

## Balancing Principles

The intent of the balancing principles is to reflect the collective values of Sumas River Watershed Collaborative Framework partners. These principles guide us in the development, evaluation and implementation of mitigation options.

### Lotse th'á:le Lets'emó:t (One Heart, One Mind)

- We carry out our work in a spirit of collaboration, making decisions and moving forward together.
- We commit to building trust and repairing relationships between our people and communities.
- We recognize and value the distinct needs, abilities, and contributions of our respective communities.
- We recognize the risks that we all face and look to equitably share those risks between and within our communities.

### Responsibility

- We provide the public with clear and accurate information that can be relied on to make good decisions to protect their interests.
- We consider the impact of our decisions on our neighbours in the Sumas Prairie and throughout British Columbia, Canada, and the United States.
- We recognize that the City of Abbotsford and the City of Chilliwack have delegated statutory authority to plan for natural hazards.
- We respect the unique rights of the First Nations on whose traditional and unceded territories we all live, work, and play.
- The provincial and federal governments have responsibility, jurisdiction, and decision-making authority (some of which is delegated) which is bound by the obligations of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

### Foresight

- We recognize the urgency of flood planning and are committed to moving together at the speed of trust.

- We adapt to the demands of a changing climate and the future needs of our communities.
- We look for solutions that provide resilience to a broad range of potential climate events and other disruptions to infrastructure.
- We look for solutions that make effective use of public resources, being efficient in our investments to maximize value for our communities.

## Safety

- We protect the health and safety of all members of our communities.
- We protect from harm the lands where we make our homes.
- We protect from harm the buildings, systems, and infrastructure on which we rely for our health and our livelihoods.
- We recognize our region's importance to the security and economy of the broader world and strive to protect both from harm.

## Environment

- We recognize the value and dignity of the natural environment and of all living things.
- We protect and enhance the ecosystems that allow nature to thrive in all its forms.
- We protect and restore the flora and fauna impacted by our actions.
- We respect and look to work with the natural systems that create and shape our environment.

## Sustenance

- We recognize the richness of this land and its waterways, and their ability to provide for and sustain our communities.
- We protect the agriculture which feeds and sustains families within and beyond our region.
- We protect and enhance access to the abundance of traditional foods available in this territory.
- We look to reduce our reliance on outside resources, thriving on what we produce in our region.

## Wellbeing

- We provide for the social, cultural, and recreational needs of our communities.
- We protect and enhance access to the traditional medicines found on this land.
- We create opportunities for people to access and appreciate our natural environment.
- We value the spiritual expression of our communities and the spiritual connection to lands and places.