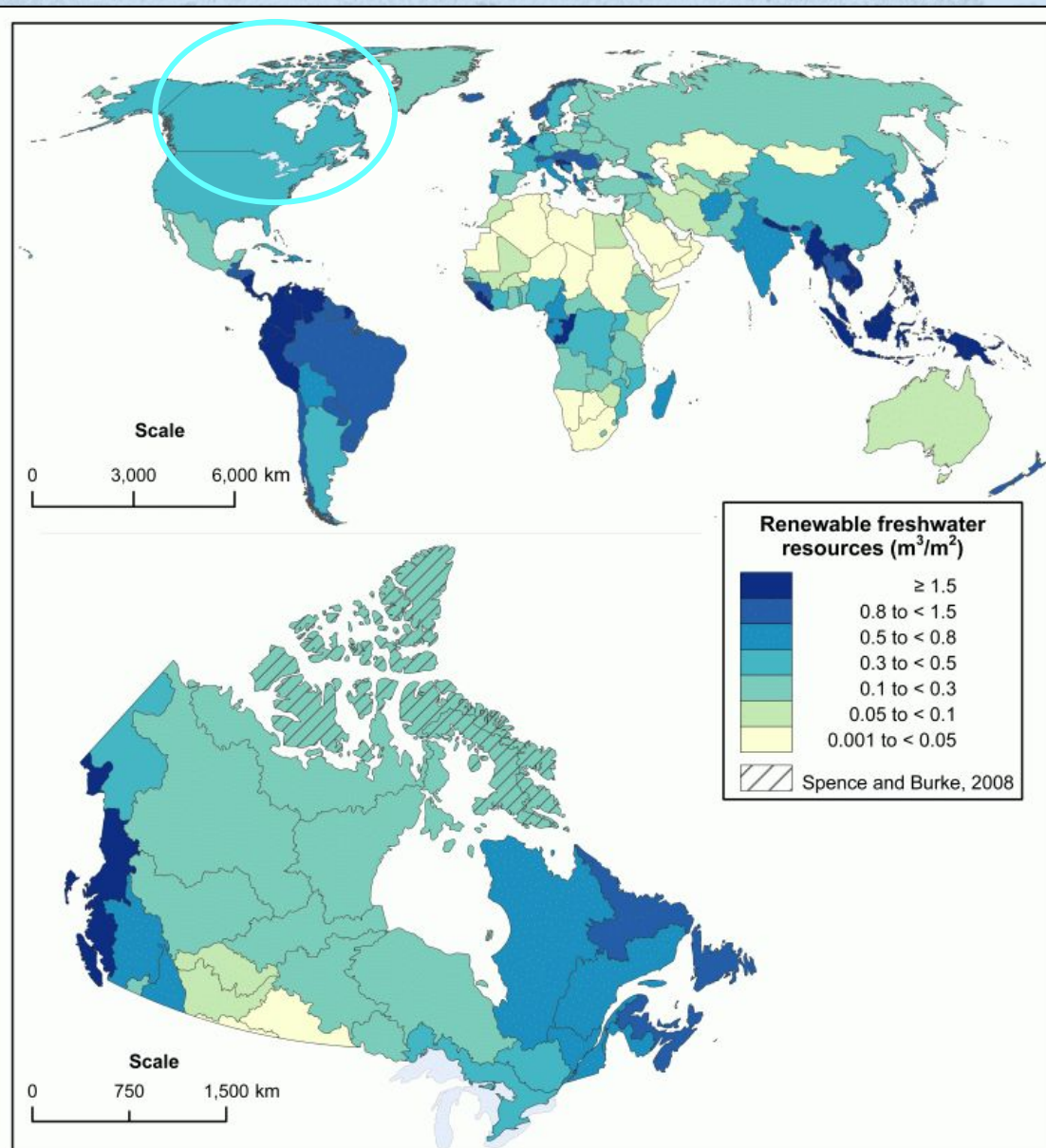


Water Quality and Indigenous Collaboration at the Canada-US International Joint Commission



Dr. Pierre Baril,
Canadian Co-Chair and Commissioner, IJC

12th World General Assembly of the
International Network of Basin
Organizations
8 October 2024

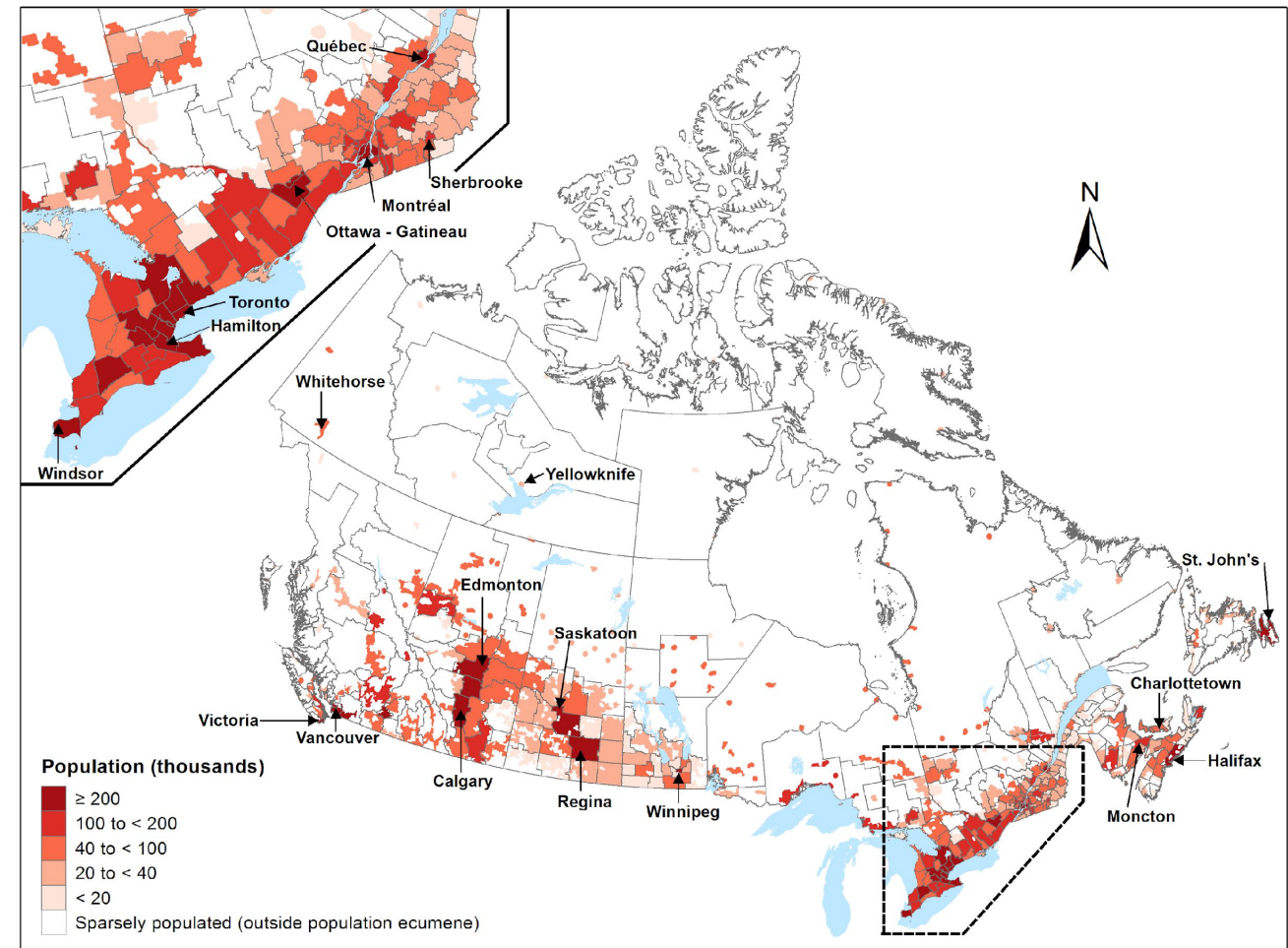


Note(s) Data for Canada were derived from discharge values contained in Environment Canada, 2010, Water Survey of Canada, Archived Hydrometric Data (HYDAT) (www.wsc.ec.gc.ca/hydat/H2O/index_e.cfm?cname=main_e.cfm).

Source(s): Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2009, *AQUASTAT main country database*, <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/dbase/index.stm> (accessed December 15, 2009).
 Spence C., and A. Burke, 2008, "Estimates of Canadian Arctic Archipelago Runoff from Observed Hydrometric Data," *Journal of Hydrology*, Vol. 362, pages 247 to 259.
 Statistics Canada, Environment Accounts and Statistics Division, 2010, special tabulation.



Map 1.1
Population distribution as of July 1, 2019, by census division, Canada



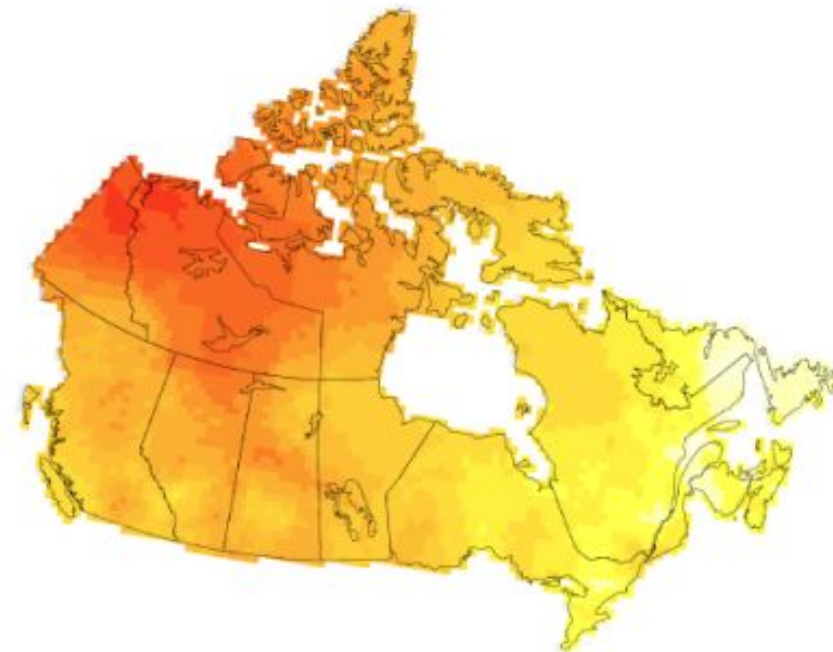
Source: Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.



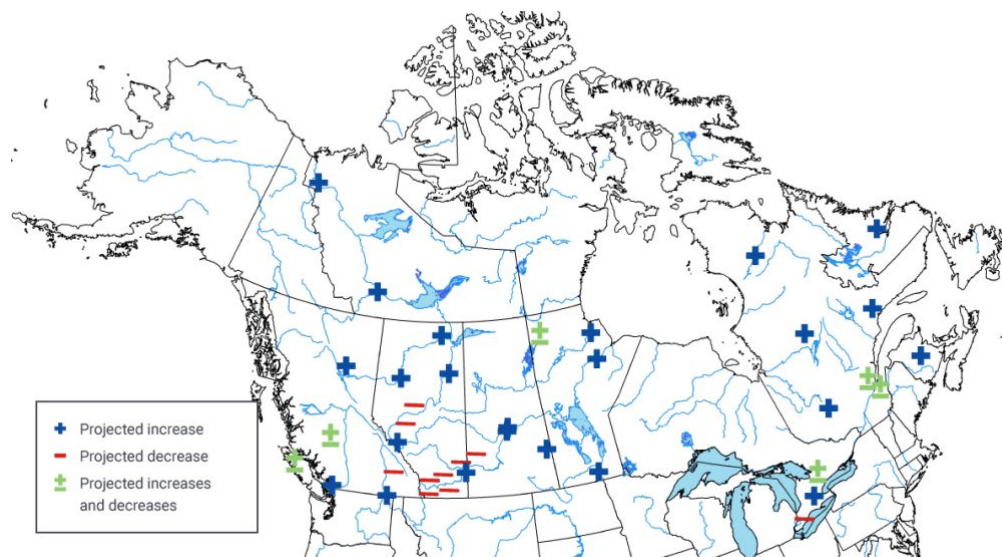
Canada is warming at twice the global average, temperatures having already risen by roughly 1.7°C between 1948 and 2016.

While precipitation is projected to increase overall, **summer precipitation is projected to decrease in southern Canada.**

Similarly, **annual flows** are projected to increase in most northern basins but **decrease in southern regions.**



Trends in annual temperatures across Canada, 1948-2016 – Canada's Changing Climate Report 2019



Projected future changes to annual streamflow in Canada for the mid- to late 21st century – Canada's Changing Climate Report 2019



Longest international border in the world at nearly 9000 km, over 40% of which is water.

Over 300 rivers and lakes lie along or flow across the border.



About half of shared waters flow from the US to Canada, and half from Canada to the US.

Representation of transboundary river basins between Canada and the US. Transboundary Freshwater Diplomacy Database, Oregon State University, 2004.

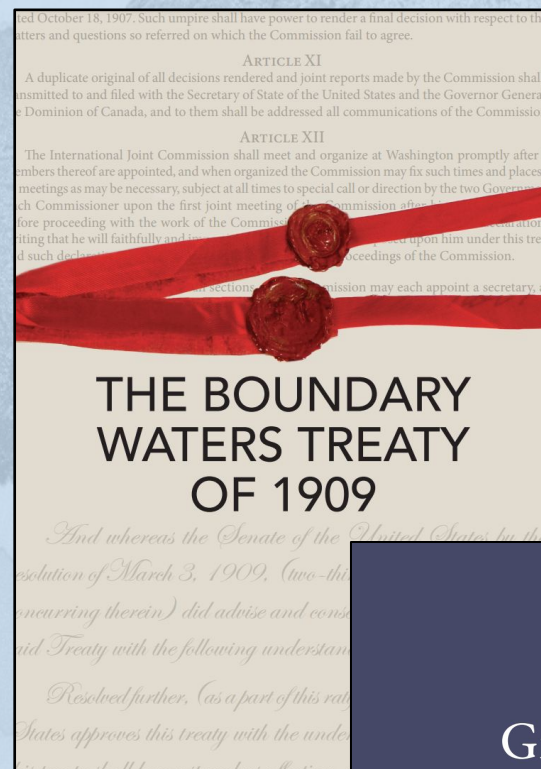


“[waters] shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other” (Article IV)

“agree to establish and maintain an International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada composed of six commissioners” (Article VII)

“shall have, each on its own side of the boundary, equal and similar rights in the use of the waters” (Article VIII)

“all parties interested therein shall be given convenient opportunity to be heard” (Article XII)



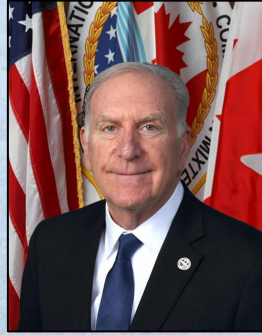
Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Protocol Amending the Agreement Between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality, 1978, as Amended on October 16, 1983, and on November 18, 1987

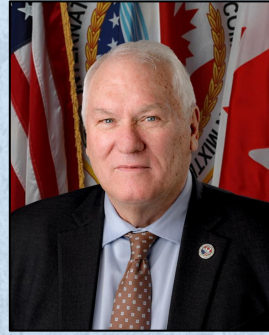
Signed September 7, 2012
Entered into force February 12, 2013



Canada



Gerald Acker
U.S. Co-Chair
(since 2023)



Lance Yohe
United States
(since 2019)



Robert Gioia
United States
(since 2024)



Pierre Baril
Canadian Co-Chair
(since 2024)



Merrell-Ann Phare
Canada
(since 2019)



Susan Chiblow
Canada
(since 2023)

- Main responsibilities:
 - **Approve certain projects referred by Governments**
 - **Investigate issues and recommend solutions**
- Make decisions by **consensus**
- Oversee **over 15 basin-specific boards**
- Boards collectively composed of **over 200 experts**
- Boards have diverse membership



Ottawa, ON
Canadian Section



Windsor, ON
*Great Lakes Regional
Office*

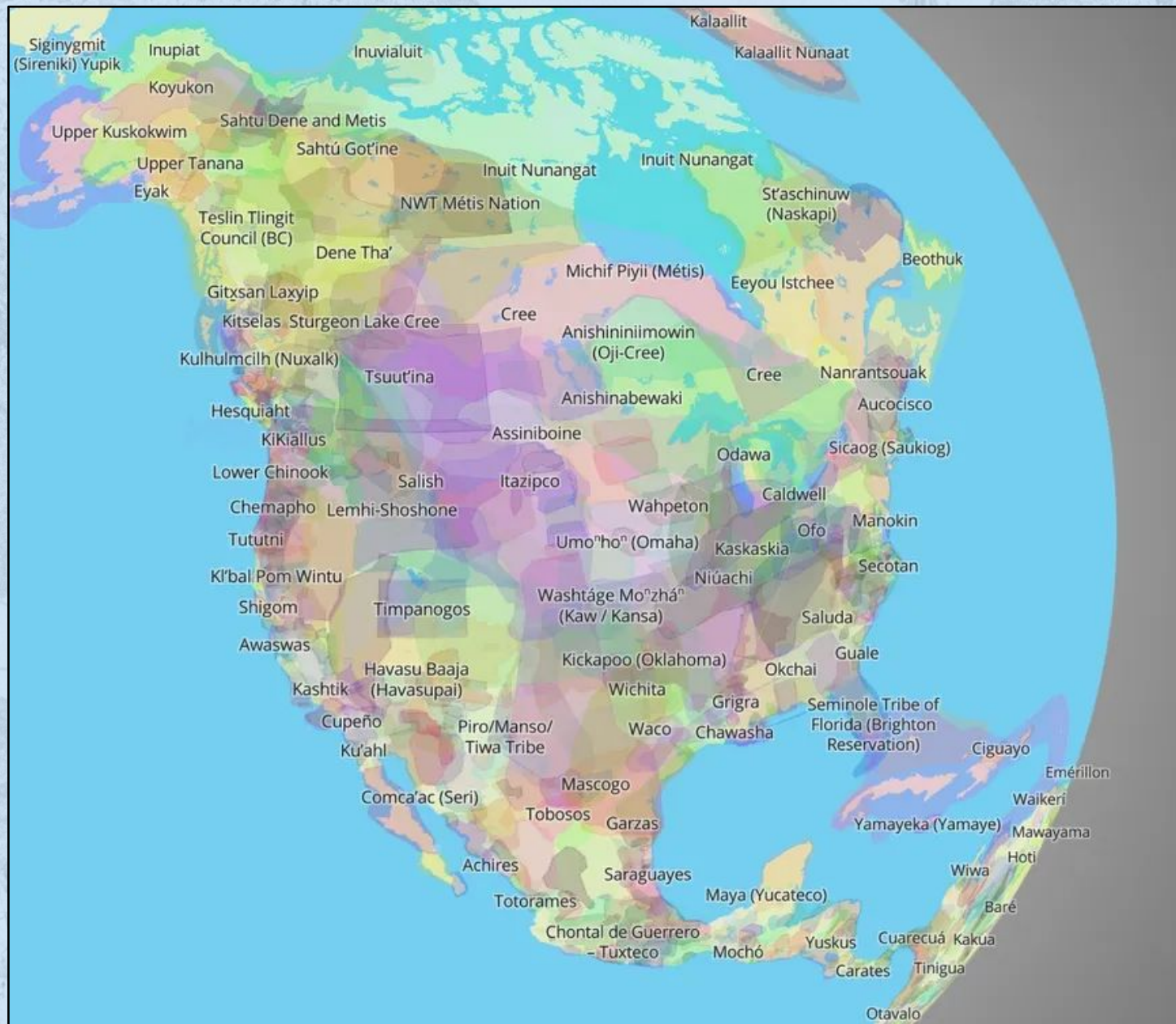


Washington, DC
U.S. Section

Three offices support IJC Commissioners
and programs



*Representation of
Indigenous Traditional
Territory in North America,
Native Land Digital. 2024.*

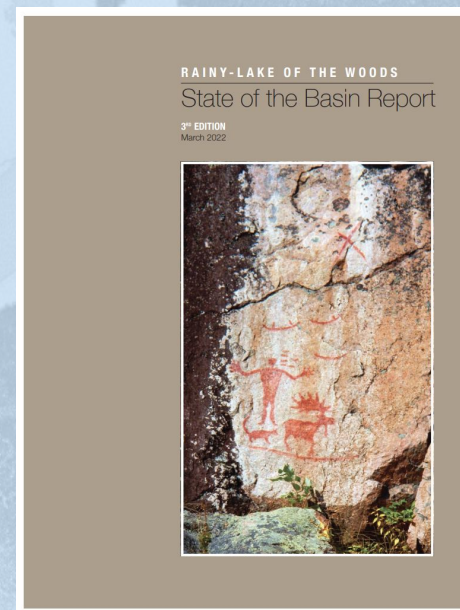




Indigenous Collaboration at the IJC

“Indigenous and traditional communities may have long-standing networks across borders. Situating them in the centre of dialogues represents an opportunity for enhancing transboundary cooperation” – UN World Water Development Report 2024

- Collaborative governance and strong, respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples are **imperative to fulfilling its mandate**.
- Participate as **board members, advisory group members, observers,** and through other **basin-specific projects**.
- As of 2024, Indigenous members constitute **about 10%** of IJC boards.



The 2022 Rainy-Lake of the Woods State of the Basin Report was the first IJC report to adopt a two-eyed seeing approach.

*For more examples, visit:
ijc.org/indigenous-engagement*



Indigenous Collaboration in the Elk-Kootenai/y Basin

- In 2024, Governments of Canada, US and Ktunaxa Nation requested a study on water **pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y basin**
- First formal request made **in partnership with an Indigenous Nation**
- Also highlights the importance of **Indigenous Traditional Knowledge**





Thank you / Merci



Leadership and staff of Garden River First Nation and the International Joint Commission. IJC, 2024.