



Swanson Environmental Strategies



Stella Swanson, Ph.D.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Stella Swanson received her B.Sc.(Hons) in Biology from the University of Regina and her Ph.D. in Limnology at the University of Saskatchewan. She completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Radiation Ecology at the Saskatchewan Research Council.

Stella's 40-year career has included management of the Aquatic Biology Group at the Saskatchewan Research Council, and consulting positions with SENTAR Consultants (now Stantec) and Golder Associates Ltd. (where she attained the position of Principal). She has owned and operated Swanson Environmental Strategies since 2007. Stella's focus is on strategic-level services which help to achieve inclusive, credible, and practical outcomes. Stella's mission is to assist in the development of collaborative solutions to environmental problems through respectful and effective community engagement and the application of leading-edge environmental science.

Stella's experience spans work for a wide range of industries as well as federal, provincial and territorial governments, First Nations, and NGOs. She has worked on all types of ecosystems, from small saline lakes on the prairies to subarctic watersheds and marine systems off both the east and west coasts of Canada. Stella has contributed to dozens of environmental impact assessments, as well as human health and ecological risk assessments. She served as the Chair of the Joint Review Panel for the Deep Geologic Disposal of Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste, and was a member of the Royal Society Expert Panel on the impacts of crude oil spills. She led the development of the Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework which has now become part of the Province of British Columbia regional cumulative effects management suite of projects. In 2019-2020, Stella led the generation of a new monitoring design approach for the Terrestrial Biological Monitoring (TBM) program within the Oil Sands Monitoring Program. Her recent work has included providing advice regarding the regulatory requirements for specific projects and guidance in support of the requirement to demonstrate sustainability under the Impact Assessment Act. Stella was recently appointed to the Nuclear Waste Management Advisory Council, advising the Nuclear Waste Management Organization regarding siting of a high-level nuclear waste facility.