Project Profile

Project Name:	Collecting Baseline Water Quantity Data (Water Monitoring Small Watersheds)
Project Number:	ER-Water-2019-01
Proponent:	BC Oil & Gas Commission; Doig River First Nation; Prophet River First Nation; Saulteau First Nation, Blueberry River First Nation
Funding Envelope:	Environmental Research—Water
Timeframe:	March 28, 2019, to December 31, 2022

Project objectives

The objective of this project is to gather streamflow data in areas where data is currently limited or nonexistent (e.g., smaller, tributary rivers without active hydrometric systems for collecting streamflow data). A second objective is to strengthen a collaborative relationship between industry, First Nation communities and the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Regulator) to share knowledge and better understand how water is managed and used.

Project description

The main components of the project include the following:

- Establish relationships withrepresentatives from First Nation communities to inform the site selection and discuss overall water management objectives. Each First Naion community will provide input into the location of one of the three sites to install equipment to collect streamflow data. Consideration for site selection will be given to proximity to industry activity, watershed scale, FN importance and the opportunity to extend historic Water Survey of Canada data records. Sites will represent specific geographic regions (e.g., plains, foothills, mountain).
- Collecting streamflow data in three small watersheds in NEBC as identified by the three FN communities – installing hydrometric stations which include automated data loggers (e.g. Solinst). Staff gauges will be installed at each locations and daily streamflow data will be collected and preserved in accordance with the Manual of BC Hydrometric Standards (RISC standards). Approximately 6 -8 field visits per site will be required each year during the open water season. The data will be made publically available through the BC Oil and Gas Commission's water portal.

Project approach

The project is envisioned as a five year study:

- **Year 1 (2019/20)**—identify sites and install stream gauges. Collect and store data.
- **Years 2-5**—continue to collect and analyze data and provide data to stakeholders to incorporate into decision making on managing and using water.

Project deliverables

The deliverables from this project include the following:

1. Annual Report summarizing data collected.