



Shell FuellingChange Program: Partnering to improve water quality in the Milk River Watershed

The MRWCC was selected to participate in another Shell's FuellingChange program as one of the final 31 participants. The project titled "*Partnering to improve water quality in the Milk River Watershed*" is uploaded to the website so that the public can vote. Just for being selected, The MRWCC is guaranteed to receive either \$10,000 or \$25,000 grant amount that we applied for if we get enough online votes to win. The voting cycle will end **April 30, 2013**.

FuellingChange is a new and exciting program by Shell Canada which supports environmental projects. Organizations selected by voters will be granted a total of \$2 million per year to projects that improve and restore Canada's environment. The projects are in three areas – Land, Air and Water. The projects with the most votes at the end of each cycle will receive grants in the amounts of \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000. Our profile is on Water and it's for \$25,000.

The MRWCC is among the many organizations that are participating in the FuellingChange competition. Our goal is to secure funding to improve water quality in the Milk River Watershed.

Our Project profile:

The MRWCC in partnership with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) and the Counties of Warner, Cardston, Forty Mile and Cypress established a community based water quality monitoring program nearly 6 years ago in the Milk River Watershed. The program initially focused on mainstem sampling sites aimed at building a baseline of data, and later expanded to include tributaries identified as potentially significant impacts to the mainstem and in areas where there is interest in establishing local watershed groups or implementation of beneficial management projects that can improve water quality.

The main objectives of the program are:

- To collect local information to advise Watershed Management Planning
- To involve local individuals and communities in water monitoring and management
- To report water monitoring results in a timely and efficient manner to inspire improved water and land management practices

- To continue to partner with local producers and organizations to implement stewardship projects.

Long term monitoring and targeted project implementation provide essential data needed to evaluate changes in water resources over time and help implement targeted beneficial management practices and forecast trends to maintain and improve water quality within the Milk River Watershed.

Water Sampling is conducted twice a month from April to June and once a month from July to October. Water samples are then sent to an accredited certified lab for analysis. The data collected is used to assess present conditions, compare data with water quality guidelines, investigate specific water quality issues, or determine long-term trends.

The program will also look to implement 3-4 stewardship improvement projects along identified reaches that would provide a positive impact to surface water quality within the watershed. If fully funded, the project would partner with local agricultural extension specialists to identify recipient producers/landowners and would work cooperatively to implement projects. The MRWCC would also follow up with project monitoring to ensure that water quality is positively impacted.

Please help us win \$25,000 by voting online. Please follow these instructions:

- Visit this link: <http://fuellingchange.com/main/project/388/Partnering-to-improve-water-quality-in-the-Milk-River-Watershed>
- Register yourself on the red upper right-hand corner
- Once you register, please vote on the big red button with vote on it.

By doing so you would have contributed 10 points to our project. You can also help by submitting your receipt number every time you fuel up at Shell to receive additional votes. The 8 top projects will get \$25,000 in funding!

We would like to thank all those who voted for our last project and ask that they continue supporting us by voting for this project.

For more information about the program please visit: fuellingchange.com and to learn more about the Milk River Watershed Council project please visit: <http://fuellingchange.com/main/project/388/Partnering-to-improve-water-quality-in-the-Milk-River-Watershed>