



Canadian Council
of Ministers
of the Environment Le Conseil canadien
des ministres
de l'environnement

CCME Setting Strategic Directions for Water

Preamble

Water is an important priority for Canadians.

CCME is actively engaged in Canada-wide water issues, and has built on its commitment to provide leadership on water through the development of a collaborative, strategic Canada-wide vision.

The CCME vision entitled *Setting Strategic Directions for Water*, provides a strategic, forward-looking framework to guide CCME in all future actions and activities related to water. Our vision includes a mission, goals, and rationale. Examples of past, current and potential future initiatives are provided to illustrate how they support and flow from the vision/goals.

CCME

Setting Strategic Directions for Water



VISION:

Canadians have access to clean, safe and sufficient water to meet their needs in ways that also maintain the integrity of ecosystems.

MISSION:

CCME facilitates forward-thinking research and integrated policy, standard and/or guideline development, that contribute to the sustainable management, protection, restoration and conservation of Canada's water.

GOAL 1

Aquatic ecosystems are protected on a sustainable watershed basis

GOAL 2

The conservation and wise use of water is promoted

GOAL 3

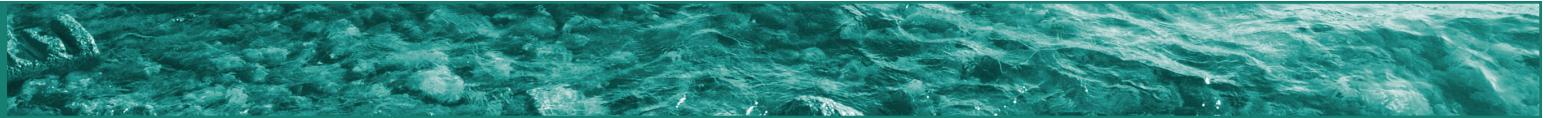
Water quality and water quantity management is improved, benefitting human and ecosystem health

GOAL 4

Climate change impacts are reduced through adaptive strategies

GOAL 5

Knowledge about the state of Canada's water is developed and shared



Goal	Rationale	Examples of CCME Deliverables	Past/ Current	Potential Future
1. Aquatic ecosystems are protected on a sustainable watershed basis.	Enhance understanding and application of Integrated Water Resource Management to improve ecosystem health.	Guidance documents on tools and governance mechanisms for integrated community-based watershed management.		✓
2. The conservation and wise use of water is promoted	Improve understanding of the full value of water to achieve behavioural change.	Water valuation guidance document and future pilot projects.	✓	✓
		Report on the use of social marketing techniques to promote positive behavioural changes.		✓
		Study on linkages between climate change impacts on water conservation and scarcity in Canada.	✓	
3. Water quality and water quantity management is improved, benefiting human and ecosystem health	Promote nationally consistent approaches to water quality and quantity monitoring, guidelines and multi-jurisdictional public reporting.	Report on transboundary areas with nutrient concerns and best management practices for collaboration.	✓	
		Continue to develop Canadian Water Quality Guidelines, indexes, monitoring and reporting tools.	✓	✓
	Encourage research and networks to enhance knowledge and understanding of ground and surface waters.	Overview document on groundwater resources, management, knowledge and collaborative models.		✓
		Workshop and recommendations for a path forward for sustainable groundwater management in Canada.	✓	
		Develop and implement a Canada-wide strategy for the management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent.	✓	✓
4. Climate change impacts are reduced through adaptive strategies	Enhance water quality and quantity monitoring networks to support water and adaptation needs.	Overview reports on water monitoring networks for climate change detection, watershed vulnerability assessment, prioritization and adaptation planning.	✓	✓
5. Knowledge about the state of Canada's water is developed and shared.	Will help to spearhead value added information on water quality and quantity by supporting jurisdictional reporting efforts to Canadians in a systematic and consistent fashion.	Develop activities for enhanced transparency, external engagement and public reporting.		✓