



# Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Annual Report Highlights from 2010-11

## Message from the Minister



*The Honourable Dustin Duncan  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority*

I am pleased to present the 2010-11 highlights for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, which provides an executive summary of the Watershed Authority's 2010-11 Annual Report.

In support of *Government Direction for 2010-11: Balanced. Forward-Looking. Responsible.*, the Watershed Authority identified the potential for significant flooding in 2011. The Watershed Authority implemented the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program and other work to help communities, individuals and businesses prepare for spring runoff.

For more information about the work undertaken by the Watershed Authority this past year, please refer to the 2010-11 Annual Report or visit the Watershed Authority's website at [www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca).

## Agency Overview

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is a Treasury Board Crown Corporation which leads management of the province's water resources to ensure safe water sources and reliable water supplies for economic, environmental and social benefits for Saskatchewan people.

The Watershed Authority works to ensure sustainable water supplies, which are essential for economic, social and ecological health and to support the province's continuing growth. This includes watershed planning, operating and rehabilitating water management infrastructure, and allocating surface and ground water.

The Watershed Authority works in five main areas:

- Managing the water supply for social and environmental needs;
- Protecting surface and ground water quality;
- Developing, owning and managing Saskatchewan's water management infrastructure;
- Collecting and analyzing data and providing information to support water management and use;
- Reducing damage from flooding.



# VISION

*A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.*

## Our 2010-11 Significant Achievements

### Sustaining Economic Growth....

The Watershed Authority works to ensure a sustainable water supply, including delivering water conservation programming, operating and rehabilitating water management infrastructure, and allocating surface and ground water. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, the Watershed Authority:

- Continued work on the water use component of the Water Availability Study to provide critical information about water use in water-short areas of the province.
- Through the Provincial Toilet Rebate Program prompted replacement of 16,037 toilets, saving 320 million litres of water and avoiding the release of 957 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the air.
- Invested approximately \$3,437,000 on the rehabilitation of its water management infrastructure.
- Constructed a new control structure at the outlet of Makwa Lake and incorporated a fish passageway into the new structure.

### Securing Saskatchewan....

In support of a secure Saskatchewan, the Watershed Authority:

- Developed the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program to help communities, businesses and individuals build works to prevent flood damage in the spring of 2011.

- Conducted free testing of 349 private drinking water wells impacted by flooding across the province in 2010.
- Constructed a channel to help remove floodwaters from Fishing Lake.
- Implemented a long-term solution to ongoing water issues at Waldsea Lake.
- Developed the government's flood website, [www.saskflood.ca](http://www.saskflood.ca), to provide safety information and timely flood forecasts to the public.
- Published the Upper Souris Watershed Protection Plan, which means that 82% of Saskatchewan's population is now covered by a source water protection plan.

### Keeping Promises....

In support of government's goal to keep promises, operate with integrity, transparency and accountability, the Watershed Authority:

- Worked closely with Fishing Lake First Nation on flood issues and initiated consultations with the First Nation on the channel constructed downstream of the lake.
- Worked with Canada and affected First Nations to complete drafting of legal agreements to provide a long term settlement to flood claims against Canada by Qu'Appelle First Nations.

## Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program

By mid January, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority forecasters had identified a risk of significant spring flooding. On January 31st Premier Brad Wall announced the province would provide \$22 million to help communities, businesses and individuals prepare for flooding. Details of the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program, which provided engineering and financial support for flood protection measures, were announced February 22nd.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority quickly engaged 19 consulting engineering firms as well as a number of engineering technicians to assess needs and design emergency flood protections for communities and rural residences. Once the necessary flood protections were identified, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority signed agreements to share the cost of their construction.

The program was designed to respond very quickly so protective measures could be taken before the spring runoff. By the end of the fiscal year the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was assisting more than 500 communities, businesses and individuals and new requests were being received daily.

### Financial Summary

2010-11 Budget (000s)	2010-11 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$31,462	\$39,132	\$7,670

Please refer to the Authority's 2010-11 Annual Report for more detailed financial information.