

INTRODUCTION

In Canada, water governance approaches in the context of Indigenous territories tend to use collaborative approaches but lack the inclusion of core Indigenous governance principles such as self-determination and Indigenous worldview incorporation. Indigenous peoples advocated for the recognition of their inherent rights as self-determined nations:

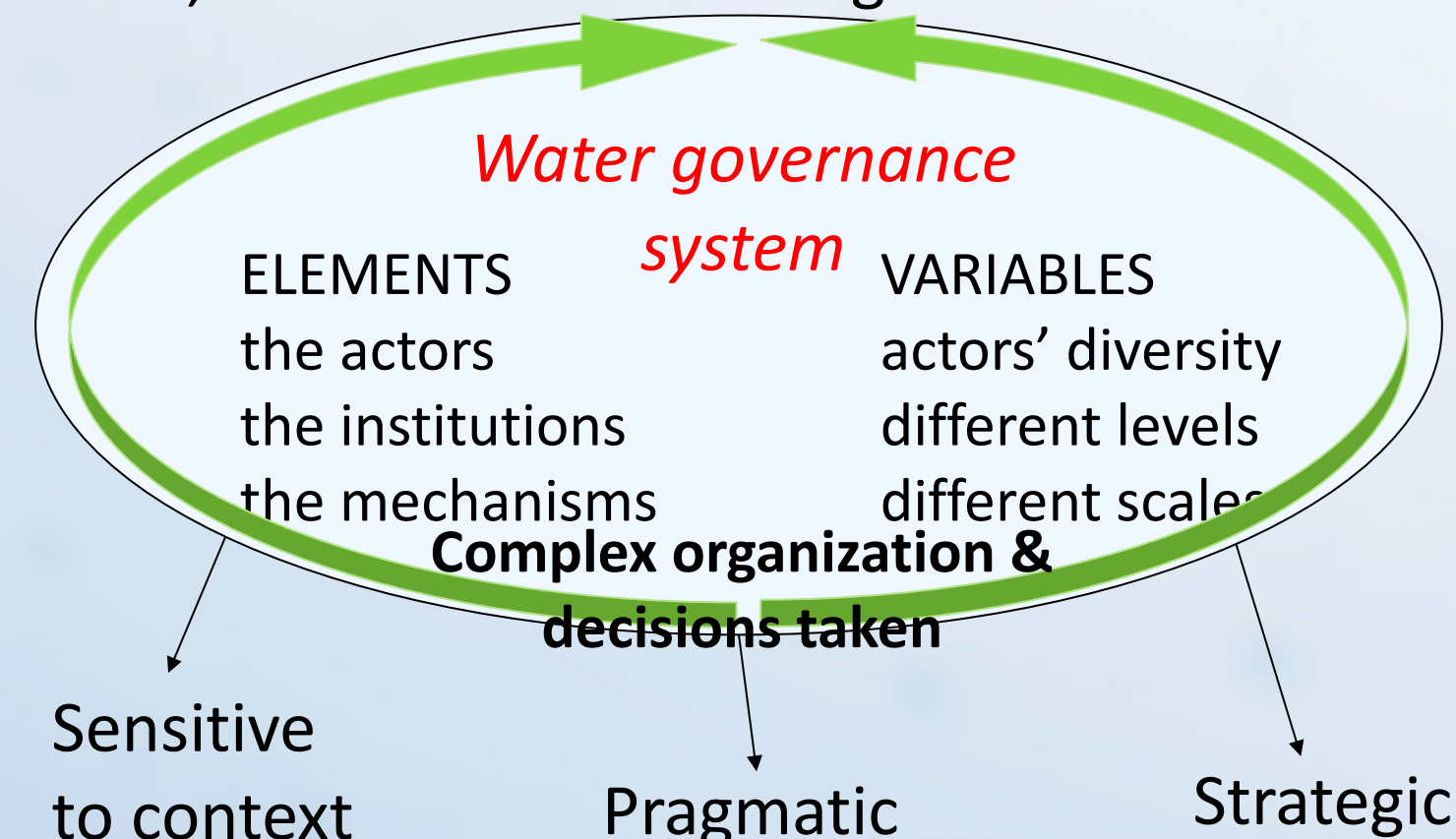
“In recent decades there has been significant pressure to address historical Indian Act issues. That pressure has been imposed by the combination of increasingly organized and effective political actions by various Aboriginal groups, and the series of Supreme Court of Canada decisions mostly arising out of British Columbia that established the validity of the concepts of unextinguished Aboriginal title and Aboriginal rights of self-determination. Band Chiefs and Councils, other Aboriginal leaders across the country, and human rights leaders have called for increased Aboriginal autonomy from the federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (...) and the Indian Act.” (Indigenous Corporate Training Inc, 2018)

OBJECTIVE

To review recent literature written about collaborative water governance in Indigenous territories in the Canadian context.

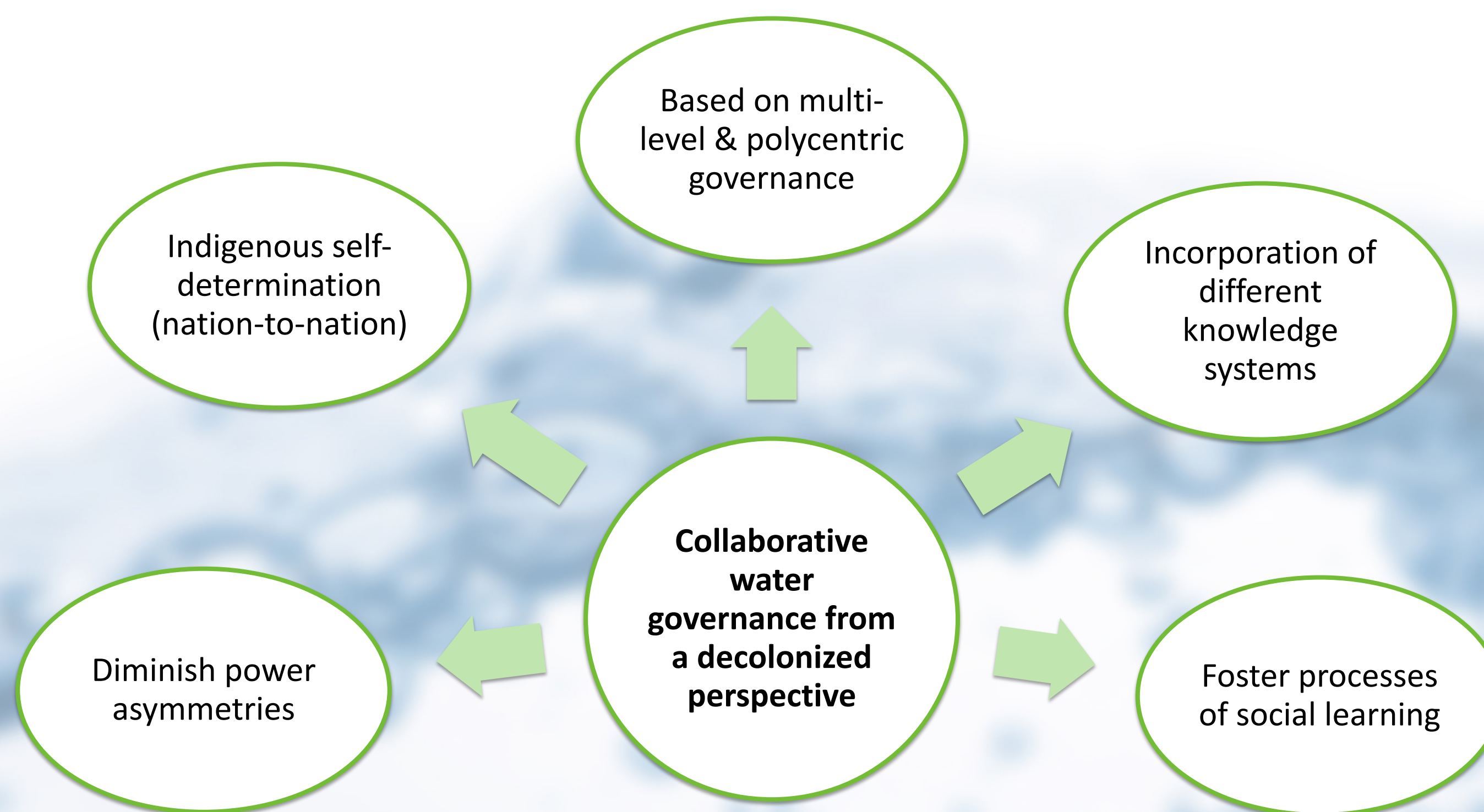
WATER GOVERNANCE A COMPLEX SYSTEM

Water is a ‘multipurpose flow resource’ that crosses political boundaries affecting different users, sectors and scales of governance.

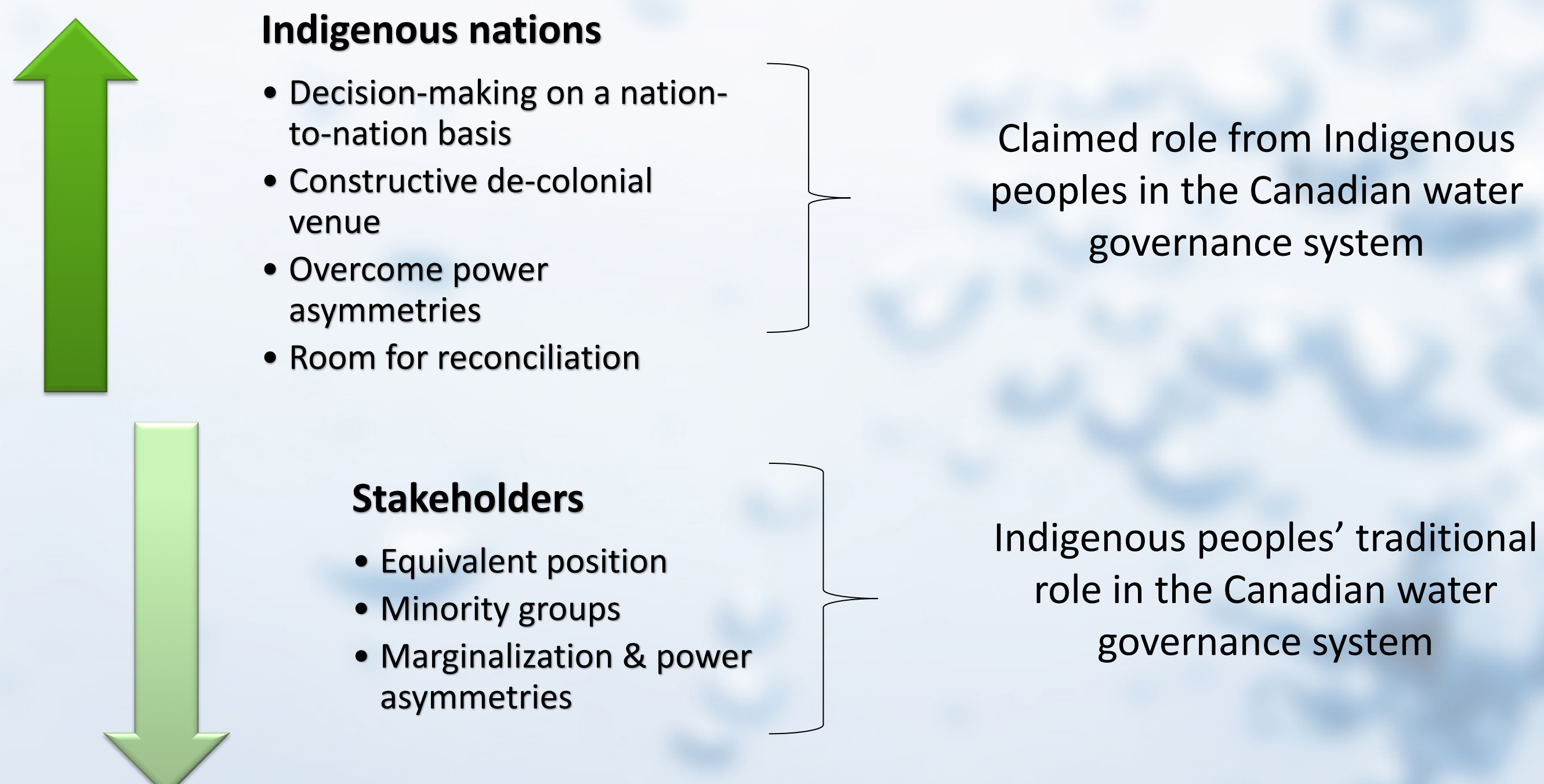


COLLABORATIVE WATER GOVERNANCE

Collaborative water governance points to shared processes of decision-making among actors involved in and affected by water conflicts to achieve consensus by incorporating different types of knowledge. Specific guiding principles like representation, inclusiveness, fairness, equity, endured relationships, and face-to-face interactions contribute to consensus achievement (Brisbois & de Loë, 2016; Von der Porten & De Loë, 2013; Von Der Porten & De Loë, 2014).



COLLABORATIVE WATER GOVERNANCE FROM A NATION TO NATION BASIS



CHALLENGES OF COLLABORATIVE WATER GOVERNANCE

- Improve institutional fragmentation: inter-governmental conflicts, duplication & overlapping of responsibilities.
- Overcome legacies from colonization: Inequity, social-environmental injustice, loss of self-determination, discrimination.
- Work on water policy decolonized reforms.
- Encourage a process of re-learning Canadian cultural backgrounds & historical processes.
- Promote open dialogue for true reconciliation.
- Recognize & promote a "nation-to-nation" relationship.
- Work on local engagement.
- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge in decisions.
- Improve transdisciplinary skills in water projects & research.

CONCLUSION

Water problems & conflicts urge reflection of new governance approaches that help to deal with water disturbances, and respond to the economic, social, and cultural necessities and demands from the Indigenous communities. Collaborative water governance needs to reconsider Indigenous principles and knowledge as important and active inputs for governance outcomes that respond to Indigenous peoples need and right of self-determination.