



# Adaptive Management in Canada: Water Law Reform and Scientific Uncertainty

IWRA Webinar 16 May 2019

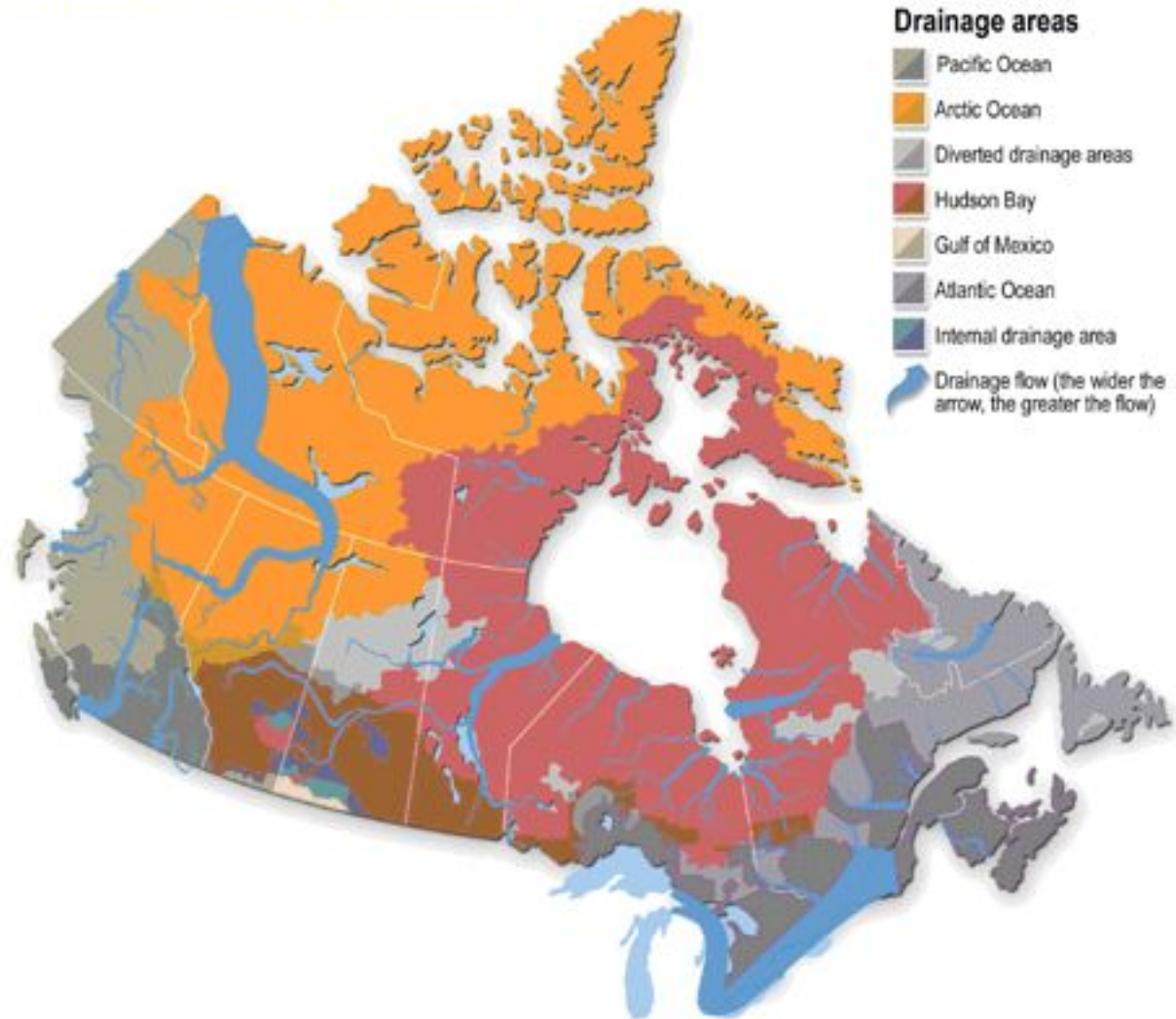
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# Outline

1. Introduction – Context
2. Water and Law in Canada
3. Approaches to Adaptation
4. Conclusions

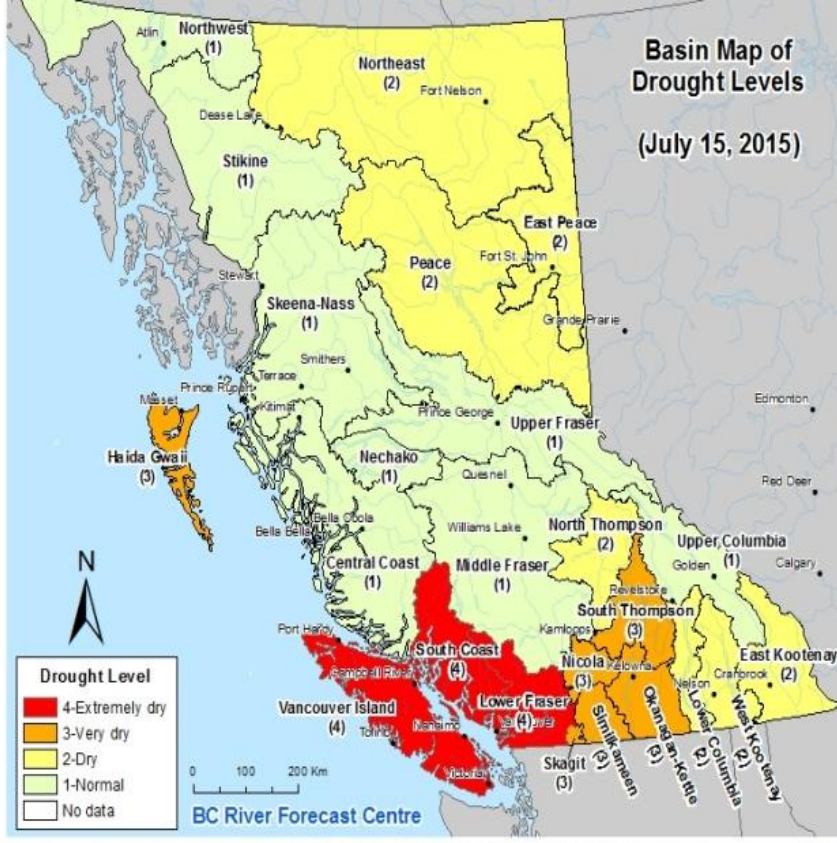
## Canada's continental watersheds



Environment and Climate Change Canada:  
<https://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=45BBB7B8-1>

# HALALT FIRST NATION HOLDING BLOCKADE FOR THE WATER

by John Ahni Schertow on March 10, 2010



THINK WE HAVE LOTS OF WATER? IT'S ONLY AN ILLUSION

current conditions

Provincial drought conditions (Vancouver Island) - Level 1 - Normal Stage 1 Water Restrictions in effect throughout Cowichan Region



It's a new normal, Cowichan.





## 2. Water Law in Canada

Systems of Water Law (provincial):

- Modified Riparian + Licences
- Civil Law
- Western Water Law
- Administrative – North & Saskatchewan

No constitutionally protected property rights  
in Canada

# 3. Approaches to Adaptation

Spectrum -

- None
- Holdback with water transfer (Alberta market)
- Under plans or comprehensive review
- In the public interest

## 4. Conclusions

- More science into law
- Watershed planning
- Comprehensive licence review
- Negotiated agreements
- Change water allocation approaches





# Thank You

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