



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Office of the Minister*

Dear Water Licence Holder,

Alberta is currently experiencing drought conditions. This is especially true in the South Saskatchewan River Basin (SSRB) and, based on current forecasts, it is expected to continue throughout this year. These conditions mean there is potential for the drought to worsen, and we must be prepared.

Over the past two months, the largest water licence holders in the SSRB have worked to develop water sharing agreements to mitigate the risks posed by drought.

These discussions have been the largest and most comprehensive in Alberta’s history. Four memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been drafted covering the: Bow River Basin, Red Deer River Basin, Oldman River Basin, and the Upper Tributaries of the Oldman River Basin.

The MOUs require all major water licence holders to reduce their water use. It is expected the MOUs will be completed by April 18, 2024. These MOUs will be released publicly shortly thereafter.

**I am writing to ask that all remaining two thousand plus small licence holders implement the same water conservation measure as outlined in the MOUs.**

You have been identified as a small licence holder falling into the following categories, with the following commitment expectations:

Sector	Expectation
All municipalities in the SSRB	Implement a 5-10% reduction in water use.
Private Irrigation (including those with irrigation type activities, like golf courses).	Implement the same restriction of water use as the current on-farm water limit set by your closest irrigation district.
Industrial and Commercial	Withdrawal of the minimum volume of water needed to maintain operations.
Feedlots and Stock Growers	
Oil and Gas	
All others	

The Drought Command Team will continue to provide regular updates on the drought conditions, including actions related to water reduction and conservation measures that may be required.

Please assist the Drought Command Team by updating your contact information by visiting: [https://your.alberta.ca/drought/survey\\_tools/licence-holder-contact-information](https://your.alberta.ca/drought/survey_tools/licence-holder-contact-information). You can also email: [epa.drought-response@gov.ab.ca](mailto:epa.drought-response@gov.ab.ca) or call 403-381-5546.

For general enquiries, email [epa.drought@gov.ab.ca](mailto:epa.drought@gov.ab.ca) or call EPA Outreach Services at 310-3773.

For the latest updates on drought in Alberta, please visit [alberta.ca/drought](http://alberta.ca/drought).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas