

# F17. Crossing Streams: An Interdisciplinary Panel on Rural Water



Water and Aboriginal Transformations  
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# Aboriginal Transformation

Resurgence or revitalization of Indigenous nations that existed prior to colonization, now within the contemporary landscape

## Indigenous Aspirations:

- Self-determination
- Self-reliance
- Self-governance



All of which are connected to clean, safe and healthy water

# Foundational understandings

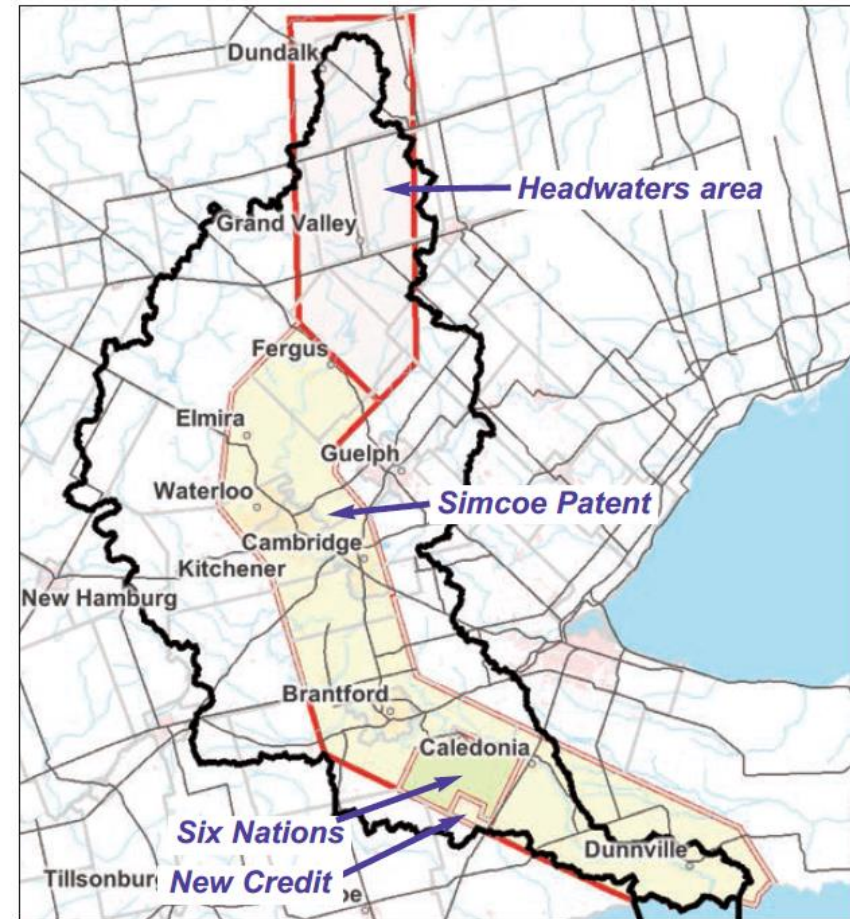
- Diversity of Indigenous peoples across Canada
- Culture, language, history and relationships
- Spiritual relationship with land, water and all of creation
- Well defined social-political-economic systems
- Balance traditional teachings and contemporary demands
- Constitutionally protected bundle of rights
- Federal and provincial requirements to consult and accommodate Aboriginal people

# Transformation by collaboration

- Commitment to long-term relationships
- Legitimate and representative involvement
- Recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty rights
- Knowledge integration – equal value
- Communications – on-going and regular
- Capacity building – bi-directional
- New institutional arrangements (informal – partnerships and projects or formal agreements)
- New co-created collaborative processes

# Grand River Notification Protocol

- In 1996, First Nations, municipalities, federal and provincial agreement
- Inform on actions that may effect land, water or air
- Southern portion of watershed
- Provincial commitment:
  - Water and natural heritage
  - EA decisions
  - Transportation
  - Management of provincial lands
  - Land use planning and development



GRCA background briefing, 2014

# Joint Stewardship Board

- Indigenous occupation over 12,000 evidenced by artifacts
- RHV Parkway construction conflict
- Collaboration between Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council
- Series of 7 agreements beginning 2003
- Ecological restoration and future protection of the Red Hill Valley watershed



# Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council

- International transboundary
- 1997 Accord
- 70 First Nations and Tribes
- Yukon and Alaska
- Protect and preserve the Yukon River



<http://www.yritwc.org/>

Thank you; Niawen



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