siwɬkʷ WATER AND CLIMATE FORUM

MARCH 23 – 24 2026

DELTA GRAND RESORT, KELOWNA, BC

MARCH 23, 2026 – DAY 1

8:00 **CHECK-IN & WELCOME COFFEE**

9:00 **OPENING PRAYER**

9:05 **WELCOME AND FORUM PURPOSE**
Okanagan Similkameen Collaborative Leadership Table (CLT) Co-Chairs
ẏil̓mixʷm simo – CHIEF ROBERT LOUIE, Westbank First Nation
and COUNCILLOR TRICIA BRETT, Lake Country

9:20 **MC INTRODUCTION**: AARON DERICKSON, PhD, Syilx scholar, UBCO Educator and Facilitator

9:25 **KEYNOTE: SIWŁKʷ AS LIFE – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**
laxlaxtkʷ DR. JEANNETTE ARMSTRONG, Syilx scholar, Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies, UBCO and Canada Research Chair Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy

10:00 **BREAK & NETWORKING**: Sponsored by Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Watershed Security Fund

10:30 **RIVERSIDE CHAT: OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP TABLE LEADERS**: Journey of Collaboration, from shared vision to 250-Year Pathway
Moderated by CLT Co-Chair COUNCILLOR TRICIA BRETT, District of Lake Country

- ẏil̓mixʷm sil-teekin – CHIEF GREG GABRIEL, snpink'tn Indian Band
- MAYOR JULIUS BLOOMFIELD, City Of Penticton
- DIRECTOR AMANDA SHATZKO, Regional District North Okanagan, SilverStar/BX
- ẏil̓mixʷm simo – CHIEF ROBERT LOUIE, Westbank First Nation

11:45 **LUNCH & NETWORKING**

1:00 **PANEL: FROM EXPERIENCE TO INSIGHT: WHAT CLIMATE RISKS HAVE TAUGHT US**

- RICHARD BUSSANICH, MSc, ONA Fisheries and Water Biologist
  Mr. Bussanich will explore the shift from managing fish to honouring relationships, sharing how drought is reshaping our responsibilities to salmon and what they continue to teach us about caring for water and watershed resilience.
- SAMANTHA PHAM, MSc, ONA Limnologist
  Ms. Pham will present on how extreme and variable climates can magnify the degradation of water quality in salmon nursery lakes and the challenges we face protecting the quality of salmon habitat.
- ZHAOZHI (GEORGE) WANG, PhD, PEng, ONA hydrologist
  Dr. Wang will present on the evolution of the Okanagan Hydrometric Information Network – from manual stations to sophisticated real-time monitoring.

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1:30 **PANEL: CLIMATE RISKS: TEACHINGS INTO ACTION**

- JOHN JANMAAT, PhD, Professor of Economics, UBCO
  Dr. Janmaat will present on using environmental and resource economics to address climate and sustainability challenges.
- KELLY JOHNSTON, RPF, Operations Director, Community Wildfire Planning Center.
  Mr. Johnston will share insights from over 35 years in wildland fire management, exploring wildfire risk, watershed protection, and community resilience in a changing climate.
- ADRIAN ARTS, RPA, Executive Director, BC Fruit Growers Association
  Mr. Arts will present on the climate challenges facing BC's tree fruit sector, drawing on his experience in agricultural policy, industry leadership, and orchard management.

2:10 **KEYNOTE: RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INDIGENOUS AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE**
GWEN BRIDGE: CEO and President of Gwen Bridge Consulting

2:50 **BREAK**

3:10 **SUMMARY & KEY INSIGHTS**: AARON DERICKSON, PhD
Syilx scholar, UBCO Educator and Facilitator

3:15 **COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE**: Table discussions: ideas, perspectives, and shared priorities

3:45 **CLOSING REFLECTIONS & DAY 1 WRAP-UP**

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MARCH 24, 2026 – DAY 2

7:45 **SIWŁKʷ CEREMONY AT KŁÚSX̌NÍTKʷ – OKANAGAN LAKE:**
xʷayluxalqs TRISH MANUEL, Syilx Knowledge Holder, Upper Nicola Band

9:30 **SETTING THE INTENTION**
Reflections from Day 1, drought realities, and global governance learning

9:45 **KEYNOTE: LEARNING TO LIVE WITH LESS WATER: SPAIN'S JOURNEY TOWARD CLIMATE-RESILIENT WATER GOVERNANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**
Dr. NURIA HERNÁNDEZ-MORA, Senior Policy Officer, Senior Researcher, I-CISK project, Water Policy Expert for the European Union Commission, Madrid, Spain

10:45 **COFFEE BREAK** Sponsored by FortisBC

11:00 **KEYNOTE: WALKING TOGETHER FOR THE NEXT 250 YEARS; LEARNING FROM LONGSTANDING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS**
TERRI-LYNN WILLIAMS-DAVIDSON, Vanier scholar and Principal of White Raven Law, citizen of, and General Counsel to the Haida Nation

11:45 **LUNCH & NETWORKING**

1:00 **ACTION LAB: DROUGHT PLANNING**
qʷəqʷiṁcxn TESSA TERBASKET, siwɬkʷ Water Program Lead, ONA and
DEBORAH CURRAN, Professor, Executive Director of the Environmental Law Centre, University of Victoria

2:30 **CLOSING PANEL: MOVING FROM VISION TO ACTION:**
Pathway to shared watershed governance and implementation

3:45 **CLOSING REMARKS** by CLT CO-CHAIRS

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