



August 14, 2019

aep.minister@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Jason Nixon
Minister of Environment and Parks
The Alberta Order of Excellence
3rd floor Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nixon,

On behalf of the Cold Lake Regional Utility Services Commission (RUSC) and the City of Cold Lake, we would like to raise concerns to your Ministry relating to growing confusion surrounding the process of applying for inter-basin transfers for use as a source of drinking water. We feel that confusion surrounding this issue threatens to create the perception that the application of policies relating to inter-basin transfers are not being applied evenly and fairly across Alberta.

Based on a presentation the commission has received, and from information relayed during meetings with various government officials, the acceptance of inter-basin transfers seems to vary between districts.

It is our understanding that the approval of an inter-basin transfer would require the support of stakeholders and the support of technical data that would justify a transfer of water from one basin to another. It also seems, however, that competing interpretations of the government's policy and stance on this matter have been accepted in different regions, creating the perception that political expediency has also played a role in past approvals.

There is, therefore, a distinct and persistent lack of clarity in regards to the Ministry's position on inter-basin transfers, as well as the process, procedures, and justifications required for an approval.

Cold Lake RUSC and the City of Cold Lake are requesting for clarification on the Government of Alberta's position relating to inter-basin transfers and respectfully requests a formal explanation of the process and policy so that it can be more completely understood in our community.

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Cold Lake RUSC is a regional water provider with membership including the City of Cold Lake, the Municipal District of Bonnyville, Cold Lake First Nations and 4 Wing Cold Lake.

Regards,

Craig Copeland
Mayor, City of Cold Lake

Bob Buckle
Chair, Cold Lake Regional
Utility Services Commission