

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **Integrated Water Saskatchewan**

- Integrated Water Saskatchewan will move Saskatchewan forward by providing a strong, innovative water management capability.
- Integrated Water Saskatchewan will bring together Government's expertise in water, strengthening our ability to address the challenges created by our continuing growth.
- Integrated Water Saskatchewan will improve services to Saskatchewan people and businesses by integrating activities that are core to the management and protection of water.
- Integrated Water Saskatchewan will strengthen Saskatchewan's competitive business climate by removing overlap and redundancies in regulations and programs and creating a one window approach to water issues.
- The ability to protect water quality, maintain aquatic habitats and sustain water supplies will be improved by creating a stronger water agency.
- Integrated Water Saskatchewan will be created as a Treasury Board Crown Corporation this fall

### **25 Year Water Security Plan**

- This plan will guide the government actions on water management, and Integrated Water Saskatchewan will be the strong water agency needed to lead implementation of this plan.
- Decisions made in the absence of a long term plan could jeopardize our future creating the risk of water shortages, lost growth opportunities due to limited water supplies, deteriorating water quality and risks to drinking water.
- Stakeholders have been invited to consultation meetings in August to provide advice on development of the 25 Year Water Security Plan.

### **Consultations in 2011**

- In 2011, during consultations with 174 individuals representing more than 90 organizations, water was clearly identified as a key resource for Saskatchewan's future.
- Government was urged to prioritize water as the most critical issue for Saskatchewan's development and its long term sustainability.
- The stakeholders recommended further consultation and development of a water strategy with a long term horizon.
- Stakeholders also recommended a strong water agency, referred to as a 'Water Boss' to ensure effective leadership of water management.
- Stakeholders encouraged government to streamline access and reduce overlap and conflicting government mandates.