



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Office of the Minister

Mr. Chris Gallagher, General Manager
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District
2821 18 Ave N
Lethbridge, AB T1H 6T5
chris.gallagher@lnid.ca

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

Thank you for your feedback on the initial engagement session on water in Fort MacLeod. I want you to know that I, and our UCP MLAs, have heard you loud and clear. Water is our lifeblood in Alberta, and we recognize how important it is to get our water policies right. Your valued feedback will help us thread this important needle properly.

This is just the first of many meetings. I asked my department to engage to get initial feedback on what's working, what's not and what we could do better – in all industries and with all water users. I want your real, honest feedback on all options, as it helps know what options to look at, what not to and why.

However, I've been clear with Irrigation Districts that we're not looking at scaling back licenses. First in time, first in right water licenses will be respected by this government. We value our agriculture industry and recognize the significant investments that have gone into irrigation by our farmers. We are also grateful for the work Irrigation Districts do to help manage our province's precious water resources.

I've also committed to the Irrigation Districts, and to my MLA colleagues, that I will not be moving forward on recommendations without meeting their constituents, producers, and irrigators in person. We're looking to schedule that follow up engagement either in January or February.

Thank you again for your concerns and I'm looking forward to hearing from you directly early in the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Schulz".

Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas