



Water Charter

August 2010



Whereas water is a natural resource that is an essential component of all life on earth and there is no substitute for water, and

Whereas adequate clean water is critical to human health, sanitation and the liveability of communities across Canada, and

Whereas water in its natural state is critical for supporting ecosystem health, maintaining fisheries, providing recreation and attracting tourism, and

Whereas water is an essential input to agriculture and is necessary for industry and resource development; and

Whereas the changing climate is already affecting this vital resource; and

Whereas Canadians recognize our collective obligation to be responsible global water stewards and the need to continue to improve our water conservation and water quality preservation and enhancement efforts; and

Whereas Canadians have the potential to help address global water issues by developing and commercializing innovative new technologies and services, and to be leaders in the development and sale of new technologies and services to improve water conservation and quality across the world; and

Whereas innovation and the development of commercial potential for technology will help improve water efficiency across Canada while, leveraging our existing strengths, boosting economic opportunity, and positioning the country as a global leader in the field; and

Whereas, provinces and territories recognize that many watersheds do not follow national, provincial and territorial boundaries; and

Whereas provinces and territories recognize we can improve our efforts by working in partnership and leveraging the successes in the management of water conservation and water quality protection in our individual jurisdictions; and



Whereas working to achieve overarching water goals of reducing water consumption and increasing water efficiency; protecting our water quality and adapting to effects of climate change on water can have both environmental and economic benefits and is essential to a healthy, secure, and prosperous Canada;

Therefore we agree to take all timely measures in our respective jurisdictions and, when appropriate, to work together to:

- Reinforce water conservation, water quality and adapting to the water related aspects of climate change as a key priority for businesses, citizens, and their governments.
- Make water use more efficient, beginning by challenging water use sectors to prepare water conservation and efficiency plans.
- Encourage strong water efficiency and quality standards and regulations and the development of a Canada-wide water efficiency labelling program.
- Enhance our water monitoring effort and cooperate and share information on water conservation and water quality.
- Work with municipalities to ensure they have plans to deal with water-related emergencies and enhance best-practice sharing of planning tools among communities.
- Encourage Canadians and Canadian companies to be leaders in the development and sale of new technologies and services for water conservation and protection.
- Work with public and private sector groups to make World Water Day – March 22, 2011 – a national event with a visible and co-ordinated focus on the above priorities.
- Collaborate with Provinces, Territories and State governments on transboundary issues.

