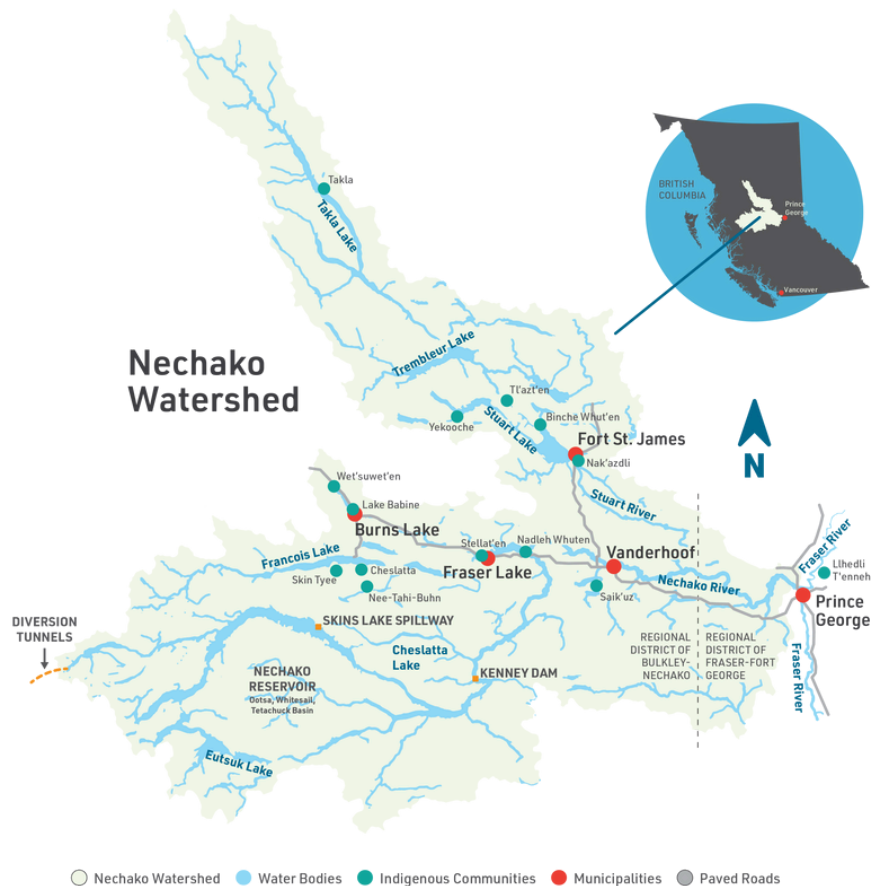


## NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE: OCTOBER 2024

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) is a volunteer entity created to convene those interested in the Nechako Watershed; help connect related programs and activities; and support collaborative efforts across the watershed. The NWR sets the strategic direction of these activities with the Core Committee serving as the guiding body to advance this direction. The meetings and work of the NWR should not be deemed as official or legal consultation for First Nations or any other participating groups or individuals.

The Roundtable's Terms of Reference may change in order to accommodate its needs in achieving its stated goals. The Terms of Reference are intended to facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Roundtable. The Roundtable must ensure the interests of all members are considered while working to achieve the goals. The Co-Chairs' role is to coordinate and communicate the strategic direction recommended by the Roundtable.

As a Roundtable, we are grateful to work and live on the unceded traditional territories of the fifteen First Nations of the Nechako Watershed: Binche First Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Lake Babine First Nation, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Nak'azdli First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation, Saik'uz First Nation, Skin Tye Nation First Nation, Stellat'en First Nation, Takla First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Yekooche First Nation.





# NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### UPDATE: OCTOBER 2024

#### 1. Name

Nechako Watershed Roundtable (hereafter referred to as the Roundtable).

#### 2. Geographic Scope

The Nechako watershed is a vast area spanning 47,200 km<sup>2</sup> across the north and central region of British Columbia. It includes all sub-watersheds up until the confluence of the Nechako River (*netja koh*) and the Fraser River (*Lhtakoh*) and overlaps with 15 First Nations, 2 regional districts (Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George), and 5 municipalities (Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Prince George, and Vanderhoof).

#### 3. Vision

For the Nechako watershed to be healthy for generations to come, which:

- a) Has a resilient and diverse aquatic and forest (terrestrial) ecosystems.
- b) Supports people, communities, and human activities.
- c) Has waterways (lakes, rivers, streams) with natural seasonal variations.
- d) Is sustainable and will support future generations.

#### 4. Mission

To protect and improve the health of the Nechako watershed and its communities.

#### 5. Role

The Roundtable's overall role is to convene those interested in the Nechako watershed; help connect related programs and activities; and support collaborative efforts. More specifically in pursuing the vision, the Roundtable's roles are to:

- a) Identify common priorities and actions to address them.
- b) Advocate for the watershed with all four orders of government.
- c) Bring together diverse people and perspectives to work on common goals.
- d) Advance reconciliation and uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People with First Nations in Roundtable activities and collaborations.

#### 6. Strategic Priorities

The Roundtable's Strategic Priorities are set out in the NWR's Strategic Plan and are decided through a collaborative effort through engagement with the Roundtable. These priorities will be reviewed and revised with input from membership every five years, when the Strategic Plan is renewed. The Strategic Priorities of the Roundtable are to:

- a) Convene partners including all four orders of government, and support collaboration.
- b) Support efforts to restore watershed health.
- c) Advocate for the watershed.
- d) Advance reconciliation.
- e) Ensure a resilient organization.

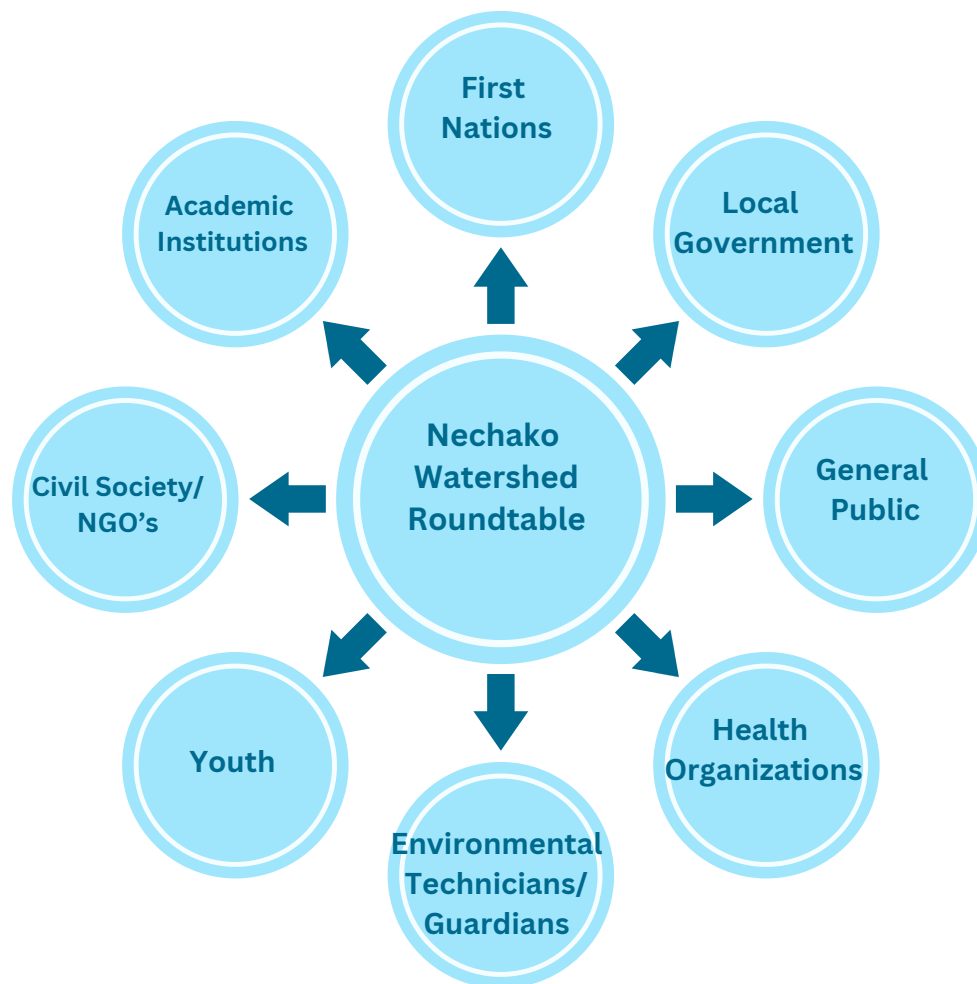
## NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE: OCTOBER 2024

### 7. Roundtable Membership Structure and Recruitment

**a)** Roundtable membership is voluntary and open. All members must agree and adhere to the Terms of Reference.

**b)** Membership will strive to include participation from all four orders of government (First Nations, Local, Provincial, and Federal), community groups, academia (or university researchers), and the general public.

**c)** The Roundtable (or Core Committee) may establish working groups to work on a specific project or task on behalf of the Roundtable. Each of the working groups report to the Core Committee.



## NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE: OCTOBER 2024

### 8. Delegated Authority and Decision Making

- a) No specific legislated authority is delegated to the Roundtable.
- b) An appointed Core Committee of up to 12 members is the guiding arm of the Roundtable.
- c) The Core Committee adheres to the 'Core Committee Terms of Reference'.

### 9. Roundtable Meeting

- a) The Roundtable will meet at least once a year in a location within the Nechako watershed. Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary.
- b) Meeting summaries will be compiled and circulated to all members in a timely manner.

### 10. Guiding Principles

- a) **Mutual Dependence.** Land, water, air, and all living organisms including humans are integral parts of the ecosystem. Biodiversity must be conserved.
- b) **Accountability.** Each of us is responsible for the social, economic, and environmental consequences of our decisions and accountable for our actions.
- c) **Equity.** All communities and regions must have equal opportunities to provide for the social, economic, and environmental needs of residents.
- d) **Integration.** Consideration of social, economic, and environmental costs and benefits must be an integral part of all decision-making.
- e) **Adaptive Approaches.** Plans and activities must be adaptable and able to respond to external pressures and changing social values.
- f) **Coordinated and Cooperative Efforts.** Coordinated and cooperative efforts are needed among all government and non-government interests.
- g) **Open and Informed Decision-Making.** Open decision-making depends on the best available information.
- h) **Exercising Caution.** Caution must be exercised when shaping decisions to avoid making irreversible mistakes.
- i) **Managing Uncertainty.** A lack of certainty should not prevent decisive actions for sustainability.
- j) **Acknowledgement.** There must be an acknowledgement of existing rights, agreements, and obligations in all decision-making, in addition to a commitment to continuously improve those over time.
- k) **Aboriginal Rights and Title.** The Roundtable recognizes that First Nations within the Nechako watershed assert Aboriginal rights and title. These rights and title, now being defined, must be acknowledged and reconciled to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- i) **Transition Takes Time.** Sustainability is a journey that requires constant feedback, learning and adjustment. In the short term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance.