



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Recommendations aim to improve watershed planning in Alberta

*Edmonton ...* Groups and individuals who manage Alberta's watersheds, or those affected by decisions around watershed management, need to have a voice in planning and decisions that may have an impact on water quality or quantity. Now, thanks to an Alberta Water Council report, Alberta has a course of action to help make that happen.

*Recommendations for a Watershed Management Planning Framework for Alberta*, released by the Council March 31, provides advice for a planning framework that will integrate shared governance and a watershed approach with existing policies and legislation – a key goal of Alberta's provincial water strategy, *Water for Life*. The report also identifies a number of key components of watershed management planning, and provides guidance on how stakeholders can work together under a shared governance structure to better plan and implement watershed management plans.

The report complements a previous Council report, *Strengthening Partnerships: A Shared Governance Framework for Water for Life Collaborative Partnerships*, which explains in detail how partners can work together to achieve the outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy, including through watershed management planning.

"Governments can no longer be solely responsible for managing our water supplies, especially at the local, watershed level," said Gord Edwards, Executive Director of the Alberta Water Council. "The Government of Alberta clearly recognizes the importance of involving partners in the planning process, and now, we have a road map to guide Albertans on how to work together effectively to do so."

A copy of the Council's *Watershed Management Planning Framework for Alberta* can be found at [www.awchome.ca](http://www.awchome.ca).

*Established in 2004, the Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership with 24 members from governments, industry, and non-government organizations. Its primary task is to monitor and steward implementation of Alberta's Water for Life strategy and to champion the achievement of the strategy's three outcomes of a safe, secure drinking water supply, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.*

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