

*October 31, 2005*

## **Alberta Water Council releases first Annual Report**

*Edmonton*...Accomplishments of the Alberta Water Council's first year are described in the Council's 2004-05 Annual Report, released today. The Council's role is to advise the Provincial government on water issues and monitor progress of the Alberta's Water for Life strategy.

"The sustainability of our health, economy, and quality of life in Alberta depends on a safe and secure water supply," says Bill Berzins, a member of the Council's executive. "During its first year, the Council launched several projects that will ultimately engage both urban and rural Albertans in finding solutions to the province's water challenges."

Highlights of the Council's first year include:

- Establishing teams to recommend policy for protecting wetlands and conserving water
- Developing a water research strategy to fill important gaps in scientific, economic and social knowledge needed to support better decisions,
- Building bridges to enhance understanding and dialogue with an ever-increasing number of stakeholder groups in the province

"The Council's strength lies in our diversity of opinion, our broad base of experience and our determination to act in Albertans' long-term interests," Berzins adds. "Success for the Council will mean that Albertans feel they have the knowledge and are empowered to make wise and sustainable choices about how they use water. Although we have much to do, we are off to a very good start."

For a copy of the Alberta Water Council's Annual Report, visit [http://www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca/awc/docs/AWC\\_AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca/awc/docs/AWC_AnnualReport.pdf)

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**Media enquiries may be directed to:**

Bill Berzins

Alberta Water Council

Phone: (403) 807-2782

E-mail: [billberzins@fossilwater.ca](mailto:billberzins@fossilwater.ca)