

# canadian water summit



A Letter from our Chair:

**Margaret Catley-Carlson, OC.**  
**Vice Chair, Canadian Water Network**

It is a great pleasure for me to write this letter of welcome to the 2015 Canadian Water Summit at the moment I leave Korea and the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (my 6<sup>th</sup>) where some 17,000 of the water community met.

The Forum's Ministers, Parliamentarians and Mayors debated and passed declarations and resolutions. Plenaries and panels presented, and – most important – everywhere one had ability to learn from the experience of others. We talked floods, infrastructure reinforcement, new energy desal water supply for islands, water footprinting, and harnessing data flow for better water management. There was a gratifying and lively presence of a lot of young people.

As is always the case, new high tech solutions and science, and next steps in SMART water management cause the greatest buzz. And as is always the case, the most sober discussion comes from sharing experience on how to raise the priority of better water management on the political agenda – at all levels, in virtually all countries. It will undoubtedly be the same in Vancouver where many of us in this so-fortunate land live with the paradox of seemingly ample water supply leading to complacency and shortage of political and investment attention.

The circular economy is much on the minds of the world – reduce, re-use, recycle resources, very much including water. As will be the case in Vancouver on June 25<sup>th</sup>, a good deal of the agenda focused on the urban water world with its promise and challenges. Since 2009, the Canadian Water Summit has provided a forum for leaders from diverse sectors to share insights on how to build a sustainable water future – I know the Vancouver meeting will continue the tradition.

When not working with groups abroad, I am proud to serve the Canada Water Network with its rich traditions of promoting collaboration between water managers and Canadian research communities dedicated to researching the issues that constitute their present and future challenges. I'm delighted that I will see CWN partners and many others at the [Canadian Water Summit](#) on June 25<sup>th</sup> - join me for this unique opportunity to be part of a critical, forward-looking discussion.

Sincerely,

**Margaret Catley-Carlson**