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January

Drought Information & Tips

Given the dry conditions we are currently experiencing in our region and province, the Town of Taber is sharing drought information for Taberites so you can be informed, prepared, and act accordingly. The following information has been sourced directly from the Government of Alberta's website and is current as of the end of December 2023. We encourage all members of the public to stay tuned to our official Town of Taber channels for updates specific to our community, and to official Government of Alberta channels for information that affects the province as drought conditions continue.

About Droughts in Alberta

Generally, Alberta relies on melting snow and precipitation for most of its water. Droughts are prolonged periods of dry weather that deplete water resources, including:

- Natural sources (rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater)
- Constructed storage (reservoirs and dugouts)
- Irrigation canals
- Soil moisture

In the past 120 years, 5 major droughts have occurred across the Canadian Prairies. Starting in 1929 with the "Dust Bowl," multi-year droughts also occurred in the 1980s and the early 2000s.

Current Conditions

Alberta is experiencing drought in many parts of the province due to a below average snowpack in winter 2022-23, which meant less runoff filling rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and below average precipitation in most areas during the spring and summer. This is contributing to water shortage in some parts of the province, especially in southern Alberta.

Alberta is currently in water shortage management stage 4 (out of 5), where multiple water management areas are impacted by water shortage. See page 2 for what that means to Albertans. Alberta's government is monitoring conditions and working closely with water users and local governments to help manage and conserve water where possible.

Continued on next pages...

Scheduled Meetings

The public is welcome to attend:

Council

Special/Regular Meetings:

January 8th: 3:30 pm @
Council Chambers

January 22nd: 3:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Livestreams or recordings of Council meetings: www.taber.ca/livestream

Library Board

January 11th: 5:15 pm @
Library Board Room

Development Authority (MPC)

January 15th: 1:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Arts & Heritage Committee

January 16th: 5:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Municipal Police Commission

January 17th: 4:30 pm @
Council Chambers

The above are subject to changes at any time. See www.taber.ca/calendar for most current meeting info.

Looking for Town Info?

Check out our website for the latest Town information, news, updates, events, and more:

www.taber.ca

And sign up for eNotifications:

www.taber.ca/enotification

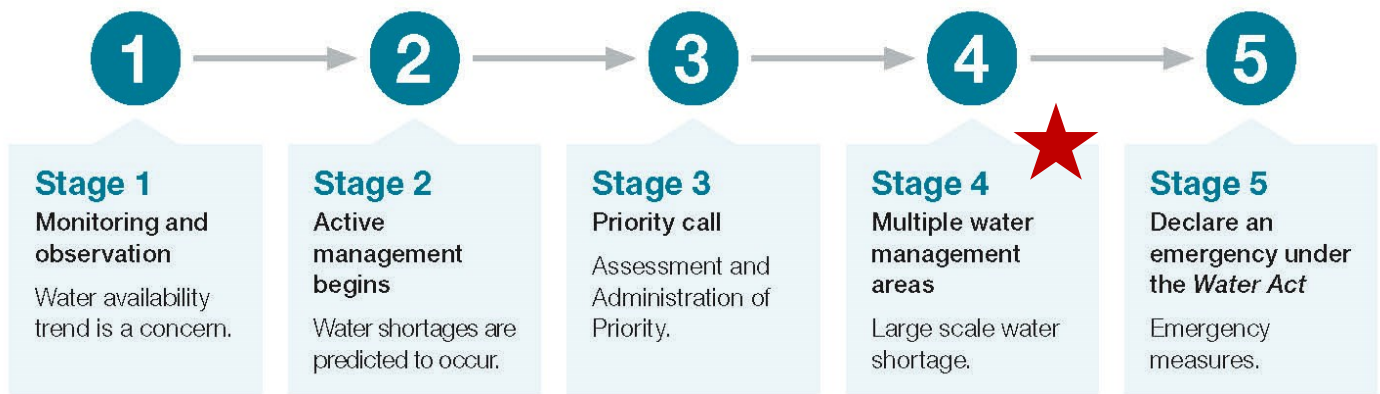
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Water Shortage Management Stages

The Government of Alberta ensures the quality and quantity of Alberta's water resources under the *Water Act*, which supports and promotes the conservation and management of water. During times of drought and water shortage, it may be necessary for the government to take management action to protect the aquatic environment and integrity of the water management system. Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) defines five stages for managing through water shortage:




Depending on the length and severity of a water shortage, the government may proceed through these 5 stages of water shortage management. Management stages will change based on conditions and can shift at any time.

Management Stage	Stage Occurs When:	Management Action Options:
Stage 1: Monitoring and Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Supply Outlook on Alberta River Basins indicates there may be potential water shortages in an applicable water management area. There is an elevated risk of a priority call or risk of failure to meet apportionment requirements. Risk of loss to riparian areas, or instream objectives or water conservation objectives not being met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interdisciplinary Flood and Water Shortage Team forms to monitor the developing situation, identify resources, manage communications, and implement the water shortage procedures. Information such as reservoir storage, snowpack, predicted precipitation, current conditions and anticipated demand by all water users is taken into account to determine if the water shortage will impact household users, licensees, traditional agricultural users, or other provincial responsibilities such as apportionment.
Stage 2: Active Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream flows are below instream objective or Water conservation objectives on licences and is forecast to not improve. Stressful conditions exist for fish populations from low flows and elevated water temperatures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the water shortage situation and measures to alleviate the potential water shortage, including implementing Water Shortage Response Plans and developing water sharing agreements. Consider suspending or cancelling all active temporary diversion licences in the water management area. Consider issuing a water shortage advisory on Alberta River Basins for the affected water management area.

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Management Stage	Stage Occurs When:	Management Action Options:
Stage 3: Priority Call Assessment and Administration	Conditions degrade to a point where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department receives a priority call from a licensee, registrant and/or household user. The Transboundary Waters Team indicates concern the Master Agreement on Apportionment may not be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority calls received will be validated and assessed to determine what flows are available and how much allocated flow must be released downstream. If it is determined that administering the priority call will satisfy the rights of the priority caller, a water management order may be issued directing upstream junior licence holders to reduce or cease diversion.
Stage 4: Multiple Water Management Areas  Alberta is currently in this stage <i>(as of writing; end of December 2023; subject to change)</i>	Conditions degrade to a point where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water shortage impacts multiple water management areas. A significant number of licensees/ traditional agricultural users/ household users in the water management areas are impacted and are unable to divert water. The water shortage persists or is projected to persist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the actions taken in Stage 1, 2, and 3, communication to Watershed Advisory and Planning Councils and the Intrabasin Water Coordinating Committee of the South Saskatchewan River Basin increases. A water shortage strategy is developed with input from key stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of water shortage and manage water resources in a way that meets provincial apportionment obligations, as well as the needs of water users and the aquatic environment.
Stage 5: Declaring an Emergency	There is significant risk to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human health and safety due to insufficient water supply. Human health and safety due to water quality degradation as a result of insufficient flow to dilute effluent releases to a water body. There is significant stress on the health of the aquatic environment to a point where fish mortality occurs. Municipalities, water users, and Alberta government departments have been unable to address the extent and magnitude of the water shortage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When other options have been exhausted, consider recommending that an emergency be declared under the <i>Water Act</i> to provide additional legislative tools to manage the emergency. Adjust the water shortage management system, as outlined in Stages 1, 2 and 3, in order to implement the declaration of the emergency.

How You Can Help

All Albertans are asked to consider ways to use water wisely. Conserving water is always a good habit and it can help your community, as well as Albertans downstream from you.

If looking for ways to save water, there are small steps that everyone can take. Learn more about water conservation or get ideas for ways to save from the tips below.

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

- Take shorter (5 minutes) showers
- Fill the sink instead of letting water run when washing dishes
- Use dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only
- Fix leaks, including leaky toilets and faucets
- Keep a jug of cool water in the fridge instead of running the tap

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- Water your lawn no more than necessary (and follow all local restrictions that may be in place)
- Collect and reuse water for outdoor plant use
- Check for leaks in outdoor pipes, faucets, and hoses
- If allowed, water sparingly in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation
- Clean outside with a broom instead of a hose
- Plant drought tolerant vegetation
- Use a water-saving pool filter
- Check with your local water supplier with restrictions in your area

⇒ The Town of Taber is the water supplier to your home. Please watch our official channels (www.taber.ca and official @TownofTaber social medias) for any official notices about restrictions, rules, etc. when/if they come available.

For more info, visit www.alberta.ca/drought

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Emergency Preparedness:



Weather Watch vs Warning



Watch

We have the ingredients to make burgers

VS

Warning

We're having burgers:
RIGHT NOW

It's easy to remember the difference between a weather **Watch** versus a **Warning** if you remember the above burger metaphor.

Take note & be prepared during a Weather Watch, but **TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY** during a Weather Warning.

Emergency Preparedness tips: www.alberta.ca/BePrepared

Have you ever wondered why sometimes we get weather WATCHES and sometimes we get weather WARNINGS and what the difference is?

Weather Watch: This means that the weather could get dangerous, but it hasn't happened yet. It's like a heads-up to be ready just in case. For example, if there's a tornado watch, it means the conditions are right for a tornado, but one hasn't been spotted yet.

Weather Warning: This is more serious. It means that the dangerous weather is either happening right now or is about to happen very soon. If there's a tornado warning, it means a tornado has been seen or the radar shows one is likely to happen soon. This is when you should take immediate action to stay safe.

So, in short, a watch is like being told to stay alert and get prepared, while a warning means the danger is here or very close, and you need to act fast to stay safe. If you remember the above burger example, you will know the level of preparedness you have to take the next time we get a weather alert.

Emergency Preparedness Tips: Wildfire Safety

Alberta's wildfire season doesn't officially start until March 1st, but given the dry conditions and the potential for fire risk because of the drought, we want our citizens to be informed and prepared.

Before a Wildfire:

Individuals & families should be prepared to take care of themselves for **at least 72 hours**. However, as seen by the 2023 wildfire season, fires & evacuations can last much longer. So, if possible, prepare for longer than 72 hours.

- Maintain an emergency kit stocked with supplies for your family.

⇒ To see a checklist of ideas, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit>

- Store important documents such as passports, birth certificates, banking info, and insurance papers in a safe place in an above-ground location.
- If you have a vehicle, keep the tank full in case fuel stations lose power or close down. Keep a vehicle emergency kit and include an extra phone charger with necessary adapters.
- Know your insurance options and policy limits. Make sure your home, vehicle, business, and belongings are protected. Talk to your insurance agent to learn about what is not covered in your insurance policy.
- If you can, keep emergency cash handy in case banking services are unavailable.
- If you are evacuated, keep all receipts for additional expenses.
- Prepare a detailed list of all your belongings. Take photos as well, in case of an insurance claim.

During a Wildfire:

- Listen to updates from authorities from official channels (and be careful to share information from verified official channels only, to limit misinformation)
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice
- Have your vehicle stocked with supplies and ready to go

For more info, visit

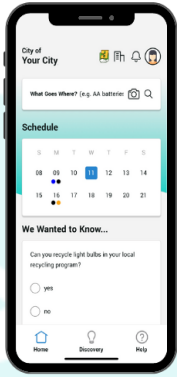
www.alberta.ca/wildfire-preparedness

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Download Our Free Recycling App



- Receive customized notifications
- Sort waste correctly with the "What Goes Where?" search tool
- Use the personalized collection schedule
- Boost your recycling knowledge and more!



COMMUNITY WALK-ABOUT



This free Community Centre Program offers a warm, clean, & safe location for anyone who wishes to walk throughout the winter

Nov 2-Mar 31
Mon-Fri
8-10 am

Taber Community Centre

www.taber.ca/dropin



SERVICE REQUESTS

WWW.TABER.CA/SERVICEREQUESTS



UTILITY EBILLING

WWW.TABER.CA/EBILLING



2023/24 PUBLIC SKATING

SEPT 18-MAR 12

Noon Shiny

Monday-Thursdays (Large Ice) & Fridays (Small ice-begins Oct 6)
Noon-1:00 pm - \$2.00/visit or \$79.50/season

Helmets, Gloves, & Shin pads are mandatory for shiny

Adult'n Tot

Fridays (Large Ice)
10-11:30 am - FREE

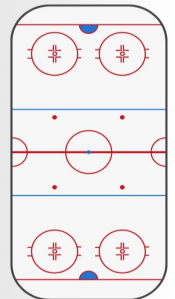
Helmets are STRONGLY recommended

Public Skating

Fridays - (Large Ice)
6:45-7:45 pm - FREE
(Sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Taber)

Saturdays/Sundays-(Small Ice) (Begins-Oct 7)
1-3:00 pm - FREE
(Sponsored by the Taber Lions Club)

Helmets are STRONGLY recommended



MORE INFO: www.taber.ca/dropin

Parkside Manor

Parkside Manor Dinner:
January 10th, 2024 at 12:00 Noon

Soup and Sandwich:
January 24, 2024 at 12:00 Noon

Hall Rentals: call Cara- 403-223-4247

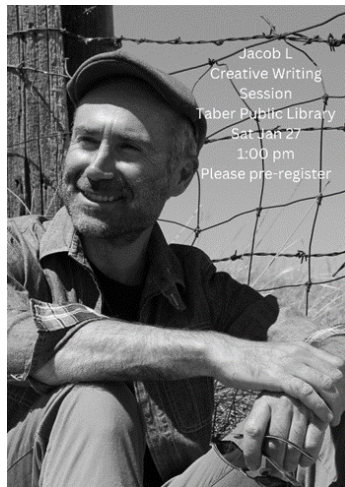
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Taber Public Library

- Sat Jan 6 **Ukulele Jam** -Did you receive a ukulele for Christmas? Come join us in playing with a group of like-minded people or those that just want to listen to the practice. This is for all ages and abilities. Some instruments will be available if you want to borrow one.
- Wed Jan 10 **Legos Club** is back. It begins at 3:30 pm and is for all school-aged children. Some snacks provided.
- Wed Jan 10 **Circle Jam** 6-8 pm – For anyone who loves music, to either play along as a group or hum along. Please bring your music along to share.
- Sat Jan 13 **Furry Kitty Café** organizational meeting 1:00-3:00 pm. This is a cat rescue trying to start a group to help with the cat overpopulation in Taber. If this interests you, please stop by.
- Wed Jan 17 **Senior Speaker Series** at 10:30 am. The topic is **Genealogy** so if you have ever wanted to start searching for family connections, this is your opportunity!
- Wed Jan 17 We welcome Dr. Hamman School for their Open House from 5-7 pm!
- Fri Jan 19 **Family Movie** at 6:30 pm. The movie will be **“Lego Batman”** and we will have free popcorn. Other snacks are welcome but please be mindful and clean up after yourself.
- Sat Jan 20 **Ukulele Jam** at 1:30 pm. Let’s get together and play! For all ages and abilities. You can borrow one to try it out also.
- Thur Jan 25 **Trivia at the Taber Legion** at 6:30 pm. Come with a team or your family. Challenge another team! Children are welcome. Small prizes to be won.
- Sat Jan 27 for **Family Literacy Day** we are hosting a **Creative Writing Seminar** with Jacob L. from the University of Lethbridge. This 90-minute session will focus on simile and metaphor techniques with an in-class composition. Please pre-register for this special program and bring your own supplies. No experience is necessary.



Jacob L.
Creative Writing
Session
Taber Public Library
Sat Jan 27
1:00 pm
Please pre-register

horizon
school division

REGISTER NOW FOR 2024-2025

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Early Learning and Kindergarten registration forms are available online at horizon.ab.ca or at your designated school. Bring your child's Birth Certificate or Canadian Citizenship status card and Alberta Health Care card.

Learn more about your child's developmental progress, as well as the benefits of early childhood programming.

Developmental Check-up appointments are available end of March, beginning of April
To book call your school secretary

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
International Homestay Program

Become a HOMESTAY FAMILY

The BEST thing about memories...
is making them!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

Joy A. Warren
Homestay Coordinator
Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
620 12B St. N.
Lethbridge, AB, T1H 2L7
Phone: (403) 330-7382
homestay@holyspirit.ab.ca

HOST FAMILIES PROVIDE...

- Private bedroom
- 3 wholesome meals/day +snacks
- Quiet, bright study space
- Access to common areas
- Laundry
- Emotional/Academic support
- Interaction with family members
- Participation in family activities
- Internet connection

HOST FAMILY BENEFITS...

- Learn another culture's traditions and customs
- Share Canadian culture with your student
- Create lasting memories and experiences
- Spend more family time together
- Develop a new friendship with your student
- Receive \$900 monthly to cover the expenses of hosting your student
- Build an interest in culture, language and future travel opportunities for your family

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