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Alberta, Israel to share water conservation research

Edmonton... Alberta and Israel have semi-arid regions in common and the two jurisdictions will soon also share information on water conservation and irrigation.

Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, announced that the Alberta government and the Jewish National Fund of Canada will each contribute \$1 million for research initiatives focusing on the innovative design, construction, or rehabilitation of water management or irrigation infrastructure. A specific project will be determined in the near future.

"Water is a precious resource for both Alberta and Israel," said Oberg. "This partnership establishes links between the two jurisdictions to share information, expertise, and best practices related to water conservation and irrigation. The Jewish National Fund is a leader in environmental research and Alberta stands to gain much from its expertise."

Knowledge gained through the partnership will be used to support Alberta's *Water for Life* Strategy and enhance water infrastructure including dams, canals, and storage reservoirs.

"The *Water for Life* Strategy supports and encourages knowledge, research, partnerships, and water conservation," said Guy Boutilier, Minister of Environment. "This joint initiative targets each of these outcomes and supports Alberta's commitment to ensuring a sustained water supply for years to come."

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) is a non-profit organization founded in 1901 to serve as a caretaker for the land of Israel. Over the past century, the organization has planted over 220 million trees, built over 150 reservoirs and dams, developed over 250,000 acres of land, created more than 400 parks, and established five research and development farms. The Jewish National Fund is also an official United Nations non-governmental organization.

"We are very pleased to form this partnership, and we look forward to sharing our 104 years of knowledge and experience with environmental issues - namely water, soil, and forestation," said Rami Kleinmann, Israel Emissary for the Jewish National Fund of Canada.

The University of Lethbridge's Water Institute for Semi-arid Ecosystems and the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association will partner in the initiative and carry out the research activities.

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