

PLAN 597: Assignment #3
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The Need for a Canadian National Water Strategy

In accordance with the principles of IWRM, innovative solutions to Canada's water resource management problems need to be incorporated into a national water strategy. The first step is identifying the major water issues in Canada and setting achievable objectives for the short-term. This strategy should ensure consistent standards for water quality and water services, coordinate research, set sustainable water use allocations, and outline regulations and enforcement mechanisms. A national vision is needed to protect Canada's water resources now and into the future.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a holistic cooperative approach to water management. The integration promoted by IWRM between bio-physical, social, and built systems is essential for sustainable water management across spatial and temporal scales. IWRM as a process creates dialogue among community members, NGOs, and governments that enables the development of strategies and solutions for adaptive management of our water resources.

National Water Policy Development in Canada

In Canada, the federal jurisdiction over water includes three broad categories of federal powers: fisheries, boundary waters, and navigation. "At the heart of Canada's inability to exert control over shared water resources is the ongoing 'turf war' between federal and provincial politicians over water resources and the resulting federal timidity" (Belzile 2007: 11). At present there are 10 different federal departments that

umidity (Bakker 2007, 11). At present there are 19 different federal departments that have responsibility over water management (Bakker, 2007). While Canada was once fairly progressive, the 1990s saw dramatic cutbacks in funding and as a result capacity to deal with water issues at the national scale (Gordon Group, 2007).