

March 10, 2021

Mr. Terry Duguid, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages
Canada Water Agency
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6
Terry.Duguid@parl.gc.ca

Re: Location of the Canada Water Agency

Dear Mr. Duguid,

On behalf of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatoon Economic Development Authority and the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce (RCC) and our collective members, I am requesting that serious consideration be given to making Regina the home of the new Canada Water Agency (CWA).

Regina and by extension Saskatoon and other locations throughout the province can provide significant expertise and resources that will lead and promote collaboration between all levels of government, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders looking to provide strong environmental and economic stewardship our vitally important freshwater resources.

Our members understand that all Canadians want a future that provides cleaner air and water for our children and grandchildren. We also have strong relations that will help build even stronger relationship with freshwater issues that impact Inuit, First Nations and Métis communities.

Historically, Saskatchewan has proven on numerous occasions to have the capacity for large-scale water projects. With the CWA being centrally located in Regina you would have access to the experienced team members involved with the Qu'Appelle water project, the Water Security Agency's Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Project and the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Water Security.

Regina is a logical location for the Canada Water Agency headquarters given our expertise within the city and province is known for innovation and world-class infrastructure. We are also a welcoming community that is a perfect location to raise a family.

We look forward to working with you.

Should you require further information please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

John Hopkins
Chief Executive Officer
Regina & District Chamber of Commerce

Jason Aebig

Chief Executive Officer
Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Keith Moen

NSBA
Chief Executive Officer



April 9, 2021

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, On K1A 0A6

Dear Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.,

I write on behalf of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in support of Regina's proposal as the ideal location for the headquarters of federal government's proposed Canada Water Agency (CWA). The Prairies are a critical place in Canada's waterscape. The 406,000 square kilometre Saskatchewan River Basin is the major water resource for the three Prairie provinces and is representative of many global water security challenges.

Inspired by the basin and the close connection between water management and food production in our agriculturally focused province, the University of Saskatchewan has long been building strength in water science. With a solid foundation of science expertise built at the university, we founded the Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) in 2011. The institute is recognized as the top water resources research institute in Canada and one of the most advanced hydrology research centres in the world. GIWS is dedicated to helping protect our precious freshwater resources needed for the world's growing demand for sustainable food production, mitigating the risk of water-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and fires, predicting and forecasting extremes of global change through the use of advanced remote sensing and modelling techniques, and co-creating traditional knowledge with western science to empower Indigenous communities in protecting water health.

The scientists at GIWS constantly seek to mobilize the knowledge they are creating by providing science to decisions makers; they have been strong advocates for the creation of the Canadian Water Agency and are keen to collaborate with the agency. Having the agency headquartered in Regina would aid close collaboration with the water scientists at the University of Saskatchewan.

The University of Saskatchewan is the source of highly qualified water personnel; between 2011 and 2019, more than 719 graduate students, 181 post-doctoral fellows, and almost 640 research associates, scientists and research assistants have been trained at the university by the Global Institute for Water Security. The university offers a master's degree in water security, a graduate certificate in water resources and the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy trains students in water policy among many other water education opportunities. These programs attract people from around the world to study and work in Saskatchewan—the CWA being headquartered in Regina would enhance the "talent magnet" effect even further.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of the President

EXECUTIVELEADERSHIP.USASK.CA

Peter MacKinnon Building, Room 210

107 Administration Place

Saskatoon SK S7N 5A2 Canada

Telephone: 306-966-6612

Email: uofs.president@usask.ca

The University of Saskatchewan is pleased to add its voice to the chorus of support for headquartering the Canada Water Agency in the critical water region of the prairies, in the City of Regina.

Sincerely,

Peter Stoicheff
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Saskatchewan

Cc: Sandra Masters, Mayor, City of Regina

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

March 19, 2021

Mr. Terry Duguid, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages (Western
Diversification Canada) and to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (Canada Water
Agency)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

RE: Canada Water Agency Location

Dear Mr. Duguid

On behalf of Ducks Unlimited Canada – Saskatchewan (DUC), I am writing to seek your support in housing the Canada Water Agency in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Water and wetlands are a precious resource that provide many benefits to society through clean water, recreational opportunities on top of the fact that every species on the planet requires water for at least one part of its life cycle. As a national leader in wetland research, DUC is concerned that our wetland and water resources are in decline which is increasing the frequency and severity of local flooding, a decrease in wildlife habitat and negatively impacting water quality of downstream users. Proper management of our water resource requires the support of multiple levels of government, the farming and ranching communities, key stakeholders and the general public.

DUC believes that more can and should be done to better understand this precious resource. Water quality, flooding and habitat needs are areas that DUC has focused research over the past several years. DUC has participated in numerous studies in Saskatchewan and would like to see more support offered to the good works in progress currently in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan is home to the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan. Their ongoing research on various water management issues is lead by nationally and internationally recognized leaders in their respective fields. The research from both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina tackles the complicated water management issues found in Saskatchewan that impact inter-provincial and international water systems.

There are several other partnership opportunities that would benefit a Regina based Canada Water Agency. Several local watershed associations routinely assist farmers and ranchers with local water management and have recently re-visited source water protection planning. The Canada Water Agency could easily tie in with these watersheds to engage on local water management that has the potential to impact Manitoba and the United States of America.

Saskatchewan is home to long standing water management partnerships. DUC partnered with the former Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) on various water management projects, dams, and the

Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices. The bulk of that work was based out of Saskatchewan and extended out to the broader region and country.

The Canada Water Agency could provide a similar service to the region and country by extending local, regional and national research to stakeholders, partners and the public. Our historic partnerships and the current slate of experts make Regina an ideal location for the Canada Water Agency to help inform policy makers provincially, regionally and nationally by synthesizing current and future research.

Finally, I believe that housing the agency in Regina would provide support to the federal government's commitment towards reconciliation. With the First Nations University of Canada located in Regina there is an opportunity to partner with First Nations communities on water management research.

I am confident that Regina would be able to support the Canada Water Agency in keeping our precious water resources safe and clean. Should you have any questions or require clarification please contact me at 306-569-0424 or by email b_hepworth@ducks.ca.

Sincerely,



Brian Hepworth
Manager of Provincial Operations, SK
Ducks Unlimited Canada

CC: The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Jim Carr, Special Representative for the Prairies
Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Environment
Honourable Fred Bradshaw, Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency
Christine Hogan – Deputy Minister, ECCC
Jean-François Tremblay – Deputy Minister, NRCan
Sarah Harrison – Deputy Minister, ENV
Shawn Jaques – President and CEO, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Her Worship Sandra Masters, Mayor of Regina

Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, On K1A 0A6

March 9, 2021

Dear Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.,

I write on behalf of Economic Development Regina, in support of Regina's proposal as the ideal location for the headquarters of federal government's proposed Canada Water Agency (CWA). Regina has the history, partnerships, commitment and unique advantages to lead this generational opportunity. Located in Treaty 4 Territory and Homeland to the Métis, we're no strangers to the importance of water stewardship. From the First peoples calling the prairies home, to many generations since, the importance of water is ingrained in who we are, our way of life, and our livelihood.

The first advantage we have in Regina has been cited by our Prime Minister – the legacy of **the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency**. Created in 1935, the Agency became internationally known as one of the world's leading agencies for sharing research and new technologies for water, agri-environmental issues and sustainable water development.

Our second advantage is our **partnership with Indigenous People**. Regina is proud to be home to the **First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv)**. Should the CWA be headquartered in Regina, it could be a catalyst to develop a new Institute of Sustainable Development and Resilience that would be built on Indigenous values and traditional knowledge helping future generations ensure Canada's ecosystems and communities are sustainable. Next door to FNUniv is the **University of Regina (U of R)** with four Canada Research Chairs as part of its Institute of Environmental Change and Society, making it a global leader in environment and sustainability. It is also home to Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, a national research leader in addressing climate change, environmental sustainability and water management in the Prairies.

In the spirit of nation-building, the CWA can leverage the blending of western science found at our knowledge institutes to come up with water solutions that serve all Canadians. The CWA could (and should) play a powerful role in showcasing Canada as a global leader in environmental policy and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through meaningful consultation and Indigenous inclusion and engagement - "**reconciliation**". It is conceivable a national water solutions repository will be established at the U of R to support the exchange, capture, preservation, protection, transference, and distribution of data and information as it relates to research, technology, traditional knowledge, expertise, best practices, environmental impact assessment, and meaningful consultation.



Economic
Development Regina Inc.

200 - 1965 Broad Street
Regina, SK S4P 1Y1
economicdevelopmentregina.com
tourismregina.com

And of course, we have a last, critical advantage— **our strong community**. Our community-wide effort to attract the CWA to Regina is unmatched in Canada – coming together in this effort are Indigenous scholars and traditional knowledge-keepers, world-class climate change researchers, education and community leaders and civic leaders who will nurture the CWA to be a national nation-building success. We, along with the City of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, University of Regina, FHQ Tribal Council, and significant support from the business communities in Regina and Saskatoon, respectfully ask you to strongly consider Regina as the headquarters for the Canada Water Agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lee', enclosed within a circular loop.

John Lee
President and CEO, Economic Development Regina

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN

March 15, 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ottawa

Dear Minister:

I am writing to convey my enthusiasm about the federal government's references in its platform, Throne Speech, budget documents and mandate letters to the creation of a new Canada Water Agency (CWA).

Canada's fresh water resources have always been precious. With the onset of climate change, the issues related to water will only intensify. From 1935 until short-sighted budget decisions in 2012, Canada had one of the world's preeminent agencies for dealing with serious soil and water conservation and development problems and opportunities in the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). It was, quite simply, the best agency of its kind in the world. Others, ranging from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sought PFRA's knowledge and expertise. Sadly, it no longer exists.

Water expertise and authority within the Government of Canada has become dispersed among 20 or more departments and agencies, without a quarterback to provide coordination and leadership – just at a time when Climate Change will accelerate and magnify water-related concerns. So the idea of creating a CWA is most appropriate to pick up the mantle and legacy of PFRA and extend it nationally. I agree that it should not be a regulatory agency. It should, instead, be a practical, problem-solving facilitator to take advantage of opportunities to maximize the manifold benefits of Canada's fresh water resources.

It will need to work well with provinces, local governments, the scientific community, private interests and – very importantly – with Indigenous communities and organizations. You can hardly imagine a water development project of any consequence that would not affect Indigenous interests.

Consequently, it will be essential for the CWA to facilitate a smart marriage between modern-day science and engineering and traditional Indigenous knowledge. The agency should also be a repository for the greatest understanding and expertise in stakeholder engagement and consultations. In relation to Indigenous stakeholders and rightsholders, a key institution to become involved is the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv).

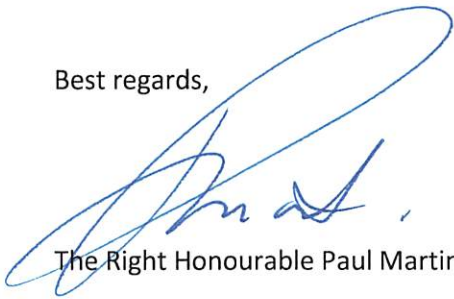
I would strongly recommend and support the selection of Regina as the headquarters on the new CWA.

For more than 75 years, the head office of PFRA was located in Regina. Other national agencies, such as the RCMP's Training Academy and corporate head office of Farm Credit Canada, are successfully located there.

From my perspective, the fact that FNuniv is based in Regina is another good reason to choose Regina to house the CWA. Being close to the region and the people most affected by the water impacts of climate change makes good sense. So does being near to FNuniv and the Indigenous people it serves. In my view, these factors far outweigh the bureaucrat convenience of basing the CWA in the National Capital Region.

And one final point – as the government strives to rebuild its functional linkages with the Prairies and to promote national cohesion, every opportunity should be taken to demonstrate the useful presence of the national government in that region. A water agency associated with the respected heritage of PFRA, headquartered in Regina, could make a meaningful and tangible contribution to Canadian unity.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Martin', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

The Right Honourable Paul Martin

c.c. Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada

Hon. Jim Carr
Minister responsible for the Prairies

Mr. Mark MacLeod
c/o The City of Regina



March 31, 2021

Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, On K1A 0A6

Dear Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P:

Re: Canada Water Agency Headquarters

Innovation Place is pleased to offer support for the City of Regina's submission to consider Regina, Saskatchewan as an option for the federal government's proposed new location for the Canada Water Agency's headquarters.

Regina offers clear advantages for a headquarters of this nature ranging from ties to the First Nations University of Canada, to research at the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, all of which are within walking distance of the Regina campus of Innovation Place.

Innovation Place is proud to be the home of the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative and the valuable work they undertake on climate change, environmental sustainability and water management. Innovation Place supports Saskatchewan's technology sector through the operation of research parks in Regina and Saskatoon where some of the most innovative research firms in the province operate.

It is with great pleasure that Innovation Place endorses the City of Regina's submission to locate the future home of the Canada Water Agency in Regina.

Sincerely,

Brent Sukenik
Acting President and CEO

BS/rw

cc: Economic Development Regina

March 08, 2021

Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.;

Thank you for your work regarding the proposed Canada Water Agency (CWA).

Municipalities of Saskatchewan is the voice of more than 400 hometowns in Saskatchewan. Our focus is to improve government legislation, programs, and services that empower our members to build and maintain safe, healthy, and sustainable communities.

I am writing to you today regarding the federal government's proposed CWA and our request that this agency be located in Regina, Saskatchewan.

I understand that you have been asked to create a new Canada Water Agency to keep our water safe, clean, and well-managed.

A partnership between the City of Regina and File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council combines the environmental, Indigenous, and economic issues that frame the Government of Canada's national agenda, including its focus on an economic recovery strategy that reflects all regions of the nation.

In an age when management of water is a critical part of a national plan to manage the effects of climate change, the Canada Water Agency will play a pivotal role. Regina has the history, partnerships, commitment, and unique advantages to make valuable contributions to an initiative aimed at identifying and addressing the various issues relating to fresh water in Canada.

Regina, located on Treaty 4 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, and Saskatchewan as a whole, are no strangers to the critical importance of water stewardship. From the first peoples to call the prairies home and the many generations thereafter, the importance of water has become ingrained in who we are, our way of life, and our livelihood.

There are a number of dimensions to Regina's unique proposal and partnership, beginning with Regina and the prairies being inextricably linked to the history and legacy of the Prairie Farm and Rehabilitation Administration.

Legacy of Federal Leadership on Water Policy - PFRA

The ravages of drought during the dust bowl years of the 1930s deeply imprinted this province. It created the will and determination to ensure access to the essential resource of water.

Those efforts included enormous infrastructure projects to store water which led to internationally recognized policy leadership and a transformation in dryland farming techniques to conserve soil moisture. The iconic symbol of this became the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

Created in 1935, the PFRA was established in Regina, in the heart of the Prairies. Its role was to mitigate the effects of a drought that was threatening the entire Prairie basin and the very prosperity of our nation. Originally focused on infrastructure development of the largest dam and water diversion project in Canada, over seven decades it became internationally known as one of the world's leading agencies for sharing research and new technologies for water, agri-environmental issues, and sustainable water development.

Unfortunately, in 2008 as part of spending cutbacks, the previous government downsized the PFRA and merged it into the Department of Agriculture. In 2013 its role was completely eliminated.

Partnership with Indigenous People

The second critical dimension to the proposed Regina location of the CWA is a partnership with Indigenous people. Locating the CWA in Regina, which is situated on Treaty 4 territory and Homeland of the Métis, will achieve two objectives: it will be a practical example of reconciliation; and, it will benefit from the traditional knowledge of Indigenous people and western science combined to help shape our nation's water strategy.

The CWA can play a powerful role in not only water management as part of climate change policy and strategy; but also in showcasing Canada as a global leader in environmental policy and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through meaningful consultation and Indigenous inclusion and engagement

Regina is home to the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada (FNUiv). FNUiv is the oldest First Nations post-secondary education institution in the country. To add to the FNUiv's longevity, in February 2011, history was made when a ceremonial signing marked FNUiv as the first urban reserve negotiated for educational purposes in Canada.

FNUiv's main campus is located on the campus of the University of Regina, meaning the city boasts the combined academic and research infrastructure

to support and collaborate with the CWA, another unique opportunity for reconciliation.

The CWA will be able to draw on the expertise in water at the University of Regina, which is home to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, a national research leader in addressing climate change, environmental sustainability and water management across the three prairie provinces.

The U of R has established itself as a global leader in environment and sustainability, particularly in the area of aquatic resources. Its expertise includes four Canada Research Chairs in the discipline as part of its Institute of Environmental Change and Society (IECS).

Based on its skill in water research, the U of R collaborates on water and/or climate change research with 27 Canadian universities including the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan.

As you can see, being home to the FNUniv, locating the CWA in Regina presents a unique opportunity for CWA, Saskatchewan, and the rest of Canada.

This is a generational opportunity – together we can further develop the unique identity and brand of Canada's national community through good governance and reconciliation building on the mutually beneficial relationship of a federal agency and two universities, the First Nations University of Canada and the University of Regina.

In the spirit of nation-building, the CWA can leverage the blending of western science found at the U of R with traditional knowledge facilitated through the FNUniv to come up with water solutions that serve all Canadians.

It is conceivable that a national water solutions repository will be established on the U of R campus close to the FNUniv to support the exchange, capture, preservation, protection, transference, and distribution of data and information as it relates to research, technology, traditional knowledge, expertise, best practices, environmental impact assessment, and meaningful consultation.

This scenario has the potential of serving as a catalyst for the FNUniv to facilitate the development of a new institute, the Institute of Sustainable Development and Resilience (ISDR) - an institute built on Indigenous values and traditional knowledge creating desirable conditions for future generations and ensuring our country's ecosystems and communities are sustainable.

In pursuit of research, broader education, and scholarship, ISDR will be a model of Indigenous engagement where academia and students of science,

technology, engineering, math and social science intersect and thrive, accelerating Indigenous participation in making valued contributions to the pillars of Canada's sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

The Regina Partnership and Proposal is a Natural Choice

There is no doubt that Regina has the exclusive attributes and strengths to build on to position the Canada Water Agency for success.

The City of Regina is aligned with FHQ Tribal Council, the First Nations University of Canada and the University of Regina, substantial and significant support from the business communities of both Regina and Saskatoon, and a history shaped by water management and public policy.

The City of Regina has a strong relationship with Treaty 4, signified by another first in Canada – on October 14, 2011 the Treaty 4 flag was raised at Regina City Hall and it continues to be a prominent and meaningful symbol today.

The flag, associated with Indian bands that signed Treaty Four, joined an array of flags at city hall, including flags of Canada, Saskatchewan, and the city. As the then mayor declared, "Today, we acknowledge the importance of Treaty, not just to First Nations people but to all Canadians, and the message of community and sharing intended by Treaty." The then national chief of the Assembly of First Nations proclaimed during the flag-raising ceremony, "This is a remarkable and historic moment. It's not just the raising of a flag, but the raising of a new standard of recognition".

Municipalities of Saskatchewan supports having the CWA in Regina.

I appreciate your time and attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Rodger Hayward
Municipalities of Saskatchewan President



Phone 306.242.3060 Fax 306.242.2205

Email
info@nsbasask.com

#9-1724 Quebec Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1V9

April 6, 2021

Mr. Mark MacLeod
Chief Operating Officer
Canada Water Agency Saskatchewan Team
c/o Regina Economic Development Authority
#200- 1965 Broad Street
Regina, SK, S4P 1Y1

Re: NSBA Support of Canada Water Agency Regina, Saskatchewan Location

Dear Mark;

The NSBA is a member-driven association that prides itself on advocating and lobbying on behalf of our members, and the best interest of not only our city, but our province as well.

We undoubtedly recognize the importance of water initiatives, being the *city of bridges*. While thankfully, we haven't been faced with major drought or flooding situation at a local level, the people of Saskatchewan are like a well-managed water system, and the effects trickle down, whether it be a family member, an old colleague, or an entire community that has been affected by an insecure water system.

The NSBA represents leading business interests in Saskatoon and area and is quite familiar and supportive of the work at the University of Saskatchewan and appreciates the team effort to bring the Water Agency to Regina. Regionally this has the opportunity for Saskatchewan to be treated and represented fairly at a Federal level. In addition to the other opportunities being considered for Saskatchewan, this project provides evidence of our Federal government truly trying to be inclusive and treating all provinces and territories in a fair and constructive manner.

The NSBA fully supports the Canada Water Agency Saskatchewan Team in their efforts to bring the Canada Water Agency to Regina, Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,

Keith Moen
Executive Director

cc: John D. Lee, CEO, Regina Economic Development Authority



SASKATOON'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



REGINA
&
DISTRICT
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

SERVING MEMBERS
SINCE 1886

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info@reginachamber.com

website:
www.reginachamber.com

March 15, 2021

Mr. Terry Duguid, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and
Official Languages Canada Water Agency

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

K1A 0A6

Terry.Duguid@parl.gc.ca

Re: Location of the Canada Water Agency

Dear Mr. Duguid,

On behalf of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce (RCC) and our 1200 members, I am requesting that serious consideration be given to making Regina the home of the new Canada Water Agency (CWA).

Regina and by extension Saskatoon and other locations throughout the province can provide significant expertise and resources that will lead and promote collaboration between all levels of government, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders looking to provide strong environmental and economic stewardship of our vitally important freshwater resources.

Our members understand that all Canadians want a future that provides cleaner air and water for our children and grandchildren. We also have strong relationships that will help build even stronger relationships with Inuit, First Nations and Métis communities as it relates to freshwater issues.

Historically, Saskatchewan has proven on numerous occasions to have the capacity for large-scale water projects. With the CWA being centrally located in Regina you would have access to the experienced team members involved with the Qu'Appelle water project, the Water Security Agency's Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Project and the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Water Security.

Regina is a logical location for the Canada Water Agency headquarters given our expertise within the city and a province that is known for innovation and world-class infrastructure. Notably, our proposal and plan for the CWA headquarters has been supported by leading organizations and industry partners across our province, including the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce as well as SREDA.

We look forward to working with you.

Should you require further information please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience via text or a call at 306 533 6464.

Yours sincerely,



John Hopkins
Chief Executive Officer
Regina & District Chamber of Commerce

cc, Jason Aebig, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
Alex Fallon, SREDA
Steve McLelland, SaskChamber
Mark McLeod, EDR
Kerri Mitchell, EDR
Ralph Goodale



MAR - 4 2021

Ms. Monica Kreuger
Chair
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
2221 Cornwall Street, Suite 200
Regina SK S4P 2L1

Dear Ms. Kreuger:

Thank you for copying me on your letter of February 3, 2021, addressed to Mr. Terry Duguid, in which you expressed the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's interest in having the new Canada Water Agency located in Regina.

Your interest in having Saskatchewan be the home to the new Canada Water Agency is appreciated. As you noted in your letter, there is a wealth of expertise, as well as numerous potential partners, located in Saskatchewan that could be aligned with future efforts of the Canada Water Agency. Regardless of the structure and potential office location(s) of the Agency, I agree with you that there is opportunity to leverage this capacity and support collaborative efforts in order to address national and regional freshwater management challenges.

The Government of Canada is committed to working with partners and stakeholders to develop a Canada Water Agency that benefits all Canadians. The Government continues to engage provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public to inform the potential mandate, roles and responsibilities of the Agency. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding the structure, reporting relationship, or potential office location(s) of the Agency. These decisions will be informed by input received during the current engagement process.

.../2



50^e anniversaire d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada's 50th anniversary

150^e anniversaire du Service météorologique du Canada
Meteorological Service of Canada's 150th anniversary

Canada

I appreciate your interest in the Canada Water Agency and in keeping this country's water safe, clean, and well managed. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilkinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Terry Duguid, M.P.



Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc.

Office of the Secretary ~ Box 391, Central Butte, Saskatchewan, S0H 0T0 ~ Canada

Phone 306.796.4727 ~ Fax 306.796.2223

March 8, 2021

Mr. Terry Duguid, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages
(Western Economic Diversification Canada) and to the Minister of Environment and Climate
Change (Canada Water Agency)

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON

K1A 0A6

Terry.Duguid@part.gc.ca

Re: Canada Water Agency office

Dear Mr. Duguid:

On behalf of the Irrigators Association in Saskatchewan, I am writing to express our support of locating the office of the Canada Water Agency in Regina, Saskatchewan. There are a number of very valid reasons when considering Regina.

On July 2, 2020 our province announced the development of the Lake Diefenbaker generational irrigation project, that will irrigate 500,000 acre over the next 10 years. This project will more than double the acres of irrigation in Saskatchewan fulfilling the vision of completing Lake Diefenbaker.

We have the opportunity to develop the project while providing a secure water supply for generations to come. It is estimated the project will create 2,500 construction jobs per year over the next 10 years.

Then on September 1, Western Economic Diversification Canada releases their report "Prairie Prosperity: A vision for the Management of Water Resources across Saskatchewan and the Prairies". The report highlights the proposed irrigation projects as being valuable and necessary.

Irrigation Makes Saskatchewan Grow!

www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com

Our climate is changing. It is projects like this that will make us more resilient by adapting to climate change. Irrigation expansion will provide for long term food security in times of drought. We will be able to not only support our people but export production throughout our nation and a broad. The project improves environmental aspects and provides water sustainability. It creates enhanced capacity to respond in periods of drought. It is believed the prairies could be in the heart of climate change in this country as we were the drought in the dirty 30's.

Saskatchewan is home of many water experts at the Global Institute for Water Security along with our post secondary institutes and the First Nations University of Canada. In Outlook, Saskatchewan we also have the Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC), a world class irrigation research centre that is operated collaboratively to develop environmentally sustainable irrigation practises.

Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association believes that Saskatchewan has the capacity to assist the Canada Water Agency in the development of a world class facility to lead our country and provide the resources to develop our water infrastructure and water related industries.

SIPA would be honoured to provide further information at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Aaron Gray, chair
Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc
306.539.4212
aarongrayfarm@gmail.com

CC: Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Environment Committee
Water Council for Saskatchewan
The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Jim Carr, Special Representative for the Prairies
Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Environment
Honourable Fred Bradshaw, Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency
Christine Hogan – Deputy Minister, ECCC
Jean-François Tremblay – Deputy Minister, NRCan
Sarah Harrison – Deputy Minister, ENV
Shawn Jaques – President and CEO, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
Her Worship Sandra Masters, Mayor of Regina

March 8, 2021

Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, On K1A 0A6

Dear Hon. Jonathon Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.,

I write on behalf of the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association, in support of Regina's proposal as the ideal location for the headquarters of federal government's proposed Canada Water Agency (CWA). Regina has the history, partnerships, commitment and unique advantages to lead this generational opportunity. Located in Treaty 4 Territory and Homeland to the Métis, we're no strangers to the importance of water stewardship. From the First peoples calling the prairies home, to many generations since, the importance of water is ingrained in who we are, our way of life, and our livelihood.

The first advantage we have in Regina has been cited by our Prime Minister – the legacy of the **Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency**. Created in 1935, the Agency became internationally known as one of the world's leading agencies for sharing research and new technologies for water, agri-environmental issues and sustainable water development.

Our second advantage is our **partnership with Indigenous People**. Regina is proud to be home to the **First Nations University of Canada (FNUiv)**. Should the CWA be headquartered in Regina, it could be a catalyst for to develop new Institute of Sustainable Development and Resilience that would be built on Indigenous values and traditional knowledge helping future generations ensure Canada's ecosystems and communities are sustainable. Next door to FNUiv is the **University of Regina (U of R)** with four Canada Research Chairs as part of its Institute of Environmental Change and Society, making it a global leader in environment and sustainability. It is also home to Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, a national research leader in addressing climate change, environmental sustainability and water management in the Prairies.

In the spirit of nation-building, the CWA can leverage the blending of western science found at our knowledge institutes to come up with water solutions that serve all Canadians. The CWA could (and should) play a powerful role in showcasing Canada as a global leader in environmental policy and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through meaningful consultation and Indigenous inclusion and engagement - "**reconciliation**". It is conceivable a national water solutions repository will be established at the U of R to support the exchange, capture, preservation, protection, transference, and distribution of data and information as it relates to research, technology, traditional knowledge, expertise, best practices, environmental impact assessment, and meaningful consultation.

And of course, we have a last, critical advantage– **our strong community**. Our community-wide effort to attract the CWA to Regina is unmatched in Canada – coming together in this effort are Indigenous scholars and traditional knowledge-keepers, world-class climate change researchers, education and community leaders and civic leaders who will nurture the CWA to be a national nation-building success.

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We, along with the City of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, University of Regina, FHQ Tribal Council, and significant support from the business communities in Regina and Saskatoon, respectfully ask you to strongly consider Regina as the headquarters for the Canada Water Agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shantel Lipp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shantel" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lipp".

Shantel Lipp
President
Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association

February 23, 2021

Environment and Climate Change Canada
4905 Dufferin Street, 2S423
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 5T4

via e-mail: ec.water-eau.ec@canada.ca
michael.goffin@canada.ca

Re: SMA Recommendations for the Creation of a Canada Water Agency

By way of background, the Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) is the voice of the mining industry in Saskatchewan and has the role of liaison and consultant with government and public to ensure the safe, profitable and orderly development of the mineral resources of the province. Environmental protection and stewardship are important to the members of the SMA as shown by their commitment to environmental planning, monitoring, compliance and reclamation. Our members are also among the largest industrial employers of Indigenous people in Canada.

The SMA and our members have continued to be active participants during the multi-year consultations on the creation of a Canada Water Agency (CWA or the Agency) including participating in the Western Economic Diversification-led workshops held in 2019 and 2020 as well as the ECCC-led webinars in January and February 2021. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the “Toward the Creation of a Canada Water Agency” Discussion Paper (the Discussion Paper).

OVERARCHING COMMENTS

The SMA supports ECCC’s intention to develop the CWA without any legislative or regulatory changes. We believe that the federal government already has sufficient authority, under the variety of acts and regulations which contain provisions related to freshwater, to create and develop a reasonable mandate for the Agency without making legislative or regulatory changes.

The SMA also support’s ECCC’s commitment to not encroach on provincial, territorial or Indigenous governments’ jurisdiction over freshwater or to duplicate existing activities being undertaken by these governments. Further we support plans for the Agency to work collaboratively with these governments. The CWA should in no way overlap or duplicate roles of other federal departments or agencies, or other provincial, territorial or Indigenous governments, but should instead work collaboratively with these entities to provide support where possible.

We note that the Discussion Paper points to the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency as the provincial body responsible for the majority of Saskatchewan’s core freshwater management responsibilities. We believe that this Agency provides practical and responsible oversight of Saskatchewan’s freshwater resource and the CWA, once developed, should actively engage with the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency on any matters pertaining to Saskatchewan’s freshwater resource.

Recognizing that there are already a significant number of players in the freshwater space, the Discussion Paper notes 20 federal departments and agencies alone, we would strongly encourage ECCC to undertake a gap analysis, some of which will undoubtedly be informed by comments received on this Discussion Paper, as a first step in identifying the existing players, their priorities, as well as areas where these players could be supported by the Agency.

Due to past experience, and the unprecedented spending by the federal government in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the SMA would also recommend that the mandate of the Agency be limited to a scope and scale that will be able to be sustainable for decades to come. The SMA has noted in previous correspondence to ECCC, and other federal government departments and agencies, that we have observed a tendency for the federal government to under resource these departments and agencies. This causes frustration for department and agency officials as well as for industry, other stakeholders, and the public.

While we heard comments on the recent webinars that advocated for the Agency to provide a wide variety of functions, and with a large scope, we believe that a more prudent course would be take a slower, more deliberate, approach in order to understand what is needed to support existing governments, and others, with an interest in freshwater management and protection.

One area that we believe could benefit from the support mentioned above is with respect to environmental quality guideline development. We believe that the existing multijurisdictional approach utilized by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) is an excellent example of cross jurisdictional collaboration. We continue to experience frustration where there are two or more conflicting guidelines for the same substance. This conflict has occurred with ECCC's Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines (FEQG) and the CCME's Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQGs). We would encourage ECCC to work towards the elimination of duplication of guidelines between the FEQGs and CEQGs. By strengthening the collaboration between provinces and territories utilizing the CCME guideline development process, and by ensuring that it is better resourced, this CCME process could more consistently update guidelines in a timely fashion to reflect the best science of the day.

In general terms, and keeping the above comments in mind, the SMA also supports the CWA in playing a role in:

- Science...with a focus on applied science
- Monitoring and data collection
- Open and transparent access to data (for example data collected by mining companies to fulfil the requirements of ECCC's MDMER and EEM program)
- Flood mapping
- Surveillance and eradication efforts for aquatic invasive species
- Transboundary issues
- Establishment of a national wetland inventory
- Enhancement of national predictive weather monitoring and modelling capability

With respect to freshwater data and information, the CWA should speak to both the scientific community, and the general population, by presenting data and information in multiple formats. This would allow users, of all levels of understanding, to be able to glean the information they need from any CWA generated materials.

The SMA would strongly recommend that ECCC undertake additional consultation after the "What We Heard Report" is made available to stakeholders. This future consultation should provide insight for stakeholders into proposed government direction to allow an opportunity for these stakeholders to provide input related to this proposed direction.

With respect to the future home of the CWA, the SMA would like to support the City of Regina in their bid to become the host city for the Agency. We believe that Regina is well positioned to support the establishment of a federal government agency such as the CWA.

We look forward to further discussions with ECCC officials as consultation on this important topic continues.

Yours Sincerely,



Brad Sigurdson
Vice President – Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs

cc The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson – Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
Honourable Fred Bradshaw – Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency
Honourable Warren Kaeding – Minister of Environment
Terry Duguid – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (Canada Water Agency)
Christine Hogan – Deputy Minister (ECCC)
Shawn Jaques – President and Chief Executive Officer (Interim), Corporate Management (WSA)
Sarah Harrison – Deputy Minister (ENV)
Sam Ferris – Senior Vice President, Regulatory (WSA)
Sandra Masters – Mayor (City of Regina)
Pam Schwann – President (SMA)