

**First Nation's of Alberta  
Environmental Learning**

**Alberta Water Council  
Wetland Policy Update**

14 February 2008



# Water for Life

## Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems\*
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.



# History of Wetland Policy



- Concern regarding loss of wetlands
- 2003 Water for Life action: develop a wetland policy for Alberta
- Alberta Water Council will make recommendations on a policy to Government
- Public, stakeholder and other governments input and consultation are being used to draft the policy and implementation plan



# Draft Policy Components

- **Introduction**
  - Why now?
  - What is the task?
- **Scope and Application of Policy**
- **The Wetland Resource in Alberta**
  - What is a wetland and where are they found?
  - Values and benefits of wetlands
  - Past and present state of wetlands
  - Governing policies. Legislation and agreements
- **Guiding Principles**
- **Policy Purpose and Goal**
- **Achieving the Goal**

# Draft Implementation Plan Initiatives

- Wetland Education & Communication
- Wetland Inventory & Classification
- Wetland Conservation Planning & Management Objectives
- Regulatory Issues Related to Policy Implementation
- Government Integration
- Incentives/ Disincentives
- Designation Tools
- Wetland Mitigation including Compensation
- Mitigation Banking
- Constructed Wetlands
- Wetland Margins
- Wetland Research and Monitoring

# Public Consultation Plan



# **AWC Consultation Process**

- **September – October 2007**
- **Consult with stakeholders with a known interest and general public**
- **Use comprehensive mailing lists to create awareness**
- **Test recommended actions and alternatives**
- **Gain insight into expectations and concerns that may affect support**

# Aboriginal Engagement Team

## 2005 -2006

- Complete:**
- **Aboriginal Community Meetings**
  - **Band Council Meetings**
  - **Mètis Groups**
  - **Treaty Groups**
  - **Received Interim Report (themes)**

- To Do:**
- **Second Round of Meetings to Review Draft Policy & Implementation Plan**

# First Nations Values on Wetlands

- Provide a way to honour and respect the natural world,
- Promote awareness in the youth,
- Maintain sustainable Treaty right to hunt, fish and gather, and
- Use both traditional knowledge and science to address wetland issues.

## Next Steps

**Three seats (Treaty 6,7,and 8) have been identified for First Nation Representation on the Alberta Water Council.**



**Thank you**

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