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Municipal Management of Water Bodies: A Community Conserve Project out Now!

Alberta's water bodies are a valuable resource; their regulation and proper management is essential for safe drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, watershed resiliency, among other things. The second publication in the Environmental Law Centre's Municipalities and Environmental Law Series for the **Community Conserve** Project explores when and how municipalities can regulate the water bodies within their boundaries. Section 60(1) of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* purports to give municipalities "the direction, control, and management of the bodies of water within the municipality". However, plenty of questions arise about the extent of this authority:

- What constitutes a "body of water"?
- Can they be permanent, temporary, or seasonal?
- What about natural versus man-made?

The *MGA* also permits municipalities to regulate the land around water bodies using their general bylaw-making powers, land-use planning and subdivision powers, zoning powers, and municipal wetland policies. Questions related to these powers may include:

- How are these powers exercised and how are they constrained?
- Is municipal authority in these areas subject to any conflicting federal or provincial legislation?

For answers to these questions and more, see "**Municipal Management of Water Bodies**" by clicking [here](#).

Community Conserve is a municipally-focused initiative supported by the Miistakis Institute, the Environmental Law Centre, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Associations, and RMA. Community Conserve only works if municipal personnel participate. Municipal personal can post new ideas for projects or vote on the ideas already there – no registration required! The Community Conserve team converts the ones with the most votes into *Project Plans*, and posts them back on the site. If a project looks like it will help your municipality, and you think you can help fund it, go to *Fund a Project* and let Community Conserve know you are thinking about it - www.communityconserve.ca

For enquiries, please contact:

Matt Dow
Policy Analyst
matt@RMAAlberta.com

2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, Alberta T9E 8N5

OFFICE: 780.955.3639
FAX: 780.955.3615
RMAAlberta.com



BULLETIN

Tasha Blumenthal
Director of External Relations & Advocacy
tasha@RMAAlberta.com

2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, Alberta T9E 8N5

OFFICE: 780.955.3639
FAX: 780.955.3615
RMAAlberta.com