



## WHAT IS THE INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (IWMP)?

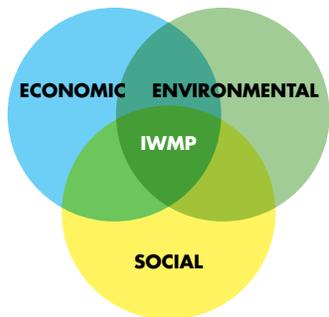
The Lesser Slave IWMP brings together government, industry stakeholders, and individuals to address water issues and concerns. Through the input of each of these groups, the IWMP will:

- evaluate existing conditions
- identify and prioritize issues
- define management objectives
- develop and implement protection or remediation strategies

The Provincial Cabinet-approved Water For Life Strategy mandates the development of the IWMP. The Lesser Slave Watershed Council is responsible to create the plan and submit it to government.

## AN INTEGRATED PLAN

Watershed planning recognizes the need for land and water management to sustain both environmental health and the livelihoods of communities and individuals. Economic, environmental, and social aspects of the watershed are all considered together in the IWMP.



## WANT TO HELP?

The IWMP will combine the input of government, industry, and individuals to balance the environmental issues with economic and social values. Your opinions and experience are crucial to developing a sustainable solution.

Participants in the IWMP will have the opportunity to:

- meet other interested individuals and stakeholders.
- provide input in developing action plans that will make a difference.
- work towards preserving water quality and the health of ecosystems where you live.
- learn about what you can do in your own backyard.

Topics covered in the IWMP will include:

1. Availability of clean water
2. Algae blooms in Lesser Slave Lake
3. Fish habitat conservation
4. Wetland conservation
5. Sustainable land-use practices
6. Gaps in knowledge and research



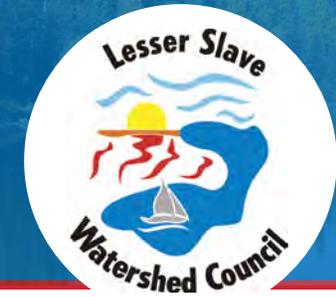
## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your opinions and experiences are crucial to developing sustainable, effective solutions.

To talk to us, learn more, or get involved, please call the LSWC at 780-523-9800 or visit [www.lswc.ca](http://www.lswc.ca)



# GET INVOLVED



## LESSER SLAVE

## INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN





## THE NEED FOR AN IWMP

Issues of concern in the Lesser Slave Watershed include:

- habitat alteration, which endangers important species and the health of ecosystems
- an increase in the amount of blue-green algae blooms, which reduces recreational opportunities and the safety of drinking water

The IWMP will determine specific actions to deal with these and other threats to the ongoing sustainability of our water and ecosystems.

### » EXAMPLE ISSUE:

*Algae blooms in Lesser Slave Lake caused by excessive nutrients in the water.*

### » EXAMPLE IWMP GOAL:

*Reduce frequency and severity of algae blooms.*

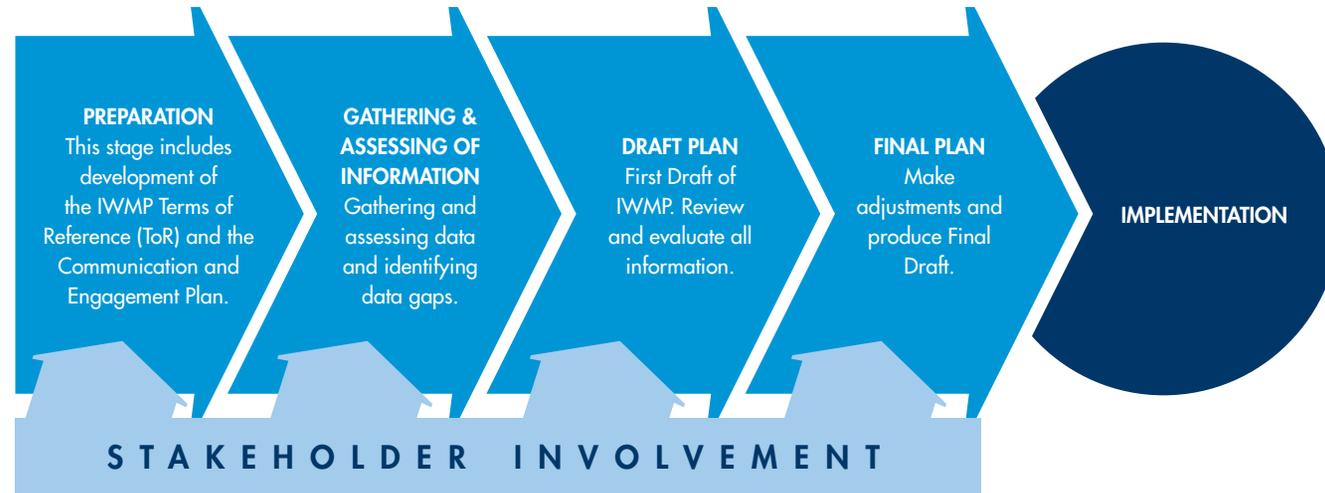
### » EXAMPLE ACTIONS:

- Educate waterfront owners on ways to reduce nutrient runoff into the lake.
- Work with stakeholders and local government to improve natural buffers along streams and lakes.
- Work with agricultural producers to keep cattle away from the water.
- Conserve and restore wetlands to trap nutrients before they enter water bodies.



## IWMP DEVELOPMENT

The IWMP is developed in four main stages. Stakeholders and individuals have opportunities to get involved at each stage:



## THE LESSER SLAVE WATERSHED

The IWMP is based around the interconnected ecosystems that make up the Lesser Slave Watershed, rather than along municipal or regional boundaries. This approach recognizes that:

- all activities within the watershed affect water quality and quantity.
- upstream (stream and river) activities influence downstream (lake) health.
- all levels of government, stakeholders, and individuals in the watershed are part of the solution.

## LEGEND

- Driftpile River
- East/West Prairie Rivers
- Lesser Slave Lake North
- Lesser Slave River
- South Heart River
- Swan River
- Lesser Slave Lake
- Indian Reservations

