



Canadian  
Water  
Network  
Igniting interest.  
Inspiring action.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Navigating  
risk from  
coast to coast



# Land Acknowledgement

**Canadian Water Network (CWN) respectfully recognizes and acknowledges the deep connection that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across Canada have with the land that all Canadians call home. We also honour and recognize the significance of the treaties that establish the relationship between Indigenous peoples and settlers on this land.**

**Our office is located in Waterloo, Ontario, on the traditional territory of the Chonnonton, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. More specifically, our office is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that extends six miles on each side of the Grand River.**

**We are grateful for the privilege to work and live on this land.**

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# Message from the CEO

2025 was a year of profound and rapid change in Canada. Shifting political and social priorities, economic disruption from U.S. trade tariffs, rising costs, and labour shortages created an environment fraught with risk for leaders responsible for our essential water services. These pressures underscored the need for adaptability, collaboration, and innovation — values at the heart of CWN's mission.

Throughout the year, CWN supported members of the Municipal Water Consortium and participants — including professionals from the public health sector, municipalities, and utilities — to navigate uncertainty. Our efforts focused on strategies that strengthen fiscal, institutional, and physical resilience in water management.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- Hosting Blue Cities 2025, Canada's premier water conference for decision-makers. The conference, which attracted 200 participants, focused on risk management and featured CWN's inaugural Water Leaders Awards.
- Embarking on our first year in the Partnership Accreditation in Indigenous Relations (PAIR) program, which formalized our commitment to reconciliation and inclusive engagement.
- Achieving charitable status for the Canadian Water Network Foundation, which will create new opportunities to deliver activities that generate public benefit and impact.

These milestones reflect the dedication of our team and the leadership of our Board, led by Chair Cheryl Nelms. I am deeply grateful for their expertise and commitment.

I would also like to thank this year's funders who make our work possible. Major funders include members of the Municipal Water Consortium, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Finally, I would like to thank our event sponsors and give a particular shout-out to Bird Construction, our newest Innovation Partner sponsor, for sharing its knowledge and expertise on integrated project delivery.



As you read this report, I invite you to see how CWN is driving smarter decisions and real-world impact. Together, we are shaping a future where water supports thriving and resilient communities, economic prosperity, and healthy lives.

**Nicola Crawhall, CEO**

# Message from the Board of Directors

On behalf of the CWN Board of Directors, welcome to CWN's 2025 annual report.

CWN has had a busy year, delivering value to our members and project participants, and sharing insights more broadly with the water sector and decision-makers.

This past year saw a significant change in CWN's board leadership. Chair Carl Yates stepped down from the board in June after 12 years of service. CWN is indebted to Carl for his contribution to the organization. I stepped into his shoes, ably supported by Vice Chair Derrick Cheung and Treasurer Ricky Soni. I would also like to thank departing board member Theresa McClenahan for her service over the last five years, and welcome new board member Anthony Parente.

From a financial perspective, CWN remains in a strong position. Our auditors presented a clean audit to the board in June. We continue to assess the risk to our revenues due to fiscal and economic turbulence. We were fortunate to be selected for the RBC Social Impact Leadership Program, which paired CWN with a team of RBC volunteers to explore revenue diversification options and directly influenced changes to CWN that will be introduced in 2026. Also in 2025, CWN secured charitable status for a newly created CWN Foundation. This public benefit-facing organization will open new opportunities to support sustainable, equitable, resilient water management in Canada. Stay tuned for an official launch in 2026.

I am excited to serve as chair of CWN. Under the leadership of CEO Nicola Crawhall, the CWN team continues to push Canadian decision makers to adapt, innovate, manage risks, and seize opportunities. As we face rapidly changing political and economic circumstances, CWN is committed to supporting credible and improved decisions related to water issues, from housing security and wastewater surveillance to artificial intelligence programs. CWN

is at the forefront of supporting Canadian municipalities and utilities by bringing the leading research and practice forward.



**Cheryl Nelms**, Chair



Cheryl Nelms, second from the right, at Blue Cities 2025.

# About CWN

CWN is a national nonprofit that empowers communities and water-dependent sectors to address Canada's most pressing water challenges.

Our water and communities focus area brings together senior municipal and utility decision-makers, as well as thought leaders from academia and the private sector, through the Municipal Water Consortium. Together, they drive continuous improvement and innovation in the delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

Through our water and climate focus area, we support communities and water-dependent sectors in developing solutions that enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We bring together water managers, planners, engineers, and other professionals to advance current best practices and long-term planning for community resilience.

Our water and health focus area aims to help protect human health from water-related risks and promote innovative approaches to safeguard public health. We connect environmental and public health professionals to analyze water and wastewater data, which can trigger actions to safeguard health. We also facilitate knowledge exchange among domestic and international experts and water utilities to address contaminants of concern. This includes exploring effective strategies to remove, dispose of, and prevent their entry into water systems.

Engagement with Indigenous people is a cross-cutting priority recognized in our strategic plan. We are committed to reconciliation and to building respectful, reciprocal, and meaningful relationships with Indigenous peoples and organizations as part of our shared responsibility for water. Recognizing that water connects all communities and ecosystems, CWN works to strengthen these relationships through collaboration, co-learning, and culturally grounded practices.

Our work  
is focused on  
water at the  
intersection of  
communities,  
climate, and  
health.

# Water and communities

Canada's communities deliver safe, affordable, and resilient drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services. Yet municipalities face increasingly complex challenges — from rapid growth and rising costs to emerging contaminants, new regulatory requirements, and climate change. CWN brings together leaders from municipalities, utilities, academia, industry, and water-dependent sectors to collaboratively tackle these complex challenges.

## Municipal Water Consortium

At the heart of our water and communities focus area is the Municipal Water Consortium, which brings together leaders from 26 large municipalities that collectively serve over half of Canada's population. In 2025, we were pleased to officially welcome Gatineau as the newest member of our national peer network. Through peer-to-peer exchange, curated expertise, and facilitated collaboration, members are equipped to navigate complex challenges and co-create solutions that reflect local realities and national priorities.



One way we do this is through our Consortium Leaders Group (CLG) meetings, which bring together senior leaders from municipalities and utilities across Canada. In May, 36 senior leaders came together in Mississauga to preview our analysis of rising water infrastructure costs, informed by a member survey and rapid roundtable, and provide early feedback. This work evolved into a report that identified inflation, supply chain disruptions, and labour shortages as key drivers of cost escalation. The report also highlights how municipalities are responding through strategies such as phased delivery, regional collaboration, and innovative procurement.

In September, the CLG reconvened in Ottawa to focus on planning under deep uncertainty. Leaders engaged in a scenario planning workshop and heard from experts at WSP, AECOM, Portland Water Authority, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Discussions emphasized adaptive strategies for infrastructure finance, planning, and operations, highlighting the importance of cross-sector collaboration and forward-thinking leadership.

In 2025, we also launched the Municipal Readiness Webinar Series. Over 240 participants joined the first webinar in July, which examined climate resilience with a particular focus on wildfires and water security. The webinar explored how climate shocks disrupt water quality and underscored the need for watershed-specific strategies, adaptive monitoring, and flexible treatment systems.

Throughout 2025, the Municipal Water Consortium led Strategic Sharing Groups on topics of ongoing importance. These included contaminants of emerging concern, biosolids management, and stormwater strategies. These forums provide confidential spaces for municipal and utility staff to exchange insights and strengthen decision-making.



Consortium Leaders' Group meeting hosted by the Municipal Water Consortium in Spring 2025

***"Saskatoon Water joined the Municipal Water Consortium during the COVID-19 pandemic and immediately gained value through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing to navigate the crisis. The value of our membership has only grown since then. As a director, I consider the Municipal Water Consortium a vital resource for informed decision-making and continuous improvement at Saskatoon Water."***

**Russ Munro**  
Director at Saskatoon Water

## Financing strategies for municipal water utilities

In partnership with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, CWN launched a national initiative to explore innovative financing strategies for municipal water utilities. The project focuses on long-term financial sustainability, particularly for mid-sized communities facing acute funding challenges.



## Lake Ontario Collaborative Group

Over the past five years, CWN has facilitated coordination among several municipalities along the north shore of Lake Ontario to safeguard drinking water quality for municipal water systems supplied by Lake Ontario. CWN continued in this role in 2025 for this collaborative project, which includes the Region of Peel, Durham Region, Halton Region, and the City of Toronto.

## Innovation Partner Sponsor

Bird Construction joined CWN's Innovation Partner program as a sponsor in 2025. The program facilitates the transfer of private sector expertise and innovation to the public sector. Through this collaboration, municipal leaders gained knowledge from Bird Construction about integrated project delivery — a process that helps contain costs, share risk, and complete projects on time and on budget.



# Water and climate

Communities and water-dependent sectors (e.g., agriculture) are facing increasing risks and uncertainties as climate change accelerates. High-intensity rainfall, wild-fires, flooding, and drought are disrupting water systems, straining infrastructure and reshaping how we plan for the future.

At the same time, there is an urgent need to reduce GHG emissions. Across Canada, utilities are recognizing significant advantages in embedding climate change mitigation measures into their evaluation frameworks and decision-making processes.

These challenges and approaches demand proactive, collaborative solutions — and that's where CWN plays a critical role.

## Building flexibility for an uncertain future

Traditional planning assumes a predictable future, but climate change has made uncertainty the norm. Municipal water utilities risk overbuilding or under-investing if they rely on static plans. Adaptive planning (AP) offers a dynamic approach that helps utilities prepare for multiple plausible futures and respond as conditions evolve.

In 2025, with funding from Natural Resources Canada, we:

- Developed baseline guidance informed by Canadian and international experts to ensure AP reflects local realities.
- Established a Community of Practice with over 60 senior water managers, planners, and academics from across Canada. Through expert-led modules, members gained practical tools and shared lessons learned.

*“Deterministic planning, which uses past observations, worked for a while to predict the future. But growing uncertainty pushed us to adopt adaptive planning. This continuous planning process enables us to consider multiple possible futures and respond flexibly as conditions change.”*

**Kavita Heyn**  
Manager of Adaptive Planning,  
Portland Water Bureau

- Delivered high-profile sessions at CWN's Blue Cities conference and the Canadian Institute of Planners' national meeting, engaging municipal leaders and promoting AP nationally. Articles in Environmental Science and Engineering and Water Canada further expanded the project's reach.
- Hosted a national scenario planning workshop in Ottawa, giving municipal leaders hands-on experience in testing strategies against divergent futures.
- Compiled case studies from Canadian and global utilities to illustrate best practices and actionable insights.

## Driving progress towards reducing GHG emissions

Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Municipal water utilities are essential players in this transition, yet many lack clear guidance on where to start. Utilities need practical tools and peer support to navigate this complex journey, and CWN is helping to fill that gap.

With funding from the Government of Canada through its Implementation Readiness Fund, CWN brings the latest research, innovations, and best practices to Canadian utilities through case studies, briefs, webinars, and tangible tools. These resources are designed to support decision-making with municipal councils and other levels of government.

A cornerstone of this work is our two Communities of Practice:

- One for utilities beginning their journey to reduce GHG emissions.
- Another for utilities with a GHG inventory in place and ready to take deeper action.

In 2025, over 100 participants from across Canada joined our Communities of Practice — collaborative forums designed to help utilities navigate the complex path to reducing GHG emissions by sharing strategies and building confidence to act. Five virtual sessions connected participants with municipal leaders (York Region and Durham Region), academics (University of Calgary and Toronto Metropolitan University) and private sector experts (GHD and Jacobs) to foster knowledge exchange.



*Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Durham Region, Ontario.*

This work is supported by a National Advisory Committee of 20 members that includes representatives from municipalities, non-profit organizations, and water technology providers. This committee ensures our work reflects diverse perspectives and national priorities.

Together, these efforts are helping utilities move from ambition to action — building a foundation for net zero water systems that reduce emissions, strengthen infrastructure, and deliver long-term benefits for Canadian communities.

## Water availability and agriculture in the Prairies

The Prairies are Canada's agricultural heartland, producing much of the country's food and supporting a vital economic sector. But climate change is reshaping this landscape.

CWN partnered with the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC) at the University of Regina and ClimateWest on a research initiative examining how climate change is expected to affect water resources, soil conditions, and crop yields across the Prairie provinces. This work was made possible through financial support from RBC's Tech for Nature program.



*Canola field near Drumheller in Central Alberta.*

The study reveals several clear trends: more rainfall in spring, less in summer, and overall warmer conditions that, over the short- to medium-term, will result in increased crop yields. Over time, these shifts will significantly impact water availability and soil suitability, and ultimately crop productivity, starting in the Southern Prairies. This underscores the urgency of proactive adaptation.

This project was guided by an advisory committee with representation from provincial and federal departments responsible for water and water allocation, agricultural interests, and an expert panel of researchers specializing in climate and water systems. Their insights ensured that the research reflected diverse perspectives and practical realities, thereby strengthening its relevance to decision-makers.

This work reflects CWN's broader commitment to water security across Canada. By generating evidence and fostering collaboration, we aim to help communities anticipate change and make informed decisions that safeguard both livelihoods and ecosystems.

## Unlocking low-carbon heating solutions

As Canada accelerates housing development and electrification to meet climate goals, communities will face mounting challenges: strained electricity grids, rising energy costs, and uncertainty in the wake of policy changes like the removal of the federal carbon tax. Recognizing these realities, CWN received a grant from RBC in 2025 to advance wastewater energy transfer (WET) systems—an approach that uses heat from wastewater to power scalable heating and cooling solutions for new housing developments.



*False Creek, Vancouver.*

Many municipalities have expressed interest in WET through community energy and emissions plans. Yet, barriers such as technical complexity, economic feasibility, and lack of sector coordination persist. CWN is addressing these challenges head-on by convening experts from energy utilities, municipal planning, land development, and wastewater operations. Through peer learning networks, knowledge exchange, and collaboration with experienced practitioners, CWN is equipping communities with the tools and connections needed to implement WET responsibly and effectively.

This initiative also includes an updated economic analysis to ensure WET systems remain viable in a changing energy landscape. CWN will synthesize lessons learned into a comprehensive report on barriers and opportunities, empowering communities to advocate for regulatory and funding changes that support low-carbon innovation.

Participants for this project include the Building Decarbonization Alliance, Quest Canada, Markham District Energy Inc., Metro Vancouver, Halton Region, Region of Peel, City of Toronto, Durham Region, and York Region. Together, we are creating a foundation for sustainable energy systems that reduce emissions, strengthen infrastructure, and deliver long-term benefits for Canadian communities.

# Water and health

Water is a powerful lens for understanding and protecting environmental and community health. Advances in detection technologies provide clearer insights into health indicators and contaminants in water and wastewater. Interpreting these findings and acting on them is essential to safeguard public health. CWN works with researchers, public health professionals, utility leaders, and decision-makers to assess risks and interpret findings that guide proactive responses.

## **Wastewater-based Surveillance (WBS) Program**

WBS provides early warning signals for infectious diseases and other health risks. By analyzing wastewater, communities can detect trends before they appear in clinical data. This enables faster, more targeted interventions. To help public health practitioners and provincial agencies use WBS data for decision-making, we continued our partnership with the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases.

With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada, we hosted three virtual Strategic Sharing Group meetings in 2025. These included a two-part workshop on OCAP® principles, facilitated by the First Nations Information Governance Centre, to build understanding of ethical data practices when working with Indigenous communities. In addition, we held a public webinar in February that showcased WBS success stories from across Canada.

Recognizing the uncertainty surrounding the future of WBS programs across Canada, we also delivered a session that explored how current evidence supports the business case for continued investment. Alongside this meeting, we developed six knowledge products to highlight the benefits and cost-effectiveness of WBS programs in helping communities protect public health. These [resources](#)

provide credible evidence to strengthen the business case for continued investment in WBS programs.



## **Strategic Sharing Group on biosolids management**

In Fall 2025, CWN launched a new Strategic Sharing Group focused on biosolids management to help municipalities navigate evolving regulations, public perceptions, and contaminants like PFAS. This peer network provides opportunities to share experiences, discuss challenges, and explore emerging strategies in a confidential setting.

# Engagement with Indigenous peoples

At CWN, we recognize that water connects all communities and ecosystems. Strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples is central to our work and reflects our commitment to reconciliation. We aim to build respectful, reciprocal, and meaningful partnerships through collaboration, co-learning, and culturally grounded practices.

In 2025, CWN advanced internal awareness by deepening our understanding of Indigenous history and perspectives. A highlight was our team's visit to Six Nations of the Grand River, where we got to know the largest First Nation community in Canada. This experience enriched our appreciation of the Haldimand Tract — the land where CWN's head office is located — and the significance of our land acknowledgement.

Our commitment to understanding Indigenous perspectives extended to our external engagements, including our national conference. Blue Cities 2025 featured an inspiring keynote by Kelly Lendsay, CEO of Indigenous Works, who shared the history of the exclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Canadian law and institutions, and the progress toward greater inclusivity.

Beyond awareness-raising, we took action by collaborating directly with Indigenous-led organizations through our WBS program. Organizations we collaborated with include One Yukon Coalition, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council, and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

Recognizing the need for a formal commitment and engagement process, CWN joined the Partnership Accreditation in Indigenous Relations (PAIR) program through the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business (CCIB). This program provides a framework for progressive improvement in Indigenous relations. An internal PAIR committee now guides implementation and monitors progress towards CWN's accreditation, while work is underway to establish an external advisory committee in 2026.

CWN looks forward to increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing with Indigenous organizations and knowledge keepers to tackle our shared water challenges.



*Kelly Lendsay, CEO of Indigenous Works, at Blue Cities 2025.*

# Global and national engagement

Building and fostering relationships is central to CWN's mission. In 2025, we connected with leaders across Canada and around the world to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and bring global insights to our network in Canada.



## International Water Association (IWA) conference

CWN's CEO Nicola Crawhall participated in the IWA's 14th International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse in Cape Town, South Africa. The event brought together experts from around the world to explore the urgency of water supply challenges and the potential of water reclamation. Nicola joined a global roundtable on water availability and spoke on a panel about building water security — ensuring Canadian perspectives were part of the international dialogue on these topics.

## Global Water Research Coalition (GWRC)

CWN's membership in GWRC gives us access to leading research and global trends shaping water management. We actively share these insights with our Canadian network to ensure international best practices inform local decisions.

In 2025, Nicola attended the GWRC board meeting held alongside the IWA's conference. A highlight was a workshop hosted by the Water Research Commission of South Africa on water reuse, featuring lessons from Cape Town's Day Zero crisis and its New Water Program. CWN also contributed to GWRC's working groups on resource recovery, sludge management, biosolids, and wastewater GHG monitoring.



## National Water and Wastewater Conference

In November, CWN hosted three sessions at the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association's national conference in Victoria. These sessions focused on helping municipalities and utilities with topics such as building financially sustainable water solutions, exploring how adaptive planning can help them prepare for an unpredictable future, and identifying ways to build support and momentum for initiatives that reduce GHG emissions.

# BLUE CITIES

## 2025



Blue Cities is Canada's water conference designed for senior strategic decision-makers. In 2025, Blue Cities brought together 200 participants at the Hilton Mississauga Meadowvale to explore the theme *Navigating the waves: Strategic management of risk in uncertain times*. Notably, 85 percent of conference attendees were decision-makers in leadership positions.

Plenary panels at Blue Cities 2025 tackled pressing issues — from managing current risks, like aging infrastructure and housing demands, to anticipating future disruptions driven by climate change and technological shifts.

Keynote speaker Dr. Deb Chachra provided insights into how infrastructure systems connect us to the past and the future. Infrastructure decisions made years ago brought about a public health revolution and set the stage for a prolonged period of prosperity. At the same time, while many benefited, some remained underserved or harmed — a physical manifestation of existing societal inequities.

Reflecting CWN's commitment to engagement with Indigenous peoples, Blue Cities 2025 opened with an Anishinaabe ceremony for Nibi (water) led by Grandmother Dale Reeves Cimolai. The conference also featured a keynote by Kelly Lendsay, president and CEO of Luminary. Kelly spoke about progress towards greater inclusive approaches to engagement with Indigenous peoples by the private sector and Canadians generally.

Three inaugural CWN leadership awards were presented at Blue Cities 2025 to honour outstanding individuals who are shaping the future of water in Canada.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed my first experience at Blue Cities. It was incredibly valuable to hear about the challenges and solutions other municipal water systems are facing... Additionally, the opportunity to network and chat with peers from other municipalities was immensely beneficial."*

**Robert Spagnuolo**  
Utility Professional



2025 award winners (pictured from left to right): Monica Bramley, City of Calgary, received the Rising Wave Award; Carl Yates, Yates Water Management, received the Lifetime Achievement Award; Lou Di Gironimo, Toronto Water, received the Blue Impact Award.

# Governance, operations, and finance

Strong governance, operational excellence, and financial stewardship are the backbone of CWN's ability to tackle Canada's complex water challenges. In 2025, we strengthened these foundations to ensure CWN can deliver on its projects and programs.

## Governance

CWN experienced key leadership transitions in 2025. In June, Carl Yates stepped down as chair of CWN's Board of Directors after 12 years of dedicated service. Cheryl Nelms, formerly vice chair, assumed the chair role, and Derrick Cheung was appointed vice chair. In October, Theresa McClenaghan stepped down from CWN's Board and joined the CWN Foundation's Board where she will provide her expertise to advance the Foundation's mandate. Also in October, the board was delighted to welcome Anthony Parente as a new member.

Alongside these leadership transitions, CWN focused on embedding risk management into its governance approach. Building on a revised risk framework introduced in October 2024, we began applying the matrix to strengthen governance and operational decision-making with a focus on sustainability and financial resilience in response to economic uncertainty. This ensures CWN remains well-positioned to navigate challenges and maintain stability.

## Operations

Operational excellence is about more than efficiency — it's about aligning our work with CWN's values. In 2025, we invested in people and priorities that strengthen our ability to deliver impact. Staff development moved from planning to action, with individual training plans implemented and group learning sessions designed to deepen knowledge.

## Finance

Financial resilience is essential to CWN's capacity to create meaningful impact. Throughout 2024-25, CWN upheld robust financial stability and concluded the fiscal year with a modest surplus. Revenues increased by 15 percent over 2023-24, reflecting strong performance, but decreased by 12.5 percent from 2024-25 due to the conclusion of the WBS project. Our annual audit confirmed compliance with all relevant standards and produced an unqualified opinion, further demonstrating CWN's commitment to accountability and transparency.

As part of RBC's Social Impact Leaders Program, CWN received support from RBC employee volunteers who helped develop operational strategies to strengthen financial sustainability and lay the groundwork for future initiatives that enhance resilience and transparency.

CWN's efforts ensure that it remains resilient and well-positioned to drive smarter decisions, more resilient systems, and real-world impact.

View CWN's 2024-2025 financial statements [here](#).

# CWN Board of Directors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Board members for their invaluable contributions. Their expertise, strategic guidance, and commitment to advancing water knowledge play a pivotal role in shaping CWN's impact.



**Cheryl  
Nelms**

Chair  
General Manager,  
Project Delivery,  
Metro Vancouver



**Derrick  
Cheung**

Vice Chair  
President and CEO,  
Defence Construction Canada



**Ricky  
Soni**

Treasurer  
Director,  
Government Solutions,  
KPMG



**Stéphanie  
Allard**

Owner,  
Agence Nexa Inc.



**Susan  
Ancel**

Director,  
One Water Planning,  
EPCOR Water Services Inc.



**Albert  
Cho**

Senior Vice President,  
Chief Strategy and External  
Affairs Officer, Xylem Inc.



**Anthony  
Parente**

General Manager, Water  
and Wastewater  
Region of Peel



**Sophie  
Gagné-Landmann**

Litigation Lawyer,  
Department of  
Justice of Canada

# Monitoring progress

## Strategic Plan (2024 – 2029) – Year 2

### Objectives and key accomplishments

#### SUPPORT NATIONAL NETWORKS

**1,200**  
PARTICIPANTS

Engaged through programs, projects, events, and initiatives

**26**  
MUNICIPAL WATER  
CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

##### Municipal Water Consortium Members

Representing 55% of Canada's population

1 municipality added in 2025

**58**  
PARTICIPANTS

In our Wastewater-based Surveillance Network

NEW

**121**  
PARTICIPANTS

Community of Practice and National Advisory Committee

Reducing GHGs in municipal water services

NEW

**68**  
PARTICIPANTS

Community of Practice and Steering Committee  
Adaptive planning for municipal water servicing

#### PROMOTE CONSENSUS AND COLLABORATION

**30**  
ONLINE AND  
IN-PERSON  
EVENTS

Participants across Canadian governments, academia, industry, and non-profits

**2**  
CONSORTIUM  
LEADERS'  
GROUP  
MEETINGS

Municipal utility leaders  
Mississauga (Spring) and Ottawa (Fall)

**3**  
STRATEGIC  
SHARING  
GROUPS

7 Meetings convened

**3**  
COMMUNITIES  
OF PRACTICE

15 Meetings convened

**5**  
ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSIONS

Topics covered: tariffs, capital project reporting, and water availability in the Prairies

## SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND BUILD CAPACITY

**85,803**  
INDIVIDUALS

Reached through CWN's website, CWN's e-newsletter, and LinkedIn page

**35**  
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS,  
CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS, AND TRADE  
PUBLICATION ARTICLES

Regional, national, and international

**540+**  
WEBINAR  
REGISTRATIONS

Online attendance from 10+ countries

**11**  
THOUGHT  
LEADERSHIP  
ARTICLES

Expert interviews, water leader spotlights, and CEO blog

**200**  
PARTICIPANTS

Blue Cities 2025

**3**  
INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH  
INITIATIVES

Through the Global Water Research Coalition (GWRC) and International Joint Commission (IJC)

## GROW PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND TEAM

**5**

NEW PROJECTS, REPORTS, AND INITIATIVES

- Advancing wastewater heat energy sources
- Confronting cost escalation in water infrastructure
- Identifying financially sustainable water solutions for Canadian utilities

- Partnership Accreditation in Indigenous Relations (PAIR) accreditation
- Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Social Impact Leadership Program

**3**  
NEW TEAM  
MEMBERS

**Nancy Goucher**  
Municipal Program Manager

**Dana Mears**  
Project Manager, Urban Water Decarbonization

**Stephanie Andrade**  
Project Coordinator, Climate

**3**  
CO-OP  
STUDENTS

**Olivia Zver**  
Municipal Water Research Assistant

**Claire Emili**  
Marketing and Communications Assistant

**Sofia Fernandes**  
Municipal Water Research Assistant

**2**  
BLUE CITIES  
CONFERENCE TEAM

**Dee Tosto**  
Project Manager and Creative Lead

**Liana Kreamer**  
Communications Contractor

# Looking ahead

What's coming in 2026? Here's a sneak peek.

CWN Foundation	Private Sector Engagement	Blue Cities 2026
<p>A new public-benefit charity is being launched with CWN's support. It is dedicated to supporting water management in Canada through education, training, research, and innovation.</p> <p>The charity will also collaborate with Indigenous-led organizations on water management projects.</p>	<p>We're taking our Innovation Partner sponsorship program to the next level!</p> <p>New tiered subscriber packages will help private enterprises connect more deeply with CWN, share expertise with the public water sector, and gain a clearer view of the challenges facing public sector water leaders.</p>	<p>Blue Cities is the premier event where Canada's water decision-makers come together for two days of strategic dialogue, expert insights, and collaborative problem-solving. This is your opportunity to connect with peers, share solutions, and shape resilient strategies for the future.</p>

## Reflecting on Blue Cities 2025 and the momentum it sparked

We look forward to continuing the conversation in Gatineau in June 2026.



*Grandmother Dale Reeves Cimolai (pictured left) opened Blue Cities 2025*



*Michele Samuels, Xylem, Vue and Matti Siemiatycki, University of Toronto*



*Dr. Deb Chachra from the Olin School of Engineering*



*Networking opportunities with leading experts and decision-makers*



*Jessica Thornton from Creative Futures Studio Inc. (pictured far left) leads panel discussion*

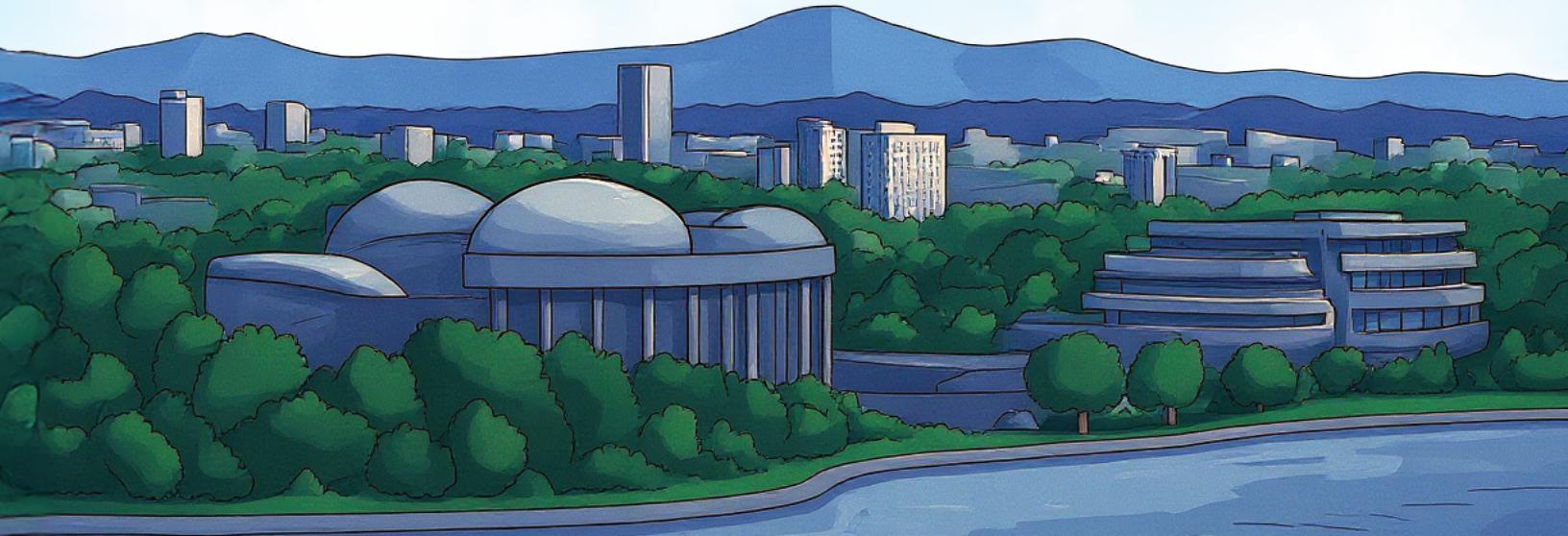
Blue Cities 2025 Photo Credit: James Hurren & Olivia Talarico

Canadian Water Network

# BLUE CITIES

bluecities.ca

2026



## WATER SECURITY: Strategies for Fiscal and Infrastructure Resilience

JUNE 9 - 10, 2026  
GATINEAU

For regular updates from CWN, go to:  
[cwn-rce.ca/subscribe](http://cwn-rce.ca/subscribe)



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on LinkedIn





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