

The Government of Manitoba is distributing this news release on behalf of the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin.



Media Release

State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 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 Manitoba Legislature building this morning.

The *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* brings together information about a 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 our waterways. These waterways originate in the Rocky Mountains and flow through the Prairie Provinces into Lake Winnipeg, ultimately ending in Hudson Bay.

“The project developed out of the increased need for clear and informed communication across the Prairie Provinces regarding the river,” said Dr. Ray Fast, chair of the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB). “The project has increased dialog among the provinces and will serve to support decision-makers throughout the basin to make well-informed recommendations about a highly valued resource,” he said. “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. The report is relevant to the three million people living within the basin who are all reliant on the rivers.”

“Local individuals and agencies are taking an ever-increasing responsibility for the watershed; therefore, it is increasingly important to provide them with the big picture” said Fast. 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.

“Manitoba Water Stewardship has been a strong proponent of the project,” said Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick. “Manitoba is dedicated to protecting the social, economic and environmental value of water resources. We are excited to be a part of the *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* because it fosters awareness of the state of the entire Saskatchewan River system. This project will serve to connect our provinces and encourage a unified effort to protect our water systems.”

The *State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* could not be possible without the assistance of Environment Canada, Alberta Environment, the 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:

Jennifer Nelson

Manager, Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin

Phone: (306) 665-6887, email: partners@saskriverbasin.ca