

Media release – December 6, 2019

### **Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan**

A Source Water Protection Plan has been completed for the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer in an effort to proactively manage this important water resource. Alberta Environment and Parks, the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer Management Advisory Association – made of up Clear Hills County, County of Northern Lights, the MD of Fairview, the MD of Peace, the Town of Grimshaw and the Village of Berwyn – and the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance worked together to create this plan.

The Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer is an underground source of water in the Grimshaw area that many residents and communities access via wells to obtain drinking water. The aquifer is close to the surface; in some areas there are less than 4 metres (13 feet) of clay cover, therefore this water source is very susceptible to contamination.

The plan focusses on preventing contamination and has 3 main components: 1) Hazard Identification – what could go wrong?; 2) Risk Assessment – how likely is something to go wrong and how bad would it be?; and 3) Mitigative Strategies – what do we do to reduce the chance of the water being negatively affected?

Work on implementation is beginning and we hope that the community, landowners, governments and business will join us and contribute to ensuring that the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer continues to be a safe, secure source of drinking water. The partners involved will be sharing ways of protecting this source of water so stay tuned.

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