



# Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: June 6, 2003

## **Water supply continues to improve for Red Deer, North Saskatchewan Rivers**

Two major storms in late April and early May combined with a rapid, early snowmelt have resulted in much-above-average runoff volumes this spring in the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins. Runoff volume at the Dickson Dam for the March to May 2003 period was the second highest on record since 1912.

However, because mountain snowmelt volumes happened early, volumes for the June through September period are forecasted to be below-average to average in the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins, and below-average in the Bow, Oldman, and Milk River basins.

### ***The big picture...***

When the March through May recorded runoff volumes are combined with the June to September forecast volumes, volume totals for the runoff year are forecasted to be above-average in the Red Deer River basin, average in the North Saskatchewan River basin, and below-average in the Bow, Oldman, and Milk River basins.

***Other highlights*** of the June Water Supply Outlook include:

- Precipitation during May was generally below-normal in the mountains and foothills and in northwestern Alberta, and normal to much-above-normal in southern plains areas and northeastern Alberta.
- Precipitation during the past twelve months has significantly improved soil moisture conditions in the province. Alberta Agriculture has measured soil moisture in plains areas this spring, and found that conditions are generally good to excellent in southern and west-central Alberta.
- As of June 1, 2003, water storage in the major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is normal, except for the Milk River Ridge Reservoir which is above-normal. Water storage in the major reservoir of the Red Deer River basin is also above-normal for this time of the year.
- Water storage is normal as of June 1, 2003 in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, except in the Ghost and Glenmore Reservoirs which are above-normal and the Travers Reservoir which is below-normal. Storage levels in the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca River basins are normal.

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