



**Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency**

**Agency Report to the
Mackenzie River Basin Board**

**Meeting #74 of the Mackenzie
River Basin Board
December 5, 2022**

Table of Contents

1 Bilateral Water Management Agreements	3
2 Water-Related Legislation / Policy / Regulations / Planning.....	4
3 Science, Monitoring and Information	5
4 Major Projects	6
5. Events, Conferences and Seminars	7
6. Other	7

For each topic in agency report, please include:

- Ministry/Department Contact Information
- Contact information related to specific topics listed in agency report
- Website addresses
- Photos, maps, illustrations, tables, and other visual-friendly media

1 Bilateral Water Management Agreements

Northwest Territory, Alberta and Saskatchewan continue to negotiate bilateral agreements. Saskatchewan aims to reach agreements with Alberta and Northwest Territory within the next two years.

Contact:

Thon Phommavong, P.Eng., M.A.Sc.

Water Security Agency

(306) 529-5404

thon.phommavong@wsask.ca

2 Water-Related Legislation / Policy / Regulations / Planning

The Government of Saskatchewan has set targets in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan and Prairie Resilience Climate Change Strategy that contribute to the sustainable and competitive growth of the agricultural sector and will protect Saskatchewan's water resources for generations to come. Agricultural water management will help the agricultural industry to grow and develop in a sustainable way that protects property rights, infrastructure, and the environment and secures the ability to manage water on agricultural lands for the future. Implementation of Saskatchewan's agricultural water management framework/strategy is one of the actions outlined in the Prairie Resilience Strategy that will support continued economic growth, enhance wetland habitat conservation, and improve runoff management such that Saskatchewan communities have increased resilience to drought and flood.

Over the next year, the Water Security Agency is undertaking a broad-based engagement with agricultural, Indigenous communities, environmental, municipal, science and research, and other partners and stakeholders to inform a made-in-Saskatchewan mitigation policy that will support our province's growing economy. WSA launched an engagement process through plenary sessions in Regina (July 25) and in Saskatoon (July 27). The plenaries were structured for stakeholders and Indigenous communities that may be directly impacted by a mitigation policy, and whose advocacy directly relates to wetland management at the provincial scale. More than 70 groups (51 Saskatchewan-based stakeholder groups, and 21 Indigenous organizations, Tribal Councils, and independent First Nations) were invited, with a total of 30 organizations and communities attending the sessions. The mitigation policy is expected to be finalized by fall 2023. Once implemented, WSA will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation policy to allow for ongoing improvements. This will include regular public reporting on key performance indicators, the frequency of reporting will be determined once indicators are identified. More information can be found at: <https://www.wsask.ca/water-programs/agricultural-water-management-drainage-approvals/agricultural-water-management-strategy/>

Contact:

Thon Phommavong, P.Eng., M.A.Sc.
Water Security Agency
(306) 529-5404
thon.phommavong@wsask.ca

3 Science, Monitoring and Information

All water quality data is available to download any time via the following link: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/environmental-health/water-and-wastewater-management>.

Contact:

Thon Phommavong, P.Eng., M.A.Sc.
Water Security Agency
(306) 529-5404
thon.phommavong@wsask.ca

4 Major Projects

There are no new developments in the basin to report during this reporting period.

Contact:

Thon Phommavong, P.Eng., M.A.Sc.
Water Security Agency
(306) 529-5404
thon.phommavong@wsask.ca

5. Events, Conferences and Seminars

There are no planned key government/non-government meetings related to water management in the Mackenzie River Basin.

6. Other

There are no other items to report on from Saskatchewan

Contact:

Thon Phommavong, P.Eng., M.A.Sc.
Water Security Agency (306)
529-5404
thon.phommavong@wsask.ca