

THE PUBLIC LAW CENTRE, THE CENTRE ON GOVERNANCE, THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY,
AND THE ALEX TREBEK FORUM FOR DIALOGUE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA PRESENT:

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE ON THE FUTURE CANADA WATER AGENCY

AN ONLINE ZOOM WEBINAR

MARCH 22, 2021 » 11:00 AM TO 4:30 PM (EDT)

Welcome Remarks	11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Panel 1	11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Panel 2	12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.
Break	
Panel 3	2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Panel 4	3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.
Concluding Remarks	4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Conference Overview

A Canadian Water Agency is being created under the leadership of the federal government. While the first steps were taken in 2020, a [public consultation](#) is currently underway, and a [discussion paper](#) was published by the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada on December 17, 2020.

With the support of the [Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue](#), the [Public Law Centre](#), the [Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability](#) and the [Centre on Governance](#) from the University of Ottawa are collaborating to address issues concerning water law and governance in Canada.

In anticipation of the upcoming major transformation of water law and governance in Canada, this first jointly organized conference is a unique opportunity to discuss the existing obstacles and opportunities surrounding the creation of this federal agency. Four themes will be discussed: the legal considerations of Canadian water governance, international experiences in water governance, and sectoral approaches to the protection of water resources.

In celebration of World Water Day on March 22nd, and its theme Diversity Around Water, we hope this conference will be inspired by the interdisciplinary nature of the issues at stake and the multiplicity of perspectives it generates.

Conference Schedule

11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. (EDT)

Welcoming Remarks and Conference Overview

Martine Lagacé, Associate Vice-President, Research Promotion and Development.



11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (EDT)

Panel 1: The Legal Considerations of Canadian Water Governance

OVERVIEW: There are many legal considerations surrounding water governance. From the perspective of a Canadian water strategy, particularly relevant issues can be raised with respect to the constitutional division of legislative powers, federalism, cooperation mechanisms, transboundary dimensions, and government responsibilities. This panel will provide an opportunity to discuss these legal considerations at a time when the federal government is creating the Canada Water Agency.

P A N E L I S T S :

Oliver Brandes, POLIS Project and Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria.
Watershed Governance and a Modernized Canada Water Act – A Pathway to a Sustainable Future?

Aimée Craft, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, University of Ottawa.
Les perspectives autochtones et l'eau - Decolonizing Water Governance

Alexandre Lillo, Public Law Centre, University of Ottawa.
Les mécanismes juridiques de la gestion intergouvernementale de l'eau au Canada

David Robitaille, Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa
L'Agence canadienne de l'eau et le fédéralisme coordonné : une occasion à ne pas manquer

Moderator: Marie-France Fortin, Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa.



12:30 pm – 1:20 p.m. (EDT)

Panel 2: The Mechanisms of Canadian Water Governance

OVERVIEW: There are several governance mechanisms that can be considered for a national water-related initiative. Societal, community or institutional considerations are on the agenda. Building on provincial, regional and local governance initiatives, the purpose of this panel is to address the current issues and opportunities related to the fragmentation of water governance, and multi-level governance.

P A N E L I S T S :

Rob de Loë, University of Waterloo.
Reviving Federal Water Policy

Louis Simard, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa.
Gouvernance, agence et participation publique

Lauren Touchant, Centre on Governance and Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability, University of Ottawa.
Canada Water Agency: What role for municipalities?

Moderator: Eric Champagne, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa.

1:20 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

Pause



2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. (EDT)

Panel 3: International Experiences in Water Governance

OVERVIEW: Several countries and jurisdictions have implemented national water strategies. A review or analysis of their content, successes, and persistent challenges is a relevant source of learning. This panel will explore some of the most relevant experiences, including international initiatives, France and the European Union, Pakistan (the Indus), and New Zealand.

P A N E L I S T S :

Sylvie Paquerot, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa.
Gouvernance de l'eau : les limites des mécanismes de coopération et de participation pour la préservation de la capacité portante des écosystèmes hydriques

Catherine Ribot, Faculty of Law, Université de Montpellier (France).
L'action des agences de l'eau aujourd'hui en France

Jacinta Ruru, Faculty of Law, University of Otago (New Zealand).
Water governance and Māori interests in Aotearoa New Zealand

Erum Khalid Sattar, Tufts University (United States).
Colonial history and the limits of domestic and international transboundary water cooperation on the Indus

Moderator: Thomas Burelli, Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa.



3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. (EDT)

Panel 4: Sectoral Approaches to the Protection of Water Resources

OVERVIEW: Several policy instruments for the protection of water resources can be explored as the conversation about a National Water Agency unfolds. Key tools include binational management strategies, ecosystem approach, consideration of climate change, or the impact of agricultural activities on water resources. This panel will provide us with the opportunity to discuss sectoral and specific water protection mechanisms in the context of the Future Canada Water Agency.

P A N E L I S T S :

Jamie Benidickson, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, University of Ottawa.
Lake of the Woods: Emergence of International Watershed Governance

Sarah Berger-Richardson, Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa.
Multi-level water governance in the agrifood sector: opportunities and challenges

Merrell-Ann Phare, Canadian Commissioner, International Joint Commission.
The International Joint Commission and the Future Canada Water Agency

Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Global Institute for Water Security, University of Saskatchewan.
Canada Water Agency – Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of People Living in Canada

Moderator: Heather McLeod Kilmurray, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, University of Ottawa.

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (EDT)

Concluding Remarks and Outlooks for the Future

The Honorable Senator Rosa Galvez

This event was organized by:



Université d'Ottawa
CENTRE DE DROIT PUBLIC
PUBLIC LAW CENTRE
University of Ottawa



Centre for Environmental Law
and Global Sustainability
Centre du droit de l'environnement
et de la durabilité mondiale



With the support of:

