



Natural Resources
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Canadian Framework for Collaboration on Groundwater

Review and Renew

Canada

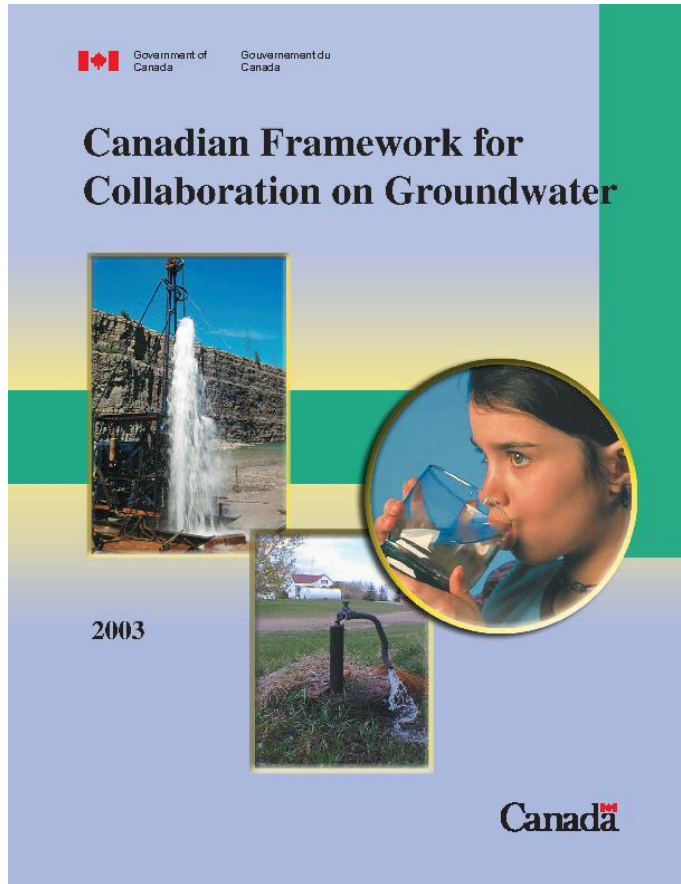
Motivations

- Rounds of consultations on program renewal
- Recurrent calls to improve collaboration, and the limits of the NDGW
- Need for coordination
 - Best practices
 - Standards
- What we heard
 - *Mechanisms for collaboration on groundwater research and decision-making are needed.*
 - *No well defined role for the federal (Note : CWA to modernize Canada Water Act, IGA).*
 - <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-11/index.html>
- *General perception CFCGW is still relevant.*



Canadian Framework for Collaboration on Groundwater

Cadre canadien de collaboration en matière d'eaux souterraines



- Published in 2003 by a national ad hoc committee lead by GSC.
- Recommendation from the First National Workshop on Groundwater (Quebec City, 2000).
- Consensus on content of the document reached in Second National Workshop (Calgary, 2001).

The Framework's **vision** for groundwater is:

To ensure a healthy and sustained groundwater resource for all Canadians.

The Framework's **mission** will be:

To improve the knowledge base of Canada's groundwater resources and make that information readily available to assist all levels of government, communities, industries, and individuals in making timely and informed decisions to protect, manage, and sustain Canada's groundwater resources.

EN <https://doi.org/10.4095/214620> FR <https://doi.org/10.4095/214652>



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Recommendations

- Co-ordination and collaboration mechanisms
- National co-operative programs
- Communication
- Performance standards and uniformity across Canada



Co-ordination and collaboration mechanisms

- Establishing a Federal-Provincial Groundwater Committee (FPGC) to enhance co-operation among all levels of government.
- Establish a Canadian Groundwater Advisory Committee (GCAC), representing various stakeholders, to advise FPGC.
- Report progress annually to stakeholders.



Committees membership and roles

- **Canadian Groundwater Advisory Council (CGAC)**
 - Primary groups with interests and roles in groundwater management
 - Governments, non-governments, academia, industry
 - Identify issues, provide advices and implement the framework
 - Establish working groups
 - Advises FPGC
- **Federal-Provincial Groundwater Committee (FPGC)**
 - Provincial, territorial and federal government
 - Strong links to CCME and NGSC
 - Implementation of **national co-operative** program and guidelines



National co-operative programs

- Enhance funding for groundwater research and inventory.
- Undertake an assessment and inventory of Canada groundwater resources.
- Establish a groundwater-monitoring « network of networks ».
- Identify critical needs for research on Canadian groundwater issues.
- Promote linkages between government policies and research communities.



High Priority National co-operative programs

- Recommended in 2000 and 2001.
 - Applications of existing expertise and technology (e.g. inventory of national groundwater resources, monitoring).
 - Issues regarding additional scientific research.
 - Improved accessibility to groundwater data and information.
 - Training and accreditation.



Communication

- Programs for raising the public's awareness on their role in protecting groundwater resources.
- Provide a knowledge source of groundwater information for groundwater professional and the public.
- Develop and promote an electronic national groundwater forum.
- Continue to hold national groundwater workshops every two years.



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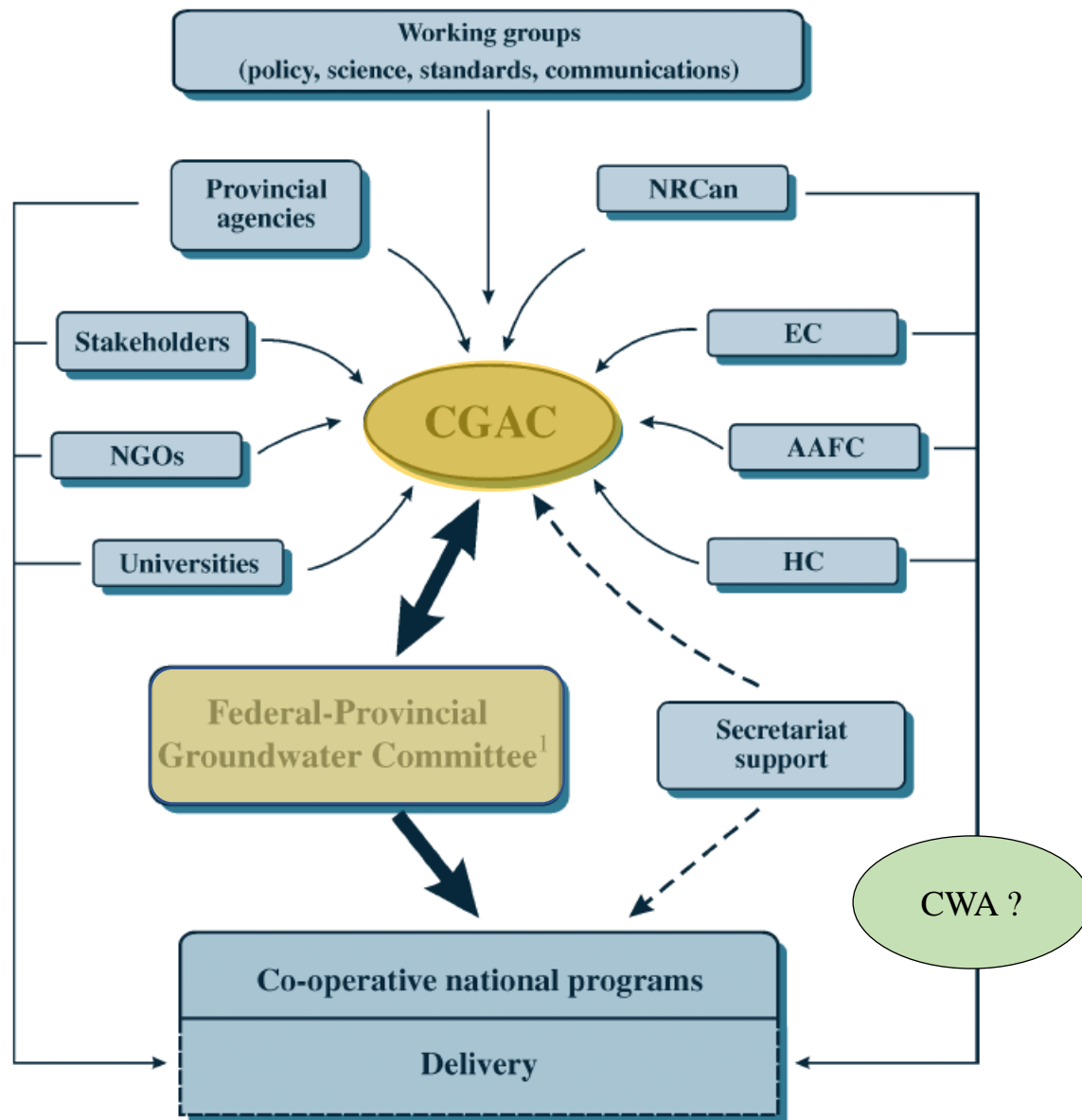
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Performance standards and uniformity across Canada

- Advance training to enhance the knowledge and skills of groundwater professionals, well drillers, and technicians across Canada.
- Accreditation for groundwater professionals, well drillers, and technicians across Canada.
- Acceptance of provincial accreditation of groundwater professionals, well drillers, and technicians across Canada.
- Development, promotion and co-ordination guidelines for best-management practices and technology transfer relating to groundwater.





¹strong links to Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) and National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC)



Membership

CGAC (24)

Jurisdiction	Persons
Provincial governments (one representative from each province)	10
Yukon Territory	1
Federal government (Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)	3
Academic	3
Stakeholders (e.g. Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, Canadian Water Network, Canadian Ground Water Association)	5
Industry (consultants)	1
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	1
Total membership	24

FPGC (13)

- 10 provinces
- Yukon
- NRCan
- ECCC



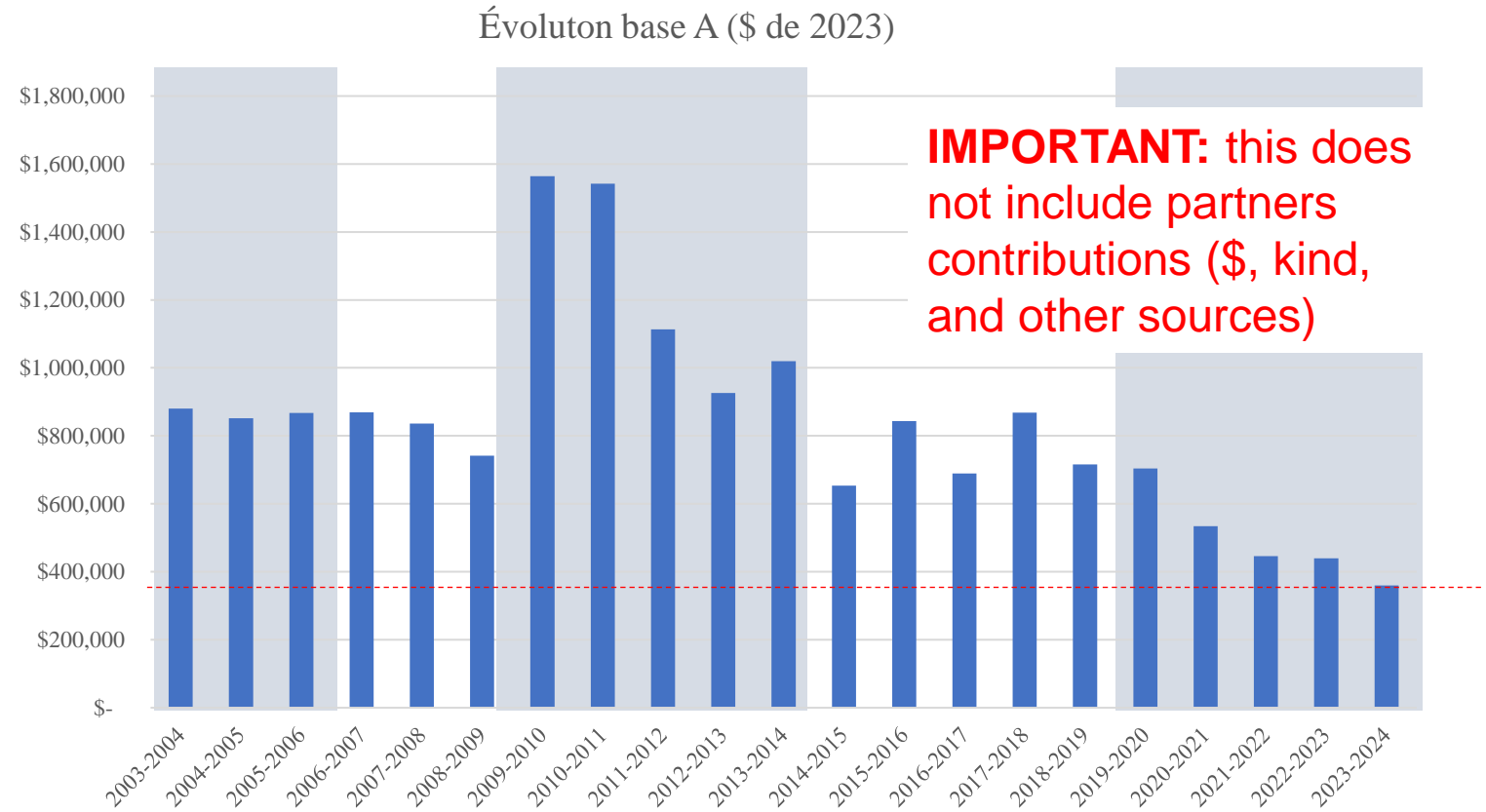
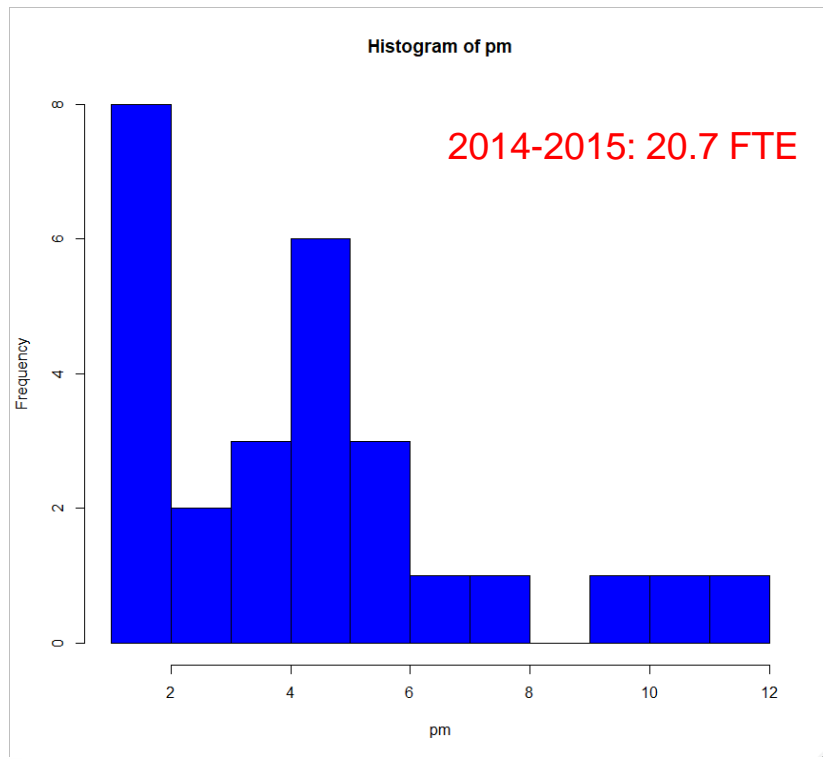
Groundwater Geoscience Program

- About 10 FTE (research scientists, professional, support, etc.), distributed in multiple programs
- Around 400 K\$ per year
 - External funds, assigned to specific activities (ie, C1W)
- Rule of thumb for aquifer assessment is 250K\$ O&M a year + partner resources.



Groundwater Geosciences Program

Most dedicated 4-5 months, several < 2 m
Total : 10.5 FTE (2022)



* source of funding for the Department, accessed through parliamentary votes



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What's next – food for thoughts

- NDGW is more or less an extended FPGC (membership wise)
- We don't have a GCAC
- Would this, or a variation of this works
- Full implementation would require substantial resources
- Think big ?



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