

# Preparing a Vision for the Oldman Watershed

## Vision and Qualitative Outcome Results

VISIONING

Over the past 10 months, the Integrated Watershed Management Plan Vision Team has been interviewing and gathering input from watershed residents to develop a Vision and a set of outcome statements or desired future conditions. During the interviews, we were also able to identify barriers, motivators and actions that will link directly into our next phase of watershed planning—Risk Assessment and Priority Setting.

Your insight into watershed needs and direction will provide the OWC with a strong foundation for planning and work in the future. Thank you to everyone that participated in the surveys, interviews and workshops.

- 37 one-on-one interviews
- 50 online questionnaire responses
- 155 online Delphi survey responses
- 65 workshop participants

Integrated Watershed Management Plan - VISION Team	
Name	Affiliation
Stephanie Palechek, Co-Chair	Oldman Watershed Council
Cheryl Dash, Co-Chair	Alberta Environment
Cheryl Fujikawa	OWC Board of Directors
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Barbara Lacey	City of Lethbridge
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### What's next?

Now that we have completed this phase of the planning process, we are moving on to set priorities and assess risk. If you are interested in participating on this team, Integrated Watershed Management Plan—Priorities and Risk, please let us know.

## Vision Statement

Through the development and implementation of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan, our vision for the watershed is:

*A healthy, resilient watershed where people, wildlife and habitat thrive.*

## Outcome Statements

*Environmentally aware, responsible and motivated watershed residents*

By improving communication and awareness, dealing with assumptions and motivations, change strategies can be developed to address the complex issues surrounding environmental policy development and implementation. Residents who wish to be involved are empowered and engaged, both individually and collectively in their communities.

*A safe and secure water supply*

- *Clean ground and surface water, for safe drinking and healthy ecosystems*
- *Naturalized river flows for healthy aquatic and riparian ecosystems*
- *Aquifers are understood and sustained*

*Balanced allocations and wise management of water*

- *Efficient water use through improved urban, agricultural, and industrial conservation practices*

Water security is defined as “sufficient water of good quality for social, economic and cultural use while at the same time adequate water is available to sustain and enhance important ecosystem functions.

***Abundant, healthy and biologically diverse aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in particular riparian areas, native grasslands, headwaters, native fish, and forested areas.***

- ***Reduce invasive species***

Watershed residents expressed the intrinsic value of these components as well as the important services they provide – quality of life, recreational opportunities or economic benefits. From the ‘What We Heard’ document:

*“I would like to see a healthy watershed – mountains, foothills and prairies – with abundant natural ecosystems supporting the full biodiversity of the region.”*

***Land managed for multiple use with minimal impact on natural, cultural and historical assets.***

- ***Agriculture land base maintained***
- ***Well planned, minimal impact developments along waterways***
- ***Population growth that compliments watershed function***
- ***Protects headwaters***
- ***Low impact recreational public access to waterways and river valleys***
- ***Responsible tourism and recreation opportunities***

Cumulative effects management reflects a need to enable growth within our environmental capacity. Environmental values and risks cannot be considered in isolation from human health, economic and social values.