



NEWS RELEASE

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Resilient and Valid—but opportunities remain to improve the *Water for Life* strategy

Edmonton... A review report by the Alberta Water Council (AWC) highlights recent successes in provincial water management. “Despite many changes and challenges over the years, *Water for Life* remains a valid, resilient and widely-accepted framework for managing Alberta’s water resources,” says Andre Asselin, Acting Executive Director of the AWC.

Nevertheless, the review recommends 12 improvements in seven areas that could be improved. The AWC recommendations support work by the Government of Alberta, Watershed Planning and Advisory Groups, and Watershed Stewardship Groups across the province. “Population growth, economic development and climate change mean it is more important than ever to continue managing our water resources responsibly. Our quality of life depends on water, and Albertans have a responsibility to contribute to its sustainable management,” says Gordon Thompson, Technical Program Coordinator with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and a member of the review committee.

While progress has been made in areas such as partnerships and water conservation, there is still room for improvement to ensure safe, secure drinking water supplies and healthy aquatic ecosystems. Kristen Lorenz, Director of Farm Water Supply with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, notes that, “*Water for Life* does not have as high a profile as it once did; more work to promote the strategy is needed to keep governments, partners and the public engaged in water management decisions and activities.”

The report, *Review of Water for Life Implementation Progress: 2012–2015*, outlines 12 improvements for ameliorating water management under the three goals and three key directions of *Water for Life*. Specific timelines are associated with action in each area, with some recommendations calling for progress within five years, and others extending to 10 years or being implemented annually on a continuous basis.

Visit <http://awchome.ca/WhatsNew/tabid/55/Default.aspx> to access the report and <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/water-for-life/default.aspx> find more information. Follow us on twitter [@ABWaterCouncil](https://twitter.com/ABWaterCouncil) and like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ABWaterCouncil)!

The Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership that stewards the implementation of Alberta’s Water for Life strategy and provides advice on water management issues to its members, which include the Government of Alberta and provincial authorities, industries, municipalities and NGOs.

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