

## SOUTHERN ALBERTA WATER CHARTER 2017

Whereas, the United Nations General Assembly: "Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights." (28 July 2010, Resolution 64/292)

And Whereas, the Government of Canada has stated: "Pollution of the water resources of Canada is a significant and rapidly increasing threat to the health, well-being and prosperity of the people of Canada and to the quality of the Canadian environment at large and as a result it has become a matter of urgent national concern that measures be taken to provide for water quality management in those areas of Canada most critically affected." (Canada Water Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-11)

And Whereas, the Province of Alberta has stated: "Water is not only a resource, it is a life source. We all share the responsibility to ensure a healthy, secure and sustainable water supply for our communities, environment and economy - our quality of life depends on it. The Government of Alberta's renewed Water for Life strategy has three main goals: Safe, secure drinking water; Healthy aquatic ecosystems; and Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy." (Water for Life: Alberta's strategy for sustainability, 2003- Nov 2003)

And Whereas, the Oldman Watershed Council has stated: "Southern Alberta has a water heritage worth protecting. The Oldman Watershed provides: world-class recreational opportunities; rich economic benefits; home to wildlife and many species at risk; a source of spiritual meaning; life and prosperity from the headwaters through to the Hudson Bay. Our goal is to ensure clean, clear drinking water for generations to come." ([www.oldmanwatershed.ca](http://www.oldmanwatershed.ca), accessed 2016)

Therefore, I, <organization representative name>, <representative title & organization name>, on behalf of <participating organization>, do commit to at least one new project and / or program in 2017, for the betterment of people, animals and ecosystems in the Oldman watershed. Details thereof will be submitted to the Oldman Watershed Council no later than April 1, 2017.

The <participating organization> proudly declares:

- 1) Active participation in the Southern Alberta Water Charter
- 2) Encourage citizens to participate
- 3) Commitment of <participating organization> to the better management and health of the Oldman watershed.

Signed

Date

- 1) Any organization in the Oldman Watershed is encouraged to participate.
- 2) By February 15, 2017 all participating organizations will have signed the Charter and submitted it to the Oldman Watershed Council (OWC).
- 3) By March 15, 2017 all participating organizations will have chosen and downloaded a badge which best represents their focus on watershed management and health. Organizations will also have decided on their beginning specific action or actions they will undertake to support the Charter. These will be new, community Water Charter actions, not e.g. "We will continue to monitor water quality".
- 4) OWC will help provide advice to anyone wishing to participate as to how to maximize the positive watershed impact.
- 5) By April 15, 2017 OWC and Charter Partners will make a joint media announcement throughout the watershed, place the badge, the Charter, and related verbiage on their websites, and will have included the Charter wherever appropriate in internal and external communications. Charter Partners will be responsible for making known and sharing their Water Charter Acts with the community and encouraging the community to help make them a success.
- 6) On May 15, 2017 the Water Charter Actions begin. We will kick-off with a major media event. Events and actions will continue from May long weekend through to September long weekend in all areas of the watershed and are community-driven. OWC will help promote and encourage local volunteers and media and all actions must be registered with OWC prior to them taking place.
- 7) Throughout the summer, Charter Partners will document their Water Charter Acts in blog postings and photos and will submit them to OWC. As OWC continues to publish its video series, Charter Partners can add or switch out the badges on their websites, and they can add the blogs and photos about their Water Charter Acts to their own website pages.
- 8) The campaign will close at the end of September long weekend 2017.
- 9) By October 15, 2017, the OWC will compile all Charter Partners' final blogs and action reports and publish on our website and social media channels. We will provide an overview of the Water Charter Acts and their distribution and impact throughout the watershed.
- 10) By November 15, 2017 the OWC will host a Water Charter Celebration that will include a major media event and special awards will be given to participants.



**Oldman Watershed**

## PARTICIPATING IN THE CHARTER

The following timeline details milestones and actions that the Water Charter Participants and OWC will be working towards through 2017.

### Sign the Charter

By **February 15, 2017** all participating organizations will have signed the Charter and submitted it to the Oldman Watershed Council (OWC).

### Download a Badge

By **March 15, 2017** all participating organizations will have chosen and downloaded a badge which best represents their focus on watershed management and health.

Organizations will also have decided on their beginning specific action or actions they will undertake to support the Charter. These will be new, community Water Charter actions, not, for example "We will continue to monitor water quality".

### Participants 'Go Live'

By **April 15, 2017** OWC and Charter Partners will:

1. make a joint media announcement throughout the watershed
2. place the badge, the Charter, and related verbiage on their websites
3. include the Charter wherever appropriate in internal and external communications.

Charter Partners will be responsible for making known and sharing their Water Charter Acts with the community and encouraging the community to help make them a success.

### Media Event

On **May 15, 2017** the Water Charter Actions begin. We will kick-off with a major media event. Events and actions will continue from **May long weekend** through to **September long weekend** in all areas of the watershed and are community-driven. OWC will help promote and encourage local volunteers and media and all actions must be registered with OWC prior to them taking place.

### Sharing Progress

Throughout the summer, Charter Partners will document their Water Charter Acts in blog postings and photos and will submit them to OWC.

As OWC continues to publish its video series, Charter Partners can add or switch out the badges on their websites, and they can add the blogs and photos about their Water Charter Acts to their own website pages.

### Campaign Ends

The campaign will close at the end of **September long weekend 2017**.

### Final Reporting

By **October 15, 2017**, the OWC will compile all Charter Partners' final blogs and action reports and publish on our website and social media channels. We will provide an overview of the Water Charter Acts and their distribution and impact throughout the watershed.

### Water Charter Celebration

By **November 15, 2017** the OWC will host a Water Charter Celebration that will include a major media event and special awards will be given to participants.