

# FLOW MONITOR

*Keeping watch over Canadian water policy*

## Keeping Up Momentum on the Canada Water Agency

Welcome to the May 2021 edition of the FLOW Monitor.

This edition looks at the necessity of the Canada Water Agency, while also diving deep into issues that are threatening Canadian water quality.

Earlier this year, the federal government wrapped up its Canada Water Agency consultation process. FLOW, together with [Our Living Waters](#) and a number of other partners, helped coordinate a [joint submission](#) that details five foundational pillars for the Agency's development, structure, and operations. This submission was endorsed by 51 water organizations from across the country – a powerful statement.

Since then, the government allocated **\$17.4 million** over the next two years in [Budget 2021](#) to establish the Canada Water Agency. It is encouraging to see a sustained commitment to establishing the Agency. Unfortunately, we are not seeing the urgency that is needed.

**Now more than ever**, Canada needs a robust central agency to ensure water safety, security, and sustainability for all Canadians. This is evidenced across the country by a range of water crises: impending [drought on the prairies](#), [flooding in the Northwest Territories](#), [wildfires in Alberta](#), and [algal blooms in the Maritimes](#).

A Canada Water Agency is not a panacea, but it is a step in the right direction.  
**And it needs to happen now.**

---

## In the May Edition:

- [A Shared Vision for the Canadian Water Agency](#)
  - [The Imperative for the CWA](#)
  - [How Acid Rain remains a Problem](#)
  - [Antimicrobial Resistance in Wastewater](#)
  - [Additions to the FLOW bookshelf](#)
  - [FLOW Updates](#)
- 



## A Shared Vision for the Canada Water Agency

FLOW, in partnership with [Our Living Waters](#), co-drafted a collective submission with water organizations from across the country. The submission, which was endorsed by individuals representing **51 organizations**, calls upon the government to commit the resources, effort, and capacity needed to ensure that the Agency is established without delay and is positioned to affect meaningful change.

[See The Submission Here](#)

---

---



## [The Imperative for a Canada Water Agency](#)

Earlier this year, FLOW hosted two **University of Ottawa students** to conduct research on the current state of Canadian freshwater management for the students' capstone course. Nidhi and Amit took this opportunity to analyze gaps in freshwater management and suggest ways the Canada Water Agency could fill these gaps.

[See Their Analysis Here](#)





## [Acid Rain - A 'Solved' Environmental Problem](#)

Dr. Adam Jeziorski looks back at the history of acid rain policy in Canada and explains how, while forgotten, **it is a problem that remains far from solved**. Considered one of the great environmental success stories of the past few decades, acid rain continues to shape ecosystems around the world.

[Read More](#)



## [A Call for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance in Canadian Wastewaters](#)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest threats to global health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If we cannot contain antimicrobial-resistant organisms—and so far, we are losing that fight—many infections will no longer respond to medicines, making them difficult to treat or even deadly.

[Learn More](#)

---

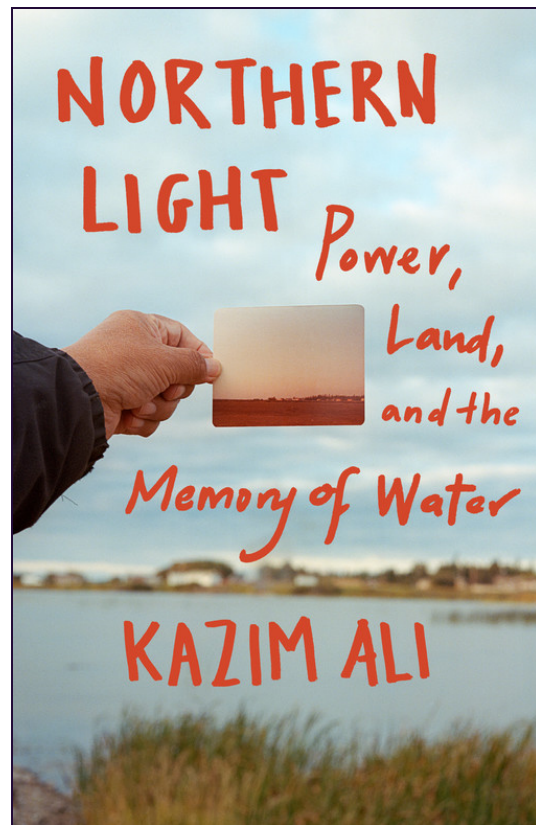
**FLOW Bookshelf**

---



[The Right to Be Cold](#)  
By Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Not just a biography but a warning. Sheila Watt-Cloutier describes her childhood in the Arctic, and her journey to becoming an activist against climate change and for human rights. She describes her youth and leaving her Innu community, only to return with scraps of her culture and native dialect remaining. This experience, coupled with her ascent into Canadian activism, gives the reader inside knowledge of how much the Arctic has to lose as climate change progresses. While oft-forgotten, the Arctic and its Indigenous communities are the most at risk to the effects of global warming. A memoir and a warning, Sheila Watt-Cloutier paints the realities that the Innu peoples have faced past, present, and future. Her passion for her work and culture radiates throughout the book, and most pressing, she explains how climate change is an issue of human rights, much



[Northern Light: Power Land and Memory of Water](#)  
By Kazim Ali

The impact of hydro development on Indigenous communities in Canada, particularly in northern regions, is an under-told story. Here, Kazim Ali helps tell the story of one hydro-impacted community from an unlikely point of view. A child of South Asian immigrants, Ali spent formative years in the northern community of Jenpeg, where his father worked for Manitoba Hydro on the construction of a hydroelectric dam in the 1970s. In Northern Light – part memoir, part poetry – Ali revisits his childhood, and uncovers an unknown history: the devastating impact of the Jenpeg dam on nearby Pimicikamak Cree Nation. As he shares his journey to learn from members of Pimicikamak, Ali provides a unique perspective – part outsider, part insider – on colonization, the theft of unceded land, and the ongoing failure of the Crown to live up to their

more than one of economic or political debate.

promises. It is heartbreaking, it is honest, and it is hopeful.

Access the FLOW Bookshelf

---

## **FLOW Updates**

The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development is [currently accepting submissions](#) for their freshwater study until June 11th.

Both [FLOW](#) and [Water Security for Canadians](#) have submitted in May.

FLOW members Oliver Brandes and Merrell-Ann Phare participated in the conference "An Interdisciplinary Perspective on the Future Canada Water Agency".

You can watch a [recording of the event here](#).

FLOW also wants to welcome [Emily Lorra Hines](#) as our new coordinator. Emily is a graduate of Oxford University, completing her Masters of Science in Water Policy, Science, and Management. Since graduation, Emily has focused on communications for environmental policy. Her goal is to find innovative methods, based on digital marketing techniques, to best engage youth and community members towards sustainable action.



The Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) is an independent [group of policy experts](#) from across Canada.

---

