



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Office of the Minister

118434

February 14, 2023

Nadine Blaney, Co-Chair
Karla Reesor, Co-Chair
Alberta Airsheds Council
nadine.blaney@fortairmail.org
karla@prampairshed.ca

Dear Nadine Blaney and Karla Reesor:

Thank you for your letter regarding air quality monitoring and reporting in Alberta.

Environment and Protected Areas values the work of the Alberta Airsheds Council (AAC) and its members, and I am pleased to convey that the department is committing to another four years of multi-grant funding to continue to support the work of airsheds across the province. The department also recognizes that inflation has impacted the cost of the core services airsheds deliver, and is pleased to provide an additional funding for the 2023-24 fiscal year (based on annual funding from 2019-22).

The department will communicate the exact allocation to each airshed directly through grant agreements, and we will make every attempt to ensure airsheds receive funding as soon as possible in the new fiscal year. Environment and Protected Areas expects to receive final reports from the airsheds outlining how they used funds from the previous multi-year grant, as well as the return of any remaining grant funds before that time. Department staff will assess and confirm subsequent year funding of the multi-year grant at a later date. Please note that monitoring contracts are managed separately from operating grants.

As Environment and Protected Areas has discussed with the AAC, over the coming months, we will transition the operation of air monitoring stations in Edmonton, St. Albert, and Airdrie to airshed organizations. We also hope to engage with airsheds in focused studies, such as operating the department's portable air monitoring station in areas identified as high-priority gaps. The department also looks forward to continuing discussions with the AAC about opportunities to enhance support for airshed organizations as they develop and deliver educational messaging aimed at reducing non-point source emissions.

The department appreciates the work of airshed organizations in continuing to operate department-owned air monitoring stations and assuring the availability of the data collected. The airshed model has matured over the past 25 years, and organizations have been successful in expanding air monitoring within their airsheds by leveraging funding from other partners, including industry and municipalities.

Environment and Protected Areas is pleased to support airshed organizations in this important work, and we look forward to another collaborative year of working together to ensure healthy air quality for Albertans and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonya Savage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonya Savage, KC
Minister