



Alberta Water Council Business Plan **2019–2021**





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Introduction

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 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.

Since its establishment as a not-for-profit society in 2007, the AWC has developed and followed multi-year business plans to guide its work in providing advice on subjects of provincial significance and on topics that affect multiple sectors across Alberta's watersheds. In that time, the AWC has released more than 25 major reports with information, advice, and recommendations directed to its members and other participants who are involved in managing Alberta's water resources. The advice of the AWC generally has the consensus support of all members and is consistently welcomed and considered in informing water resources policy and management.

The previous business plan covered 2014–2018, during which time the AWC completed several challenging projects in diverse areas. A water reuse symposium was held in 2014 and the fifth review of progress in implementing the *Water for Life* strategy was released in 2017; these reviews are a unique hallmark of the AWC. Further, the AWC completed project work on the topics of:

- managing aquatic invasive species
- improving water literacy
- evaluating water conservation, efficiency, and productivity improvements by Alberta's seven major water-using sectors
- lake watershed management

The advice that stemmed from each of these projects addressed a need identified in *Water for Life* or an emerging issue that benefitted from the AWC's inclusive and collaborative approach. Additional details on these projects may be found on the AWC website www.awchome.ca.



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Looking Ahead

At a workshop designed to inform this document, the AWC heard that its work is valued, that *Water for Life* remains the Province's water management policy, and that the AWC should continue to play a significant role in achieving *Water for Life* outcomes. The AWC's work directly supports the stated outcomes of the *Water for Life* strategy and its approach enables it to effectively anticipate and respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Workshop participants noted a wide range of challenges that lie ahead, among them continued population and economic growth, evolving relationships with Indigenous Peoples, climate change, and ongoing questions related to natural resources jurisdiction; all of which have a water component. Participants stressed the need for the AWC to remain cognizant of and attentive to strategic opportunities to meet those challenges; for example, finding ways to collaborate and align with other initiatives such as the Land-use Framework and its associated regional planning processes where appropriate. Its collaborative process gives the AWC a particular strength in identifying and helping to fill gaps in policy, knowledge, and information. This valuable role will become even more important to decision makers as they wrestle with increasingly complex resource issues and potential trade-offs.

Looking ahead, two new projects will carry on into 2019. One will support the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils in working with municipalities to improve resiliency to multi-year droughts; the other is focused on ways to protect sources of drinking water for Albertans.

This Business Plan covers 2019–2021. It is predicated on the AWC's demonstrated and ongoing ability to leverage substantial contributions of time, knowledge, experience, and money from its diverse and committed participants who collaborate to provide policy recommendations, tools, and advice regarding Alberta's water resources. With its existing structure and proven track record, the AWC is ideally positioned to tackle difficult issues as they relate to water and to propose solutions that meet Albertans' needs.



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Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

Albertans work together to ensure our water resources are safe, secure, and healthy for current and future generations.

Mission

The AWC is a collaborative partnership that provides leadership, expertise, and sector knowledge to help governments, Indigenous Peoples, industry, and non-governmental organizations to advance the outcomes of *Water for Life*.

Values

The AWC is characterized and guided by the following attributes:

- **Collaborative** Works to build consensus by listening and seeking to understand diverse ideas and perspectives
- **Fair** Makes decisions without favouritism or prejudice
- **Innovative** Brings together diverse expertise and experience to develop creative solutions to water resources issues
- **Respectful** Shows respect to all participants
- **Responsive** Acts on core business water resources issues in relevant timeframes
- **Transparent** Is open and accessible, with established processes to share information about its activities
- **Trustworthy** Strives to be a respected advisory body through the application of its multi-stakeholder, consensus building process



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Core Businesses

Core businesses reflect the ongoing key responsibilities that an organization must do well to support its mission. The core businesses of the AWC are to:

1. Advance the outcomes of *Water for Life*
2. Provide advice that informs policy or actions
3. Provide a forum to discuss water perspectives

Goals, Strategies, Performance Measures, and Targets

Core Business 1: Advance the outcomes of *Water for Life*

Goal One

Review and provide advice on the implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy

Strategies

1. Identify and develop metrics for advancing *Water for Life* goals
2. Identify gaps in implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy
3. Prioritize actions and identify roles and responsibilities for achieving the outcomes of *Water for Life*

Performance Measure

- 1.a) 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%



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Goals, Strategies, Performance Measures, and Targets continued

Core Business 2: Provide advice that informs policy or actions

Goal Two

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

Strategies

1. Inform policy recommendations, tools, and advice through broad knowledge focused on risk, evidence, and traditional knowledge
2. Develop priorities and suggest actions to appropriate the AWC members to align with their needs
3. Work towards consensus and capture diverse perspectives
4. Engage implementers early to increase the effectiveness of policy recommendations, advice, and tools

Performance Measures

- 2.a) Percentage of projects completed in the timeline prescribed in the approved project terms of reference
Target: 100%
- 2.b) Percentage of issues identified by the AWC project teams addressed with consensus recommendations
Target: 85%



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Goals, Strategies, Performance Measures, and Targets continued

Core Business 3: Provide a forum to discuss perspectives on water

Goal Three

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

Strategies

1. Provide opportunities for participants to identify and discuss important or emerging water resource challenges
2. Document and communicate the participants' points of view
3. Seek opportunities to coordinate efforts with *Water for Life* partnerships and other groups

Performance Measures

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

Target: 85%

- 3.b) Percentage of identified process gaps being appropriately addressed within six months of coming to the AWC's attention

Target: 100%



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