

The background of the slide features a serene landscape of a wetland. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water that perfectly reflects the sky and the trees above. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, suggesting a bright, slightly overcast day. Several tall, dark green coniferous trees stand prominently in the middle ground, their forms mirrored in the water. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and whites, with a warm, golden-yellow glow at the bottom of the slide.

# **WETLAND POLICY AND MITIGATION IN MANITOBA**

**WETLAND POLICY AND MITIGATION  
WORKSHOP MAY 10-11, 2005**

# PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- 💧 **Overview of initiatives that Manitoba has undertaken over the past several years to protect wetlands, riparian areas and water**
- 💧 **Manitoba Water Stewardship**
- 💧 **Overview of Bill 22 – *The Water Protection Act.***
- 💧 **Policy and program initiatives related to wetlands**
- 💧 **Future directions**

# GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

- ◆ Manitoba Water Strategy
- ◆ Manitoba Nutrient Management Strategy
- ◆ Lake Winnipeg Management Strategy
- ◆ Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board established
- ◆ Strengthened Livestock Manure and Mortalities Regulations
- ◆ Onsite Waste Water Management Regulations (private septic fields)
- ◆ CEC hearings on city of Winnipeg Wastewater
- ◆ ***Manitoba Water Stewardship created in November 2003***
- ◆ ***BILL 22: The Water Protection Act introduced March 4, 2004***

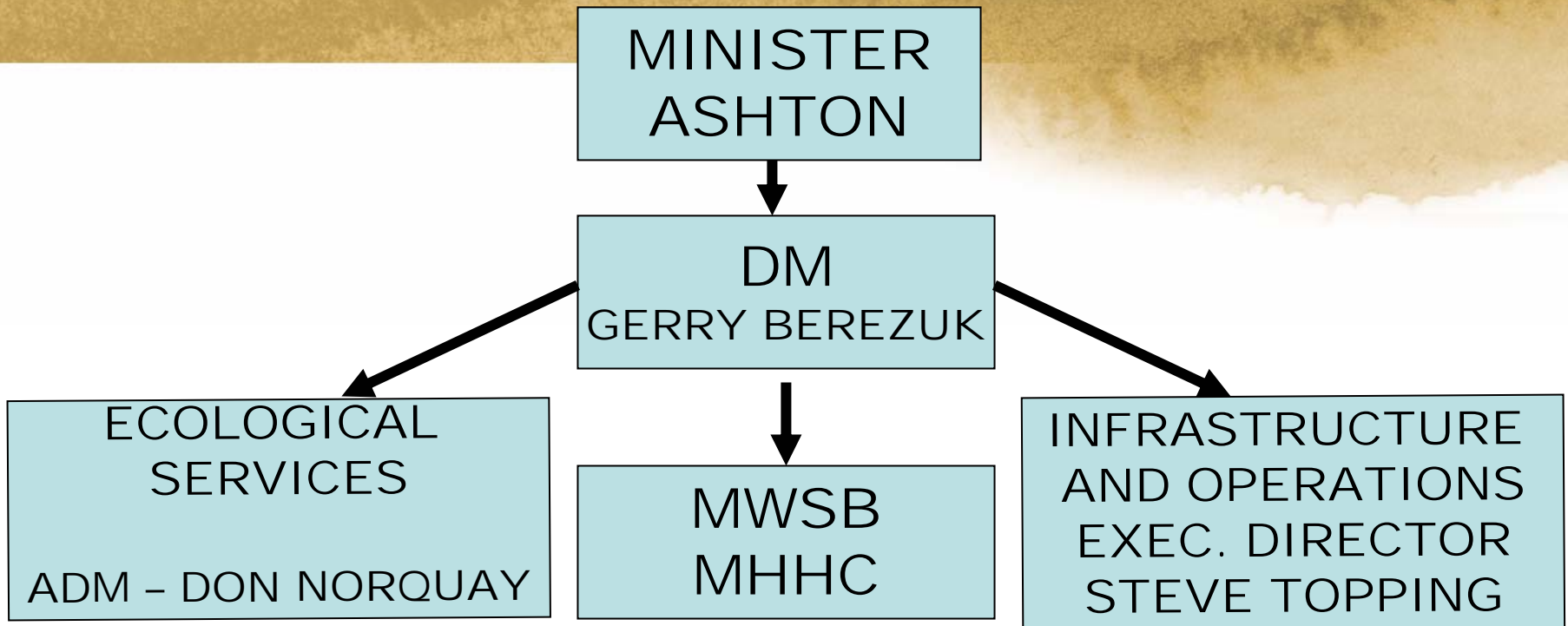
# *VISION*

*The best water for all life and  
lasting prosperity*

# *MISSION*

*For the equal benefit of current and future generations of Manitobans we sustain the life-support systems of water environments; enhance the wealth-generating capacity of water and fisheries resources; ensure the adequacy, safety and security of our water supplies; and protect the public and property from water-related hazards.*

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



- 💧 WATER SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT
- 💧 FISHERIES
- 💧 OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER
- 💧 POLICY AND PLANNING

- 💧 WATER LICENCING
- 💧 WATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE
- 💧 REGIONAL WATER OPERATIONS

# DEPARTMENTAL GOALS:

## Ecosystem Health

- 💧 ***Life support systems of aquatic ecosystems are protected and improved***

## Human Health

- 💧 ***Manitobans have safe drinking water and are protected from water quality related health threats***

## Prosperity

- 💧 ***Sustainable and productive use of water resources benefits all Manitobans***

## Hazards

- 💧 ***Manitobans are adequately protected from floods and other water-related hazards***

# KEY DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIES:

- 💧 ***Strong legislative* foundation.**
- 💧 **New *collaborative governance models* with *citizen engagement* – local authorities, local responsibility, local accountability.**
- 💧 ***Integrated watershed-based* land and water planning and management.**
- 💧 ***Locally delivered* water-related management and programs.**

# KEY DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIES:

- 💧 ***Alternative, sustainable*** funding methods and models (synergistic federal/provincial/municipal partnering).
- 💧 ***Economic incentives*** that ensure markets reflect the true value of ecological services.
- 💧 ***Capacity building*** internally and externally in support of departmental outcomes and strategies.

# MANITOBA WATER STRATEGY

- ◆ Released in April 2003
- ◆ Product of consultations with a Steering Committee and broad based advisory board of water interests in the Province.
- ◆ Strategy identifies:
  - ◆ Issues and immediate actions to address those issues.
  - ◆ Three key institutional areas that will assure the long term implementation of the Strategy: legislative reform, watershed planning, funding innovation

# THE WATER PROTECTION ACT

## Protect water & aquatic ecosystems recognizing:

- Clean, abundant water is a prerequisite to economic and social prosperity, well-being and food production
- Comprehensive water/land planning on a watershed basis is essential
- Clean drinking water requires source protection
- Decisions must be based on sound science
- Riparian, wetlands and sensitive landscapes must be protected

# WHAT IS IN THE ACT:

- ◆ **Water quality standards, objectives and guidelines**
- ◆ **Water quality management zones**
- ◆ **Watershed management plans**
- ◆ **“Wetlands” included with riparian and sensitive areas**
- ◆ **Manitoba Water Council**
- ◆ **Water Stewardship Fund**
- ◆ **Balance regulatory and other approaches**
  - ◆ **The *Act* will recognize the importance of incentives**
  - ◆ **Capacity building and partnerships also key**

# PROGRAM INITIATIVES

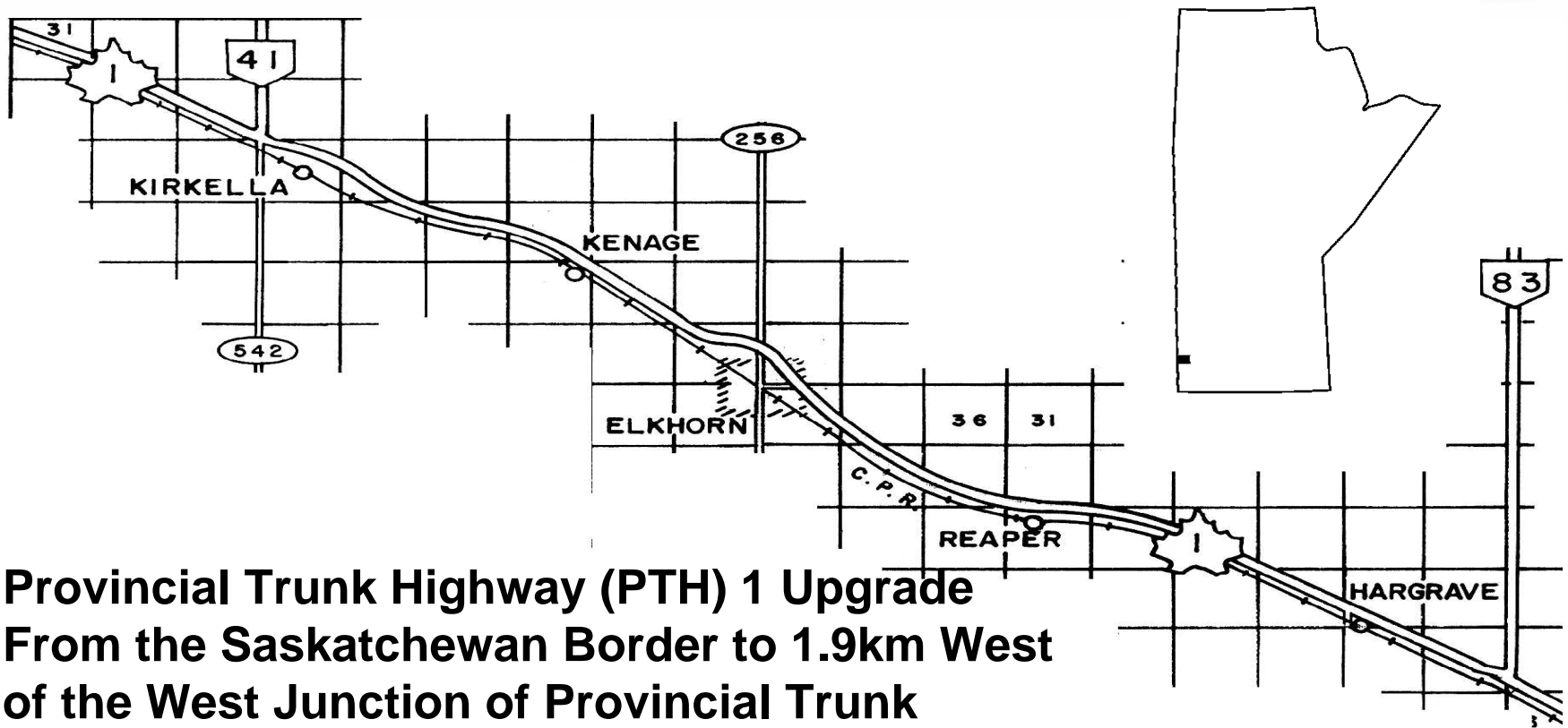
- Ecological Services Incentives Program:
  - \$490.0 to landowners for top-ups to 7 water focused BMPs (APF) and conservation easements programs
  - Top off incentives to 75% of producer costs delivered by MAFRI
  - MHHC delivery agent for conservation easements
- Manitoba Riparian Tax Credit
- Habitat Compensation Fund
  - MOU Manitoba Highways/Manitoba Conservation
  - Focus in NAWMP Area in Manitoba
  - Funds from Manitoba Highways for wetland mitigation
  - MHHC delivery agent

# PROGRAM INITIATIVES

## Habitat Compensation Fund

- Goal of no net loss of wetlands via avoidance, minimization, compensation
- Accounting system for habitat + or –
- Transfer of suitable habitat to MHHC
- Contribution funds to Habitat Comp. Fund
- Program Procedure: environ. survey, impact assessment, compensation plan, monitoring

# Wetland Habitat Compensation Plan



**Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 1 Upgrade  
From the Saskatchewan Border to 1.9km West  
of the West Junction of Provincial Trunk  
Highway 83**

# PTH 16 EXPANSION PROJECT

- Approx. 9 acres affected
- No viable alternatives or compensation
- Funds transferred from Highways to Habitat Compensation Program
- Compensation/loss ratio: Stewart/Kantrud 1971
- DUC: assessment of wetlands
- MHHC: cost/acre assessment for securement

# POLICY INITIATIVES

- Highways/Conservation Wetlands Compensation
- Wetlands Policy Statements: 2003 Water Strategy
  - Role of wetlands integrated into watershed planning
  - Wetlands Classification System for Manitoba needed
  - Develop local drainage plans with consideration to fish, wetlands, watershed plans, other impacts
  - Establish drainage standards for agriculture and environmental needs

# POLICY INITIATIVES

- Wetlands Classification in Agro-Manitoba 2004
  - Draft work, tailored from Canadian Wetlands Classification System
- Water Protection Act
  - Foundation for policy discussions on wetlands and water quality, drainage, watershed planning etc.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada/Manitoba Water Stewardship
  - MOU under consideration, to define partnership
  - Advance Ecological Goods and Services concept, promote IWR Planning and Management, promote/educate on value of wetlands

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

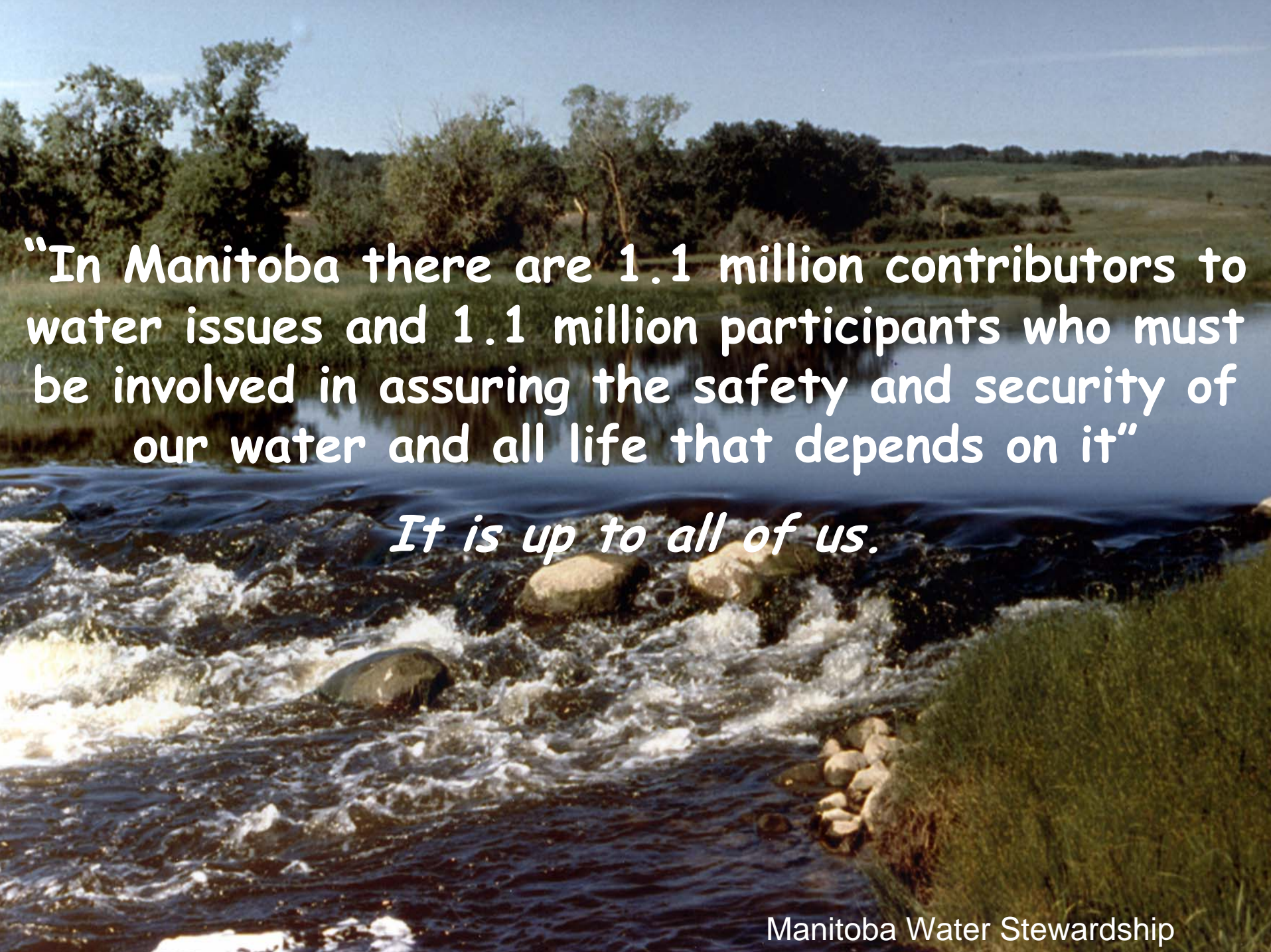
- Wetlands policy development process and statements defined
- Linkages between watershed planning, wetlands, water quality and flood mitigation
- Geospatial information systems to:
  - Monitor, track changes in wetlands: size, health,
  - Conduct impact assessment
  - Plan and conduct mitigation
  - Facilitate incentive programming

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Research and Pilot Projects
  - new pilots to assess wetland functions in waste management systems, nutrient traps, drought proofing,
- Ecological Incentive Programs
  - most efficient way to implement to make most change possible on landscape
- Ecological Engineering Options/Solutions:
  - Bio sand filters, living machines, restorers
  - Manure to electricity, reverse osmosis, etc.

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Expanding the Circle of Partners
  - Resource industries in modeling new approaches watershed and wetland restoration: forestry, mining.
  - Universities: coop programs, research
- Capacity Building
  - schools/universities, landowners/general public, community leaders/elected officials, business/industry, media, scientific/technical community



“In Manitoba there are 1.1 million contributors to water issues and 1.1 million participants who must be involved in assuring the safety and security of our water and all life that depends on it”

*It is up to all of us.*

# Water Quality Standards, Guidelines & Objectives

- 💧 **First Canadian jurisdiction to have these in law**
- 💧 **Developed through Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment**
- 💧 **Regular review and updating (most recent in 2002)**
- 💧 **Clarifies process for licensing**
- 💧 **Enforceable**

# Water Quality Management Zones

- 💧 **Province can designate specific areas**
- 💧 **Establishes science as the basis for identification**
- 💧 **Zones can be established for various purposes – protecting drinking water source, nutrient management, etc.**
- 💧 **Operations/activities can be regulated to specific standards applying only within these zones**

# Watershed Management Plans

- 💧 **Provides for the designation of watersheds**
- 💧 **Establishes Watershed Planning Authorities**
- 💧 **Prescribes matters that must be taken into account in preparing a plan**
- 💧 **Clarifies how approved Watershed Plans are to work with Municipal and Planning District land use plans**
- 💧 ***Public consultation mandatory***

# Manitoba Water Council

## Five or more members appointed to:

- 💧 **Monitor development & implementation of watershed plans**
- 💧 **Advise Minister on water issues**
- 💧 **Coordinate diverse water-related advisory boards**
- 💧 **Assist in sustainability reporting for water**

# Water Stewardship Fund

- 💧 **Creates a separate trust account for funding partnerships**
- 💧 **Provides grants for water related research**
- 💧 **Provides grants to assist implementation of watershed management plans**
- 💧 **Supports a variety of water management and water quality objectives**

# Serious Water Shortage

- ◆ Minister can declare a serious water shortage and take emergency action.
  - ◆ to protect drinking water, agricultural uses and other existing licensed users in an emergency
- ◆ As a result of the declaration clear standardized procedures will be implemented
- ◆ Allows for long term planning by water stakeholders by development of procedures in a non emergency setting and allowing for transparency of process.

# WATER IN MANITOBA

- 💧 **Water dominates Manitoba's and Canada's landscape. Canada contains 20 % of the world's fresh water.**
- 💧 **13 % of Canada's renewable freshwater flows through Manitoba.**
- 💧 **80% of the water that flows through Manitoba comes from outside of our jurisdiction.**
- 💧 **Canadians use on average 343 litres per day for household purposes.**
- 💧 **“We can no longer take Quality or Quantity of our water for granted.”**