

Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition



P.O. Box # 442
Bragg Creek, Alberta T0L 0K0
Email : ericlloyd@xplornet.com
Phone: 403-949-2696

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Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier
Government of Alberta
#307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6

Fax: (780) 427-1349

Dear Mr. Stelmach,

Re: Protection of Water in Alberta

Given the recent media attention to degraded river water quality in Alberta, I am writing to recommend that the Alberta Government immediately take the following province wide steps to protect water in Alberta:

1. Upgrade all necessary provincial policy, regulations and standards to ensure that water quality in Alberta is not negatively impacted by inappropriate development or activities in riparian areas and on floodplains, flood fringes and alluvial aquifers of rivers, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies.
2. Upgrade and restructure the Alberta Water for Life (W4L) Strategy to ensure that the W4L objectives are met.
3. Provide the funding and human resources needed to succeed with W4L and to complete priority projects to reverse the long-term trend of water quality degradation that is occurring in Alberta's rivers and lakes.

For the Elbow Watershed, I recommend that the Alberta Government take the following steps:

1. Provide the necessary funding to eliminate the contamination of groundwater and the Elbow River caused by septic systems on the alluvial aquifer in the Hamlet of Bragg Creek.
2. Ensure that livestock are not permitted to graze on riparian lands or on the alluvial aquifer of the Elbow River or it's tributaries in Kananaskis Country and on private lands in the watershed.
3. Ensure that no new development is permitted on riparian lands or the alluvial aquifer of the Elbow River or it's tributaries.
4. Ensure no clear-cut logging occurs in the Elbow Watershed that could degrade water quality or negatively alter the flow regime.
5. Ensure that any point source nutrient contamination entering the Elbow watershed from aquaculture operations is eliminated.

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6. Provide the necessary funding for storm water system upgrades required in the watershed.
7. Ensure that no vehicles of any kind (including ATV's in McLean Creek) are allowed to operate on riparian lands or the alluvial aquifer of the Elbow River or it's tributaries.

I would be pleased to meet with the appropriate representatives from the Alberta Government at the earliest opportunity to discuss this matter and the constructive feedback contained in this letter.

Should you require additional information, please refer to the weblinks at the end of this letter or contact me at (403) 949-2696 or ericlloyd@explornet.com.

I believe that the recent reporting on water quality degradation in Alberta is an opportunity for your government to take advantage of and that any action you take to protect our water for our grand children and future generations will be favourably regarded by Albertans.

Sincerely,

Eric Lloyd, BCEC

Cc: BCEC Executive, Bill Berzins, Gloria Wilkinson, David Swann, ERWP Executive, Peter Watson, Kim Sturgess, Danielle Droitsch, Mark Bennett, Cathy Ryan, Roy Crowther, Paul Fesko, Al Sosiak, Judy Stewart

Impacts on Water Quality in the Upper Elbow River. Alberta Environment and The City of Calgary Waterworks and Wastewater. Sosiak, A., and Jamieson Dixon. May 2004.
<http://www.environment.gov.ab.ca/info/library/5691.pdf>

Riparian Land Conservation Management Project: Phase 1 final report This report summarizes the conclusions and recommendations emerging from a multi-stakeholder committee review of the riparian management system in Alberta.
<http://www.umbel.ca/pdfs/POL/Riparian%20Land%20Conservation%20Management.pdf>

Upper Elbow River Instream Objectives Report.
<http://www.erwp.org/instreamobjectives.html>

Elbow River Alluvial Aquifer.
<http://www.erwp.org/alluvialaquifer.html>