

*Alberta Watershed
Planning and Advisory
Councils*

2023-24 **ACHIEVEMENTS**

We acknowledge that the land on which Alberta WPACs operate is the traditional and ancestral territory of many Indigenous peoples, including the Treaty 6, 7, 8, and 10 First Nations, as well as the five Territories of the Métis Nation within Alberta. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of these communities and their enduring connection to the land and water.



Alberta WPACs

WPAC OVERVIEW

The Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) of Alberta have made significant strides in the 2023-2024 year. By leveraging substantial funding, engaging thousands of members and volunteers, and restoring critical natural infrastructure, WPACs have demonstrated their integral role in managing Alberta's water resources and environmental health.

STRATEGIC ROLE

WPACs are vital, unbiased partners to the provincial government, uniquely positioned to support diverse environmental priorities. They foster consensus among all sectors, bringing together provincial, municipal, and federal governments, Indigenous communities, agriculture, industry, conservation, academia, and the public. WPACs are dedicated to depolarizing resource management debates, which in turn, provide opportunities to create innovative solutions that benefit everyone.

Doubled Government of
Alberta Investment:

\$2,844,496

Total funding from non-
Government of Alberta
Sources

In-kind donations:

\$2,724,926

From 2,699 partners and
volunteers

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

WPACs are watershed planning organizations with strong support from industry, agriculture, government, municipalities, First Nations, and Métis. They play a critical role in:

Economic Sustainability:

Ensuring clean, reliable
water supplies.

Disaster Prevention: Preparing for
droughts and floods by restoring natural
infrastructure.

Indigenous Engagement:
Highlighting and incorporating
Indigenous perspectives and
knowledge.

MEMBERSHIP, EMPLOYMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Organizational Members:	1,564
Individual Members:	5,507
People employed:	58
People trained:	1,481
Riparian Health Assmt. (sites):	44
Aquatic Health Assmt. (sites):	49
Water Quality Sampling (sites):	147
Natural Infrastructure Restoration (hectares restored):	730
Native plants (planted):	9,036
Online Engagement (people):	36,255
In-Person Engagement (people):	28,113

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

WPACs perform four key roles:

- 1. Convener and Collaborator:** Serve as neutral forums for sector-wide discussions and innovative solution development.
- 2. Education and Literacy:** Enhance public engagement and awareness of stewardship actions.
- 3. Assessments and Reporting:** Address knowledge gaps and report on the health of land and water resources.
- 4. Planning:** Set local priorities and objectives for land and water management through collaboration.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND GOALS

Established in 2003 under Alberta's Water for Life Strategy, WPACs were designed to manage and protect water resources through collaborative partnerships. The strategy's goals, which remain relevant today, include:

Water for Life Goals

- 1) Safe, Secure Drinking Water
- 2) Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
- 3) Reliable, Quality Water Supply for a Sustainable Economy



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