



Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance



January 15, 2019

Honourable Shannon Phillips Minister of
Environment and Parks
208 Legislature Building, 10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6

Honourable Minister:

Thank for your video message to those assembled for the WPAC Summit in Peace River this past June indicating the importance of Alberta's 11 Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) and for recognizing the value of their work in ensuring that the goals of the *Water for Life strategy* are achieved.

As placed-based multi-stakeholder organizations, WPACs using a local consensus based approach have been able to assemble a vast compendium of water issues identified by Albertans in their respective basins and provided excellent watershed monitoring advice to your Ministry. During the development of *State of the Watershed reports* and *Integrated Watershed Management Plans*, WPACs have been effective in identifying areas where monitoring information is essential to creating solutions to these issues. Although Ministry staff participate as Board Members and sometimes as technical advisers, the WPAC effectiveness and the achievement of the Ministries' goals would be furthered if some of the identified issues were addressed by the Environmental Monitoring and Science Division (EMSD) water monitoring plans. We understand that EMSD has extensive plans for air monitoring but from what we understand does not yet have a similar program for water monitoring. **We would encourage you to have EMSD work with WPACs to develop a comprehensive water monitoring program for those issues identified by WPACs in their Integrated Watershed Management Plans and other work.**

The MPWA looks forward to an initial meeting to begin sharing the monitoring needs that have already been identified and how these needs could be met.

Sincerely,

Richard Keillor
Chair, Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance

CC: Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Council Managers