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Annual Report

2008



University of
British Columbia

PROGRAM ON WATER GOVERNANCE

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Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management in Canada Workshop - May 2008

MISSION

The mission of the Program on Water Governance (PoWG) at the University of British Columbia is to conduct basic research on water management, to engage the wider community in outreach and education on water issues, and to facilitate dialogue on water governance between universities, communities, government, NGOs and the private sector. The PoWG is co-hosted by the Department of Geography and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability.



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Our outreach activities this year have focused mainly on policy publications, speaking engagements, journal articles, and new web resources. For up to date information please visit our website (www.wateregovernance.ca) or sign up for our e-newsletter (by clicking 'Subscribe' on our website and sending us an email).



PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES



Dr. Karen Bakker, an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and an Associate of UBC's Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES), is the Director of the Program. Her most recent book is an edited collection addressing critical Canadian water governance issues (*Eau Canada*, UBC Press, 2007).



Alice Cohen is a doctoral student in the department of Resource Management and Environmental Studies. Her research focuses on trans-boundary groundwater and the role of regulation in on-the-ground decision-making.



Gemma Dunn is a research associate and policy outreach coordinator for the UBC-led project on water security. Her work focuses on water security indicators, water conservation strategies, infrastructure and privatisation.



Dr. Kathryn Furlong is the post-doctoral researcher who led the Municipal Infrastructure Project. Her research addresses questions related to the neoliberalization of governance and its inter-relationship with the deployment, uptake and function of municipal service delivery. Kathryn left the Program to take up a post-doctoral position at the University of Manchester in October 2008. We wish to thank Kathryn for all of her contributions to the Program, and wish her the best on the other side of 'the pond'.



Jacquie Belzile is a masters student in the department of Resource Management and Environmental Studies at IRES. Her research focuses on adaptations to water scarcity and opportunities for strategic learning between Canada's Okanagan region and Australia.



Christina Cook is a doctoral student in the department of Resource Management and Environmental Studies. Her research examines the utility of a water security framework in addressing scalar challenges to municipal water supply governance.



Emma Norman, is a doctoral student in the department of Geography. Her research investigates the rescaling of environmental governance within a borderland area, focusing on the governance of transboundary water resources at the local level along the Canada-US border.



Linda Nowlan is an environmental lawyer and was a Faculty Research Associate at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at UBC. Her work focuses on water governance and groundwater protection. She is a member of the Canadian Council of Academics' Expert Panel on Groundwater, and the Gordon Water Group. In January 2009 Linda left the Program to begin new projects as an independent consultant. We would like to acknowledge her important commitments to the Program over the past two years, and wish her the best of luck. Linda can be reached at lnowlan@shaw.ca.

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Leading up to the culmination of the PoWG's Municipal Water Supply Project, a second workshop was held at UBC's Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies bringing together experts on sustainable water management from across Canada. Four themes framed the discussion: the "roles of three levels of government in advancing efficiency in demand management, effective programs for sustainable water supply, utility governance at the municipal scale, and principles of good governance as a guide to developing effective programs" (Gardner & Furlong, 2008). The workshop engaged with the findings of the project in a draft report and served as forum for experts to share and explore effective governance strategies for conservation and efficiency in municipal water supply.

A multi-disciplinary workshop, organised by the Program on Water Governance (and hosted and sponsored by UBC's prestigious Peter Wall Institute), considered critical questions raised by the privatization of public services in relation to individual well-being, collective public health and inclusive polity. Focusing on three sectors (education, health and water supply), the workshop aimed to identify cross-cutting themes and build a network of researchers interested in the evolution of governance in public-services.

- **1st BC Water Governance Workshop**, Langley, BC, February (Jacquie Belzile)
- **Alberta Research Council's Elbow River Groundwater Management Workshop**, Bragg Creek, AB, June (Linda Nowlan)
- **Canadian Water Network (CWN) Retreat**, Victoria,

- BC, June (Karen Bakker, Linda Nowlan, Christina Cook, Gemma Dunn)
- **Canadian Association of Political Science Conference**, Vancouver, BC, June (Karen Bakker, Emma Norman)
- **Canadian Association for Studies in Development Conference**, Vancouver, BC, June (Karen Bakker)
- **CWN Yukon River Basin Workshop**, YT, July (Alice Cohen)
- **CWRA/OBWB One Watershed, One Water Conference**, Kelowna, BC, October (Linda Nowlan, Jacquie Belzile)
- **CWN Infrastructure Conference**, Montreal, QC, October (Christina Cook)
- **CWN Effective Communications Workshop**, Vancouver, BC, November (Jacquie Belzile)
- **BC Ministry of Environment's Indicators Workshop**, Victoria, November (Gemma Dunn)



Even governance folks sometimes get their feet wet... Alice Cohen at the CWN Yukon River Basin Workshop, a ten-day workshop traveling along the Yukon River in July 2008.

WATER SECURITY PROJECT 2008 – 2012

In 2008, the Canadian Water Network (CWN)* awarded the UBC Program on Water Governance (PoWG) a four-year grant to lead a team of researchers from five Canadian universities on a project to improve water security in Canada. PoWG defines water security as: “sustainable access on a watershed basis to adequate quantities of water, of acceptable quality, for human and environmental uses”. The overall objective of the project is to create a Water Security Framework (WSF) to improve water security in Canada by improving governance for source protection and land use. The WSF will be a ‘toolkit’ composed of a Water Security Index (WSI) and associated decision-support tools. The WSF will be user-friendly and use data already available to many communities.

During the first year of the project the PoWG has been compiling an inventory of Canadian indicators related to water security. Given that our project mandate involves extensive consultation with stakeholders, in November 2008, PoWG distributed a Water Security survey to over 500 water practitioners across Canada. Follow-up interviews will commence in the spring-2009.

In 2008, work also began on the Water Security Primer, which will be published late fall-2009. The Primer will include results from our ongoing Canada-wide consultation with end users on the most pressing water security issues that they are facing. In addition, the Primer will include our analysis of the inventory of Canadian water security-related monitoring and governance tools (e.g. indices and indicators). The Primer, targeted at end users such as water managers and policy-makers, will be published after the September 2009 Water Security workshop. This workshop will bring together the team researchers, project partners and targeted end-users, from whom we will be soliciting



input. All of these steps are intended to facilitate the work of our researchers and partners over the next four years of the project.

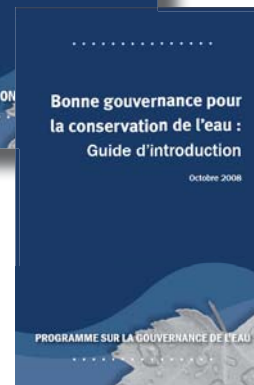
The research team are Dr. D. Allen (SFU), Dr. E. McBean (UoG), Dr K. Teshcke (UBC), Dr. G. Dabourn (Acadia), Dr. R. de Loë (UoW), Dr. M. Dube (SRC), Dr. J. Issac-Renton, (BCCDC), Dr. M. Journeay (UBC), Dr M. M’Gonigle (UVic), Dr. M. Robin (uOttawa) and Oliver Brandes (UVic) led by Dr. K. Bakker, the Principal Investigator. Our project partners include: Canadian Water Network, Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation, Environment Canada, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, Grand River Conservation Authority and the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

For further information on the Water Security Project, please visit our website: www.watergovernance.ca/security/index.htm

*The Canadian Water Network (CWN), one of Canada’s Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE), builds a network that develops opportunities related to the provision of safe, clean water. In collaboration with universities, government and industry, the CWN has developed a variety of scientific projects and initiatives that address key water-related issues facing Canadians while embracing strong multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral partnerships. For more information please visit their website at: <http://www.cwn-rce.ca/>

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Norman, E. and Bakker, K. (2007). "Local Stakeholders Governing Water across the 49th Parallel". In *Border Policy Brief*, 2(6), November 2007. Bellingham: Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University. (Available online at: www.wvu.edu/bpri/files/2007_Nov_Border_Brief.pdf)



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Furlong, K. & K. Bakker (2008). *Achieving Water Conservation: Strategies for Good Governance* (Policy Report). Vancouver, BC: UBC Program on Water Governance & Infrastructure Canada. (Available online at: www.watergovernance.ca/municipal/48098_UBC_Policy.pdf)

Nowlan, L. (2008). "Water Policy for Sustainable Development" in *Alternatives Journal*, 34(2). The Best in Books issue, book review of *Water Policy for Sustainable Development* and *Design for Water*.



ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PoWG staff have given the following academic presentations over the past year.

Bakker, K. "Private Sector Participation in Public Services Provision: The Case of Networked Water Supply". Paper presented at the **Canadian Association for Studies in Development Conference**, Vancouver, June 2008.

Bakker, K. "Meeting the Challenge of Water Security". **Canadian Water Network Annual Conference**. Victoria, June 2008.

Norman, E. "Nature Knows No Borders: But the Managers Certainly Do". **Border Regions in Transition Conference**, Victoria. January 12 - 15, 2008.

Norman, E. "Boundless Nature, Bounded Nations: Governing Transboundary Water Post 9/11". **Association of American Geographers Conference**, Boston. April 15-19, 2008. (Winner of the 3rd place, Graduate Student Paper Award, Water Resource Specialty Group.)

Norman, E. (Presenter) and K. Bakker (2008) "Transgressing Scales: Water Governance across the Canada-US border". **Canadian Association of Political Science Conference**, Vancouver. June 2008.

Norman, E. (presenter) and K. Bakker. "Governing Water across the Canada-U.S. Borderland". **Borders and Bridges: Navigating Canada's International Policy Relations in a North America Context Author Workshop**. Ottawa (University of Ottawa). October 16 - 19, 2008.



J. Belzile

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ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Researchers at the Program have published the following articles in academic journals over the past year. The articles address a wide range of topics including: water and development, municipal water governance, innovations in Canadian water governance, and climate risk.

Bakker, K. (2008) "The ambiguity of community: Debating alternatives to water supply privatization" *Water Alternatives* 1(2), 236 – 252.

Bakker, K., Kooy, M., Shofiani, E., and Martijn, E.J. (2008) "Governance failure: Rethinking the institutional dimensions of urban water supply to poor households". *World Development* 36(10), 1891-1915.

Carr, D., Norman, E. (2008) "Global Civil Society? The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development." *Geoforum* 39(1), 358-71.

Dowlatabadi, H, Cook, C. (2008) "Climate risk management & institutional learning." *Integrated Assessment* 8(1): 151-163.

Furlong, K. (2008) "Hidden Theories, Troubled Waters: Response to Critics". *Political Geography* 27(1), 811-814.

Hill, C., Furlong, K., Bakker, K., & Cohen, A. (2008) "Harmonization versus Subsidiarity in Water Governance: A Survey Water Governance and Legislation and Policies in the Provinces and Territories". *Canadian Water Resources Journal* 33(4), 315-332.

Kooy, M. and Bakker, K. (2008) "Splintered networks: The colonial and contemporary waters of Jakarta" *Geoforum* 39(6), 1843-1858.

Kooy, M. and K. Bakker (2008) "Technologies of Government: Constituting Subjectivities, Spaces, and Infrastructures in Colonial and Contemporary Jakarta". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 32(2), 375 - 391.



WEB RESOURCES

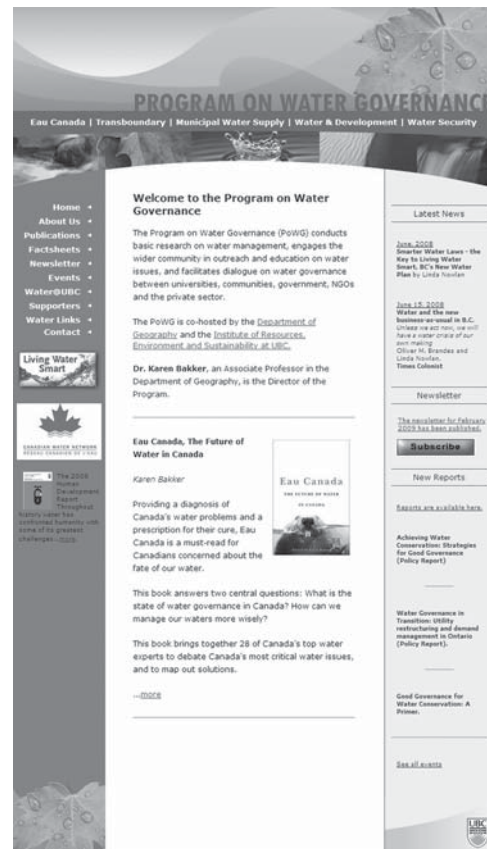
Several new resources have been added to the Program's website in the past year to make research findings and water governance information more accessible. Improvements include the introduction of an e-newsletter on water governance issues, published approximately every 6-8 weeks. To sign up for the e-newsletter go to www.watergovernance.ca and click on the SUBSCRIBE button in the right hand column.

Nowlan, L. (July 2008) Program on Water Governance e-newsletter, 1(1). Available online at www.watergovernance.ca/newsletter/index.htm

To make water research available to a wider audience, Jacquie Belzile summarized research findings primarily from *Eau Canada* (editor Karen Bakker, 2007) into factsheets that can be downloaded from: www.watergovernance.ca/newsletter/index.htm.

Topics covered in the new Factsheets include:

- Delegated Water Governance
- Drinking Water
- Groundwater Use Regulation
- Independent Power Projects & Run-of-the-river Hydro in BC
- Public/Private Water
- Water & Climate Change
- Water Conservation
- Water Pricing
- Water Rights Across Canada
- Water Use & Consumption in Canada



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An Op-Ed co-authored by Oliver Brandes and Linda Nowlan, entitled “Water and the New Business as Usual in BC” appeared in the June 15, 2008 edition of the Victoria Times-Colonist. In response to BC’s release of the Living Water Smart policy, they call for details on implementation and funding mechanisms, in addition to a governance structure that incorporates non-government stakeholders in the

In June 2008, the Ottawa Sun ran a 5-part special on “H2O Canada: Canada’s water supply drying up?”. Part 1, “Explaining the myth of water abundance in Canada”, quoting Linda Nowlan and drawing on *Eau Canada* (ed. Bakker, 2007) for information about Canada’s water supply. (Available online: www.ottawasun.com/News/National/water/2008/06/27/6014411.html)



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on new directions which creatively combine some of the most innovative aspects of emerging alternatives for sustainable urban water supply management.”

Water Security Workshop

On 28th & 29th September 2009, the Program on Water Governance will host a Water Security Workshop at the University of British Columbia. The workshop will bring together researchers, water professionals, policy makers and end users to work through key water security challenges facing Canadians. The Program's forthcoming policy publication -- the Water Security Primer -- will also be launched.

Water Security Primer

Water security represents a new way of thinking of water. In the fall of 2009, PoWG will publish a Water Security Primer, which will explain the concept, and illustrate how it can be used in Canada. Targeted at end users such as water managers and policy-makers, it will define basic terms, give examples and references to further work. It will also include results from our survey and interviews with end users.

The financial support of the following organizations is gratefully acknowledged:

CANADIAN WATER NETWORK
RÉSEAU CANADIEN DE L'EAU

www.watergovernance.ca

The Program on Water Governance at UBC

conducts basic research on water management, engages the wider community in outreach and education on water issues, and facilitates dialogue on water governance between universities, communities, government, NGOs and the private sector.

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