

# FEDERAL WATER FUNDING

Alan Shapiro



**OUR LIVING WATERS**



Total Budget  
**\$225 million**



**3,638**  
Jobs Supported

## Blue Stimulus Project Distribution



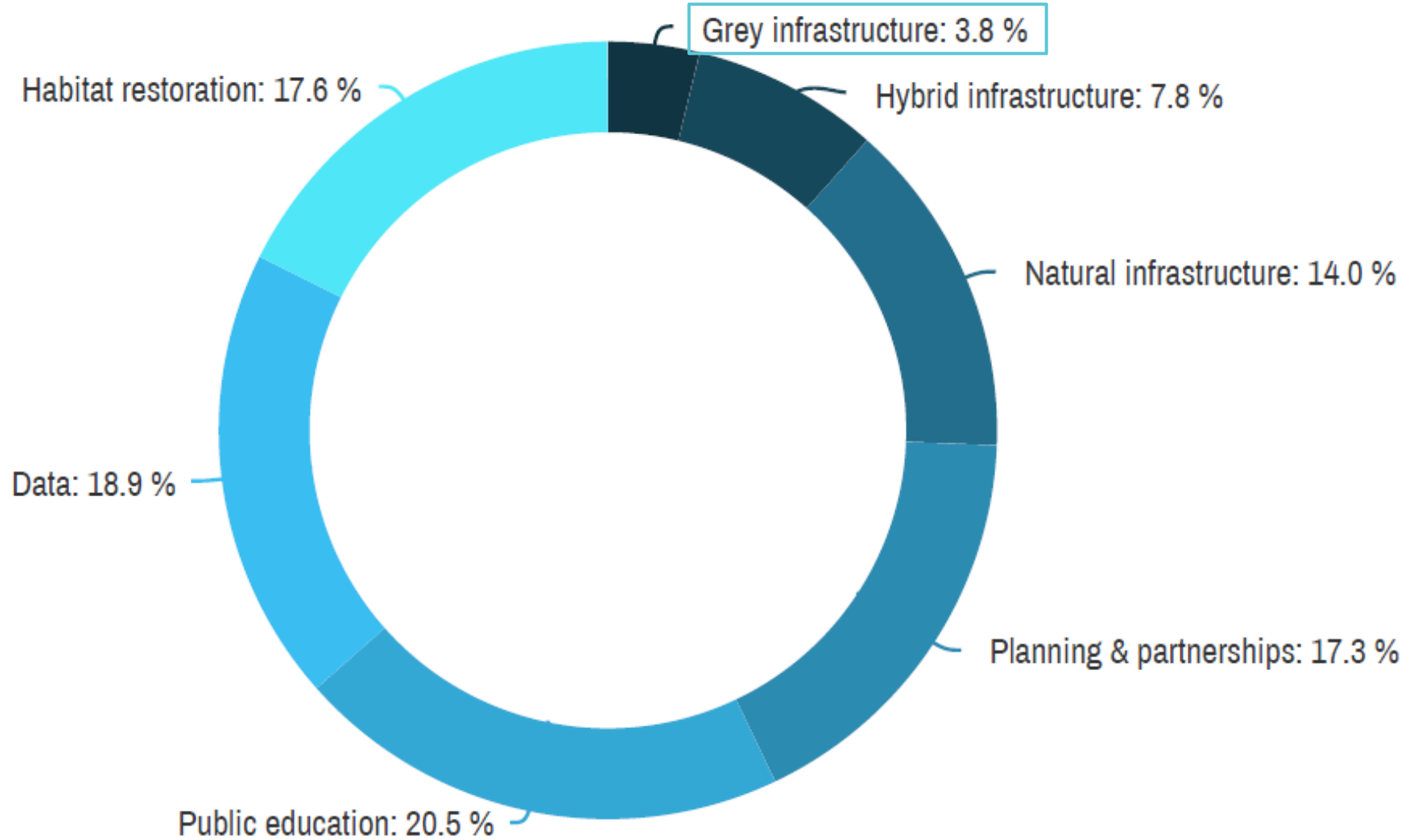
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 02A

### RE: Growing the Economy and Building a Climate Resilient, Water Secure Future

Dear Prime Minister:

All across Canada, community organizations, Indigenous communities and local governments are ready to implement hundreds of freshwater projects. Our Living Waters\*, in partnership with multiple organizations, has compiled a Canada-wide list of over 300 shovel worthy projects. These projects span the country, from Lower Kootenay Band Reserve, BC and Mountain View County, AB to Collingwood, ON and Bedford, QC. The projects have a combined budget of \$225 million and the potential to support approximately 3,638 jobs and 1,381,815 job hours, helping to grow our economy while ensuring lasting benefits for water security, climate resilience and the overall quality of life for all Canadians (see appendix for more details).

# Project Types



# Water Stimulus Project List

- “These local, mostly rural, on-the-ground projects generally fall through the cracks of federal funding programs.”
- “There is a gap of available funds to support smaller community-level projects with budgets between \$10,000 to \$500,000. Additional investment is needed to support these projects, and this investment must be delivered at the right size to support community-level projects.”
- “We recommend the government:
  - Allocate \$100 million in this fiscal year to support the shovel-ready and shovel-worthy projects on our list.
  - Commit an additional \$100 million annually for five-years, beginning in 2021, to ensure long-term recovery.”



# Research Questions

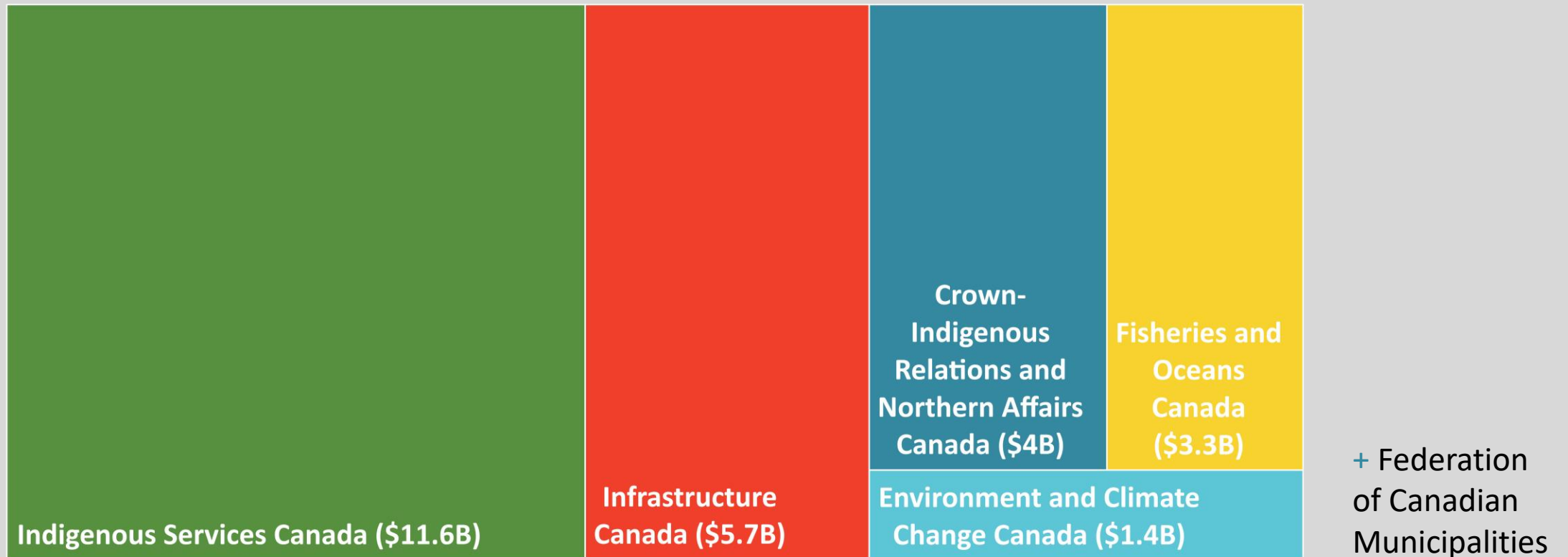
1. What federal programs exist to fund water-related projects in Canada?
2. Is there enough funding available for the shovel-worthy projects that currently exist?
3. How well are existing programs matched to projects in terms of scope, scale, and location?
4. What gaps and opportunities exist in the federal funding landscape?

# Federal Water Funding Overview

- While a number of federal agencies and programs fund water directly or indirectly, there is no single federal agency with a dedicated water mandate.
- Water is typically funded as a sub-stream of a larger funding focus, such as infrastructure, fisheries, or community development.
- There is no central resource or access point for federal water funding programs, and the majority of relevant programs do not provide data on how much funding is available or how past funding has been allocated.

# Federal Water Funding Overview

Total Spending (2018-19)



# Federal Water Funding Overview

## ECCC

- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk, administered with DFO (\$?)
- Atlantic Ecosystems Initiatives (\$?)
- Climate Action Fund (\$3M/year)
- Community Interaction Program (\$?)
- [EcoAction Community Funding Program \(~2-5M/year\)](#)
- Environmental Damages Fund (\$?)
- Great Lakes Protection Initiative (\$?)
- Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk, administered with DFO (~\$4M/year)
- Increasing Knowledge on Plastic Pollution Initiative (\$2.2M)
- Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program (\$25M)
- Lake Winnipeg Basin Program (\$8M)
- Zero Plastic Waste Initiative (\$?)
- Climate Action and Awareness Fund (\$206M)
- Low Carbon Economy Fund (\$2B)

## DFO

- Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (\$35M/year)
- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk, administered with ECCC (~\$4.5M/year)
- Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (\$?)
- British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (\$142.85M)
- Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (\$55M)
- Coastal Restoration Fund (\$75M)
- Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk, administered with ECCC (~\$4M/year)
- Science Partnership Fund (\$5M/year)



# Case Study 1: Investing in Canada Plan

- Through the [Investing in Canada Plan](#), over [\\$180 billion](#) is being delivered over 12 years to provide predictable and sustainable funding for projects to build modern, resilient, and green communities for Canadians.
- These investments are being delivered by [Infrastructure Canada \(INFC\)](#) and 20 other federal departments and agencies.
- INFC manages over [\\$99 billion](#) in federal funding flowing to provincial, territorial, and municipal partners through Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) bilateral agreements and other programs.

# Investing in Canada Plan (INFC)

\$2 billion fund, active 2016-2020, targeted primarily at grey infrastructure projects around water treatment, distribution, wastewater, and storm water treatment.

Investing in Canada Plan (INFC) Programs	Number of Water-Related Projects
Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF)	2389
Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component - Small Communities Fund	264
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)	182
Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP)	98
Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component - National and Regional Projects	72
Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)	59
Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP)	30
Other	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3097</b>

Of the programs listed, **only DMAF and MCIP** directly fund green infrastructure. Both programs almost exclusively fund municipalities and government agencies.

# Investing in Canada Plan (INFC)

**Note:** definitions of green infrastructure are not always consistently applied

## Investing in Canada plan funding stream: **Green infrastructure**



To ensure that Canada's communities are healthy and productive places to live, Budget 2016 included investments of \$5 billion over five years towards infrastructure projects that protect communities and support Canada's ongoing transition to a clean growth economy. Of this, \$2 billion will flow through Infrastructure Canada's [Clean Water and Wastewater Fund](#) (CWWF) to provide communities with more reliable water and wastewater systems.



Recipient Organization	Number of Water-Related Projects
Local Government	2708
Indigenous Organization	273
Province or Territory	52
Private Non-Profit	21
Private For-Profit	7
Other	36

Federal contribution range: \$1,000 to \$400,000,000  
Median federal contribution: \$225,000

## Case Study 2: EcoAction (ECCC)

- EcoAction is a national program, administered by ECCC, that funds local action-based projects that positively impact the environment.
- The program allocates **\$2-5 million per year** and is largely aligned with the organizations and project types on the OLW water stimulus project list.
- Non-profit and non-governmental groups and organizations are eligible for funding, including environmental groups, community groups, and Indigenous organizations.





Federal contribution range: \$25,000 to \$100,000  
Median federal contribution: \$70,000  
(For comparison, the funding need identified through the OLV water stimulus list was \$10,000 to \$500,000)



# EcoAction (ECCC)

## Funded projects beginning 2020

---

These EcoAction projects will engage communities across the country to participate in local action-based projects that produce measurable, positive effects on the environment.

### EcoAction Community Funding Program: New projects beginning 2020

Organization name and Project Title	Approved Contribution	Project Location	Project Description
<b>Agence forestière des Bois-Francs - AFBF</b> Restoring a wetland of exceptional value to wildlife in Tingwick	\$27,000	PQ	This project will restore wetland and improve wildlife habitat within the municipality of Tingwick.
<b>Sea Smart School Society</b> Clean Water Champions	\$95,690	BC	This project will promote water conservation, protection and stewardship practices to reduce chemical and plastic pollution throughout Vancouver, British Columbia.

# Key Findings

1. While funding exists for water-related projects, the majority is focused on grey infrastructure. There are few funding streams that prioritize green infrastructure and environmental stewardship.
2. Data on how and where money is being spent on water-related projects and investments is very limited. There is also limited guidance for applicants around which funding streams may be appropriate for them.
3. Current federal funding programs:
  - a. are not easily accessible to non-profit organizations and community groups;
  - b. do not match the funding range and scale identified through the OLW project list; and
  - c. do not align with the project types and needs identified through the OLW project list.

# Research Summary

- What federal programs exist to fund water-related projects in Canada? Many federal programs fund water projects, but largely through a grey infrastructure lens.
- Is there enough funding available for the shovel-worthy projects that currently exist? There is enough funding overall, but much of it is not available in the right form.
- How well are existing programs matched to projects in terms of scope, scale, and location? The EcoAction program is a good match in terms of scope and location but does not provide the necessary scale of funding.
- What gaps and opportunities exist in the federal funding landscape? Right-sized support for community-level projects led by non-profit organizations and community groups and focused on green infrastructure and environmental stewardship.

# QUESTIONS?

Alan Shapiro

[alanyshapiro@gmail.com](mailto:alanyshapiro@gmail.com)



**OUR LIVING WATERS**