

The banner features a background of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of purple, magenta, and red. On the left side, the word "Alberta" is written vertically in a white, cursive font. In the center, the words "Public Lands Act" are displayed in a large, bold, white sans-serif font.

Alberta Public Lands Act

The *Public Lands Act* first came into effect 60 years ago and has been updated periodically since then. The Act governs the approximately 60 per cent of Alberta that qualifies as public land in Alberta, including most of the beds and shores of all naturally-occurring lakes, rivers and streams. This is land that is not privately owned, not held by the federal government as national park, First Nations reserve, or by the Department of National Defence, and it isn't used for provincial infrastructure or provincial parks.

The purpose of the *Public Lands Act* and its regulations is to regulate public land allocations, the sale or transfer of public land to other levels of government or private entities, and the uses of public land. These uses of public lands include recreational use, commercial use and industrial use.

Standards and Guidelines

The *Public Lands Act* allows Alberta Environment and Parks to develop regulations, standards, codes, and objectives to protect Alberta's natural resources.

Compliance Assurance

Alberta Environment and Parks uses a balance of education, prevention and enforcement to ensure compliance with the *Public Lands Act*.

Regular inspections and monitoring ensure activities comply with standards, codes, objectives, guidelines and conditions set out in regulations and dispositions during and after operation.

Every suspected violation that comes to the attention of our department is assessed and responded to in an appropriate and timely manner.

Various education, prevention and enforcement tools are available under the Act, including administrative penalties, enforcement orders, seizures, stop orders, suspending or cancelling dispositions and prosecutions.

Public Lands Appeal Board

The Public Lands Appeal Board (PLAB) is a body consisting of members appointed by the department's

minister. The board hears appeals of certain decisions made under the *Public Lands Act* having to do with dispositions and other public land issues.

Land Compensation Board

Alberta Environment and Parks may cancel a lease or withdraw a portion of the land from a lease. The lessee may apply to the Land Compensation Board (LCB) if they do not agree with the amount of compensation offered. The LCB is a quasi-judicial board established to hear appeals of certain department decisions made under the *Public Lands Act*.

For more information on the LCB, visit:

- landcompensation.gov.ab.ca

Surface Rights Board

The Surface Rights Board is a tribunal that assists landowners/occupants and operators resolve disputes about surface access and compensation when operators requires access to private land or occupied Crown land to develop subsurface resources such as oil, gas, and coal or to build and operate pipelines and power transmission lines.

The board has authority to grant rights of entry and to assist landowners and operators resolve disputes about: rights of entry and related compensation, compensation review, damages, recovery of rentals, and review of its past decisions. It reports to the Minister of Environment and Parks, but it operates independently and can generally set its own procedural rules.

To learn more about the board, visit:

- surfacerights.alberta.ca

For More Information

For more information on the *Public Lands Act*, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

- aep.alberta