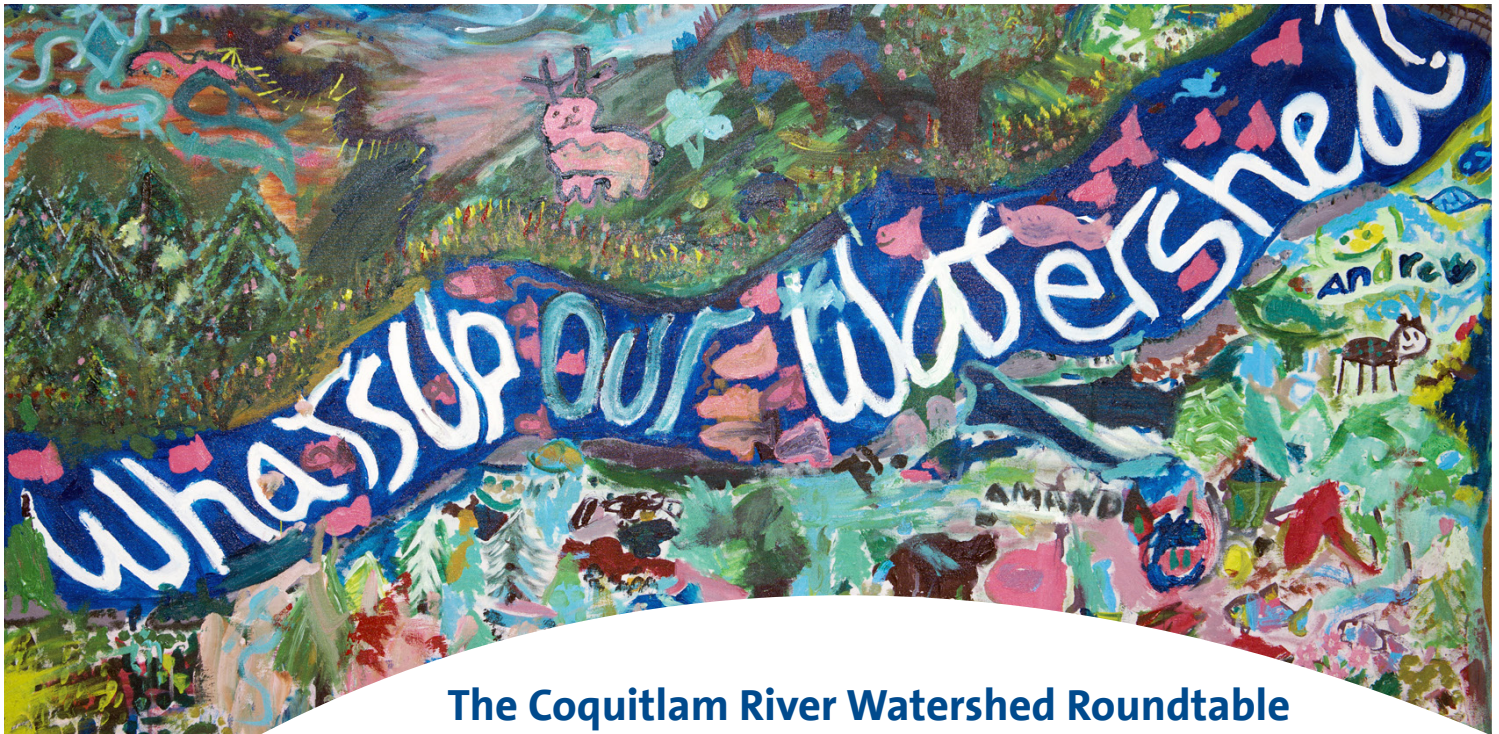




Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

Kwikwetlem, known as “Red fish up the river.” A living river that reveals its spirit.



The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable was founded in 2011 following a four year community engagement process. During this development period, individuals and organizations representing a broad range of perspectives on the watershed came together to develop a solid foundation for the Roundtable, including developing a mission statement, a set of values for the watershed and guiding principles for the Roundtable.

The Roundtable coordinates and implements activities that promote the health and long term sustainability of the watershed.

Anyone who supports the Roundtable’s mission can participate in Roundtable meetings which are held once or twice a year. A multi-sector Core Committee, whose members represent the diverse sectors of interest in the watershed, meet on a regular basis to carry out the work of the Roundtable. Sectors represented on the Core Committee include: municipal, provincial, regional, federal government and First Nations elected officials and staff; the aggregate industry; arts and culture; education; outdoor recreation; real estate development; and stewardship.

2013 – 2014 Funding Partners



The Bullitt Foundation



Above all...
Coquitlam

Advancing an Action Plan for the Watershed

Now in its second year, and gratefully supported by a second year of cash funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Metro Vancouver and, this year, by the Bullitt Foundation and Watershed Watch Salmon Society, the Roundtable is developing a watershed plan for the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed. The plan covers the most developed part of the watershed – from the dam at Coquitlam Lake Reservoir to the mouth of the Coquitlam River, where it enters the Fraser River. Development of the plan follows the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, an adaptive management approach that considers both ecological and human well-being components, key to achieving our Vision for a healthy watershed. The first conceptualization step was finished during winter 2013, which included conducting a health assessment, and identifying and rating the key pressures affecting the watershed.



What do we care about? We care about ten key components: Coquitlam River system, Salmon, Riparian Areas, Natural Areas, Human Health and Safety, Resource Industries, Livable Communities, Cultural and Spiritual Values, Stewardship and Recreation.

What are the pressures affecting what we care about? The data assembled by the Roundtable found fifteen pressures to our ecological and human well-being components. Following a 'pressures rating' exercise to assess the scope, severity and irreversibility for each of the pressures, summary results found four pressures ranked very high or high for key watershed components: hazardous spills, stormwater, invasive species, and development. Another seven fell in the medium rating and the remainder were rated as low.

What are contributing factors? What are the strategies for action? The Watershed Task Group was led through a conceptual modelling process for a set of key pressures to describe the linkages between the components, pressures, drivers and contributing factors that allow pressures to persist. The group also identified opportunities and strategies to affect positive change. During the Spring 2014 Roundtable, participants will help confirm the contributing factors affecting our watershed, identify strategies to address watershed pressures, and set priorities for action through 2014 and beyond.

An Updated Look for Our Website

Launched in January 2013, the Roundtable website is dynamic and interactive and features virtual tours of the watershed. Mouse over the Coquitlam River watershed on the home page and click on any of the nine virtual tours! The home page now connects directly with our social media feed to access updated information as it happens. This spring our Hatcheries and Habitats tour was updated with new images and a column on the Archery and Oxbow Project. The Watershed Monitoring page reports out on the RiverWatch Program and water quality monitoring by the City of Coquitlam. Recent contributions by Jack Cewe Ltd., the North Fraser Salmon Assistance Project and the Port Coquitlam & District Hunting and Fishing Club have helped make these recent updates possible.



Watershed Awareness through Outreach

Through financial support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2013 was an eventful year for Roundtable volunteers and Core Committee members in hosting a booth to promote the Roundtable and communicate about the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan. The volunteers also led interactive mapping activities and water quality testing, and a collaborative 'ARTicpaction' mural created by adults and youth conveying their watershed connection through painting. The Roundtable welcomed visitors on Canada Day, and at two fall events: "Rivers and Trails Day Celebration" on World Rivers Day in Port Coquitlam, and "Salmon Come Home" in Coquitlam.



"The Real Estate Foundation of BC is very proud to provide grant funding to develop a watershed plan, and to support a project it sees as a model for other communities throughout BC."

– Scott Ullrich, Board of Governors, REFBC

2013 Water Quality Monitoring – Good overall results!

The Roundtable identified water quality monitoring as a primary way of contributing to a healthy watershed. In the summer of 2012, the City of Coquitlam initiated the first year of water quality monitoring on the Coquitlam River to help build a current set of water quality data. The data will be used to monitor the health and integrity of the Coquitlam River and to help guide future activities and decision-making processes in the watershed. Samples were collected on a weekly basis during the dry and rainy seasons at seven sites along the Coquitlam River, from just below the Coquitlam River Dam to the downstream end of Colony Farm. The 2013 results showed that twelve out of thirteen parameters tested achieved a 'green level' rating – another year of positive and promising results.



"Metro Vancouver's Action Plan strategic priorities ties closely to the vision and mission of the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable. The Metro Board strives to protect and restore connections with habitat, green space, ecosystem services, enhance connections between people and nature, and support collaborative processes to build a sustainable and livable region, such as the Roundtable strives to do for the Coquitlam River."

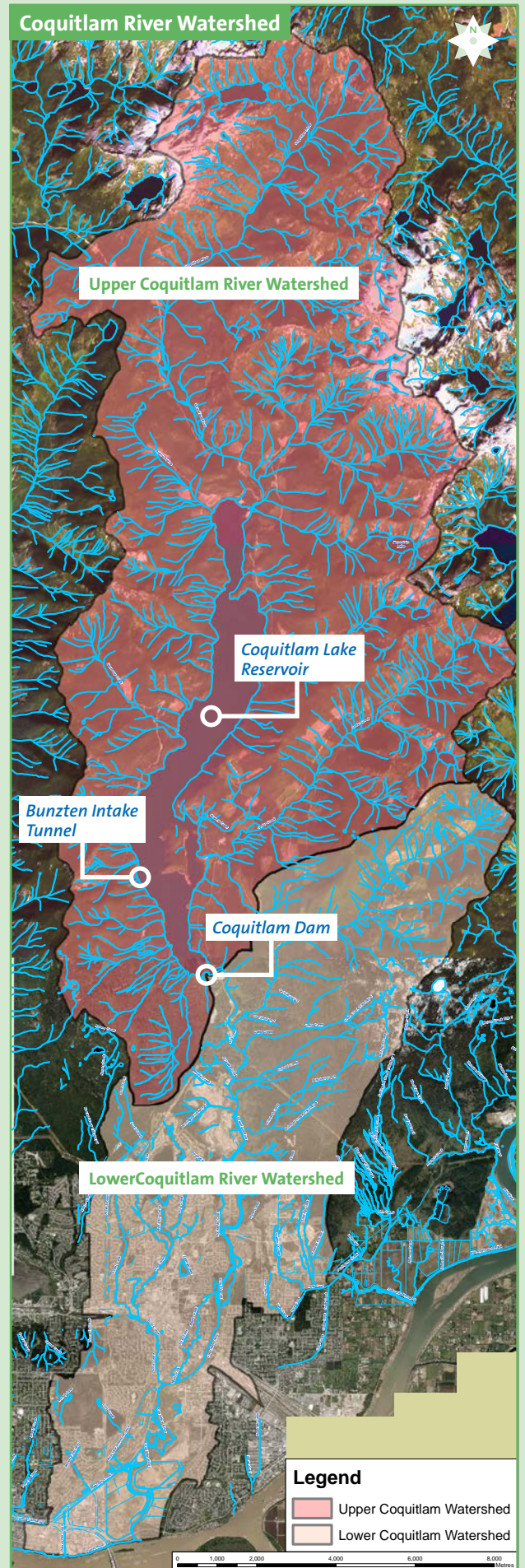
– Mayor Greg Moore, Metro Vancouver Board Chair

"This process is about the desire to ensure we are doing things right so that we will have this river forever, for the benefit of future generations. The river is our lifeblood – it provides for the land and the animals. We can fix it today so that our children won't have to ask us what happened to it."

– Councillor, Kwikwetlem First Nation

Coquitlam River Watershed

The Coquitlam River watershed is located on the north shore of the Fraser River's lower reach in British Columbia's Lower Mainland region, within the traditional territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation. The watershed is divided by the Coquitlam Lake Reservoir Dam. North of the dam is undeveloped wilderness. South of the dam, the watershed is developed and covers approximately 45% of the land within the City of Coquitlam and 30% of the land within the City of Port Coquitlam. At least 30 watercourses drain into the Coquitlam River in the lower watershed before it empties into the Fraser River.



Mission, Values & Guiding Principles

The Mission, Values and Guiding Principles provide a firm foundation for the Roundtable's activities. They were defined and endorsed by community members and organizations who participated in numerous community meetings during the years preceding the establishment of the Roundtable.

Mission

The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable will:

- facilitate collaborative resolution of urban growth and natural resource use pressures consistent with agreed community objectives and values,
- inform and educate people about these matters and the watershed, and
- promote and support conservation of a sustainable, healthy watershed environment.

Values

Our values for the watershed are:

- Ecosystem integrity
- Home/Heritage/Culture
- Native bio-diversity
- Natural beauty
- Natural resources
- Protected areas
- Public access
- Recreation
- Responsibility to protect
- Spiritual qualities
- Sustainability

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are proactive statements about the way the Roundtable will operate to achieve its mission.


The guiding principles are:

- Accountable
- Adaptive
- Consensus-based decision-making
- Effective and Credible
- Efficient with Capacity
- Inclusive and Respectful
- Influential and Responsible
- Proactive approach
- Relationship-building

Contact Us! Get Involved!

More information: coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

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Subscribe to e-News! Receive regular updates about Roundtable meetings, projects and events happening in the watershed. To subscribe, contact:

info@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

Roundtable Coordinator: Marni Turek is the coordinator for the Roundtable and the Core Committee. Contact her at: coordinator@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

The Roundtable Core Committee

The Core Committee is the administrative body for the Roundtable. Members represent a diverse cross section of interests in the watershed. The Core Committee meets six times a year to move forward on projects and activities proposed by the Roundtable. Members serve an 18-month term on a volunteer basis or their participation is supported by their organizations. Their in-kind donation of time is a key contributor to the success of the Roundtable. These are the sectors and organizations which are currently represented on the Core Committee:

Sector	Organization
Local Government	City of Coquitlam
	City of Port Coquitlam
First Nations	Kwikwetlem First Nation
Regional Government	Metro Vancouver, Water Management
Utilities	BC Hydro
Federal Government	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Provincial Government	BC Ministry of Energy and Mines
Aggregate Industry	Jack Cewe Ltd.
Real Estate Development	Brook Pooni Associates, Urban Development Institute
Outdoor Recreation	Riverside Fly and Tackle
Stewardship	North Fraser Salmon Assistance Program
	Tri-City Green Council
	Port Coquitlam & District Hunting and Fishing Club
Education	BC Institute of Technology (BCIT)
Arts and Culture	ArtsConnect



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