

Appendix G: Legislative / Jurisdictional Scan

A Canadian Heritage River designation is only honorific, and will impose no new restrictions, expenses, or regulatory measures on the river, or on any other municipality along the designated river corridor. Nor will such a designation impact property rights of area landowners and stakeholders.

kisiskâciwani-sîpiy will continue to be influenced and guided by existing and future policies, legislation, regulations, and regulatory approval processes of many government agencies, at all three levels of government. These include policies, legislation, regulations, plans, and approval processes under federal, provincial, and municipal domains.

Municipalities in Alberta have been delegated a key role as decision makers on many matters of development and land-use, under the Alberta *Municipal Government Act*. Indeed, municipalities must have a Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) which are the key tools in establishing a land-use decision-making framework, in addition to other policies, bylaws, etc.

The many dozens of municipal policies across the basin are far too numerous to list comprehensively here. However, focusing on the City of Edmonton as a case-study, several tools that are directly related to heritage, watershed, environmental, and river valley protection, include:

- *City Plan (2020)*
- BREATH: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2017)
- Ribbon of Green Master Plan (1990) and Concept Plan (1992)
- North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP, 1985)
- Historic Resource Management Plan (2009)
- *Natural Area Systems Policy,*
- *Environmental Policy,*
- *Open Space Policy,*
- *Top of Bank Policy,*
- *EPCOR Water Services and Wastewater Treatment Bylaw, and*
- *EPCOR Drainage Services Bylaw, etc.*

Provincially, there are also many initiatives, agencies, departments, and instruments which play a role in landscape stewardship, including:

- The Government of Alberta's *Water for Life Strategy* aims to ensure sustainable, integrated, collaborative water and watershed management based on three goals:
 - (i) Safe, secure drinking water;
 - (ii) Healthy aquatic ecosystems, and
 - (iii) Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

The tasks, responsibilities, and actions under *Water for Life* flow across several provincial government departments, and include many policies, programs, and targets for site-specific water quality objectives.

- A key direction in *Water for Life* is the support for partnerships, including regional Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs). The relevant WPAC for this heritage river designation is the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA), who have developed an [Integrated Watershed Management Plan](#) with four interrelated goals, as well as actions, strategies, roles and responsibilities, including both voluntary and statutory activities (NSWA, 2012).

- The *Water Act* provides a framework to allocate and protect water resources.
- The *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* regulates a wide range of activities with risks of environmental impacts, to promote the protection, enhancement, and wise use of the environment.
- The *Provincial Parks Act* governs the creation and management of provincial parks and protected areas, and helps support conservation, recreation, and tourism in these areas.
- The *Wildlife Act* protects and conserves wild animals in Alberta.
- The *Forestry Act* and the *Public Lands Act* provide additional relevant land management legislation.
- The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* provides an integrated land use framework and legislated regional planning processes, based on a comprehensive approach to land, water, and natural resources.
- The *Historical Resources Act* establishes a framework to identify, protect, and conserve historic resources, including archaeological sites, buildings, and cultural landscapes.
 - Alberta's Heritage Preservation Partnership Program provides grants and other supports to individuals, organizations, and municipalities involved in heritage preservation activities.

Federal legislation includes the *Fisheries Act* and *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations*, *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, and *Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994)*. In addition, Indigenous rights, self-determination, land and water resources and heritage is also supported by the *Constitution Act (1867)*, signed Treaties, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2021)*, and many Indigenous-led initiatives.

A CHRS Designation is non-regulatory in nature:

- i. Existing regulatory systems will not be affected by a Heritage Rivers designation, and
- ii. There shall be no duplication or additional regulations or approvals created as a result of heritage river designation.