

Policy Research Initiative on Sustainable Grassroots Engagement:

Saving Our Lakes and Rivers

CAWQ Symposium – February 23-24, 2009

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds



Grassroots Organizations:

Vital front lines of water protection...

- Beyond – but along with - all our science and policy:
 - Safeguarding our water
 - On the inhabited lakes and rivers upstream of the Great Lakes
 - Relies on the engagement of community groups...
 - ...they are the ‘capillaries’
 - or to change the biological metaphor, the ‘mitochondria’
 - the ‘power plants’ - with the leadership potential to save our water

...but with crippling capacity deficits

Acknowledged shortfalls - lack of core funding

Reference:

Canada Stewardship Action Plan, 2002

Canadian Water Network

Katherine Scott, *Funding Matters*

Imagine Canada, 2006

Pollution Probe

Lynn Eakin and Associates, *We Can't Afford to Do
Business This Way*

FLOW, 2007

CSW Research Initiative

Towards sustainable grassroots engagement

Preliminary Phase, 2002-2008

Policy components developed - drawn from a range of stakeholders - including:

- Shoreline strategic plan
- Boating
- Angling
- Monitoring and data collection
- Data management and exchange
- Sustainable grassroots funding and capacity building

Next Steps

Solicit multi partner support to:

- Broaden inputs from community organizations
- Structure for and with them – a collaborative effort
- Develop each component through professional writing and peer review
- Engage uptake through our network of hundreds of grassroots groups across Canada
- Publish policy papers to *Water Connections* and distribute to NGOs and government agencies at all levels
- Update on a periodic basis

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