Okanagan Similkameen Collaborative Leadership Table

ks_kəɬqayxʷntimiʔ siwɬkʷ  We will protect the water.

RESOLUTION ON siwɬkʷ WATERSHED RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT: WATER AVAILABILITY, USE AND FUTURE NEEDS

September 23, 2026

WHEREAS siwɬkʷ water is essential to the health of tmixʷ all living things, Syilx culture, communities, ecosystems, agriculture, food security, and regional economies throughout the Okanagan–Similkameen;

WHEREAS climate change, drought, declining snowpack, increasing temperatures, population growth, land-use change, agricultural demand, and cumulative development pressures are increasing risks to siwɬkʷ water security across the Okanagan–Similkameen, while information about siwɬkʷ water availability, actual use, ecological and cultural requirements, and future needs remains distributed among multiple governments, water suppliers, and organizations;

WHEREAS the need for a coordinated, watershed-wide understanding of siwɬkʷ water availability, use, ecological and cultural needs, and future conditions has been identified through the 2026 siwɬkʷ Water and Climate Forum, the CLT Ecosystems and Watershed Working Group, and the CLT's June 2026 Emergency Session on siwɬkʷ water scarcity;

WHEREAS the Collaborative Leadership Table provides a government-to-government forum for Syilx and local governments to advance shared watershed responsibilities, and the 250-Year siwɬkʷ Responsibility Plan requires a common understanding of watershed conditions, risks, and future scenarios to support coordinated 5-year and long-term decision-making and work with the Province of British Columbia and other partners;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Collaborative Leadership Table:

1. Directs the CLT Coordinating Team and the Ecosystems and Watershed Working Group to prepare an outline for a siwɬkʷ Watershed Resilience Assessment for consideration by the Collaborative Leadership Table; and
2. Requests that the outline describe the purpose, scope, key questions, proposed methodology, governance structure, partnerships, anticipated costs, funding opportunities, timelines, and expected outcomes of the proposed initiative.

Adopted by consensus of the Collaborative Leadership Table on September 23, 2026.

On behalf of the Collaborative Leadership Table:

simo, Chief Robert
Louie Co-Chair
Westbank First Nation

Councillor Tricia Brett
Co-Chair
District of Lake Country