

# *Appendixes*

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## *A. Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability (2003–2014)*<sup>1</sup>

In 2003, the Alberta government announced a 10-year plan to manage its water resources called “Water for Life: Alberta’s Strategy for Sustainability.” In the past, Alberta did not have a comprehensive plan for using and maintaining its water supply, and implemented water diversions and environmental programs on an ad-hoc basis. This more or less worked until the late ‘90s, when a nasty drought combined with massive economic and population growth caused water shortages throughout the province. The provincial government realized that unless it started allocating and preserving its water strategically, it would have a major social, environmental, and economic disaster on its hands.

The Strategy, when complete, will outline how Albertans plan to use and protect their water through a combination of government regulations and co-operative agreements. Water sources will be managed on a watershed basis, with each watershed managed by a planning and advisory council made up of local residents and interest groups. These councils will hash out a plan to address water issues in their region, and then hand off that plan to the province for implementation. They will also monitor the state of the watershed on a regular basis. These councils are designed to give watershed inhabitants significant say in the management of their water while keeping legal responsibility for those waters vested in the province.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from document of same name.

## **Water for Life Core Principles**

1. All Albertans must recognize there are limits to the available water supply.
2. Alberta's water resources must be managed within the capacity of individual watersheds.
3. Citizens, communities, industry and government must share responsibility for water management in Alberta, and work together to improve conditions within their local watershed.
4. Knowledge of Alberta's water supply and quality is the foundation for effective decision-making.
5. Albertans must become leaders at using water more effectively and efficiently, and will use and reuse water wisely and responsibly.
6. Alberta must preserve the "first-in-time, first-in-right" principle for granting and administering water allocations, but water allocations will be transferable to ensure societal demands and needs can be met.
7. Healthy aquatic ecosystems are vital to a high quality of life for Albertans and must be preserved.
8. Groundwater and surface water quality must be preserved in pursuing economic and community development.
9. Alberta will continue to be a leader in drinking water quality and standards to ensure Albertans have safe, secure drinking water.

## **Water for Life Objectives and Timeline**

### *1. Ensure Alberta's drinking water supply is safe and secure*

- By 2007: have comprehensive plan to protect drinking water
- By 2010: have complete knowledge of drinking water issues, and real-time access to water quality data in all communities
- By 2014: sustainable management of drinking water

### *2. Ensure Alberta's aquatic ecosystems are healthy*

- By 2007: have begun protecting ecosystems in critical areas
- By 2010: have established watershed management plans throughout province that set objectives and priorities for environmental protection
- By 2014: are allocating enough water to ecosystems so that they work properly

### *3. Ensure Alberta's economy has reliable quality water supplies for sustainable operation*

- By 2007: have implemented many water management tools, and disseminated broad understanding of value of water to economy
- By 2010: have watershed management plans that support sustainable economic development, and widespread water efficiency improvements in all sectors
- By 2014: overall efficiency and productivity of Alberta has improved 30 per cent relative to 2005.

## B. Water Allocations in the Sturgeon

Here is a breakdown of all active licensed water diversions from the Sturgeon River watershed as of March 2006, based on data obtained from Lorne Edinga of Alberta Environment.

These numbers should not be considered official, and are presented as a rough guide.

Purpose	Diverted (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	Per cent all Diversions	Consumed (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	Per cent all Consumption
Aggregate washing	1,726,890	21.28	345,380	9.13
Cooperative/farmstead	2,470	0.03	2,470	0.07
Crops, irrigated	2,408,994	29.69	2,333,764	61.69
Dewatering(A)	1,844,175	22.73	0	0.00
Flood control	20	0.00	20	0.00
Golf course	4,920	0.06	2,460	0.07
Garden(B)	329,160	4.06	329,160	8.70
Other	17,080	0.21	14,620	0.39
Parks(C)	804,170	9.91	635,210	16.79
Recreation(D)	18,740	0.23	7,710	0.20
Crops, non-irrigated	17,550	0.22	17,550	0.46
Water level stabilization(E)	639,070	7.88	120	0.00
Stockwater	191,330	2.36	94,510	2.50
Wetlands(E)	109,780	1.35	0	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,114,349</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,437,594</b>	<b>100</b>

Percentages may not equal 100 per cent due to rounding.

A: Registered to "Onoway/Washing/Lafarge Canada Inc."

B: One license registered to a sod farm

C: Four licenses registered to golf or country clubs

D: One license registered to a golf club

E: All these licenses registered to Ducks Unlimited.

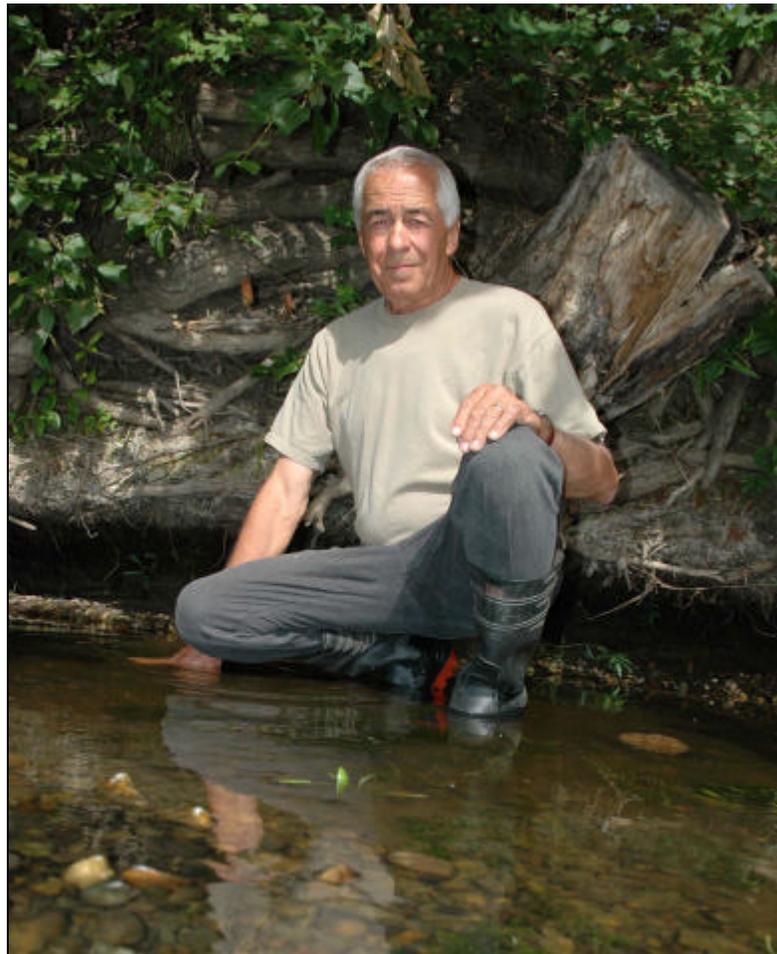
### *C. Scenes from the Sturgeon*

The Sturgeon River, as seen from the railroad tracks over it near Fort Saskatchewan.



Robert Lema stands in the Sturgeon River near his home on its banks. He says that 30 years ago, the river would have come up to his knees at the time this photo was taken.

Notice the one-foot gap between the tree roots behind him and the surface of the water.





Hoople Lake, the start of the Sturgeon River. Note the old bridge in the lower left. The Pembina River is located beyond the ridge of trees.



The Sturgeon River ends at this earthen embankment near Fort Saskatchewan, flowing through three large metal pipes. The embankment is roughly two stories tall.

Mike Hittinger of the Northwest Conservation Alliance explains how this fence protects the riparian zone of the Sturgeon River (in background).



Lafarge North America employee B.J. Vickery explains the operation of this gravel-washing machine at the Onoway Wash Plant.



Environmentalist Elke Blodgett stands by a puddle of leachate located just meters from the Sturgeon River in St. Albert.



Dave Burkhart, president of BLESS, locates one of the few healthy willow fronds planted on the banks of the Sturgeon River as part of the REEP initiative.

Roger Belley,  
parks  
co-ordinator for  
the City of St.  
Albert, canoes  
down the  
Sturgeon River  
near St. Albert  
Place.

