

DROUGHT TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN - 2004

Short – Medium Term Actions (April 2004 – March 2005)		Status
1.	Develop an emergency response template and assist communities in developing emergency response plans for loss of potable water and/or fire fighting water.	Complete
2.	Strongly urge communities and/or water suppliers to use water demand management tools to curtail water use and sustain their supplies.	Complete
3.	Ensure a provincial drought management plan is in place for future years.	To be Done
4.	Link water availability to local government land use planning and growth management strategies.	In progress
5.	Assess the hydrometric network and the hydrological forecast methods to see if better volume forecasts can be available to give earlier warning of impending drought situations.	Complete
6.	Update Okanagan Basin Water Supply (March 1994) to determine where water availability is a limit to growth and how much water is still available for licensing.	In progress
7.	Examine historic fish-diversion conflicts to assess merits of various options (e.g. enhanced storage or infrastructure upgrades to minimize water losses).	Ongoing
8.	Drought Task Force Summary Report	To be done
9.	Integrate water supply drought management response planning into the activities of the provincial Drinking Water Action Plan.	Complete
10.	Update drought response status report frequently	On going
11.	Urge water suppliers to step up efforts to ensure that their existing emergency response plans address any potential impact drought may have on drinking water quality.	Complete
12.	Communicate to all sectors (e.g. communities, water suppliers, industry and households) the year-round benefits of water use efficiency, especially to communities where reservoirs did not fill over winter.	On going
13.	a) Assess the adequacy of community water supplies and communicate with those communities facing shortages or stressed systems	Complete
	b) Where necessary, request communities and water suppliers to develop water supply and water conservation plans in consultation with water users.	Complete

Medium - Long Term Actions (January 2005 – September 2005)		Status
14.	a) Undertake a review of provincial water policy with a focus on water allocation and use, building on the responses and findings of the Water \$ave Tool Kit.	To be done
	b) Adopt an integrated, watershed-based approach to water management to resolve conflicts among competing water uses.	To be done
15.	Support development of a water portal website: www.waterbucket.ca that will contain the Water \$ave Toolkit and implement needed actions in partnership with all sectors (public, private, voluntary).	Complete
16.	Under the Living Rivers Strategy, continue watershed fish sustainability planning initiatives and development of flow agreements with major water licensees.	Complete
17.	Adopt, with partners, a new governance model for the Okanagan Lake Regulation System.	In progress
18.	Examine the feasibility of moving water users off small streams and on to lakes to minimize impacts on fish and fish habitat.	Ongoing

Completed Actions (September 2003 – April 2004)		Status
19.	Monitor both surface and groundwater over the winter to determine if drought conditions will persist next year (even a normal snowpack may not supply enough water to saturate the ground and fill reservoirs).	Complete For 2004
20.	Public communication from the Premier's office asking British Columbians to cooperate in water conservation measures and informing them about the actions the government is taking.	Complete
21.	a) Assign a deputy minister's committee to be accountable for delivering the coordinated government response to the drought.	Complete
22.	b) Deputy's committee is to endorse this action plan and oversee implementation.	Complete
	Form a senior level, inter-ministry task group with the necessary authority to commit staff and resources to get this activity underway.	Complete
23.	Establish a web site to provide up-to-date information.	Complete
24.	Finalize action plan and identify necessary resources.	Complete
25.	Immediately inform Ministers and MLAs about the situation, the government's action plan and implications for their constituencies.	Complete
26.	a) Develop a drought response status report for MLAs and release to the public.	Complete
27.	a) Initiate immediate communication with communities and/or water suppliers to determine the state of their water supply and their forecasts of water availability and rate of use.	Complete
	b) Determine which communities may need emergency water supplies.	Complete
28.	In initial communications, request each community &/or water supplier to identify the water supply management and demand management measures being employed.	Complete
29.	Initiate immediate communication with key industry stakeholders to engage their assistance in outreach activities on water conservation and drought response planning.	Complete
30.	Maintain communication with PEP to ensure preparedness for water shortages.	Complete
31.	Water suppliers and Health Authorities are to monitor water supplies to ensure that water quality standards are maintained during conditions of reduced or alternate water supplies	Complete
32.	a) Maintain close contact with the federal government (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, National Water Supply Expansion Program and other related initiatives	Complete
	b) If required, seek federal assistance for infrastructure upgrades and other identified needs	Complete