

Renewal of *Water for Life* Action Plan (2023-2033)

Alberta Environment and Parks
Alberta Lake Management Society Conference
September 29, 2022

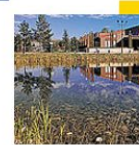
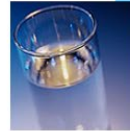
Background

- *Water for Life* Strategy established by Cabinet in 2003

water for life

Goals

1. Safe Secure Drinking Water
2. Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems (HAE)
3. Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

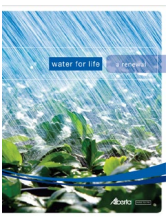


Key Directions

1. Knowledge and Research
2. Partnerships
3. Conservation



2003
Water for Life Strategy
released



2008
Water for Life Strategy:
A Renewal
released



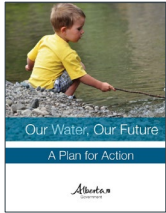
2013
Our Water, Our Future
A Conversation with
Albertans



2009
Water for Life
Action Plan
released



2014
Our Water, Our Future:
A Plan for Action
released



History of *Water for Life Strategy*

Implementation of *Water for Life*

- To date, six AWC reviews on implementation progress of *Water for Life* since 2003.
- Key findings of the AWC *Water for Life* Implementation Review 2021:

*“Significant progress has been made toward all three goals outlined in the *Water for Life* strategy”.*

*“The actions outlined in the 2009 *Water for Life* action plan are largely complete”.*

“Many actions have become part of daily business for people working in water management and stewardship across the province”.

Renewal of *Water for Life* Action Plan

- A refreshed multi-sector Action Plan will:
 - Better reflect today's water management priorities;
 - Refresh our commitment to being a leader in water and watershed management;
 - Inform future actions to be taken within and across all sectors;
 - Emphasize the shared responsibility for the stewardship of Alberta's water resources;
 - Provide a forum to discuss water perspectives;
 - Foster collaboration across sectors.

Multi-sector Approach

- Consists of:
 - Government of Alberta
 - Other Governments
 - Industry
 - Non-governmental
- 22 of 24 AWC “sectors” participating in renewal of action plan.
- Includes First Nations representatives from Samson Cree Nation and Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.



GoA Objectives for Renewal of Action Plan

- To re-affirm Alberta's position as a leader in water and watershed management.
- To advance and enable shared responsibility through partnership and access to information.
- To enhance Alberta's regulatory system and tools.
- To further our understanding of, preparedness for, and resiliency to climate variability and climate extremes.

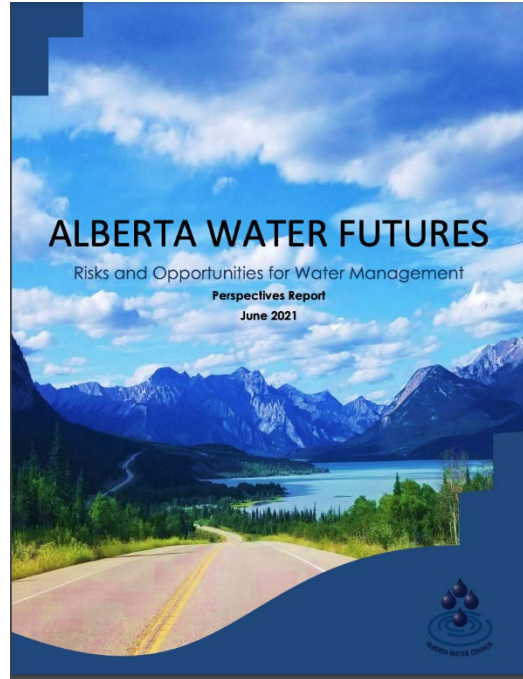
Identifying Water for Life Actions

- GoA process for identifying actions:
 - Established Cross-Ministry Steering Committee;
 - Re-established AEP Water Strategy Team;
 - Developed strategic intent for each WFL goal and action;
 - Identified actions aimed at achieving strategic intent;
 - Pursued GoA executive endorsement for collection of actions.

Alberta Water Futures – AWC (2021)

Risks

1. **Climate:** fluctuating water resources
2. **Growth:** increasing demand for water
3. **Governance & Trust:** not dynamic enough to adapt
4. **Knowledge:** understanding of conditions is not robust enough



Opportunities

1. **Adaptation:** renewal of water management system
2. **Planning:** understanding of place-based conditions and perspectives
3. **Knowledge:** monitoring, evaluation and reporting
4. **Foresight:** forecasting to support decision-making

Water for Life and GoA Actions

WFL Goal	Strategic Intent of GoA Actions
1. Safe, secure drinking water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to improve regulatory and non-regulatory tools and processes in support of effective source-to-tap drinking water management.
2. Healthy aquatic ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess and reduce risks and impacts to aquatic ecosystems, while promoting responsible water, land and resource management.
3. Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure responsible and sustainable water allocation and management, and build resilience into our water management system and associated infrastructure.

Water for Life and GoA Actions

WFL Key Direction	Strategic Intent of GoA Actions
1. Knowledge and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further our understanding of the state of Alberta's water resources to prepare for the future impacts of climate variability, emerging pathogens, new technology (e.g., water reuse) and other changes.
2. Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage others in a system that emphasizes shared goals and responsibility for water and watershed management, and supports developing and fostering collaborative networks and relationships.
3. Water conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote and adopt the tools and approaches needed to achieve water conservation, efficiency, and productivity.

Next Steps

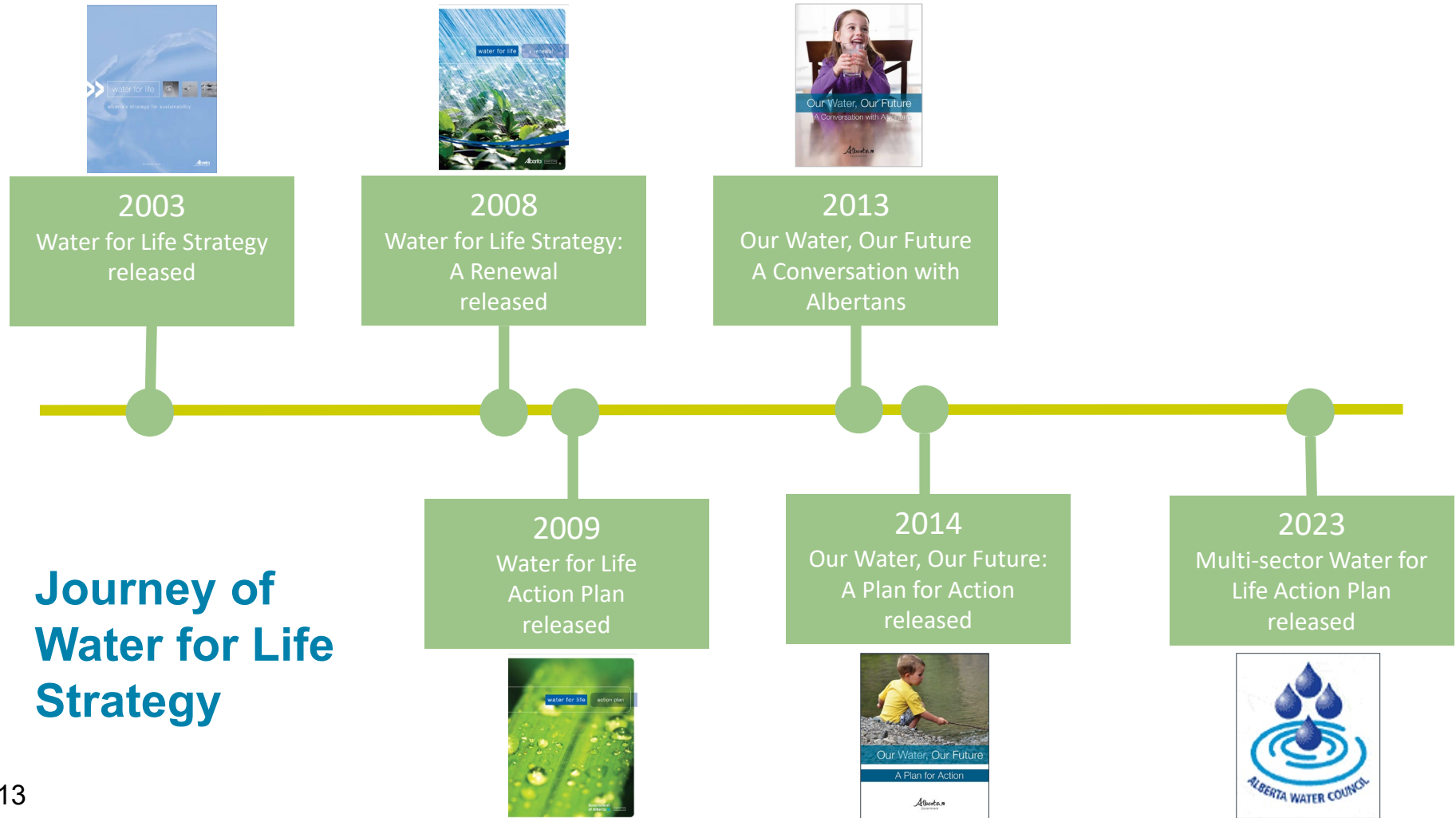
GoA Next steps:

- Finalize GoA's collection of WFL actions.
- Submit list of actions to the AWC.

AWC Next steps:

- Review and compile participating sectors' action plans, and identify opportunities for collaboration and synergies.
- Draft collective strategic intent for WFL Goals and Directions.
- Finalize and release 2023-2033 WFL Action Plan.

Journey of Water for Life Strategy



Questions?

