

# Making Meaningful Connections in Knowledge Co-Production

## SUMMARY

Global Waters Futures (GWF) aims to design user solutions that address real world water and climate challenges. To realize this, the program has assembled a Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Core Team to foster best-practices and innovation in research impact. KM involves the mobilization of research findings into practice through an iterative and interactive co-creation process of sharing knowledge between knowledge producers and users.

## CONTACTS

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PROJECT NAME: Knowledge Mobilization Core Team

## Progress

- In collaboration with other core teams, development of a **GWF legacy wrap-up strategy for KM**, focused on knowledge capture and exchange.
- **Re-engagement of the User Advisory Panel** through creating a briefing book summarizing scientific advances and KM activities for all projects and core teams.
- **Supporting knowledge translation:** guidance embedded in knowledge products and processes such as student posters, social media, science features.
- Capture and sharing of personal accounts of research engagement in accessible story format.



Promotion flyer for researcher training session in social media



Working together on user engagement stories

## User Engagement

- Supporting implementation of **project-level knowledge mobilization activities** that engage knowledge users (e.g., support advisory committees, design partner workshops, development of engaging outreach materials).
- In collaboration with our partners, **support to innovation in Canadian water science and management** through the development of recommendations for the proposed Canada Water Agency.
- Engagement of policy professionals, decision-makers, and communities in regional workshops that **highlight key research findings and their potential applications.**

## Results

- New conversations with knowledge users about **relevance and application of GWF research findings.**
- **Increased awareness** of project focus and achievements.
- Through KM training, GWF has **trained and produced a generation of HQP with greater soft skills** (e.g., relationship building, ability to work across disciplines, oral and written communication, etc.).
- Enhanced GWF's reputation as a leader in knowledge mobilization implementation.

## Optimizing Success

### Tip 5: Adopt an iterative research and engagement process

- Process is a (shorter-term) success until (longer-term) impact can be achieved
- Ask your partners, collaborators, end-users what success is to them

KM indicators of success to consider					
End users actively engaged in co-creation and scoping of project	Diverse and partner approved engagement mechanisms are active	Partners contribute to ongoing research activities	Partners feel contributions valued	End user appropriate publications or transfer tools are being used	Significant change in end user practices as an outcome
					Significant reinvestment or expansions in scope by partners

Slide from KM training workshop

## Outcomes and impact

- GWF's ongoing commitment to KM has resulted in **significant and lasting cultural change** in Canadian water research where researchers are recognizing the added value of a process defined by co-creation and focused on research impact.
- Through the KM training program, GWF has trained and produced **a generation of HQP that have greater soft skills** (e.g., relationship building, ability to work across disciplines, oral and written communication, etc.).
- GWF has **engaged hundreds of knowledge users in the research co-creation process**, resulting in development and strengthening of relationships among academia, policy and politics in the Canadian water sector.