

# Amplify Climate Solutions through Regional Collaboration

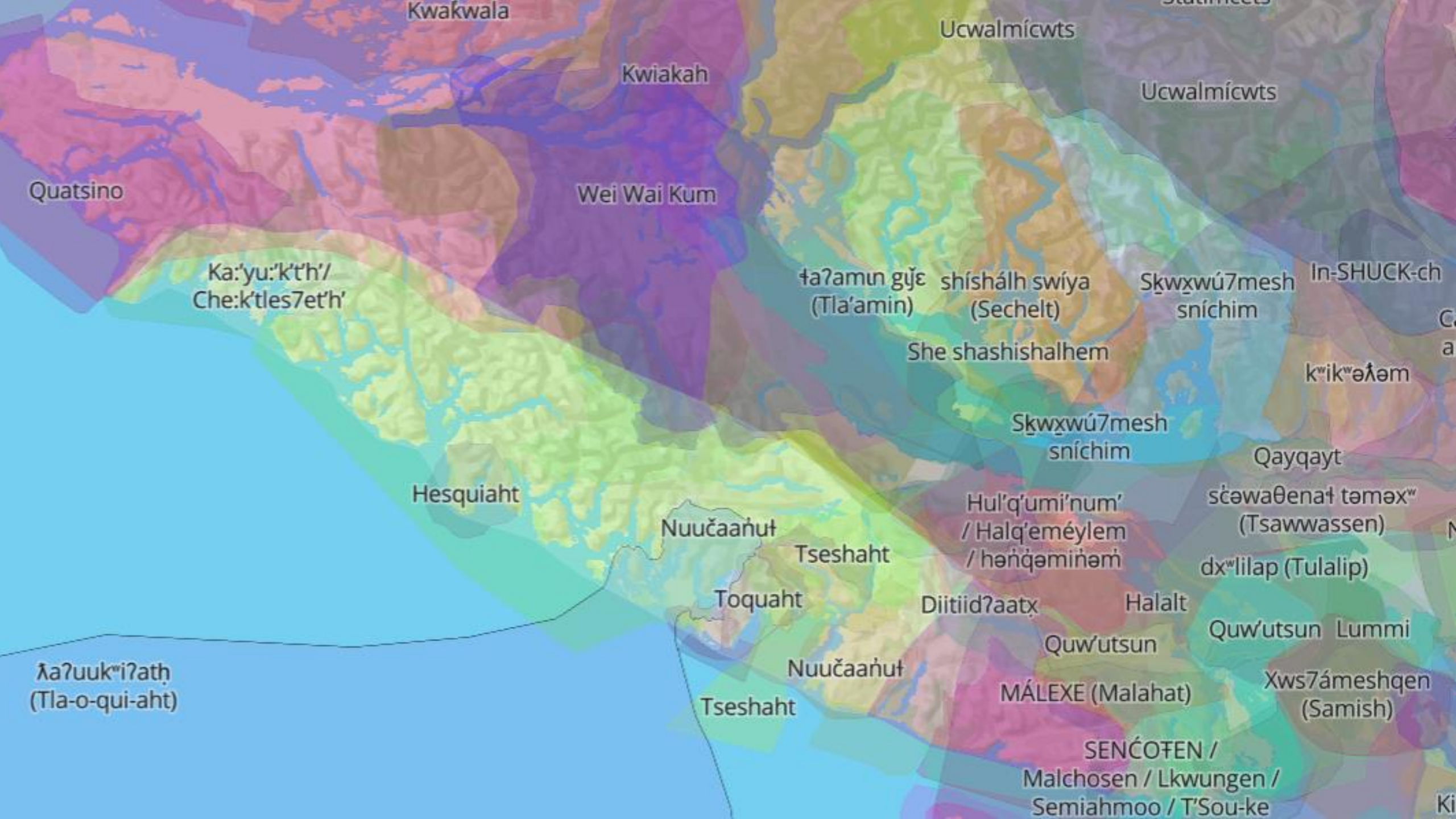
BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council  
Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities Climate  
Leadership Committee





# BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council Funders





Kwakwala

Ucwalmícwts

Ucwalmícwts

Quatsino

Kwiakah

Wei Wai Kum

Ka:yu:k't'h' /  
Che:k'tles7et'h'

łaʔamin gǵe  
(Tla'amin)

shíshálh swíya  
(Sechelt)

Skwxwú7mesh  
sníchim

In-SHUCK-ch

She shashishalhem

k'ík'wəłəm

Skwxwú7mesh  
sníchim

Qayqayt

Hesquiaht

Nuučaañut

Tseshaht

Hul'q'umi'num' /  
Halq'eméylem /  
həñqəmiñəm

sčəwaθenał təməx'w  
(Tsawwassen)

dx'wílilap (Tulalip)

Toquaht

Diitiidʔaatx

Halalt

Quw'utsun

Quw'utsun Lummi

łaʔuuk'wíʔaθ  
(Tla-o-qui-aht)

Nuučaañut

Tseshaht

MÁLEXE (Malahat)

Xws7ámeshqen  
(Samish)

SENĆOTEN /  
Malchosen / Lkwungen /  
Semiahmoo / T'Sou-ke



# Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities Climate Leadership (VICC-CL) Committee

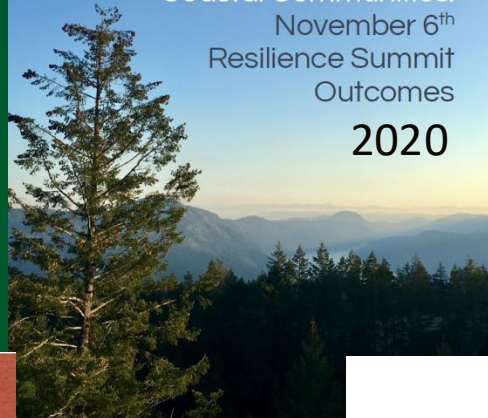
REPORT SUMMARY | SEPTEMBER 2020

## Territorial Analysis and Survey of Local Government Priorities for Climate Action: Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities 2020



We gratefully  
acknowledge the  
Indigenous Peoples  
of the Pacific Northwest  
for their leadership in  
climate action.

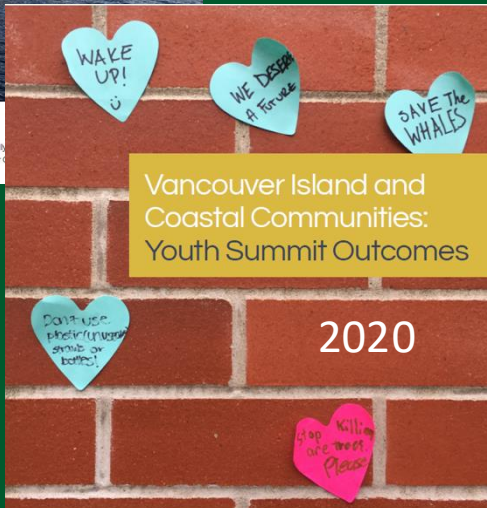
## Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities: November 6<sup>th</sup> Resilience Summit Outcomes 2020



Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities  
Climate Leadership Plan (VICC-CLP)  
viccclp.com

We respectfully acknowledge that the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Region is located upon the traditional unceded territories of many different Indigenous peoples, and we are grateful for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

## Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities: Youth Summit Outcomes 2020



Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate  
Leadership Plan (VICC-CLP) Steering Committee  
viccclp.com

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## Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities (VICC) 2024 Virtual Climate Summit

Summary Report from May 6, 2024, and May 13, 2024 Climate Summit where VICC Elected Officials and Local Government Staff convened to share progress updates and learnings



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2023

## VICC CLP Indigenous Engagement Summary Report

For the VICC CLP Steering Committee  
By Alderhill Planning  
Feb. 2023

# VICC CLIMATE SUMMIT

## Current Focus Areas:



LAND & WATER  
RESILIENCY

TRANSPORTATION

What emerging actions/policies are being taken or could be taken?

What are the opportunities for collaborating inter-regionally?

FOOD SECURITY

BUILDINGS

What is challenging that could benefit from coordinated advocacy?



Issue	Theme Area	What type of Action
Adoption of provincial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program	Buildings	Advocacy
Share lessons learned on retrofit support programs	Buildings	Information sharing
Share learnings about finance levers to support retrofits	Buildings	Information sharing
Share lessons learned on Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC)	Buildings	Information sharing
Align ZCSC communications regionally	Buildings	Collaborate
Inter-regional working group with BC Hydro on energy generation	Buildings	Collaborate
Issue	Theme Area	What type of Action
Increase transit funding & support for inter-community transit	Transportation	Advocacy
Coordinate interagency working group to advocate for system shift	Transportation	Advocacy
MOTI change including better active transportation support in rural areas	Transportation	Advocacy
Share data and learnings about data tracking programs for active transportation	Transportation	Collaborate
Shared learning about co-benefits and using language that resonates with key audiences	Transportation	Collaborate

Issue	Theme Area	What type of Action	
Increased funding to protect critical watershed lands in Esquimalt & Nanaimo (E&N) Land Grant	Land & water resiliency	Advocacy	
Increased regulation, oversight and enforcement on forestry management practices affecting watersheds	Land & water resiliency	Advocacy	
Shared comms materials related to water sustainability	Land & water resiliency	Collaborate	
Work with health authorities on studies/data needs	Land & water resiliency	Collaborate	
Increase internal and community understanding of issues and related legislation	Land & water resiliency	Information sharing	
Learn: how can we learn about resource management from Indigenous practices?	Land & water resiliency	Information sharing	
	Issue	Theme Area	What type of Action
	Share learnings & resources related to water conservation and initiatives to improve food security within RD's	Food security	Collaborate
	Advocate for watershed based governance model to support food security	Food security	Advocacy
	Share learnings to support duplication of Tahsis food program in other communities	Food security	Information sharing
	Review bylaws and policies that support residential food production	Food security	Information sharing
	Engage with farmers & build on existing initiatives (Agricultural Adaptation Plan)	Food security	Collaborate





island health

Extreme  
Weather

When focus on emergency  
preparedness & adaptation

# Collaborating with Island Health on Climate Resilience and Community Health

**Paivi Abernethy, PhD MRes MSc**

Senior Scientist, Climate Change & Planetary Health

Health Protection & Healthy Communities, Population & Public Health, Island Health



As an uninvited guest, I am deeply grateful for the kind and generous hospitality of the Snuneymuxw People, on whose unceded lands I reside.







# **WATERSHED SECURITY: The Missing Piece In BC's Economic and Climate Resilience**

AVICC April 12, 2025

## **COREE TULL**

BC Water Legacy, Director Government Relations  
BC Watershed Security Coalition, Chair  
[coree@bcwaterlegacy.ca](mailto:coree@bcwaterlegacy.ca) 778-846-9050







# BC WATERSHED SECURITY COALITION



Outdoor Recreation  
Council of BC



Watersheds BC



Coquitlam River  
Watershed Roundtable





# What Is Watershed Security?

Climate Resilience



Safe Drinking Water



Food Security



Indigenous Rights & Reconciliation



Reduced Business Risk



Jobs & Transition



Community Well-Being



# BC Watersheds Cycle of Crisis

NEWS

## Snowpack drops low on Vancouver Island as Victoria nears record January dry streak

by Jeff Lawrence January 27, 2025 7:18 am



## Village of McBride in fifth month of state of emergency because of drought

McBride Mayor Eugene Runtz said there is a major concern that the community of close to 700 people could run out of drinking water.

Tiffany Crawford  
Published Jan 10, 2024 • 3 minute read



## A battle over groundwater

## 'We are subsisting on fog and dew:' Tofino faces a water crisis

Outdoor water use is banned, and a packed town hall meeting Tuesday night was told that if the drought persists in Tofino, more drastic measures will be on the table

Darron Kloster  
Jul 20, 2023 5:35 AM



## Communities hit by 2021 floods denied recovery funding: mayors

No reason given why Merritt and Princeton's applications for funding were denied, mayors say

CBC News - Posted: Jun 01, 2024 5:00 AM PDT | Last Updated: June 1



## Harrison mayor declares state of local emergency

Wood blames council's 'inaction' to address wildfire dangers

## Flood risk in Lower Mainland will intensify by 2100: report

U.S. organization's data predicts at least 325,000 Canadians will be at risk of annual flooding by 2100



Wildfire (photo/B.C. Wildfire Service)  
GREATER VERNON WATER AT RISK

## Funds needed for continued watershed protection projects

Insured damage from October storms in Southern BC surpass \$110 million



VANCOUVER SUN

Opinion / Op-Ed

## Opinion: B.C. watershed security crisis a test of Premier Eby's leadership

Opinion: If decisive action isn't taken now, costs and conflict will keep rising. Farms, towns, fish, and businesses will fight for the last drops of water

Oliver M. Brandes, Rosie Simms, Tim Morris  
Published Sep 07, 2023 • Last updated Sep 08, 2023 • 4 minute read

British Columbia

## Snowpack levels across B.C. averaging 56 per cent of normal this January: province

15 B.C. snow stations measured record low snowpack at the beginning of the month, provincial data shows

Corey Bullock - CBC News - Posted: Jan 10, 2024 2:06 PM PST | Last Updated: January 10

Island & Coast

## Prolonged Droughts Increase Need for Drinking Water Resiliency

By Mike Patterson Thursday, Aug. 3rd, 2023



ENVIRONMENT

## 'Genuinely stressed': Gibsons mayor wants B.C.'s help as Sunshine Coast prepares for drought

By Elizabeth McSheffrey • Global News  
Posted June 2, 2023 9:37 pm • Updated June 3, 2023 5:10 am





# Healthy Watersheds: A Foundation For BC's Economy



BC Watersheds  
Are Economic  
Engines



## BC Watershed Sector



Reliant  
Economic  
Activities

# Province-wide System of **LOCAL WATERSHED BOARDS**

Watershed Board	Community Table
shared authority	no authority
long-term	temporary
legal entity	informal
dedicated staffing	low capacity
base funding	short-term funds

“The system that works the best... where **community gets together around a table, Indigenous leadership, local government leadership, business leadership, Key stakeholders**...facilitate conversations in communities around land use at a watershed level to make sure management is more integrated and coordinated and community is working to identify best priorities”

**74% of British Columbians support the creation of local Watershed Boards** to give people more say in watershed decisions.

Watershed Security in BC: Public Opinion Results



## Key Benefits of **WATERSHED BOARDS**



**Establish priorities & drive integrated & targeted actions**



**Foster social cohesion & reduce local conflict**



**Advance reconciliation through shared decision-making**



**Economic hubs that deliver positive outcomes at lower costs**



# Watershed Security Investment Gap

## BC Watershed Security Fund

\$100 million endowment = \$3-\$5M  
Annually

**8 in 10** British Columbians believe **“BC needs to make major investments in watershed security.”**

**\$75  
Million  
Annually**  
Needed for  
BC's  
Watersheds

**Investment Gap: \$70Million Annual**

### ***UBCM Support for Watershed Security Fund***

*“UBCM requests that the Province create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source for the Watershed Security Fund that provides \$75 million annually.”*

*Passed UBCM 2021*

*“UBCM requests the Province of BC build on their initial investment in the BC Watershed Security Fund to create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source that provides 100 million annually for community driven watershed security initiatives”.*

*Passed UBCM 2024*

British Columbians back a **\$2 billion Watershed Security Fund by a five-to-one margin**

**Two-to-one majority** would like to see **industrial water use fees and pollution fines dedicated to the Watershed Security Fund** rather than directed to government general revenue.

Watershed Security in BC: Public Opinion  
Results



A group of ten volunteers, including men and women of various ages, are standing in a wetland area. They are dressed in outdoor work clothes, including hats, gloves, and waders. Several of them are holding small aquatic life, possibly tadpoles or small fish, in their gloved hands. The background shows a grassy field with some trees and a small vehicle in the distance. The foreground is a muddy, water-filled area with some green plants. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

# Thank You





# **Local Collaboration on Climate Initiatives**

**Michelle Staples,  
Mayor of Duncan**

**Q&A**





**Contact:**

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