

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development invites stakeholders to submit a brief for the committee's study on freshwater. The following questions are provided to guide submissions.

**Questions for stakeholders in preparation for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development's study on freshwater**

***1. Introductory information***

- a) Which issues related to protecting and managing freshwater does your organization work on?

***2. Interaction and collaboration with federal departments and agencies***

- a) Does your organization interact with federal departments and/or agencies on freshwater issues? If so, on which issues and with which departments and/or agencies?
- b) Do the specific freshwater issues targeted by your organization fit within the mandate of a given federal department and/or agency or do they relate to more than one department and/or agency? If more than one, have you been able to identify a lead department and/or agency with which to engage?
- c) Have you encountered notable successes in engaging with the federal government on freshwater issues? If so, please specify. If you have not had success in doing so, what in your opinion is the reason (e.g., no program available tailored to your needs, no identifiable service or unit within a department and/or agency with which to engage)?
- d) Do you foresee engaging with the new Canada Water Agency? If so, in what way? What are your organization's expectations with respect to the Agency?

***3. Federal water legislation, policies and regulations***

- a) Does your organization interact with federal departments and/or agencies on policies, legislation, regulations, or funding programs related to freshwater? If so, please specify.
- b) Can you identify any current gaps in federal water legislation, policies, regulations, and/or initiatives, or in general across jurisdictions? If so, please specify.
- c) Do you feel the federal government could play a more effective role in protecting watersheds in Canada? If so, which watersheds and how?
- d) Are there areas of freshwater policy, legislation and/or regulation where you feel the federal government should play a greater role?

- e) Are there areas of freshwater policy, legislation and/or regulation that you feel the federal government should vacate and leave to another level of government or to the private sector?
- f) Are you aware of instances where federal freshwater policy, legislation, regulations, and/or initiatives have clearly benefitted from your organization's input?

#### ***4. Collection of information and data***

- a) Do you believe that there is sufficient data collected and made available publicly about freshwater in Canada?
- b) Do you believe there should be improvement in freshwater-related data-sharing?
- c) Is there any specific type of data or information you would like the federal government to provide to freshwater stakeholders?
- d) Has your organization experienced challenges obtaining well-organized data from the federal government on issues relating to freshwater?
- e) Is the lack of standardized data or information across government jurisdictions a problem or challenge for your organization in accomplishing its objectives with respect to protecting and managing freshwater?

#### ***5. International and business issues***

- a) Should Canada play a greater role internationally in helping find solutions, either through government and/or the private-sector involvement, to the challenge of global freshwater security?
- b) Do you feel Canadian private-sector companies, including financial institutions, can and should play a role internationally?
- c) What role can the federal government play in better supporting freshwater-related academic research, R&D, businesses, products, and services?

Briefs may be submitted at any time, but those received by 7 May 2021 may help inform the committee in its selection of witnesses to appear at committee meetings as part of this study.