



Media Release

State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2009

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB) today released *From the Mountains to the Sea – the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report*. The event was held at the Meewasin Valley Authority Office this afternoon.

The *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* brings together information about a huge water resource that spans the Prairie Provinces. The report is the latest endeavor to facilitate information exchange across the basin. The report is a tool that will assist stakeholders at all levels to make informed decisions and recommendations regarding the waterways. These waterways originate in the Rocky Mountains and flow through the Prairie Provinces into Lake Winnipeg, ultimately ending in Hudson Bay. The report is relevant to the 3 million people living within the basin.

The project developed out of the increased need for clear and informed communication across the Prairie Provinces regarding the river. “The project increases dialog among the provinces and will serve to support decision makers throughout the basin to make well-informed recommendations about a highly valued resource,” said Dr. Ray Fast, chair of PFSRB. “The state of this resource in our basin is now getting the necessary attention it needs that will undoubtedly lead to crucial actions that will to make a noticeable difference in the future of the river.”

Local individuals and agencies are taking an ever-increasing responsibility for their watershed; therefore, it is increasingly important to provide them with the “big picture” of the entire basin. A steering committee made up of representatives from throughout the basin advised and assisted the report development team in its gathering of information from local, regional, and government sources across the basin. The firm of Robert Halliday & Associates developed the report with consultation and assistance from the steering committee and stewardship groups from across the basin. Halliday is a former director of National Human Rights Institutions.

The Government of Saskatchewan through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is a supporter of the State of the Basin project. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority provides leadership for the province’s water usage and, therefore, has been committed to the development of the Report. Honourable Nancy Heppner, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority states “We are pleased to be involved in a project committed to effectively documenting and managing such a valuable resource. The *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* is a valuable tool to assist government in making well informed decisions about our rivers.”

The *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* could not be possible without the assistance of the following groups and associations: Environment Canada, Alberta Environment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Calgary Foundation, and Alberta Ecotrust.



Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is a non-profit stewardship organization committed to creating awareness, linkages and stewardship for the Saskatchewan River Basin. For more information contact:

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