Watershed Management Planning in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds

A Guide to Action for **FIRST NATIONS**

Recommendations for Source Water Protection

Characterize Watershed

- Gather information on the natural features and hydrology of the watershed, as well as the various land uses and activities taking place within the planning area

Assess Risks

- Identify risks to source water within the planning area and use a risk matrix to assign risk scores representing the likelihood and impact of each risk occurring

Source Water Protection Planning

- It is recommended that First Nations governments develop Source Water Protection Plans within their jurisdictions (which may be developed for both ground and surface water sources)

Complete recommendations and other fact sheets in this series are available at www.battleriverwatershed.ca

Develop Source Water Protection Plan

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- Identify management actions to address each risk identified through the risk assessment (including stakeholders involved and time and resources required)

Implement and Monitor Plan

- Monitor progress and evaluate effectiveness of implemented management actions

- Review plan on a regular basis (about every 5 vears)

Form Working Committee

- Form a multi-stakeholder working committee to lead the development of a source water protection plan



The Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) was created in 2006 as a non-profit society. Shortly after its formation, the BRWA was selected by Alberta Environment, under *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability* (Government of Alberta 2003), as the designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds in Alberta.

Under Alberta's Water for Life strategy, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils have a role to lead in watershed planning, develop best management practices, foster stewardship activities within the watershed, report on the state of the watershed and educate users of the water resource.

The BRWA works in partnership with communities, watershed stewardship groups, all four orders of government (municipal, provincial, federal and First Nations), industry, academia, environmental organizations and residents to promote the health and sustainable management of the land and water resources of the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds using the best science and social science available.

We exist to have a watershed that sustains all life by using sound knowledge, wisdom, and wise actions to preserve our watershed for future generations.

Where We Work: The Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds of Alberta

