



# Alberta Water Council **2020** ANNUAL REPORT

# About the Water Council

The Alberta Water Council (AWC) is a collaborative partnership that provides leadership, expertise, and sector knowledge and perspectives to help governments, Indigenous Peoples, industry, and non-governmental organizations to advance the outcomes of *Water for Life*. It advises the Government of Alberta (GoA) on matters pertaining to the successful achievement of the outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy and on effective water resources management policies, practices, and tools.

Created in 2004 under Ministerial Order by Alberta's then-Minister of Environment, the AWC serves as a unique example of the concept of shared governance. It is one of three types of partnerships named under the *Water for Life* strategy; the others are Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) and Watershed Stewardship Groups (WSGs). In November 2007, the AWC was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit society under Alberta's *Societies Act*, with its own bylaws and governance structure. It operates by consensus and is guided by an executive committee.

The AWC is a valued partner in the Province's water management system. It regularly reviews implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy and champions the

achievement of the strategy's goals. The structure of the renewed *Water for Life* strategy is based on a strong relationship between three goals:

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

The AWC also provides a forum for discussion of provincial-scale water management issues and advises the GoA, key partners, and the public on effective water management practices and solutions to water issues. It submits reports and recommendations directly to its members and the public. However, the GoA remains accountable for the implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy and continues to administer water and watershed management activities throughout the province.

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) provides an annual grant to cover core operating costs, but the AWC is responsible for its own financial management. Office space and other operational support is also provided by the GoA. The audited financial statements for 2020 are available on the AWC website.

## About this Report

This is the AWC's sixteenth annual report. It summarizes activities for the calendar year 2020.

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# Executive Summary

This annual report describes the activities of the Alberta Water Council in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic radically altered our approach to convening meetings, but staff and members adapted admirably to conducting business remotely. Project activity focused on several priority areas: progressing the *Water for Life* Implementation Review, improving drought resilience in Alberta through a simulation, developing a source water protection web platform, reviewing the implementation of the Alberta Wetland Policy, and exploring expected challenges and opportunities with Alberta's water management system in the future. Project teams, ad hoc groups, working groups, and committees carried a heavy workload, balancing the need to move tasks forward with the need to use virtual approaches. A new, expedited version of the AWC's trusted process was piloted to support the work of two priority topics that were identified in June.

The Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Team (PSDW), which began its work in 2018, completed its objectives and developed and released a guide to advise drinking water providers and others on protecting their water sources through source water protection planning. The Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought in Alberta Project Team (BRMYD), which also started its work in 2018 and completed its objectives this year, developed and released a guide and workshop materials to assist WPACs as they engage municipalities and communities within their watershed to better plan for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from multi-year droughts.

The *Water for Life* Implementation Review Committee continued its work to review the strategy's implementation progress from 2016 to 2019 and made recommendations to advance the goals of the strategy. This committee also worked with a consultant to develop a suite of performance indicators for

use in future reviews. The committee assessed progress based on relevant water management policies, strategies, and other documents and collected information from the GoA, provincial authorities, industry, and non-government groups involved in implementing the strategy through electronic surveys and roundtables.

New work was launched in four areas this year. Building on the work of the BRMYD, the Council pursued a project that focuses on improving drought resilience in Alberta through a simulation(s) to assist the GoA, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and others to understand and plan for drought preparation and response, including mitigation, monitoring, decision making, and communication before, during, and after a drought. The second area built on the work of the PSDW and scoped terms of reference for a project to develop a web platform for source water protection. The third examined how a potential project team could undertake a review of the Alberta Wetland Policy implementation to date. The fourth area identified the primary future risks that may affect Alberta's water management system and assessing the readiness of the system to respond to emerging challenges and potential opportunities.

The AWC operates within its core budget, which is generously provided by Alberta Environment and Parks; audited financial statements are available on the AWC website. The AWC could not be successful without the generous in-kind contributions of time, expertise, and collaboration of its members. AWC also recognizes the valuable cash support from Alberta Innovates in support of the Improving Drought Resilience Through a Simulation Project Team. Staff and board members remain active in their outreach within Alberta and elsewhere, sharing information about the AWC, its projects, and the consensus-based process. For more information on the AWC, its publications and activities, please visit the website at [www.awchome.ca](http://www.awchome.ca).

# Board Members

The following individuals served as board members and all generously gave their time and expertise to advance the AWC's work as of December 31, 2020.

Broad Category	Director	Alternate
<b>Industry</b>		
Chemical and Petrochemical	Rob Hoffman	Greg Moffatt
Cropping		Fiona Briody
Forestry	Keith Murray*	Dan Moore
Irrigation	Margo Jarvis Redelback	Richard Phillips
Livestock		Doug Sawyer
Mining	James Guthrie	Chris Fordham
Oil and Gas	Deanna Cottrell	Tara Payment
Power Generation	Jim Hackett	Ahmed Idriss

## Non-Government Organization

Environmental	Nissa Petterson	Bob Cameron
Environmental	Jason Unger	
Environmental	Maureen Bell	
Fishery Habitat Conservation	Silvia D'Amelio	
Lake Environment Conservation	Jay White*	Steph Neufeld
Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils	Roxane Bretzlaff	Morris Nesdole
Wetland Conservation	Tracy Scott	

\*Executive member as of December 31, 2020



Broad Category	Director	Alternate
<b>Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities</b>		
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	John Conrad	Jamie Wuite
Alberta Environment and Parks	Bev Yee	Tom Davis*
Alberta Health		Merry Turtiak
Alberta Innovates	Brett Purdy	Vicki Lightbown
<b>Other Government</b>		
Large Urban	Mark Brostrom	Nancy Stalker
Métis Settlements	Darren Calliou	
Rural	Paul McLauchlin	Tom Burton
Small Urban	Tanya Thorn*	Che-Wei Chung
<b>Ex-officio</b>		
	Andre Asselin*	

\*Executive member as of December 31, 2020

The AWC gratefully acknowledges the contributions of director Roxane Bretzlaff and alternate Mike Christensen, who both stepped down in 2020.

## President's Message



Water is the heart of our environment, communities, and economy. As our population grows, we encounter new challenges and opportunities in managing our water supplies. The AWC remains an important organization to foster discussion and bring people and organizations together to tackle these issues. 2020 was a particularly challenging year for AWC as we faced a global pandemic that challenged the very foundation of how we bring people together. I am pleased at how all members of the AWC rose to challenge to continue working together for our mutual benefit.

The *Water for Life* strategy has created a solid foundation for mobilizing this important work through the AWC, WPACs, WSGs, and others since 2003. The strategy charted direction in key areas of safe, secure drinking water supply, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable, quality water

supplies for a sustainable economy. We have worked collaboratively to achieve many milestones and learned several lessons along the way, but there is still more work to do. We must look ahead and prepare for risks that may affect Alberta's water management system.

It was rewarding to see the Council pilot a new expedited process for completing projects in 2020, despite a pandemic and limited resources. The AWC's success continues to be its ability to bring together diverse groups to find consensus on important water management concerns. Some significant outcomes in 2020 include the release of the Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta guide and companion report. These documents will empower communities as they plan for these important challenges to their water resources.

I remain impressed at how passionate and committed the AWC's members and partners are with finding solutions to water management challenges and opportunities. The keen interest and participation from volunteers who have put countless hours into committees, working groups, and project teams never goes unnoticed. I look forward to another year of moving the needle of water management further with the AWC.

Bev Yee  
President

## Executive Director's Message



In 2020, the Council faced some unique challenges because it had to adapt to conducting its business remotely. Flexibility, innovation, and determination characterized our approach, and I was pleased to see our members and staff rise to this challenge by embracing new technology and meeting formats to continue our important work.

Despite being able to host only remote meetings for much of the year, member participation in our work increased, and staff continue to explore options to host meetings post-pandemic. The emergence of priority issues from discussions around the Council's table spurred us to pilot an expedited process for tackling new work while following our respected collaborative process. Through ad hoc groups, several sectors came together to flesh out a statement of opportunity before rapidly transitioning to a working group using offline board approval. This approach proved the nimbleness of the organization to act on important concerns and highlighted areas of success and areas for improvement.

This year saw several operational accomplishments featuring the public release of the Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta guide and companion report in early 2020. Staff produced, launched, and posted a how-to video on the guide as part of the release. Work progressed on the *Water for Life* Implementation Review and in areas of drought resilience, source water protection, Alberta's water future, and wetland policy implementation review.

The board paid attention to important administrative aspects by finalizing a new operational plan for 2021 and reflecting on the impacts that the pandemic has had on the organization's costs. To demonstrate accountability and transparency, the AWC continued to report on progress in implementing its recommendations and looked for more efficient ways to do so.

Our volunteer board and team members remain committed to the organization despite having to contribute remotely to our initiatives. We acknowledge this unwavering dedication and look forward to maintaining productive partnerships as we strive to advance Alberta's water management agenda. Your deep support of the Council remains a cornerstone to our continued success, and I thank you sincerely. I am especially grateful to the executive committee and staff for their support and expertise during these unprecedented times, and I look forward to another productive year ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andre Asselin". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Executive Director  
Andre Asselin

## Our Team

as of December 31, 2020

### Executive Director

Andre Asselin

### Operations Manager

Anuja Hoddinott

### Project Managers:

Katie Duffett

Lauren Hall

Alec Carrigy

Petra Rowell

Scott Millar

### Accounting

Sunny Yeung

The AWC acknowledges the good work of Communications Adviser Cara McInnis, who left the AWC in March to return to Nova Scotia. She had been with the Council since July 2017.

## In Memoriam

Sadly, two very important team members were taken from us unexpectedly this year:

### Kim Sanderson

Kim supported the early days of the AWC and went on to assist with our communications, technical writing, governance, and policy work; she also recorded minutes for the executive committee, board, and various projects teams for more than 15 years. Kim died in October. She was a close adviser to both the executive director and our staff.

### Christa Edwards

Board and Office Administrator Christa Edwards died in May. Christa was a valued member of our team, always bringing a positive disposition and a smile to our world. She kept us organized, and her graphic design skills supported all aspects of our communications work.

Both Christa and Kim are sorely missed.

# Committee, Ad Hoc Group, Working Group, and Project Team Members

The following individuals contributed their time and expertise to AWC committees, ad hoc groups, working groups, and project teams in 2020, and the AWC gratefully acknowledges their commitment and support. The AWC also thanks the many other individuals from various partner groups who reviewed documents, responded to surveys, and volunteered their time in support of our activities.

Achyut Adhikari  
Adam Norris  
Alain Richard  
Ana Potzkai  
Arshad Ali  
Brett Purdy  
Brian Brewin  
Brian Deheer  
Brian Free  
Catriona White  
Chad Willms  
Chandra Tomaras  
Cheri Funke  
Che-Wei Chung  
Chris Gallagher  
Craig Harding  
Dan Moore  
Dan Rites  
Danielle Koleyak  
Daryl McEwan  
Dave Trew  
Deanna Cottrell  
Dewly Nelson  
Doug Kaupp  
Fiona Briody  
Greg Hale  
Greg Moffatt  
Harpreet Sandhu  
Helge Nome

Jaclyn Roulston  
James Guthrie  
Jason Schneider  
Jason Unger  
Jen Pouliotte  
Jenna Curtis  
Jennifer Nitschelm  
Jeremy Reid  
Joey Hurley  
John Collins  
John Taggart  
Josée Méthot  
Judy Stewart  
Julie Self  
Karen Young  
Kaylyn Buffalo  
Keith Murray  
Keziah Lesko-Gosselin  
Kristen Lorenz  
Kyle Swystun  
Latiya Northwest  
Lora Brenan  
Lori Neufeld  
Margo Jarvis Redelback  
Mario Swampy  
Martina Krieger  
Maureen Bell  
Meghan Payne  
Morna Hussey

Morris Nesdole  
Nancy Stalker  
Nissa Petterson  
Pamela Duncan  
Pat Currie  
Patrick Marriott  
Paul McLauchlin  
Phil Boehme  
Rawnald Axelson  
Rob Harris  
Ron Zurawell  
Rosey Radmanovich  
Roxane Bretzlaff  
Sarah Skinner  
Sharlene Browne  
Shelley Woods  
Steph Neufeld  
Steve Wallace  
Susanna Bruneau  
Tanya Thorn  
Tara Payment  
Thortsen Hebben  
Tim Romanow  
Tom Davis  
Tracy Scott  
Wendy Giamberardino  
Zahidul Islam

# AWC Activities and Progress in 2020

Each of the three areas of core business in the AWC's 2019–2021 Business Plan has a specific goal and several strategies to achieve the goal. Activities in 2020 supported progress in all three core business areas, as the chart below illustrates. The areas of AWC activity for 2020 are described in more detail later in this report. A report on performance measures appears in the next section.

Core Business	Goal	Performance Measure	Areas of Activity in 2020
1. Advance the outcomes of <i>Water for Life</i>	1. Review and provide advice on the implementation of the <i>Water for Life</i> strategy	1a) Percentage of the AWC members contributing to the <i>Water for Life</i> Implementation Review report, which is due 18 months after the period under review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Water for Life</i> Implementation Review Committee</li> </ul>
2. Provide advice that informs policy or actions	2. The AWC's policy recommendations, advice, and tools are based on a multi-stakeholder perspective, and are responsive to water resources challenges and opportunities	2a) Percentage of projects completed in the timeline prescribed in the approved project terms of reference.  2b) Percentage of issues identified by AWC project teams addressed with consensus recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought in Alberta</li> <li>■ Improving Resilience to Drought in Alberta Through a Simulation</li> <li>■ Source Water Protection Web Platform</li> <li>■ Wetland Policy Implementation Review</li> <li>■ Future of Water Management in Alberta</li> </ul>
3. Provide a forum to discuss water perspectives	3. AWC has an effective process for sectors to discuss and resolve water management issues	3a) Percentage of directors satisfied that the AWC's processes gives them an opportunity to discuss water resources management challenges and opportunities  3b) Percentage of identified process gaps being appropriately addressed within six months of coming to the AWC's attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Targeted discussion to identify emerging priorities and new work</li> <li>■ Communications</li> </ul>

The board continued to track annual progress in implementing its recommendations and looked for new ways to improve how recommendations are tracked. AWC staff intend to facilitate more meaningful updates on the implementation status of recommendations by delivering informative presentations. A progress update using the new system will be prepared for the board in 2021.

# Evaluating and Measuring Performance

The AWC fully supports the tenet “what gets measured gets done.” Performance measures, which demonstrate to AWC, its collaborators, and the public that its three goals are being achieved, are an essential part of the AWC’s three-year business plan. The executive committee is responsible for evaluating and reporting on the AWC’s performance each year on behalf of the board. This is the eighth year that the AWC is reporting on its performance in its annual report.

## Setting Priorities

The 2019–2021 Business Plan identifies goals, strategies, and performance measures to guide the AWC as it strives to achieve its mandate.

## Performance Measures

The AWC has five performance measures, one for the first goal and two each for goals two and three.

### GOAL 1: Review and provide advice on the implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy.

**Performance Measure 1a:** Percentage of the AWC members contributing to the *Water for Life* Implementation Review report, which is due 18 months after the period under review.

**Target:** 90%

**Results:** The current review covers the period from 2016 to 2019 and the report will be released in 2021. This performance measure will be evaluated in the 2021 annual report.



**GOAL 2:**

The AWC's policy recommendations, advice, and tools are based on a multi-stakeholder perspective and are responsive to water resources challenges and opportunities.

**Performance Measure 2a:** Percentage of projects completed in the timeline prescribed in the approved project terms of reference

**Target:** 100%

**Results:** The target of 100% was met.

**Performance Measure 2b:** Percentage of issues identified by the AWC project teams addressed with consensus recommendations.

**Target:** 85%

**Results:** No Council reports were put forward with recommendations. Instead, the Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought in Alberta and Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta Project Teams produced a guide and supporting materials to assist municipalities and their communities plan for these water management challenges. Both projects had consensus support of the project team and the board.

**GOAL 3:**

The AWC has an effective process for participants to discuss water resources management challenges and opportunities.

**Performance Measure 3a:** Percentage of directors satisfied that the AWC's processes give them an opportunity to discuss water resources management challenges and opportunities.

**Target:** 85%

**Results:** The target for this performance measure was met and surpassed with 100% of directors who responded to the poll expressing their satisfaction that the AWC's processes provide them an opportunity to discuss water resource management challenges and opportunities.

**Performance Measure 3b:** Percentage of identified process gaps being appropriately addressed within six months of coming to the AWC's attention.

**Target:** 100%

**Results:** The AWC reviews its process guidelines on a three-year cycle. The next review will occur in 2021. The previous review in 2018 revealed no significant process gaps, and no other process gaps have been identified since then.

# Committees, Ad Hoc Groups, Working Groups, and Project Teams

Committees, ad hoc groups, working groups, and project teams are where much of AWC's substantive work is done. Like the AWC, these collaborative, multi-sector bodies make decisions by consensus.

**Committees** are typically formed to deal with administrative matters and often carry on their work from year to year. Occasionally, a committee is formed for a specific activity.

**Working groups** are formed when the AWC decides that more detailed work is needed in an area. The main purpose of a working group is to scope the issue and recommend how it could be addressed. This usually involves preparing terms of reference for a project team.

**Project teams** are established to investigate water issues thoroughly and come back to the board with a report and recommendations. Terms of reference for each team are available on the AWC's website.

**Ad hoc groups** were introduced to the AWC's process as a pilot in late 2019. These multi-stakeholder groups are formed to explore potential work ideas and identify opportunities for statements of opportunity using a collaborative approach to increase buy-in for future work.

This section briefly describes the accomplishments of each ad hoc group, committee, working group, and project team.

Reports from AWC teams are available online at [www.awchome.ca](http://www.awchome.ca).



## Committees

### Executive Committee

The AWC is guided by a five-person executive committee, which includes a member from each of the four sector groups and the executive director who serves as the secretary-treasurer. The executive committee provides financial and statutory oversight on behalf of the board; drafts administrative and governance documents; sets the agenda for each board meeting; and responds to issues that arise between meetings, giving guidance to staff or handling the matter directly, as appropriate. Executive members monitor the board's effectiveness and adherence to AWC policies and procedures. Along with board directors, they communicate with the media when required. As well, the executive committee leads communications, strategic, and business planning activities.

The executive committee had another busy year in 2020. The 2021 Operational Plan,

which sets the direction for the AWC's work in the upcoming year, was finalized. In light of the pandemic, the committee led a discussion with board members to affirm the organization's priorities and where resources should be focused. Members saw value in continuing all of the AWC's existing projects, and new project ideas were proposed. They also provided feedback and support for a pilot expedited process for AWC teams.

Board meetings transitioned to half-day, virtual meetings focusing on administrative items and team updates because of the pandemic and the ensuing public health restrictions. These virtual meetings provided board members an opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and propose new ideas on water management challenges and opportunities in Alberta.

### Water for Life Implementation Review Committee

One of the AWC's primary tasks is to steward implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy. This stewardship is done through the *Water for Life* Implementation Review Committee, which convenes every few years to review implementation progress and provide high-level directional advice. The multi-stakeholder committee focuses on existing and emerging water issues in the province and the effectiveness of the strategy in addressing them.

The AWC's sixth review commenced in 2019 and covers implementation progress from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. Through an electronic survey, roundtable sessions, and some interviews, the committee reviewed a range of relevant documents and collected information from the GoA, provincial authorities, industry,

and non-government groups involved in implementing the strategy.

Committee members worked with a consultant to develop a suite of performance indicators to determine the progress that has been made toward advancing outcomes for the key directions and goals outlined in the *Water for Life* strategy. The committee also revised the AWC's how-to guide to incorporate new engagement techniques that were employed in this review process. An extensive sector engagement process with Council members provided valuable feedback for the committee to consider.

This review is expected to be completed in 2021.

## Ad Hoc Groups, Working Groups, and Project Teams

### Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought in Alberta Project Team

This team was established in March 2018 to produce a guide and workshop materials to assist WPACs as they engage municipalities and communities in their watershed to better plan for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from multi-year droughts. This work is expected to raise awareness about the triggers and risks associated with multi-year drought, provide resources to inform decision makers about drought response and recovery in Alberta, and improve access to relevant tools and resources.

In 2020, the team incorporated feedback from a pilot workshop hosted by the Battle River Watershed Alliance in December 2019 to finalize the project's deliverables. Participants provided feedback on the

workshop delivery, the draft guide, and the supporting materials.

The guide includes lessons learned from previous droughts, the expected impacts of climate change in relation to drought, drought management information and resources from Alberta, key learnings from sector and stakeholder interviews, and drought case studies from other jurisdictions. An associated draft companion report outlines the project's methodology and recommendations for performance evaluation.

The final guide and its supporting materials were approved by the AWC board in June 2020.

### Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team

In February 2020, the AWC created the Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team. This team will facilitate a simulation(s) to assist the GoA, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other groups how to understand and plan for drought preparation and response, including mitigation, monitoring, decision making, and communication before, during, and after a drought.

Drought is a natural, recurrent phenomenon in Alberta that has environmental, economic, and social impacts. These impacts are often difficult to anticipate and strategize for when we are not experiencing drought. Simulation exercises provide an opportunity to work through one or multiples scenarios that closely mimic real-life acute and chronic drought events and can be a powerful

tool to test management structures and communication strategies.

In 2020, the project team retained a consultant to compile existing information on drought management resources, roles and responsibilities, regulations, metrics, thresholds, indicators, and responses in Alberta and other jurisdictions. The consultant also identified necessary models and decision support tools and review simulation methodology options. With these findings, the team began scoping various drought scenarios.

The project is anticipated to be completed in June 2022.

## Source Water Protection Web Platform Working Group

In response to a statement of opportunity from the GoA in June, the board established a working group to explore another potential project on source water protection. The aim is to develop and deliver a suite of practical tools and resources to assist drinking water providers and local decision makers in Alberta to understand, assess, and mitigate risks to their drinking water sources. The

final product is expected to be a centralized web platform including information on 1) delineation of source water areas, 2) available data and information on training on risk assessment, and 3) training to assess source water risks. The working group met several times in 2020 and will present draft terms of reference (ToR) in 2021.

## Wetland Policy Implementation Review Ad Hoc Group

In June 2020, board members proposed that the Council review the implementation progress of Alberta's Wetland Policy. As a statement of opportunity for this project idea had not been submitted to the AWC previously and there was an urgent desire to move this work forward, the board established an ad hoc group to explore this idea further. This was an opportune time for staff and members to pilot a new, expedited process when taking on new work.

The ad hoc group quickly determined that there were project ideas that warranted further investigation. Using offline board

approval, this group quickly transitioned into an official working group before carrying out a brief call for members. The group swiftly developed draft ToR for a potential project team to execute. The ToR were approved by the board in November 2020. The proposed work aims to identify potential policy outcome-level performance measures and describe the challenges, opportunities, or unintended consequences in the implementation of the Alberta Wetland Policy.

This project is anticipated to wrap up in 2021.

## Future of Alberta's Water Management Ad Hoc Group

In June 2020, board members discussed the importance of examining the future of water management in the province and potential risks that the system will be challenged with. A statement of opportunity for this work was not submitted to Council; however, there was an imperative need to advance this work. The board established an ad hoc group to investigate this idea further, which presented staff and members an opportunity to pilot an expedited process when taking on new work.

The ad hoc group quickly determined that there were project ideas that warranted

further investigation. Using offline board approval, this group quickly transitioned into an official working group before carrying out a brief call for members. The group swiftly developed draft ToR for a potential project team to execute. The ToR was approved by the board in November 2020. The proposed work seeks to pinpoint the top future risks that may affect Alberta's water management system in the next 10 years and then assess the readiness of the system to respond to those risks.

This project is anticipated to wrap up in 2021.

## In-Kind Contributions

In-kind support is a cornerstone of the AWC's ability to address complex water management issues and is extremely valuable in helping the AWC to complete its work. Industry, government, and non-government organizations have all provided such support, largely through the participation of their staff. Several organizations have also hosted meetings and other events. The AWC has tried to assign a dollar value to this support by examining time and travel costs and other contributions but can confidently say that the true value of these contributions is both under-recorded and underestimated.

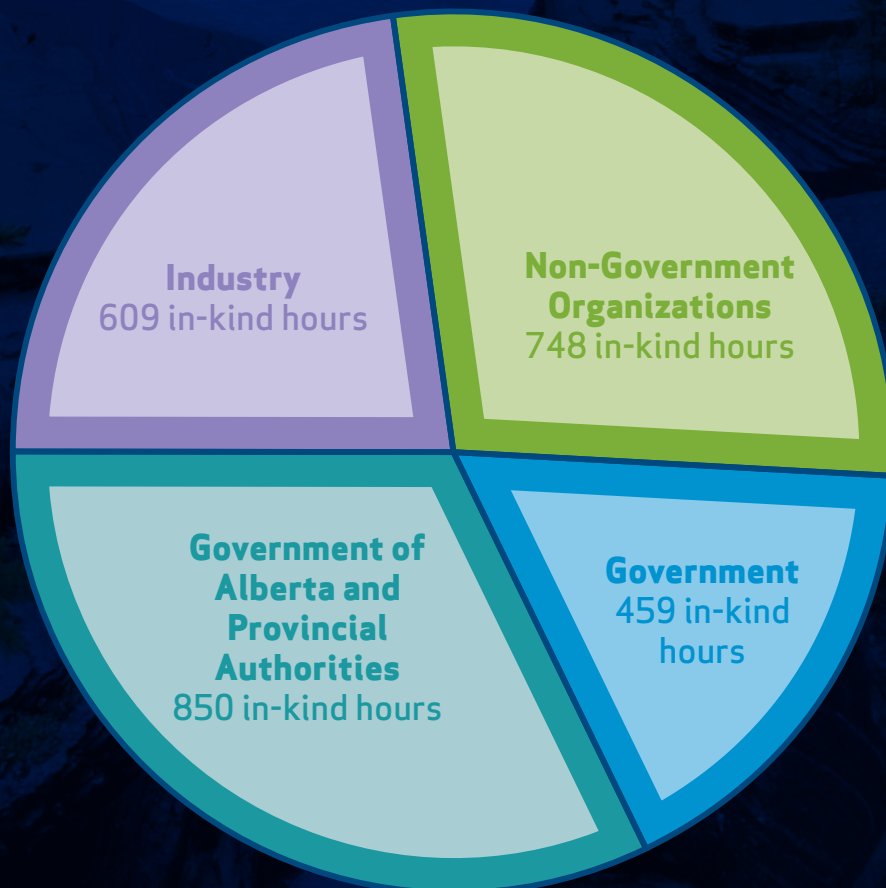
The total in-kind contributions of time for 2020 amounted to 2,666 hours, which

represents approximately \$167,292 in donated time. The chart below shows in-kind cash equivalent contributions from the four broad stakeholder categories. In addition, the GoA provided office space to the AWC in 2020.

The AWC gratefully acknowledges AEP for providing a generous grant that covers core operating expenses. The AWC also acknowledges the grant from Alberta Innovates toward the Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation Project Team's work.

The AWC is thankful for all the generous contributions from its stakeholders.

### Alberta Water Council In-Kind Contributions



# Organizations

The following organizations supported the AWC through their generous in-kind contributions in 2020. These commitments have been instrumental in helping the AWC undertake its work and are deeply appreciated. The AWC also values the contributions from the many organizations that have been engaged behind the scenes and are too numerous to track.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	Crop Sector Working Group
Alberta Beef Producers	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Alberta Chamber of Resources	Environmental Law Centre
Alberta Conservation Association	First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group
Alberta Energy Regulator	Fish Habitat Conservation Collective
Alberta Environment and Parks	Heartland Generation
Alberta Environmental Network	Imperial Oil Limited
Alberta Forest Products Association	Intensive Livestock Working Group
Alberta Health	Keepers of the Athabasca
Alberta Innovates	Lakeland Industry and Community Association
Alberta Irrigation Districts Association	Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
Alberta Lake Management Society	Milk River Watershed Council Canada
Alberta Newsprint Company	North American Waterfowl Management Plan
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association	Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Alberta Wilderness Association	Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Athabasca Watershed Council	Shell Canada
Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd.	Suncor Energy
Battle River Watershed Alliance	Taber Irrigation District
Bow River Irrigation District	Town of Black Diamond
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	Town of Hinton
Canadian Fuels Association	Town of Sundre
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Town of Taber
Capital Power	TransAlta Corporation
Chemical Industry Association of Canada	Trout Unlimited Canada
Chevron Canada Resources	Water Conservation Trust of Canada
City of Calgary	
City of Edmonton	

## Other Resources

The AWC's reports and fact sheets can be obtained from our website or by request to staff. Other agencies and organizations have published materials that have been useful to the AWC and may be of interest to readers. Some of these are noted below.

### AWC Documents

The following documents are available on the AWC website at [www.awchome.ca](http://www.awchome.ca):

- Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta: Guide to Source Water Protection Planning (2020)
- Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta: Companion Report (2020)
- Looking Back: Evaluating Sector Improvements in Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (2017)
- Recommendations to Improve Lake Watershed Management in Alberta (2017)
- Recommendations to Improve Water Literacy in Alberta (2016)
- Recommendations to Improve Aquatic Invasive Species Management in Alberta (2016)
- Riparian Land Conservation and Management (2014)
- 2014–2016 Business Plan (2014)
- Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (2013)
- Recommendations to Improve Non-Point Source Pollution Management in Alberta (2013)
- Moving from Words to Actions – Recommendations to improve communication, coordination and collaboration between and among *Water for Life* partnerships (2011)
- Consensus Decision-Making Toolkit (2010), published with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance
- Provincial Ecological Criteria for Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems: Recommendations from the Alberta Water Council (2009)
- Recommended Projects to Advance the Goal of Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems (2009)
- Recommendations for Improving Alberta's Water Allocation Transfer System (2009)
- Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems – A Working Definition (2008)
- *Water for Life*, Recommendations for Renewal (2008)
- Intra-Basin Water Movement: Major Principles and Recommendations (2008)
- Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning (2008)
- Strengthening Partnerships: A Shared Governance Framework for *Water for Life* Collaborative Partnership (2008)
- Recommendations for a New Alberta Wetland Policy (2008)
- Recommendations for an Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation Plan (2008)
- Recommendations for a Watershed Management Planning Framework for Alberta (2008)
- Intra-Basin Water Movement Inter-Jurisdictional Research Report (2008)
- Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity: Principles, Definitions, Performance Measures and Environmental Indicators (2007)
- Water Policy Issues and Gaps (2007)
- Review of Implementation Progress of *Water for Life*, 2012–2015 (2017)
- Review of Implementation Progress of *Water for Life*, 2009–2011 (2011)
- Review of Implementation Progress of *Water for Life*, 2006–2008 (2009)
- Review of Implementation Progress of *Water for Life*, 2005–2006 (2007)

## Annual Reports

AWC annual reports from 2004 to 2020 are available on the website.

## AWC Videos

AWC videos are available at <https://www.awchome.ca/publications/videos/>

- Guide to Source Water Protection Planning in Alberta: How to Video (2020)
- AWC Process (2018)
- AWC 101 (2018)
- Source Water Protection in Alberta (2018)
- Droughts in Alberta (2018)
- Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (2017)
- *Water for Life* Implementation Review (2017)
- Lakes in Alberta (2016)
- Water Literacy (2014)
- Aquatic Invasive Species (2013)
- Water Use Reporting (2010)

## Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Sector Plans

Alberta's seven major water-using sectors have prepared CEP plans. These plans were voluntarily prepared and subsequently adopted by their respective sector organizations. In accordance with the AWC's Framework for sector plan development, the completed CEP plans were presented

to the AWC for information only, not for approval or endorsement. The original plans and progress reports are available on the AWC's website at <https://www.awchome.ca/projects/water-conservation-efficiency-productivity-1/>.

## Other Resources

### *Water for Life* Strategy and Related Documents

A number of documents related to the *Water for Life* strategy are available online at <https://www.alberta.ca/water-for-life-strategy.aspx>

## Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils

- Athabasca Watershed Council [www.awc-wpac.ca](http://www.awc-wpac.ca)
- Battle River Watershed Alliance [www.battleriverwatershed.ca](http://www.battleriverwatershed.ca)
- Bow River Basin Council [www.brbc.ab.ca](http://www.brbc.ab.ca)
- Lakeland Industry & Community Association <https://lica.ca>
- Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council [www.lswc.ca](http://www.lswc.ca)
- Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance [www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org](http://www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org)
- Milk River Watershed Council Canada <http://www.mrwcc.ca>
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance [www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca)
- Oldman Watershed Council <http://oldmanwatershed.ca>
- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance [www.rdrwa.ca](http://www.rdrwa.ca)
- South East Alberta Watershed Alliance [www.seawa.ca](http://www.seawa.ca)

## Other Alberta Resources and Websites

- Alberta Stewardship Network [www.landstewardship.org/ASN](http://www.landstewardship.org/ASN)
- Alberta Innovates <https://albertainnovates.ca>
- WaterSMART Solutions <https://watersmartsolutions.ca>



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