



## Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement

- The Mackenzie River Basin is the largest basin in Canada covering 18% or 1.8million km<sup>2</sup> of Canada's landmass. The basin contains the Mackenzie River system which is 4,241 kms long making it the longest in Canada and the second longest in North America. The basin also includes Great Bear Lake, the largest Canadian lake, and Great Slave Lake, the deepest North American lake.
- The governments of Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Yukon signed the **Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement** July 1997. The agreement commits all six governments to work together to manage the water resources of the Mackenzie River Basin.
- The agreement allows neighbouring jurisdictions to negotiate bilateral water agreements, to address water issues at jurisdictional boundaries, and to share data on the quality, quantity, and flow of water.
- The **Mackenzie River Basin Board** was established to implement the agreement. The board has 13 members. There are three federal government members, and one Indigenous and one government member from each of the provinces and territories.
- According to the Agreement, the Board's key responsibilities are to:
  - Provide a forum for communication, coordination, information exchange, notification and consultation among the governments that signed the Master Agreement and the public
  - Recommend uniform objectives or guidelines for 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 to the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers and
  - Carry out studies and investigations, as required.
- The six governments collectively fund the Board's annual operational budget.

For more information and copies of the Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement, please email us at [MRBB-CMB@cwa-aec.gc.ca](mailto:MRBB-CMB@cwa-aec.gc.ca)