



The *Water Act* came into effect on January 1, 1999, replacing the *Water Resources Act*. The purpose of the *Water Act* is to “support and promote the conservation and management of water, including the wise allocation and use of water, while recognizing:

- the need to manage and conserve water resources to sustain our environment and to ensure a healthy environment and high quality of life in the present and the future;
- the need for Alberta's economic growth and prosperity;
- the need for an integrated approach and comprehensive, flexible administration and management systems based on sound planning, regulatory actions and market forces;
- the shared responsibility of all residents of Alberta for the conservation and wise use of water and their role in providing advice with respect to water management planning and decision-making;
- the importance of working co-operatively with the governments of other jurisdictions with respect to trans-boundary water management; and
- the important role of comprehensive and responsive action in administering this Act.”

The Act is Alberta’s primary legislation for regulating water diversions, allocations and all activities that may affect the flow of surface and ground water and the health of watersheds.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

The *Water Act* allows Alberta Environment and Parks to develop regulations, standards, codes, and objectives to protect Alberta’s water.

### **Involving Albertans**

A cornerstone of the Act is public involvement in decisions affecting the province’s water resources.

Public involvement includes participation in the development of water management plans and the review of licence renewals and the proposed transfer of allocation of water under a licence. The public also has the right to appeal certain Alberta Environment and Parks decisions to the Environmental Appeals Board.

### **Compliance Assurance**

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

Regular inspections and monitoring ensure activities comply with standards and conditions set out in regulations, approvals, licences and codes of practice 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, water management orders and prosecutions.

### **Environmental Appeals Board**

The Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) is an independent tribunal established to hear appeals of certain Alberta Environment and Parks decisions made under the *Water Act*.

For more information on the EAB, visit:

- [eab.gov.ab.ca](http://eab.gov.ab.ca)

### **For More Information**

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

- [aep.alberta](http://aep.alberta)