



November 16, 2018

Alberta Environment and Parks  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Twin Atria Building  
4999 - 98 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T6B 2X3

**Attn: Karen McDonald, Community Liaison Officer - Regional Business Support**

Dear Madam:

**Re: Inter-Basin Transfers**

The Cold Lake Regional Utility Services Commission (CLRUSC) attended a meeting of the Water North Coalition (WNC) in Beaverlodge, AB on January 26, 2018. The meeting included some in-depth discussions surrounding opportunities to do inter-basin transfers to meet water diversion needs in Alberta.

Different agencies have sent mixed messages regarding inter-basin transfers. We would like clarification with regards to, if and when inter-basin transfers are allowed, and the criteria surrounding those decisions.

The CLRUSC is currently undergoing an expansion to the regional water supply system from the Cold Lake water body. Concerns were raised during the early feasibility and planning stages on potential environmental impacts, water diversion license issues, future growth considerations and concerns being raised by Indigenous communities in the area. A possible solution included an inter-basin transfer from the North Saskatchewan River Basin to the Cold Lake Basin. Government officials, however, clearly articulated that AEP would not consider any inter-basin transfers as this would be against provincial policies to advocate for such a solution. AEP made it very clear that inter-basin transfers were very rare and next to impossible to approve.

We now are hearing from other AEP jurisdictions that inter-basin transfers are being promoted to resolve water diversion concerns. It is understood that applications require certain documentation and regulatory processes prior to



approval; however, the option of inter-basin transfers are very much supported as a possible solution. In fact, some discussions are developing on the possibility to have an inter-basin transfer from the Cold Lake Basin back into the North Saskatchewan River Basin.

The CLUSC would like to meet with AEP and develop a further understanding on the government's position on inter-basin transfers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Buckle".

Bob Buckle  
Chair  
CLRUSC

cc Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer - City of Cold Lake