



Sampling water and suspended sediment from the Fraser River in British Columbia for the Fraser River Action Plan sediment quality study. Photo credit: Aquatics Section, Pacific and Yukon Region, Environment Canada.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, representing municipal governments across Canada, advocates proper care of water resources and the wise use of water. Federation policy recommends goals for per capita water consumption; changes in the national building code to mandate water conservation equipment for domestic and industrial use; support for universal metering; water rates that reflect total costs; municipal water audits and the development of water conservation policies; and municipal efforts to control stormwater pollution at the source.

Canadian communities are involved in a range of freshwater management activities. The Yellow Fish Road Project, which began in Alberta and has spread to cities across Canada, raises awareness of urban water pollution by painting yellow fish symbols on storm drains. The Clean Annapolis River Project, one of 13 Atlantic Coastal Action Program organizations, undertakes water quality monitoring in Nova Scotia on a volunteer basis. These programs demonstrate a commitment to improve water quality and to preserve and enhance freshwater ecosystems. (See the following table for some examples from across Canada.)