



Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement

- Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Yukon (the governments with jurisdiction to manage water and the environment in the Mackenzie River Basin) have signed the **Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement**. It came into effect in July 1997.
- The agreement commits all six governments to work together more closely to manage the water resources of the whole Mackenzie River Basin.
- The agreement is founded on four guiding principles for cooperative management:
 - Equitable Utilization
 - Prior Consultation
 - Sustainable Development
 - Maintenance of Ecological Integrity
- The **Mackenzie River Basin Board** was established to implement the agreement. The board has 13 members, three representing the federal government and ten representing the provinces and territories. One member from each of the provinces and territories represents an Aboriginal perspective. (For example; NWT members include Sonny MacDonald of Fort Smith, representing the Aboriginal perspective, and Robert McLeod, Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, representing the Government of the NWT).
- According to the Agreement, the Board's key responsibilities are to:
 - Provide a forum for communication, coordination, information exchange, notification and consultation among all six jurisdictions and the public
 - Recommend uniform objectives or guidelines for the quality and quantity of the water resources
 - Encourage consistent monitoring programs
 - Monitor the progress of implementing the bilateral water management agreements between neighbouring jurisdictions
 - Submit a report on the state of the aquatic ecosystem by 2003 to the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers and
 - Carry out studies and investigations, as required.
- The agreement makes provision for neighbouring jurisdictions to negotiate bilateral water management agreements to address water issues at jurisdictional boundaries on transboundary streams and to provide parameters on the quality, quantity and flow of water.
- The six governments fund the Board's annual operational budget.

For more information and copies of the Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement, contact:

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