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*Prairie Provinces Water Board*

**Board Members**

Elliot Brown – Winnipeg

**NOTE:** This board is composed of representatives nominated by specific organizations and is not open to appointments from the general public.

Board Members are senior officials engaged in the administration of water resources in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and in the federal Departments of Environment and Agriculture and Agri-Food. Board Members are appointed by each government. The Board is supported by a Secretariat and three permanent Committees (Committee on Hydrology, Committee on Water Quality, and Committee on Groundwater). The Board is chaired by the federal government's representative from Environment Canada.

**Mandate:**

Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Canada formed the Prairie Provinces Water Board (PPWB) in 1948 to recommend the best use of interprovincial water and recommend water allocations between the provinces. This method worked well until the 1960s, when the provinces began requesting large allocations of water. Since the approach used by the Board was no longer adequate to allow long-term water planning by the provinces, a new system for sharing this limited resource was developed.

In October 1969, the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the federal government signed the Master Agreement on Apportionment to apportion water between the provinces and protect interprovincial aquifers and water quality. The apportionment agreement ensures that eastward flowing streams are managed such that there is equitable sharing of available supply; protection of the aquatic ecosystem; and sustainable management of transboundary aquifers.

**Authority:**

[\*Masters Agreement on Apportionment\*](#)

**Responsibilities:**

The Prairie Provinces Water Board administers the Master Agreement on Apportionment. Canada funds 50 % of the Board's programming with the remaining 50 % divided equally between Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Environment Canada conducts and pays for 100% of the water quantity and quality monitoring.

The high-level goals and objectives of the Prairie Provinces Water Board are to:

- Ensure the apportionment of interprovincial waters is carried out in accordance with the Master Agreement;

- Ensure adherence to water quality objectives and inform affected jurisdictions about unusual water quality conditions; and
- Provide a forum to exchange information, to inform jurisdictions of potential projects/issues and to facilitate discussion to limit conflicts and disagreements and promote cooperation in interprovincial water management.

**Membership:**

Provincial governments are the primary managers of water, including the regulation of drinking water, the management of water quality, enforcement of laws for the protection of water sources, and licensing water uses. Municipalities, with provincial oversight, are responsible for provision of drinking water and wastewater services. Each member of the Prairie Provinces Water Board represents their province but reports to a provincial department (i.e. Alberta Environment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, and Manitoba Water Stewardship).

The Government of Canada has constitutional authority for coastal and inland fisheries, navigation and shipping, transboundary water management including those shared with the United States, federal property, and First Nations and lands reserved for them, including responsibility, with First Nations governments, for provision of drinking water and wastewater services plus watershed-based source protection. The federal members of the PPWB report to Environment Canada and to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Agri-Environment Services Branch).

**Length of Terms:**

Indeterminate.

**Desirable Expertise:**

Representatives should have expertise in a field of water science or management and must be knowledgeable of the legislation and policy of the province which they represent. Senior officials are able to represent their government's interests and positions on interprovincial matters and are also able to convey information to their respective governments on the responsibilities and actions of the Prairie Provinces Water Board.

**Time commitment:**

Approximately 10 days per year.

**Meetings:**

Frequency: Two meetings each year, generally in March and October. Special meetings can also be convened as necessary.

**Remuneration:**

Government officials from each province participate as part of their duties. Any expenses that representatives incur as part of their role with Prairie Provinces Water Board are dealt with by their respective governments. In Manitoba, the eligibility and rates of remuneration are specified in Manitoba's General Manual of Administration.