

# Building Watershed Resilience through Partnerships with Manitoba's First Nations and Conservation Districts

Speaker: Lynda Nicol, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of Watersheds

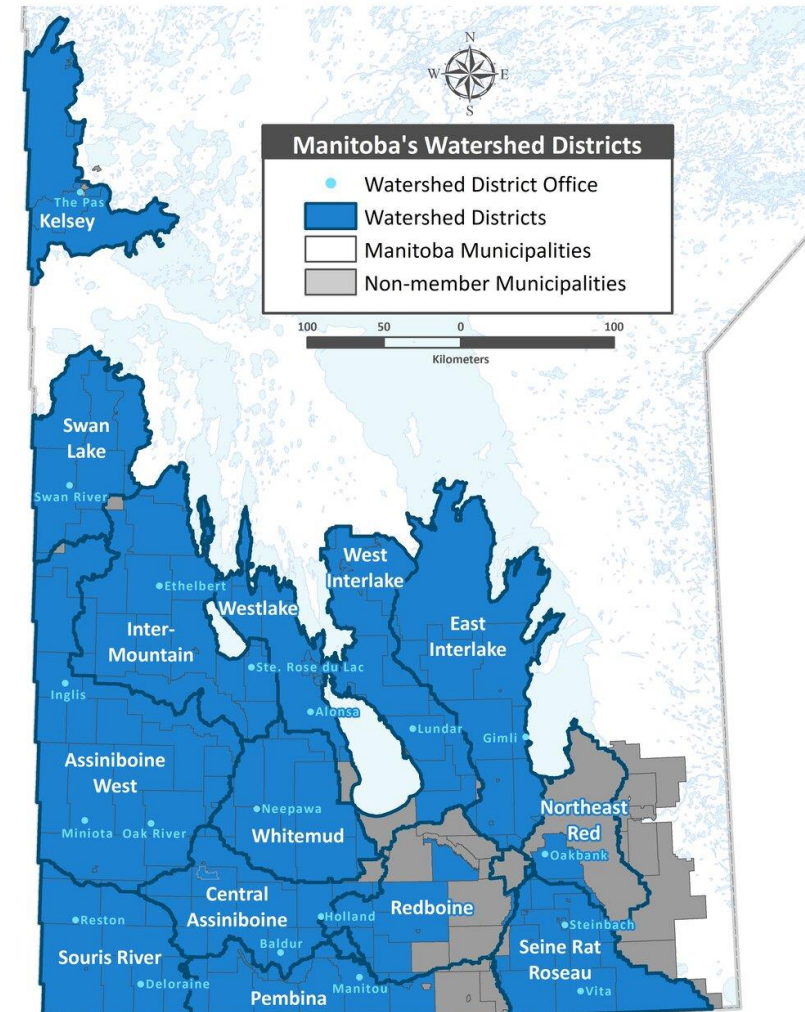


Manitoba  
Association of  
Watersheds

# Who We Are

**Manitoba Association of Watersheds** (*formerly Manitoba Conservation Districts Association*) supports Manitoba's 14 watershed districts in their efforts to protect Manitoba's soil, water, habitat, and climate.

Project lead and administrator for joint project with Lake Winnipeg Basin Program.



# Project Purpose



- Build watershed resilience
- Strengthen relationships between Watershed Districts and First Nations partners
- Support activities that will reduce nutrients and contaminants in the Lake Winnipeg watershed
- Advance collaborative governance
- Work with Indigenous communities on sustainable watershed management
- Increase capacity of watershed stakeholders

# Project Activities



1. Educate the Watershed Districts (WDs)
2. Meeting Place
3. Source Water Protection
4. Indigenous Cultural Education for Watersheds
5. Breakfast with Elders
6. Watershed Planning with First Nations
7. Communication in support of primary project activities

# 1. Educate the WDs



## Activity Purpose:

- Involve all WDs and their partner First Nations
- Learn more about watershed-related Indigenous knowledge and perspective

## Activity Deliverables:

- David Scott from Swan Lake First Nation and Richard Bolton from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources presented at the 43rd Conservation Districts Conference, December 2018 in Brandon.
- Focused on how watershed districts can continue building relationships with First Nations

# 2. Meeting Place



## Activity Purpose:

- Share update on local Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- Gain insight on Indigenous Knowledge and Expertise
- Identify potential new projects and partnerships
- Build towards collective decision making through increased capacity and understanding

## Activity Deliverables:

- David Scott from Swan Lake First Nation hosted three districts in December 2018
- Assiniboine West Watershed District (formerly Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District) hosted Rolling River First Nation in July 2019
- Completed workshop with member of Canupawkpa Dakota First Nation, which lead to collaborations such as a large-scale tree planting project

# 3. Source Water Protection



## Activity Purpose:

- Field investigation of risks to local aquifer / well water supply

## Activity Deliverables:

- Pembina Valley Watershed District and Swan Lake First Nation
- Souris River Watershed District and Canupawkpa Dakota Nation staff

# 4. Indigenous Cultural Education for WDs



## Activity Purpose:

- Share Indigenous practices with Watershed District managers

## Activity Deliverables:

- Watershed District managers met with Aboriginal, Metis and Inuit Elders/teachers who discussed and demonstrated traditional land and water use practices, ceremonies and history in February 2020



# 5. Breakfast with Elders



## Activity Purpose:

- Formally introduce Assiniboine West Watershed District to Rolling River First Nation elders.

## Activity Deliverables:

- Hosted breakfast in September 2021

# 6. Watershed Planning with First Nations



## Activity Purpose:

- Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) facilitated presentation and discussion introducing their resources for First Nations Integrated Watershed Planning
- Introduce Manitoba's watershed districts to tools to better engage with their Indigenous neighbours at all stages of the working relationship

## Activity Deliverables:

- CEIR presented at the 2021 Manitoba Watersheds Conference in December 2021

# Next Steps



- Ongoing engagement with First Nations partners in the spirit of collaborative governance
- Recognizing evolving needs for increased capacity to support new partnerships
- Pursuing funding opportunities to support new programs and projects

# Thank you!

For more information contact:

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