

PRINCIPLES FOR THE COMMISSION AND ITS BOARDS REGARDING THE WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

The IJC, with the assistance of its Boards, will:

1. Provide independent and objective advice to the governments in keeping with its role under 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty.
2. Apply independence, impartiality, and equal participation by Canada and the United States in arriving at recommendations in the context of the watershed initiative, as they do in all aspects of the IJC's work and process.
3. Maintain a key role in monitoring transboundary water issues and will continue to undertake the activities assigned to the Commission by the governments under references.
4. Pursue partnerships and improve collaboration and information sharing to avoid duplication with other groups and will assist in preventing and resolving disputes related to transboundary water resources. These arrangements should in no way compromise the IJC's independence and impartiality.
5. Seek consensus in developing advice for resolution of transboundary issues.
6. Promote understanding and capacity-building at the watershed level to better anticipate and respond to the range of water-related and other environmental challenges.
7. Address transboundary water issues in an integrative manner, including both biophysical and human considerations.
8. Provide neutral forums in which federal, state, provincial and other interests meet to discuss issues, develop ideas, coordinate activities, and reconcile differences in the common interest of both countries.
9. Encourage bringing knowledge, experience and resources from the two countries to bear on local cross-border issues.