A growing number of Indigenous-led and co-governed watershed initiatives are evolving across BC. Grounded in traditional knowledge and cultural values, these initiatives call for support of Indigenous leadership in response to the unique watershed challenges confronting their communities and governments.

While approaches vary across watersheds and traditional territories, each initiative involves an impressive range of activities, including identifying priority water challenges, creating new decision-making tables, developing decolonized collaborative plans and solutions, applying Indigenous and Crown water laws and policies, community engagement, strategic planning, cross-cultural collaboration, conflict resolution, and communications.

The Indigenous Watershed Champions program supports existing and emerging Indigenous leaders working at the heart of innovative watershed governance initiatives. We strive to provide exceptional support and development services including:

- A support network of mentors, advisors, and other water leaders and experts.
- Customized support and training from staff and advisors for specific challenges or opportunities in their watershed governance work.
- Connections to colleagues active in similar initiatives and opportunities for peer-learning.

**MISSION**
Meeting culturally appropriate leadership interests for effective watershed governance in British Columbia

**CULTIVATING A CIRCLE OF LEADERSHIP**
Effective watershed governance is guided by leaders who understand relationships across communities and with the lands and waters. Indigenous communities know best what kind of leadership will strengthen their own communities and heal the lands and waters.

The BC Freshwater Legacy & Indigenous Watershed Champions programs partner with communities to tailor learning and development that respects cultural practices, builds upon strengths, and responds to leadership and community interests.

**BC Freshwater Legacy initiative**
Supporting projects that bring together governments, water users and community interests at the watershed scale to make better decisions for the benefit of water, and everything that depends on it.