



Premiers Establish Water Stewardship Council and Water Partner Advisory Committee

June 14, 2011 – Canada’s Premiers have taken an important step towards ensuring long-term sustainable water use in Canada with the establishment of the Council of the Federation (COF) Water Stewardship Council.

Comprised of one senior government official from each Canadian province and territory, the Water Stewardship Council (WSC) will provide information and strategic advice to Premiers on key trends, issues and opportunities related to Canada’s water resources.

“The creation of the Water Stewardship Council is a significant action in advancing water conservation and quality,” said Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba and COF Chair. “We need to work together to improve water stewardship in Canada.”

The WSC will promote, coordinate and facilitate implementation of the commitments of the COF Water Charter. The Charter, approved by Premiers in August 2010, recognizes the collective obligation of Canadians and their governments to promote water conservation and protect water quality.

Engaging various water partners is a critical element of the WSC’s work. To this end, the Water Partner Advisory Committee (WPAC) has also been formed, with representation from across Canada and across various sectors. The WPAC will provide advice to the WSC as well as a linkage to non-governmental led water activity.

The Council of the Federation is comprised of all 13 provincial and territorial Premiers. It enables Premiers to work collaboratively to strengthen the Canadian federation by fostering a constructive relationship among the provinces and territories, and with the federal government.

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For more information:

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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

Council of the Federation Water Stewardship Council

Cairine MacDonald (Chair), Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Environment

David Akeegok, Deputy Minister, Nunavut Environment

Gail Beggs, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Environment

Gary Bohnet, Deputy Minister, Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Wayne Dybvig, Acting President, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Jim Ellis, Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment

Perry Haines, Acting Deputy Minister, New Brunswick Department of Environment

Diane Jean, Deputy Minister, Québec Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks

John MacQuarrie, Deputy Minister, Prince Edward Island Environment, Energy and Forestry

Don Norquay, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Water Stewardship

Bill Parrott, Deputy Minister, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation

Angus Robertson, Deputy Minister, Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Sara Jane Snook, Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Environment

Water Partner Advisory Committee

Oliver M. Brandes, Co-Director, University of Victoria POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

Bernadette Conant, Executive Director, Canadian Water Network

Allen Curry, Director, Canadian Rivers Institute

Robert France, Watershed Management Chair, Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Wayne Galliher, Project Manager, City of Guelph Water Conservation Program

David Lobb, Senior Research Chair, Watershed Systems Research Program, University of Manitoba

Johann Manente, Co-Chair, Canadian Municipal Water Efficiency Committee

Merrell-Ann S. Phare, Executive Director & Legal Counsel, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Luc Vescovi, Director of Operations, Réseau Environnement

Anthony Watanabe, President & CEO, Innovolve Group

Howard Wheeler, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security, University of Saskatchewan