



NEWS RELEASE

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Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought in Alberta

Edmonton... A new guide by the Alberta Water Council (AWC) documents lessons learned from previous droughts in Alberta and brings together the most current information, tools, and resources as a reference for communities to use during development of drought mitigation plans. The guide is intended for small and rural communities, including towns, villages, and municipal districts, but much of the content is also applicable to larger municipalities and other organizations.

Multi-year droughts are especially damaging because their impacts on the environment, economy, and society are cumulative. “Drought can have devastating impacts, particularly on Alberta’s agricultural producers and rural communities. With severe weather events becoming more common, it’s important that we equip communities with the tools they need to improve their resilience and ensure they are prepared for the many challenges brought on by a multi-year drought.” Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks.

“Droughts are inevitable; it’s not if another drought will happen, it’s when,” says Andre Asselin, Executive Director of the Alberta Water Council. “The impacts can be severe, and municipalities need plans to help them prepare and recover from them. We hope the results of this project will aid communities in the planning process.”

The *Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought Guide* is organized into four modules. Each module presents information on different aspects of multi-year drought: definitions; an overview of multi-year drought in Alberta; roles and responsibilities; and management objectives, strategies, tools, and resources. The Guide’s appendices feature interviews and case studies outlining examples of best practices for small urban and rural municipalities to consider when planning for, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from multi-year drought.

The Guide notes the importance of communication, strong collaboration, access to real-time data, technical support, and funding to allow communities to develop and implement strategies to mitigate drought impacts.

A companion document *Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought: Tools for Small Urban and Rural Municipalities* summarizes the key findings of a workshop hosted by Battle River Watershed Alliance to test the guide and supporting documents. Feedback was gathered from workshop participants and was incorporated into the Guide and companion document. .

Please visit <https://www.awchome.ca/projects/building-resiliency-multi-year-drought-6/> to access the report.

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The Alberta Water Council (AWC) is a collaborative partnership that provides leadership, expertise, and sector knowledge and perspectives to help governments, Indigenous Peoples, industry, and non-governmental organizations to advance the outcomes of Water for Life. It advises the Government of Alberta on matters pertaining to the successful achievement of the outcomes of the Water for Life strategy and on effective water resources management policies, practices, and tools.

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