferry, and the District of West Vancouver.

The debris trap is clearly an example of B.C. innovation and demonstrates the benefits of a collaborative partnership – in this case between the federal and provincial governments, the coastal forest industry and the Fraser Basin Council. The important role the Council plays in keeping the debris trap operational cannot be understated.

—Michael de Jong, BC Minister of Forests

International Centre for Sustainable Cities and “+30 Network”
Vancouver hit the world stage in 1976 when it hosted Habitat 76: the UN Conference on Human Settlement. Our current FBC Chair, Patrick Reid, headed the Host Secretariat for the conference. Vancouver will mark the 30th anniversary of that important milestone when it hosts the UN World Urban Forum in 2006.

Vancouver is also home to the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC), a non-government organization that promotes sustainability in cities around the world through practical demonstration projects using Canadian expertise and technology.

In March 2004, FBC Regional Manager Bob Purdy played a key role as emcee and lead facilitator at an international “+30 Network” conference in Vancouver hosted by the ICSC in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Liu Institute for Global Issues and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

Building on the success of CitiesPLUS – Canada's grand prize-winning submission at an international competition sponsored by the International Gas Union – the +30 Network enables cities and communities to learn from one another, share their experiences and work together to advance long-term planning for sustainability. The +30 Network will witness better models and techniques for

long-term planning, resulting in more resilient cities able to cope with expected economic, ecological, and social shocks and stresses.

GVRD Council of Councils

In September 2003, the GVRD's Council of Councils meeting focused on Greater Vancouver's emerging role as a world leader in sustainability. FBC Chair Patrick Reid kicked off the presentation with an overview of milestones that have catapulted Vancouver into the international arena as a city and region focused on creating a sustainable future for its citizens. He joined a distinguished panel of speakers at the event that included GVRD Chair Marvin Hunt, former premier Mike Harcourt, UBC professor and planner Peter Oberlander, representing Western Diversification Canada Minister Stephen Owen, Ken Baker from the 2010 Bid Corporation and Premier Gordon Campbell.

North Vancouver Waterfront Forum

The FBC worked with the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce at a March 2004 forum – “Sharing Visions, Sharing Futures” – that examined opportunities for collaboration around the future of the North Vancouver waterfront. Based on evaluation forms, the Chamber considered the forum, which was attended by over 70 participants representing a broad range of perspectives, to be a great success. FBC Chair Patrick Reid provided the keynote address on collaborative leadership to set the tone for the day. The Squamish Downtown Waterfront Initiative was presented by FBC and District of Squamish staff as an example of successful collaboration. The FBC secured the participation of Tsliel-Waututh and Squamish Nation speakers who shared their respective visions for the future of the waterfront and key ingredients of productive Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal partnerships.

Regional and Community Support

The FBC supports and provides direction and services for many ongoing community, regional district and other activities and programs to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin. The FBC Chair and GVSP Regional Manager participated in many events throughout the year:

- FBC staff gave presentations on the FBC's Collaborative Leadership model to a “Sharing Visions, Sharing Futures” meeting in Mount Currie, to BCIT resource management students, to a GVRD Parks volunteer's meeting, to GVRD Parks staff, to the Squamish and Whistler Chambers of Commerce, and to Probus, a retired professionals group.
- FBC staff chaired the “Business Case for Sustainability” conference hosted by Canadian Business for Social Responsibility in November 2003 in Vancouver.
- FBC Chair Patrick Reid gave the keynote address at the Community Futures Development Association Annual General Meeting in Vancouver. The FBC's interest in promoting stronger working linkages with individual Community Futures Development Corporations was conveyed and well received.
- FBC staff participated in a charette process to help define a new future for the Town of Britannia Beach, which is now benefiting from past work by the FBC that encouraged clean-up of what has been described as the worst single-point metals contamination problem in North America.
- The Village of Pemberton recently engaged the FBC to facilitate a Town Hall meeting to seek input from residents as part of the Village's Official Community Plan amendment.
- FBC staff moderated a meeting hosted by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) to present information and gauge support for a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The meeting confirmed interest in an RGS, and the SLRD is now advancing the initiative with completion targeted for late fall, 2005.
- FBC staff gave a presentation to the Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council on the Squamish and North Vancouver waterfront initiatives and the FBC's Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal Relationships initiative.
- The FBC is in discussions with the SLRD and Village of Pemberton regarding a potential need for the creation of a Lillooet Management Council, modeled in a similar way to the governance structure of the FBC.



Fraser Basin Council

Financial Statements of Fraser Basin Council Society

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the statement of financial position of Fraser Basin Council Society as at March 31, 2004 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding fiscal year.



Chartered Accountants
Vancouver, Canada
June 4, 2004

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Financial Position


March 31, 2004 and 2003


	2004	2003
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 177,659	\$ 220,677
Restricted cash (note 3)	1,864,988	1,199,774
Project and other receivables (note 4)	792,252	258,983
Prepaid expenses	12,552	9,771
	<u>2,847,451</u>	<u>1,689,205</u>
Computer and office equipment (note 5)	28,187	4,604
	<u>\$ 2,875,638</u>	<u>\$ 1,693,809</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 271,205	\$ 80,189
Deferred revenue (note 6)	124,936	167,891
Current portion of obligation under capital leases (note 7)	15,720	205
Funds held in trust (note 8)	1,539,386	938,810
	<u>1,951,247</u>	<u>1,187,095</u>
Obligation under capital leases (note 7)	8,994	—
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	3,473	4,399
Internally restricted:		
Sustainability Fund (note 2(c))	325,602	260,964
INAC Fund (note 2(d))	200,000	—
Unrestricted (note 2(e))	386,322	241,351
	<u>915,397</u>	<u>506,714</u>
	<u>\$ 2,875,638</u>	<u>\$ 1,693,809</u>

Commitments (note 9)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Operations

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

	2004	2003
Revenue:		
Government contributions:		
Federal	\$ 550,000	\$ 350,000
Provincial	350,000	350,000
Municipalities and regional districts	356,310	328,335
Project revenue	873,764	721,701
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	—	227,757
Interest	70,671	28,116
Donations	11,764	2,444
Other	2,270	1,961
	2,214,779	2,010,314
Expenses:		
Projects:		
Basinwide	741,317	572,985
Regional	405,494	496,803
State of the Fraser Basin Conference	—	133,228
Communications	137,695	135,861
Board operations	91,711	135,104
Administration	378,228	332,126
Amortization of capital assets	12,998	10,564
Goods and Services Tax	38,653	26,763
	1,806,096	1,843,434
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 408,683	\$ 166,880

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

	Invested in capital assets	Sustainability Fund	INAC Fund	Unrestricted	Total	
					2004	2003
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 4,399	\$ 260,964	\$ —	\$ 241,351	\$ 506,714	\$ 339,834
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(12,998)	—	—	421,681	408,683	166,880
Acquisition of capital assets	36,581	—	—	(36,581)	—	—
Capital lease obligations entered into	(36,581)	—	—	36,581	—	—
Repayment of capital lease obligation	12,072	—	—	(12,072)	—	—
Transfers	—	64,638	200,000	(264,638)	—	—
Balance, end of year	\$ 3,473	\$ 325,602	\$ 200,000	\$ 386,322	\$ 915,397	\$ 506,714

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Statements of Cash Flows

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

	2004	2003
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 408,683	\$ 166,880
Amortization of computer and office equipment	12,998	10,564
Decrease (increase) in non-cash working capital:		
Project and other receivables	(533,269)	336,274
Prepaid expenses	(2,781)	1,773
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	191,016	(36,810)
Deferred revenue	(42,955)	(51,742)
Funds held in trust	600,576	462,011
	634,268	888,950
Investments and financing:		
Repayment of capital lease obligation	(12,072)	(6,130)
Restricted cash	(665,214)	(662,143)
	(677,286)	(668,273)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(43,018)	220,677
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	220,677	—
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 177,659	\$ 220,677

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and short-term investments with maturities less than ninety days from inception, excluding restricted cash.

Supplementary information:

During the year the Council acquired capital assets in the amount of \$36,581 under a capital lease.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

1. Operations:

The Fraser Basin Council Society (the "Society") is incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia. Its mandate is to advance sustainability of the Fraser Basin and monitor implementation of the *Charter for Sustainability*. The *Charter for Sustainability* is designed to maintain and enhance social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Fraser Basin. The Society is the successor to the Fraser Basin Management Program, which operated pursuant to a five-year government agreement between the years 1992 to 1997. The Society qualifies as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and, accordingly, is exempt from federal and provincial income and capital taxes.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations as prescribed by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants

(b) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income is not restricted and is recognized as revenue when earned.

(c) Sustainability Fund:

Transfers to the Sustainability Fund from unrestricted net assets are restricted through Board approval. Interest earned on the fund balance is transferred as it is earned. The Society intends to create an endowment fund to generate income for future operations. The funds restricted by the Board are currently available for use under certain circumstances as determined by the Board.

(d) INAC Fund:

Transfer to the INAC Fund from unrestricted net assets are amounts contributed without restriction by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that have been restricted through Board approval. The funds restricted by the Board are available for use on any society project, to be utilized at a rate of \$50,000 per year until the fund is exhausted in fiscal 2008.

(e) Unrestricted net assets:

Unrestricted net assets are the accumulation of excess revenue over expenses, which have not been internally designated for use on a specific project.

(f) Computer and office equipment:

Computer and office equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is computed over the assets' estimated useful lives on the following bases and at the following annual rates:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Computer equipment	Straight-line	3 years
Office equipment	Straight-line	5 years

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may ultimately differ from these estimates.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(h) Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures for 2003 have been reclassified to conform with the financial presentation adopted in the current year.

3. Restricted cash:

Restricted cash represents the internally restricted sustainability fund and funds held in trust.

4. Project and other receivables:

	2004	2003
Federal agencies:		
Canada Revenue Agency	\$ 16,933	\$ —
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	134,860	33,500
Environment Canada	54,520	26,016
Health Canada	50,000	50,000
Heritage Canada	10,000	10,000
Industry Canada	100	2,500
National Defense Canada	—	30,000
Natural Resources Canada	40,000	—
Western Diversification Office	205,000	60,840
Provincial agencies:		
Province of Manitoba	500	—
Province of British Columbia	25,985	8,894
BC Conservation Foundation	13,333	—
Land and Water BC Inc.	2,249	—
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General	—	20,000
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection	6,000	—
Municipalities and Regional Districts	165,200	5,500
Other	67,572	11,733
	\$ 792,252	\$ 258,983

5. Computer and office equipment:

			2004	2003
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer and office equipment	\$ 89,897	\$ 61,710	\$ 28,187	\$ 4,604

Included in computer and office equipment assets under capital lease with a net book value of \$28,045.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

6. Deferred revenue:

The changes in deferred revenue related to expenses of future periods are as follows:

	2004	2003
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 167,891	\$ 219,633
Amounts received during the year related to future periods	101,000	151,891
Amount recognized as revenue in the year	(143,955)	(203,633)
Balance, end of year	\$ 124,936	\$ 167,891

Deferred revenue is to be used for operations and specified programs that are expected to be completed in fiscal 2005. Specified programs include research and co-ordination initiatives related to Gravel Management, Britannia Mine, Thompson Stewardship, Airshed Management, Climate Change, State of the Fraser Basin Conference, Rural Development Database, and Fisheries Strategy.

7. Obligation under capital leases:

During the year, the Society entered into a new capital lease for computer hardware and peripherals. The lease is for a period of 30 months expiring in fiscal 2006 at an implicit interest rate of 15.0% and will result in the Society purchasing the equipment for a nominal cost at the end of the lease term. Capital lease repayments are due as follows:

Year ending March 31:	
2005	\$ 16,827
2006	9,206
	26,033
Amount representing interest	(1,524)
	\$ 24,509

8. Funds held in trust:

Funds held in trust represent the excess of funding received from the government and private sources over disbursements made in respect of specific projects. The Society acts as an agent only to collect funds and make disbursements with respect to these projects, and accordingly, related revenue and expenditures have not been included in the financial statements of the Society. During the year, the Society's trust funds had the following activity:

	2003	Funds received	Disbursements	2004
Cariboo LRMP Trust	\$ —	\$ 45,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 40,500
Community Learning Network Conference	—	26,300	15,046	11,254
Cheslatta Watershed Study	738	—	—	738
Flood Hazard Management Program	—	1,000,000	394,254	605,746
Lessons Learned Forum	3,412	80,464	75,571	8,305
Log Debris Management	359,337	360,000	261,099	458,238
Noxious Weeds Trust	(5,762)	33,190	38,490	(11,062)
Sea to Sky LRMP Trust	211,500	50,000	55,799	205,701
Thompson LRMP Trust	369,585	53,624	203,243	219,966
	\$ 938,810	\$1,648,578	\$1,048,002	\$ 1,539,386

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended March 31, 2004 and 2003

8. Funds held in trust (continued):

The Noxious Weeds Trust Fund deficit will be funded by the Council in fiscal 2005.

Subsequent to March 31, 2004, the Society received \$700,000 from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management to establish four new trust funds, in support of new sustainability management programs located in the Fraser Basin. The monies were received in conjunction with a conditional funding agreement, for which completion of the transaction is conditional on the funds being spent only on the projects, with any unspent funds being returned to the Ministry, and that the total funds obtained for the project do not exceed 100% of the project costs. The projects are expected to begin as of April 1, 2004 with completion dates scheduled for March 31, 2006 for three of the projects, and March 31, 2007 for the other.

9. Commitments:

The Society is obligated to make monthly rental payments of \$5,500 for office space under a five-year lease expiring June 30, 2006. The landlord has carried out improvements to the premises costing \$200,000 to accommodate the needs of the Society and it is a condition of the lease that the Society is liable to repay this \$200,000 should they vacate these premises prior to expiry of the lease term.

10. Investment income:

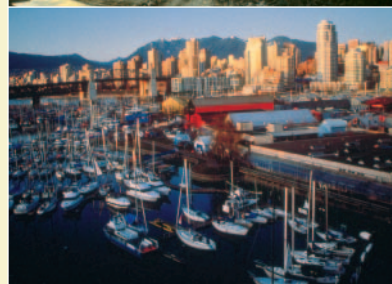
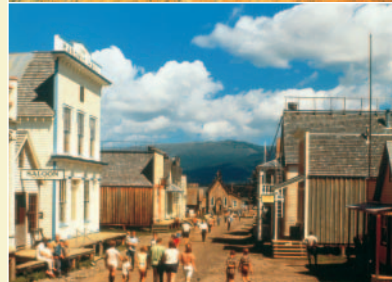
Investment income recorded in the statements of operations is calculated as follows:

	2004	2003
Income earned on unrestricted resources	\$ 67,797	\$ 24,656
Income earned on internally restricted net assets	2,874	3,460
	\$ 70,671	\$ 28,116

11. Financial instruments:

The carrying values of cash, restricted cash, project and other receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, obligation under capital lease and funds held in trust approximate their fair values due to their relative short-term nature.

The Fraser River Basin



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