

Community Organizing as Resilience-Building

The Case of *Our Water B.C.*



About the Freshwater Alliance

Supporting active, engaged and diverse communities to realize healthy waters for all in Canada.



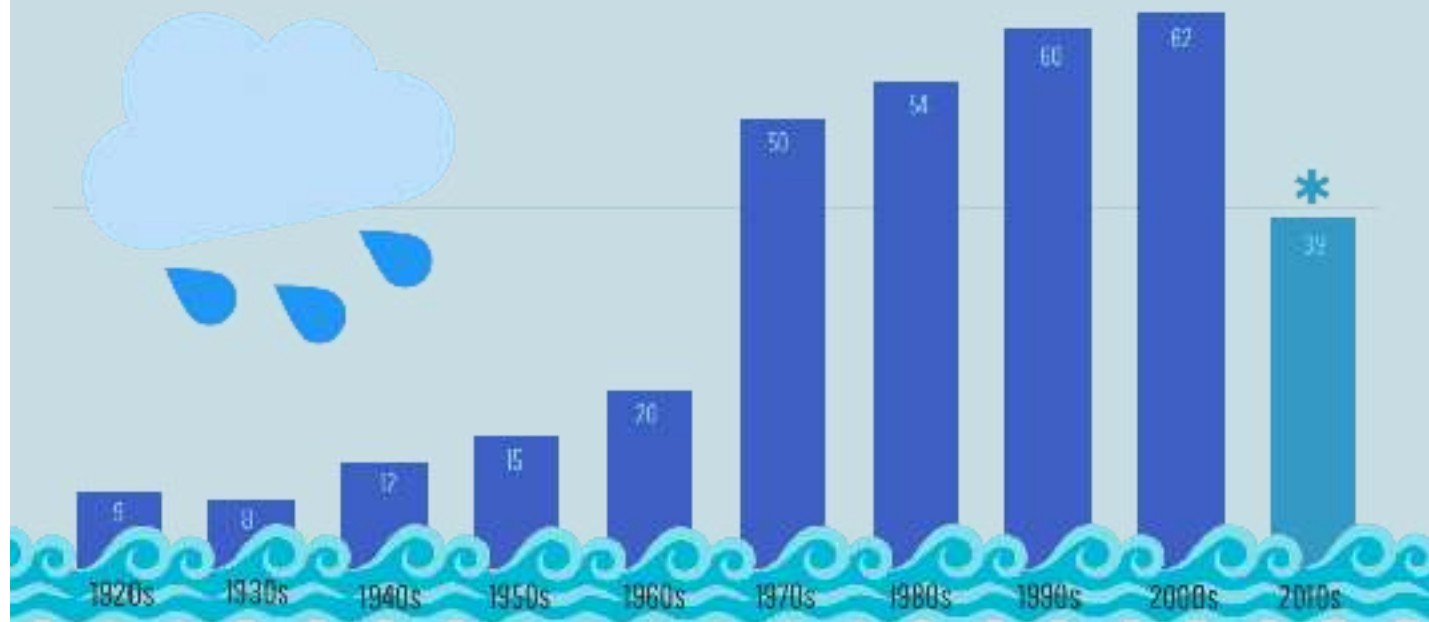
On Resilience

- Often used interchangeably with “adaptation”
- “Ability to adapt to changing conditions, anticipate shocks, build up capacity to recover”
- Government of Canada: “Adaptation and climate resilience”



Floods in Canada: On the Rise

Over the past 100 years, the number of floods occurring across the country has increased and extreme floods are becoming more common. The five most destructive floods in Canadian history have all occurred since 2010. Increasing our collective resilience to floods is critical to protecting social and ecological values.



From the Canadian Disaster Database <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cmt/rsrc/cndn-dsstr-dcbs/index-en.aspx>

* Data only for 2010-2016



Resilience: On the Rise



Source: Hill & Kakenmaster, 2018





Resilience: Adaptation + Transformation



Community Organizing as Resilience-Building



“Leadership that enables **people** to turn the **resources** they have into the **power** they need to make the **change** they want”

Community Organizing as Resilience-Building

- Building public support for a cause
 - Canvassing
 - Recruiting volunteers
- Driving attention
 - Media coverage
 - Town halls or forus
- Influencing decision-makers
 - Meeting with officials
 - Writing letters
 - Signing Petitions
 - Holding demonstrations





our water bc

www.ourwaterbc.ca

Scaling up: Local Issues → Root Causes



Thank you!

