

OKANAGAN WATER FORUM:

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO FORWARD THINKING

AGENDA

– October 14th, 2015 –

8:00 am **Registration**

8:30 am **Forum Presentations**

Welcome to the Territory

Chief Robert Louie, Westbank First Nation

Opening Remarks

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Okanagan Nation Alliance Chair

Syilx Water Perspectives: Valuing siwłk^w Knowledge in the Okanagan

Dr. Jeanette Armstrong & Dr. Marlowe Sam

Syilx people have an understanding and protocol around water grounded in their local environment and culture, reflected in the word siwłk^w. The Syilx concept of siwłk^w is holistic, dynamic, and institutes highly successful management practices and inter-areal customary protocols and laws related to water and people. Dr. Armstrong & Dr. Sam will provide an overview of the vast interlocutory nature of the practice of collaboration with other Salish peoples on the Columbia River system. Their presentation will focus on how we might all benefit from revitalizing these practices in the contemporary.

Keynote: The Biosphere in Crisis: The Need for Indigenous Guidance to Solutions



Dr. David Suzuki

For the last 30 years Dr. Suzuki has been advocating for the increased need to address the problems posed by climate change. In the context of Canada in particular, he provides the case why indigenous communities need to be at the forefront of these discussions for successful, long term climate change responses.

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Collaborations in Action: Reflections on Successful Partnerships from Okanagan Nation Alliance

Howie Wright, RP Bio, M Sc., Fisheries Manager

Richard Bussanich, RP Bio, M Sc., Fisheries Co-management

The capacity to initiate and sustain impactful partnerships for resource management has a long standing history at ONA, particularly in regards to the highly successful rehabilitation of Okanagan sockeye salmon. Two of ONA's top scientists will present on the complexities of these collaborations, including a discussion on the relationships and knowledge sharing necessary to foster successful collaborations.

12:00 pm **Complimentary Lunch**

1:00 pm **Conference Facilitation & Dialogue**

Facilitated by Amanda Fenton

From intensified droughts to transboundary political negotiations, mounting water challenges in the Okanagan and Columbia River basin cannot be addressed by any single entity, but demand that the diversity of perspectives and values on water be coordinated to create more resilient and dynamic responses to water management.

The afternoon Okanagan Water Forum session provides a unique opportunity for exploratory dialogue and networking between water leaders on the issues related to water in the region. These facilitated sessions will enable participants to collectively address the question of how we might work together to build potential partnerships and find solutions to a better, more resilient water future.

4:00 pm **Next Steps Forward & Closing Remarks**

