

# Regional Characterization of the Beverly Channel Aquifer in the Industrial Heartland Area, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

Presented at "Groundwater - Our Hidden Water Resource

**NSWA Educational Forum** 

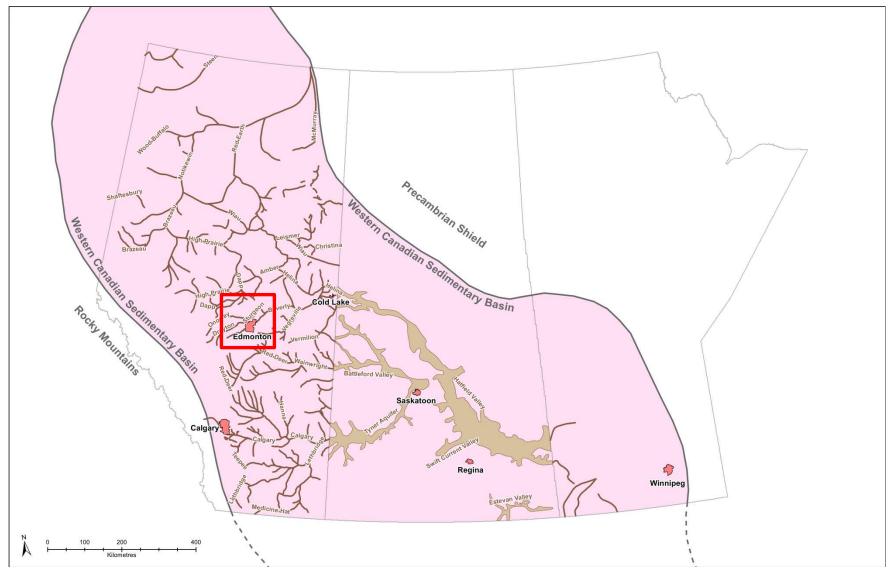
February 27, 2019

# Buried Valley Channels

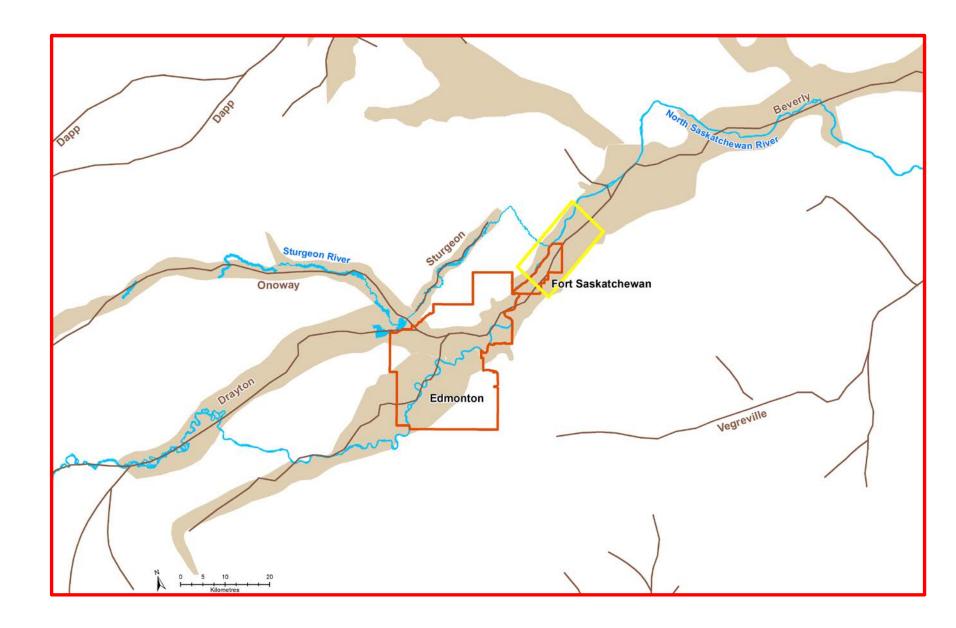


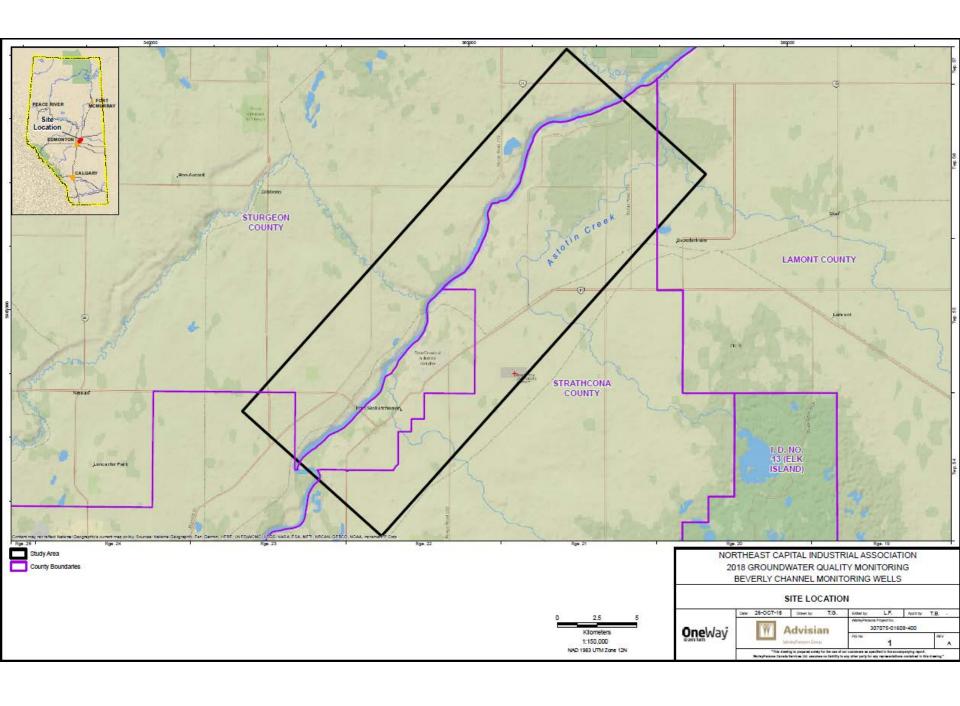


# Buried Valleys – Regional Setting



after Cummings et al. (2012) and Maathuis and van der Kamp (2006)





# The NCIA Regional Groundwater Quality Project



# The Northeast Capital Industrial Association (NCIA) Regional Groundwater Quality Project

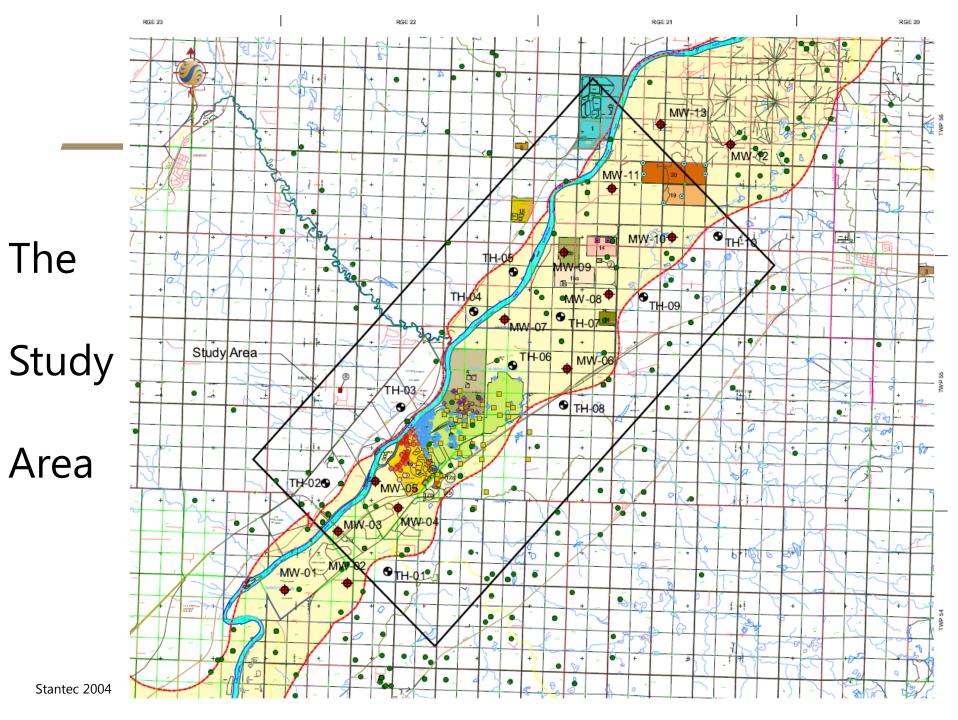
### **Objectives**:

- Provide a framework for regional scale management of groundwater quality issues
- Develop scientific knowledge of the groundwater quality
- Gain understanding of emerging groundwater issues
- Define groundwater quality baseline conditions

### **Project Chronology**:

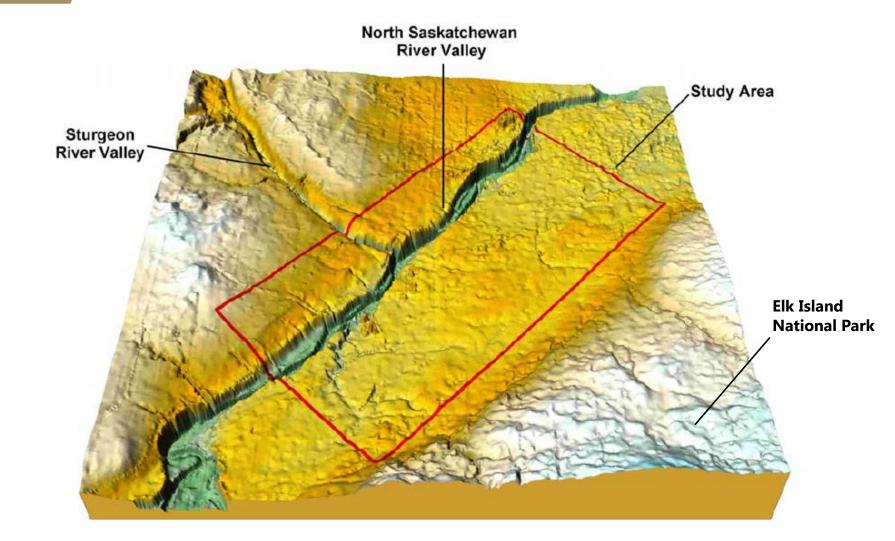
- 2003: development and population of a database and data gap assessment (\$300k spent with \$100k grant from AEP)
  - geology, groundwater levels, hydraulic parameters, chemistry
- 2005: field investigation and installation of regional monitoring wells (\$325k)
- 2005 2018: annual groundwater monitoring (\$300k so far)







# Surface Topography

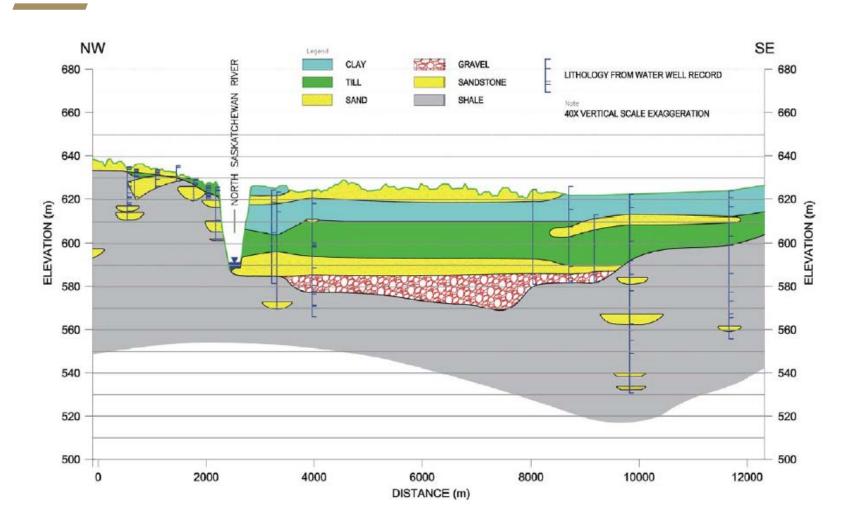


# Geology





# Geology



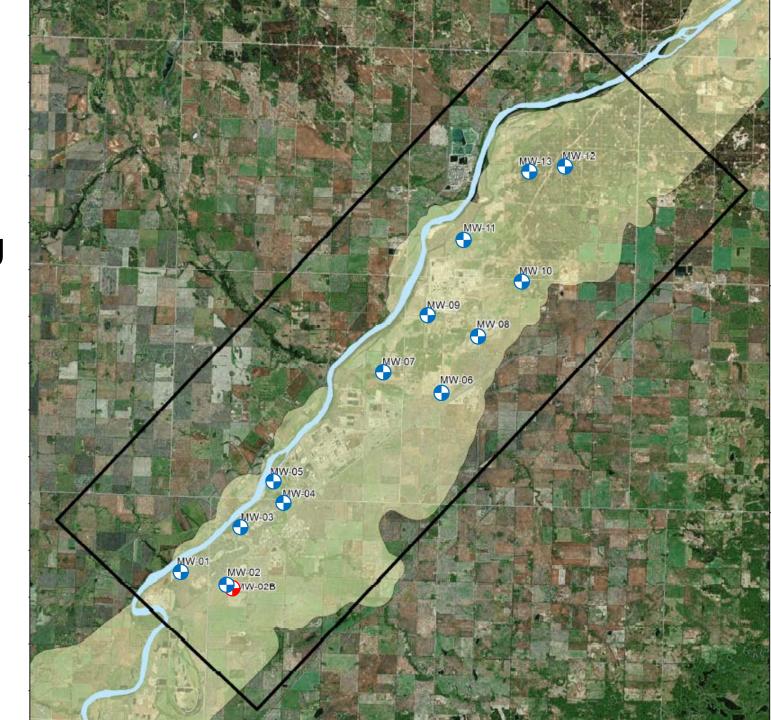
# Groundwater Levels, Flow Directions and Velocity



Monitoring

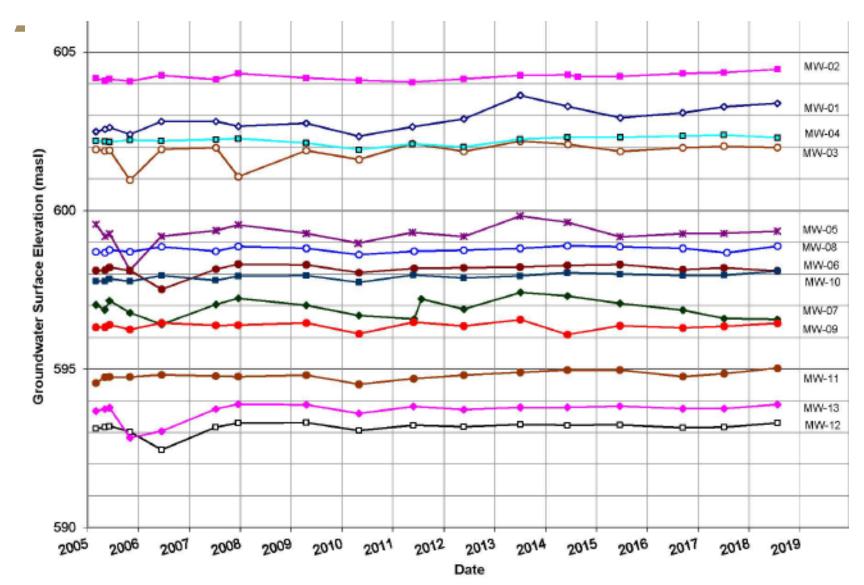
Well

Locations





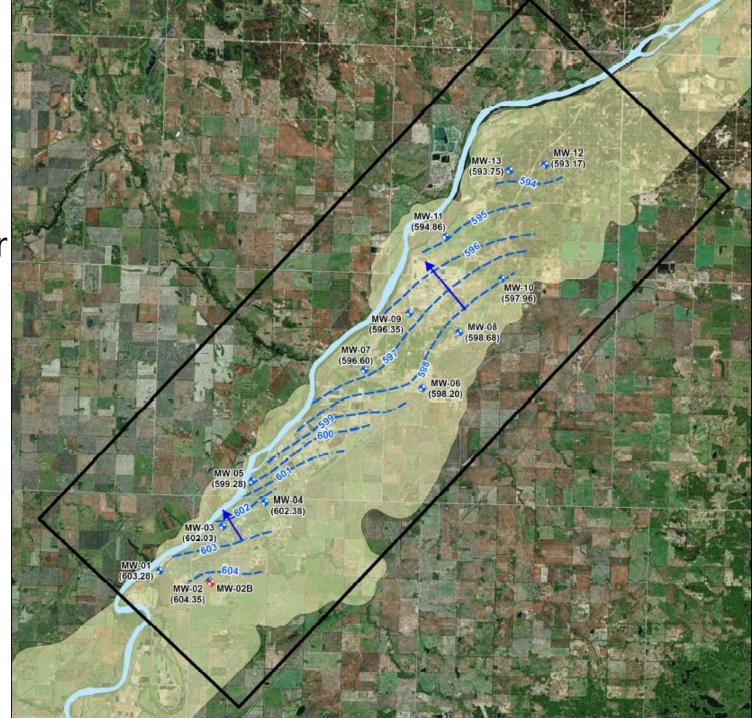
### Groundwater Levels



Groundwater

Flow

Directions



# Groundwater Quality





### Groundwater Quality

### **Analytical Schedule:**

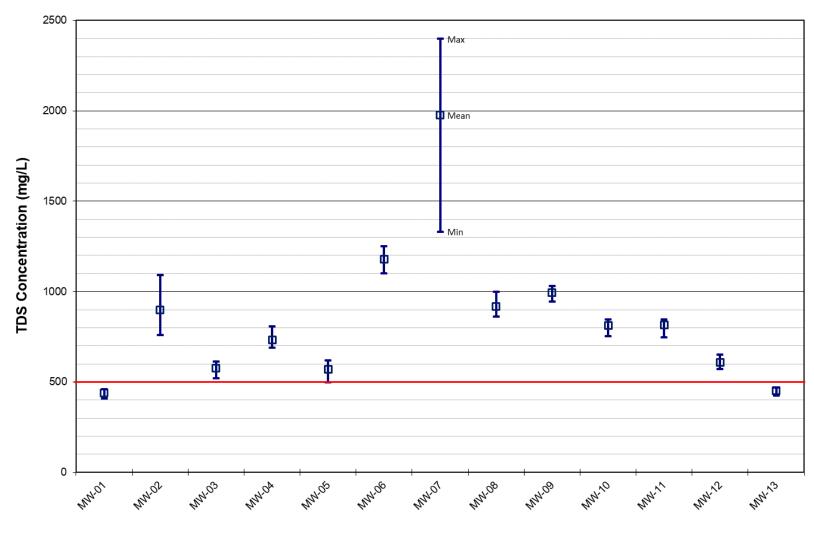
- Major Ions (routine potability)
- Dissolved metals and trace elements
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons (BTEX, F1, F2)
- Volatile organic compounds
- Isotopes <sup>2</sup>H and <sup>18</sup>O

### **Key Indicator Parameters:**

- pH, total dissolved solids (TDS),
- sodium, sulphate, chloride,
- iron, manganese



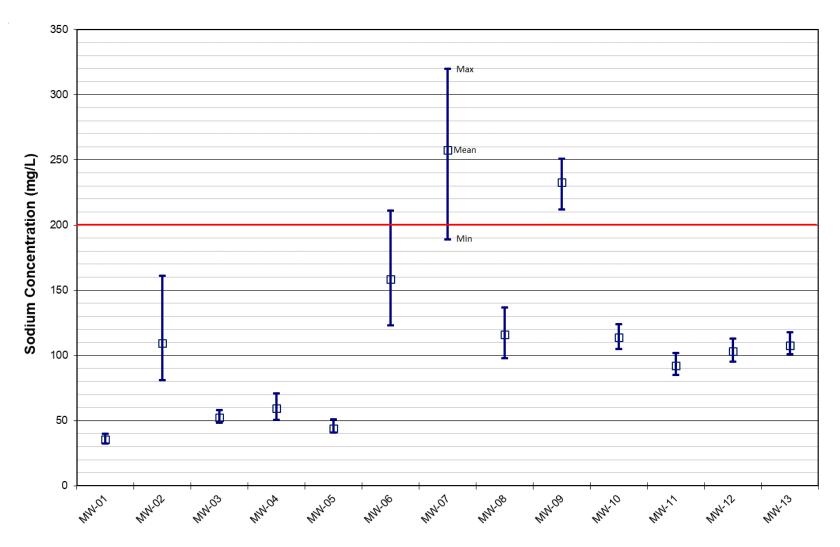
# Groundwater Quality - TDS



**Monitoring Wells** 

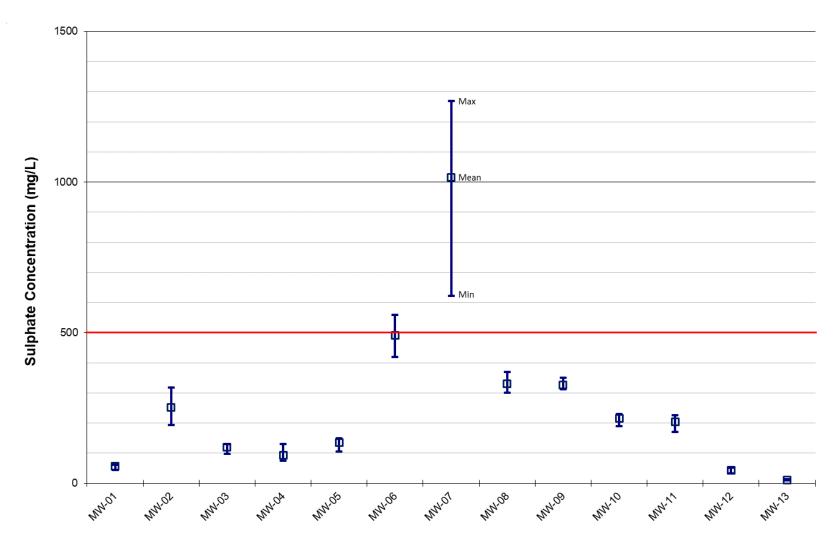


# Groundwater Quality - Sodium



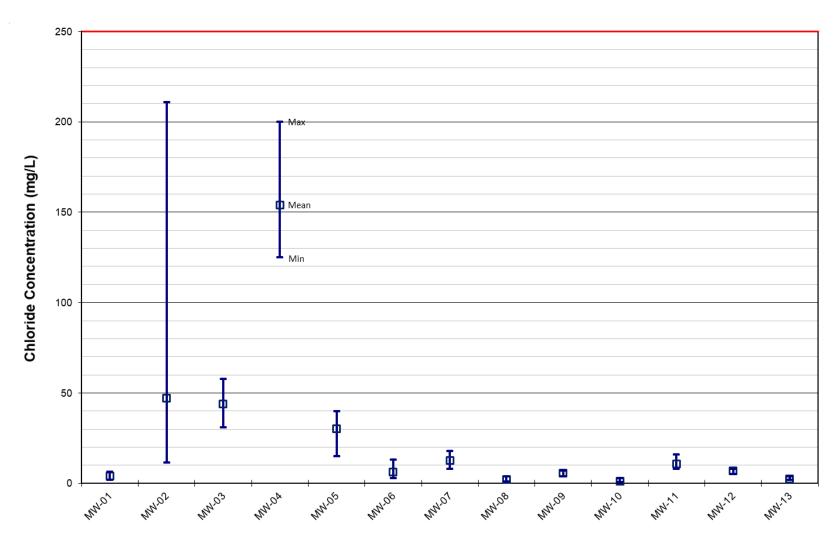


# Groundwater Quality - Sulphate

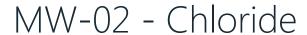




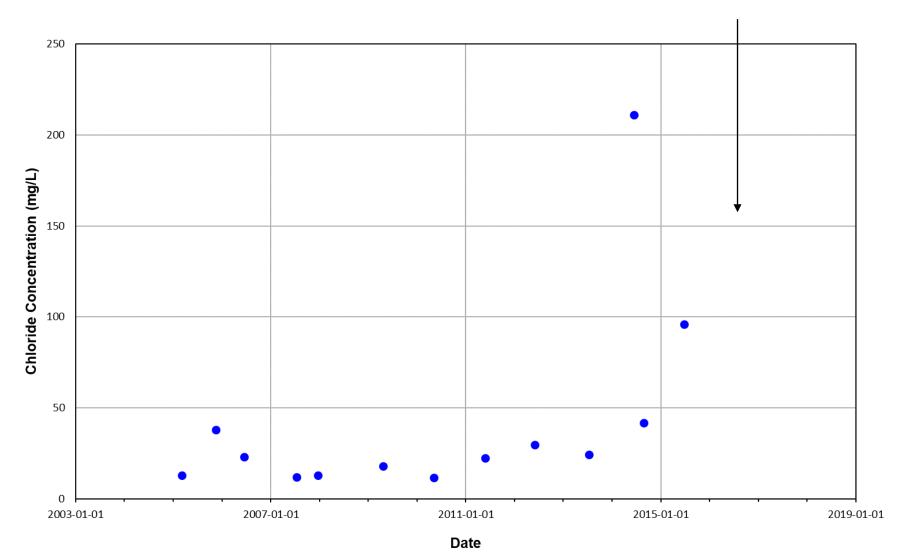
# Groundwater Quality - Chloride



**Monitoring Wells** 

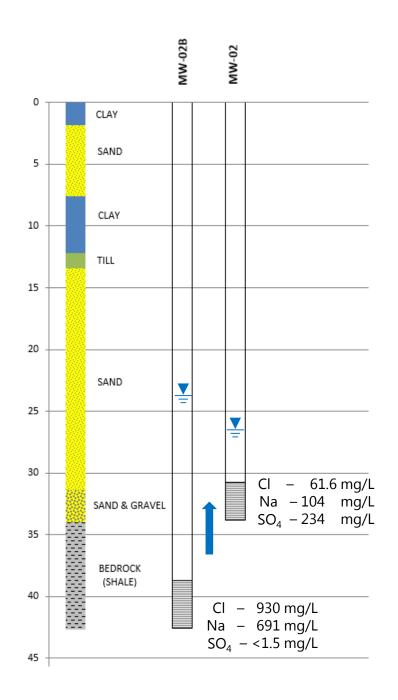


# Bedrock Monitoring Well Installation



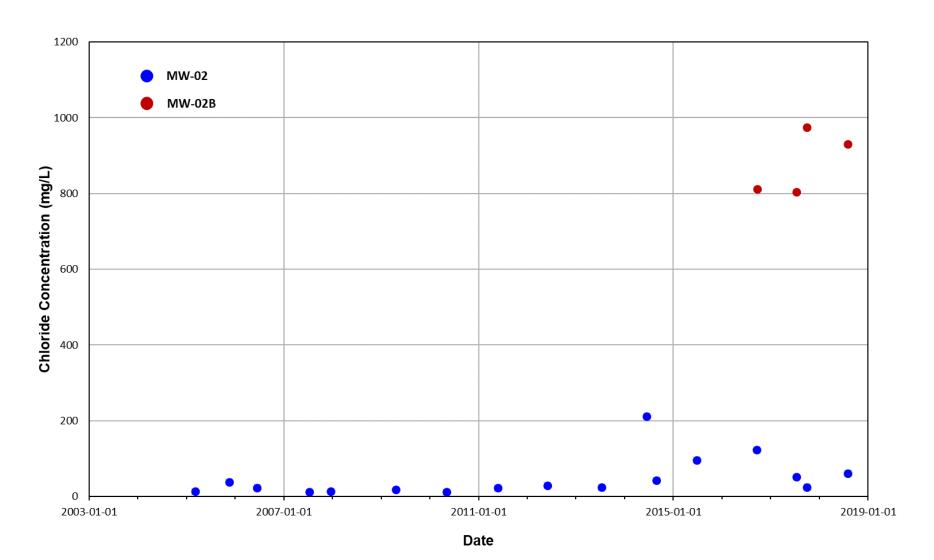
### MW-02B – Bedrock Well

- Bedrock monitoring well installed in September, 2016
- Groundwater flow is upward, from bedrock to Beverly Channel
- Four sampling events to date
- Significant difference in groundwater quality





### MW-02 and MW-02B - Chloride



# Summary



# NOT THE ASSOCIATION

### **SUMMARY**

- The NCIA has implemented and managed a Groundwater Monitoring Well Network in Alberta's Industrial Heartland for over 14 years.
- Primary objective has been to define baseline groundwater conditions in the Beverly Channel Aquifer
- Monitoring results to date show:
  - spatial variations in groundwater quality
  - influence of bedrock groundwater quality
  - No impact from industrial operations in the region
- Remnants of the Bearpaw Formation, of marine origin, are present in the area and locally affect the Beverly Channel groundwater quality.
- As the data over the past 14 years of monitoring shows little change, monitoring frequency will be reduced to biennial starting in 2020.
- I have included all of the hydrochemical control charts, for each measured parameter, for each monitoring well, at the end of this presentation if you are interested...I will not be showing those today.

## Reports are Publicly Available



All reports available at <a href="http://www.ncia.ab.ca/">http://www.ncia.ab.ca/</a>

# Thank You

### Contact



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