



## News Release

1450 K.L.O. Road  
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4  
Telephone: (250) 763-4918  
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**April 27, 2021**

### **Grant to help planning to protect Okanagan Lake**

A substantial grant will help with the multi-year collaborative planning effort to protect the environmental and cultural values of Okanagan Lake and its watershed.

The Vancouver Foundation is providing \$300,000 to the partnership that is developing the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Strategy:

- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Regional District of Central Okanagan
- Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
- South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

The strategy will enhance the ways of caring for, protecting, and restoring the values and interests of the Okanagan Lake shoreline and watershed tributaries. When complete, the strategy will provide the knowledge and expertise to assist with new land-use planning decisions that support common, consistent, and collaborative approaches to protect shoreline natural areas, prepare for and mitigate climate impacts, and promote sustainable development.

The partnership is key to the projects' success and holds the greatest potential for finding solutions to complex land use issues. This initiative plans to shift the existing planning processes and outcomes through the support of project partners that include differing perspectives, a collective understanding, and a shared approach to the issues in the watershed.

It's envisioned that communities across the Okanagan region and all levels of government will benefit from this unique, unified - Syilx led framework that aims to:

- Address cumulative impacts of shoreline and upland development
- Promote Best Management Practices and leadership in watershed governance
- Provide learning and knowledge sharing opportunities

The initiative has received support from the Syilx Okanagan Nation, three Okanagan Regional Districts, and seven local governments. Other active partners include the Province of BC, the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, UBC Okanagan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

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**Contacts:**

Cailyn Glasser  
Natural Resources  
Manager  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
250-707-0095

Scott Boswell  
Program Manager  
Okanagan Collaborative  
Conservation Program  
250-718-4096

Brittany Lange  
Environmental Planner  
Regional District of Central  
Okanagan  
250-469-6149