



# Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment in Treaty No. Six First Nations



18 June 2025

## Territorial Acknowledgement

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance acknowledges that the traditional land on which our watershed resides is in Treaty 6 Territory, Treaty 8 Territory, and the Métis Homeland.

We deeply respect and wish to honour the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory since time immemorial, including the Nêhiyawak/Cree, Denesuliné/Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakotalsga/Nakota Sioux, and the Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples.

We further acknowledge this territory as the Métis homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.

**Drought Resilency Needs Assessment** 

### **Outline**

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Drought Needs Assessment
- 3. Lessons from the project
- 4. Questions / Discussion





The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations serves as a united political voice for the continued protection of the fundamental Treaty, inherent, and Human Rights of the Treaty peoples of member Nations.

- 16 Member Nations
- 5 Executive Chiefs
- 3 Tribal Councils
- 1 Grand Chief



The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation, protection, and sustainable management of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed.





# Drought Resiliency Needs Assessment

### **Background**

- Critical gap in support mechanisms available to First Nations facing the challenges of climate adaptation, in the context of drought
- Alberta Water Council Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought project
  - Focus on municipalities

#### **Needs Assessment**

- Co-draft a Drought Planning Needs
  Assessment
  - Insights from First Nations within Treaty
    No. 6 territory in Alberta.
  - Review of existing materials
- Build awareness among First Nations for drought planning and enable collaboration.

This project aims to enhance the abilities of First Nations in the Treaty No. Six territory in the Alberta Region to adapt to changing climate conditions.

**August** Hire Indigenous 2024 project lead **Establish** October Working 2024 Group & **Technical** Advisorv Circle (TAC) **Host Needs** November Assessment 2024 Workshop **February Host Regional** Networking 2025 Workshop **Develop Draft** Needs **Assessment Final Needs Assessment & June 2025** Distribution across Prairies

### **Needs Identified**

**Reserve vs. Traditional Territory** 

#### **IDENTIFIED NEEDS AWC Info** Traditional Knowledge - Practice ...... Monitoring and Data Understanding/Training/Education ->Planning for Drought Intelligence - Knowledge/Data/Monitoring /Reporting Supply Management Policy - Planning - SOP -Demand Management **Decision making - autonomy Land Use Planning** Storage - alternative sources **Agriculture** ··...>Ecological Systems Infrastructure Youth Community and Health **Emergency Management** >Public Education Communication Collaboration **Workforce Development** >Emergency Management Funding • Funding **Technology (access to)**

# **Next Steps**

#### Phase 2 Ideas

- Elder's and Knowledge Keepers Circle on Water
  - Pipe Ceremony and set intentions
- Awareness outreach to Confederacy member Nations
  - In community events to show the needs work
- Drought and Water Education Materials for communities
  - Purpose built for communities, perhaps multiple languages
- First Nations Drought Resource Toolkit
  - Addressing drought related needs in communities

### Lessons

- Worldviews
  - Relations not Transactions
  - Water is our relative, honoured through ceremony and care
  - Everything is connected. We have a responsibility to water as part of a larger web of kinship with the land, the animals, the spirits, and one another



#### • Trust

- Relations not Transactions
- Non-profit organization vs. government vs. industry
- Work is for First Nations, not an outside entity
- Time

### Lessons

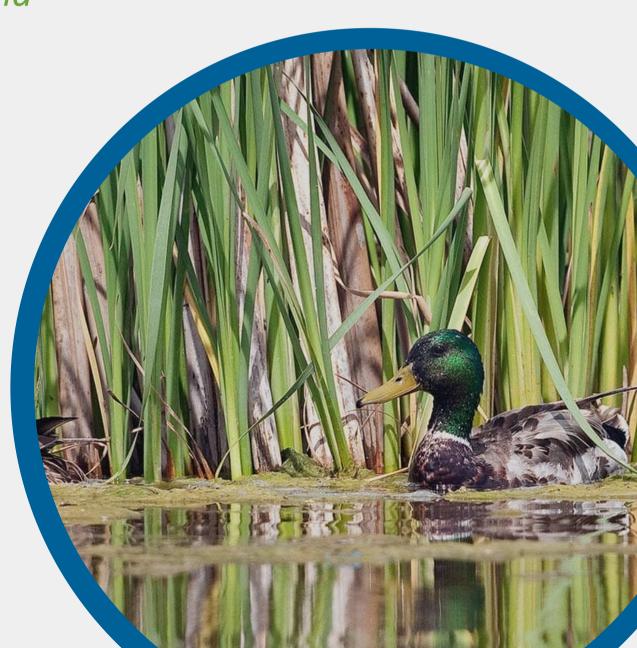
- Water Security vs. Drought Preparedness
  - Often high levels of water insecurity among communities
  - Connected to Emergency Management and ability to respond

### Sharing

- Support and facilitate sharing amongst Nations
- Indigenous project lead

### Capacity

- Ability to attend and travel
- Provide logistics support





# Questions & Discussion

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