



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Office of the Minister

Dear Water Licence Holder,

Thank you for participating in Alberta's water-sharing negotiations over the past two months. By working to develop these water-sharing agreements, you have demonstrated the leadership, dedication and community spirit that makes Alberta great.

Negotiating water-sharing agreements is the most effective tool available to conserve water and reduce the risks posed by drought. Similar agreements struck in 2001 played a critical role in helping communities, irrigators and businesses survive and thrive. This year's discussions were the largest in Alberta's history, with licensees participating who have access of up to 90 per cent of the water that is allocated in the Red Deer, Bow and Old Man River basins.

As a result of this hard work, four draft memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been developed covering the:

- Bow River Basin
- Red Deer River Basin
- Oldman River Basin
- Upper Tributaries of the Oldman River Basin.

While we were hoping to announce the conclusion of this important work at the end of March, it has become clear that more time will be required for each water licence holder to finalize their approval through your respective governance processes. **I am writing you to ask that you complete this work no later than April 18th, 2024.**

The conclusion of the largest water-sharing negotiations in Alberta's history will be a landmark achievement for all involved and an example to the rest of Canada. Accordingly, this achievement will be shared with the public and the media in a press conference in Calgary on Friday, April 19th. All signatories are invited to participate, please contact EPA.Minister@gov.ab.ca to confirm your attendance.

Thank you again for your generosity, ingenuity and participation. On behalf of Alberta's government, I applaud your leadership and I look forward to working further with you to manage these agreements and maximize Alberta's water supply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "S".

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

CC: All stakeholders.