



#1400 - South Petroleum Plaza  
9915- 108 Street  
Edmonton, AB; T5K 2G8

September 17, 2008

The Honourable Rob Renner  
Minister of Environment  
#425 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Renner,

**RE: Recommendations for a new Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan**

In 2003, the *Water for Life* strategy identified the need for “the development of a wetland policy and supporting action plan to achieve sustainable wetlands.” The Alberta Water Council began work on this project in 2005 with the intent of recommending a comprehensive provincial wetland policy to the Government of Alberta that would supersede the 1993 interim policies *Wetland Management in the Settled Area* and *A Draft Policy for Managing Alberta’s Peatland and Non-settled Area Wetlands*. The Council formed the Wetland Policy Project Team in June of 2005 and set to work immediately.

Over the past three years, the Wetland Policy Project Team has gathered information on wetland legislation and policies, reviewed national and international approaches to wetland management, identified information gaps, and conducted two extensive public consultations. They talked at length with stakeholders to identify issues and potential solutions and in the end, developed two reports:

- 1) *Alberta Water Council Recommendations for a New Alberta Wetland Policy*, and
- 2) *Alberta Water Council Recommendations for an Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation Plan*.

Twenty-three of the Alberta Water Council’s 25 sectors fully support all of the ideas and actions recommended in the reports. Two sectors could not

support all aspects of the policy and implementation plan, but support most of the content.

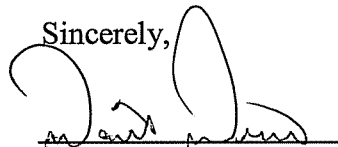
The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, representing the oil and gas sector, and the Alberta Chamber of Resources, representing the mining sector, both have some concerns about how the Council's recommended policy would be implemented. To this end, they have submitted letters to the Water Council Board outlining what parts of the documents they cannot fully support and what potential solutions would alleviate those concerns. These letters are included in this package for your consideration. It is important to note that both CAPP and ACR were involved in this project from the start and that they support the majority of ideas and actions contained in the recommended policy and implementation plan.

After receiving the letters from CAPP and ACR, Water Council Members had an opportunity to respond to the concerns and potential solutions. We received a joint letter from the Council's NGO community responding to CAPP and ACR's views. This letter is also included here for your information and consideration.

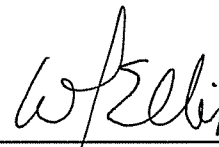
We are asking you to please consider this package of information as the Government of Alberta begins its policy process for creating a new provincial wetland policy. The challenge for the Government and all Albertans is to manage growth and economic development while safeguarding the environment, including wetlands. Ultimately, choices must be made. These documents provide the strategic direction and tools required to make wise management choices.

The Wetland Policy Project Team deserves recognition for the time, effort, and hard work they put into making this project a success. The dedication of these hard-working team members is truly impressive.

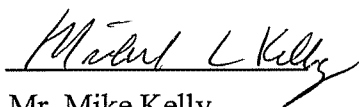
Sincerely,



Ms. Danielle Droitsch  
Vice-President



Mr. Jim Ellis  
President



Mr. Mike Kelly  
Vice-President



Mr. Rick Quail  
Vice-President