



NATURAL RESOURCES

THE WATER RESOURCES OF ALBERTA

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of pamphlets on
Alberta Government
Services.

**Government of the
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

THE WATER RESOURCES OF ALBERTA

The Alberta Government carefully conserves the water resources of our Province, which are mainly in the drainage basins of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers. The water supplies of these basins must be maintained and developed in the best interests of Alberta citizens, present and future.

The Water Resources Act

The Water Resources Act and Regulations provide that applicants for the diversion of water for any purpose or for the construction of any diversion works shall have precedence according to the respective dates of filing, subject however to precedence for the following purposes:

- (1) Domestic.
- (2) Municipal.
- (3) Industrial.
- (4) Irrigation.
- (5) Water Power.
- (6) Other Purposes.

Lake Stabilization Projects:

Many of the lakes and sloughs of Alberta are gradually receding or drying up, indicating a gradual lowering of the water table and depletion of the water supply in

wells. To prevent or retard any further depletion of the surface and ground water supplies, the Government adopted a policy of water stabilization dated March 12th, 1947, by means of regulation works at the outlets of such lakes and sloughs.

Water stabilization projects are those that have been built in the central and northern part of the Province in a co-operative effort among the Water Resources Office, the Department of Lands and Forests and Ducks Unlimited. They consist for the most part of small structures placed in the outlets of our major lakes. Pipes are inserted through the dams to maintain steady flow in the outlet creeks. These projects have a definite water conservation value as well as furnishing a habitat for fish and game.

A total of 29 projects have been built since 1946 and the average cost of the projects is about \$4,000 (excluding supervision). The costs have been apportioned between Ducks Unlimited and the Government of Alberta on the basis of maximum benefit.

Fifty projects have been investigated, 29 have been built and four projects will be built in the 1952

season. Since 1946, your Provincial Government has spent \$190,000 on Lake Stabilization Projects.

Assistance to Irrigation Districts:

A policy to assist in the construction of irrigation works for smaller irrigation districts erected under the Irrigation Districts Act and built in co-operation with the Federal Government was adopted by the Alberta Government in June 1950, which provides as follows.

The Provincial Government will design and construct any necessary laterals charging back to the District fifty percent of the construction cost up to and not exceeding \$10 per acre.

Works for the following Districts have been assisted under this policy.

Macleod Irr. District: Construction cost of laterals, \$41,861; amount charged to district, nil.

Ross Creek Irr. District: Construction cost of laterals \$99,433; amount charged to district \$25,000 (est.)

Note: Construction of the Macleod Irrigation District was commenced before the Policy was announced and a large portion of the

construction carried out by the water users.

At the end of the fiscal year, 1951-52, the Alberta Government had spent more than \$4,000,000 on the St. Mary and Milk Rivers Irrigation Development. In 1952-53, the Government of your Province will spend \$3,750,000 on this beneficial project.

The Alberta Government also will construct distributary canals in two large areas, covering approximately 110,750 acres to the east and west of the Bow River Irrigation Development. The cost of this construction is estimated at \$2,768,750.

Government Policy Re Dugouts In the Peace River Block:

The following indicates the number of dugouts constructed and the subsidies paid 1945-51 inclusive.

Year	No. of Dugouts	Total Paid
1945-46	721	\$61,029.54
1946-47	461	41,464.66
1947-48	161	14,935.62
1948-49	166	14,963.21
1949-50	173	15,640.69
1950-51	135	12,602.32
1951-52	86	8,069.19
Totals	1903	\$168,705.23

Water Power in Alberta:

In 1932 there was 69,450 developed horsepower with 155,000 acre feet of storage. By 1952 there was 209,050 developed horsepower with 585,000 acre feet of storage. This means over threefold increase in both power and storage in the past 20 years.