

Alberta Environment Public and Stakeholder Involvement Principles

Alberta Environment strives to be a leader in environmental management to sustain natural ecosystems, healthy Albertans, strong communities and a prosperous economy. The Ministry is focusing on working collaboratively with stakeholders based on the principle of shared responsibility for the environment.

Cooperative action at the local, regional, provincial, national and international levels is needed for effective environmental management. This contributes to better environmental outcomes and also responds to the expectation of Albertans for greater participation in shaping government policy and actions and delivering the programs that affect the quality of their lives.

Alberta Environment has identified six principles to maximize the benefits of public and stakeholder involvement. These principles, built on our valued behaviours, will steer the actions of Ministry staff during public and stakeholder involvement processes. They illustrate how we will act.

- 1. Respectful:** We will form relationships based on a foundation of trust, honesty and cooperation.
- 2. Inclusive:** We will provide an opportunity for people to be meaningfully involved in matters that affect them.
- 3. Timely:** We will provide people the opportunity to be involved early in the decision-making process and give a reasonable period of time for their participation.
- 4. Responsive:** We will provide people access to the results of the public and stakeholder involvement process.
- 5. Transparent:** We will define and communicate our respective roles and responsibilities in the public and stakeholder involvement process.
- 6. Flexible:** We will adapt the public and stakeholder involvement process to meet people's needs.

Alberta Environment will use a range of public and stakeholder involvement approaches that reflect these principles. Where legislation, however, prescribes a specific public involvement process, that process will take precedence in the application of the Public and Stakeholder Involvement Principles. For example, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the *Water Act* provide a particular process for issuing approvals and licences.