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Mitzi Johnson

Director of Lake Champlain Programs

Mitzi Johnson joined NEIWPCC in October of 2026 and oversees activities related to NEIWPCC's Lake Champlain Programs which includes directing the Lake Champlain Basin Program funded through EPA by Section 120 of the Clean Water Act and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership funded by the National Park Service. The division also receives funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Lake Champlain Programs, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission's Lake Champlain Program. She provides overall program coordination, budget oversight, and administration. In cooperation with the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee and dedicated partners in Vermont, New York, and Quebec, her team facilitates activities that protect and improve the natural and human resources of Lake Champlain and its watershed.



Johnson leads NEIWPCC's Grand Isle, Vermont office and staff working on Lake Champlain Programs in New York and Vermont. She builds and strengthens collaborative partnerships with stakeholders and policymakers at federal, state, and local levels. She convenes partners to develop and operationalize strategic objectives, and supports the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and other committees for program implementation.

Johnson came to NEIWPCC with a distinct background in leadership consulting and two decades in public policy. A member of the Vermont House of Representatives for 18 years, she served as Speaker of the House (2017-2021), chaired the House Appropriations Committee, and was ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee. She earned a reputation for inclusive and transparent leadership, financial acumen, and collaboration, and she played key roles in water quality legislation throughout her time in the House. Johnson served as the executive director of the Adaptive Leadership Network, and the director of the Beacons of Democracy Project at the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Most recently, she has been a leadership and strategy consultant and executive coach for KS-Insight, chaired the board of directors for the Vermont Food Bank, and serves on the board of directors for the South Hero Land Trust.

Education:

Master of Public Administration, Harvard University
B.S., Environmental Science, University of Vermont