



April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019

**Re: Summary of Past Water Supply Investigations in the Milk River Basin**

On behalf of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC), a registered, non-for profit and charitable society as well as a designated Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) established under Alberta's Water for Life Strategy; we are pleased to announce the completion of the **Summary report of Past Water Supply Investigations in the Milk River Basin**. The summary looks at over 40 years of water management and storage investigations that have occurred in the Milk River basin, many of which have not publicly been available to watershed stakeholders and community members.

This summary document is intended to provide an objective review of past water supply investigations and supporting studies to establish a common understanding of the work completed among water managers and water users. The document may be used to guide future planning and decision-making to improve water security and drought resilience in the Milk River basin.

The MRWCC vision is: A watershed where community well being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment that will endure as our legacy for future generations. The Transboundary nature of the Milk River and interconnections to the St Mary's River Drainage warrant continued dialogue and work towards improved water management on both sides of the border. A water supply project in the Milk River basin (AB) could mitigate the impacts of water shortages for existing water users, and potentially provide additional opportunities for the community and region. Past studies have investigated the feasibility of improving water supplies in the Milk River basin by way of onstream or offstream storage, or supplemental water supply from Ridge Reservoir to the Milk River. Most recently, the Joint Initiative Team completed a modelling exercise aimed at improving access to entitled shares of water for both Canada and the United States by way of administrative and structural measures. Canada uses an estimated 12% of its annual Milk River entitlement (54,000 dam<sup>3</sup>). The remainder of unused water (about 47,000 dam<sup>3</sup>/year) flows to the U.S.A.

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada is committed to science-based decision making that continues working partnerships with government and non-government organizations, industry, and watershed residents to effectively manage watershed resources in alignment with the MRWCC Integrated Watershed Management Plan and SSRP regional priorities. We are mindful of the changing regulatory environment, aquatic and terrestrial species at risk concerns, and land use concerns expressed by stakeholders and our community. Now is the time for leadership to address water security challenges in the face of climate change to provide long term resiliency.

To receive a copy of the Summary document or receive additional information please feel free to explore our website: [www.mrwcc.ca](http://www.mrwcc.ca) or contact our Executive Director, Tim Romanow in Milk River at 403-647-4342 or email [tim@mrwcc.ca](mailto:tim@mrwcc.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Ross".

John A. Ross  
Chairman  
Milk River Watershed Council Canada  
[www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca](http://www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca)