



Biographical Sketch

Stella Swanson, Ph.D., P.Biol.

Dr. Stella Swanson was born and raised on a farm near Rockglen, Saskatchewan. She 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 35-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 now owns and operates Swanson Environmental Strategies. 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. Stella's work in ecological risk assessment has included large, landscape-scale assessments such as the Bay of Fundy, the Queen Charlotte Basin, and the Columbia River and its watershed downstream of Trail, British Columbia.

Stella has maintained her connection with the research community through supervision of graduate students, participation in academic research projects and membership on review committees and advisory panels. Stella is currently the Chair of the Joint Review Panel for the Deep Geologic Disposal of Low and Intermediate Nuclear Waste. She was also a member of the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on the Behaviour and Environmental Impacts of Crude Oil Released into Aqueous Environments. The Panel released its report in November, 2015.

Stella's current focus is on strategic environmental planning, public consultation and engagement, and expert review. Stella has learned that good science is only part of the solution; "it doesn't matter how good the science is if nobody believes it".