

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

January 6, 2009

The Honorable Ed Stelmach  
Office of the Premier  
Room 307, Legislature Building  
10800 - 97th Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Stelmach:

I am pleased to have this opportunity send best wishes for the New Year and to discuss a topic of great importance to us both.

Montana and Alberta have shared the waters of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers for one hundred years under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. We have agreed that these waters are essential resources to both jurisdictions, and that they will continue to be indispensable into the future. At the same time, we believe there are opportunities to work together to achieve improved efficiency of use of this shared water for the benefit of both jurisdictions.

A Joint Work Group of local water users and government agencies from both sides of the international border has prepared a Terms of Reference document for a Joint Initiative. The purpose of this Initiative is to explore and evaluate options for improving both Alberta's and Montana's access to the shared water of the St. Mary River and Milk River, and to make joint recommendations on preferred options to both governments for consideration and approval.

I have reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Montana – Alberta St. Mary and Milk River Water Management Initiative, and I commit Montana to working with Alberta to improve utilization of the water we have shared for so long.

I look forward to receiving the recommendations from this important Joint Initiative.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor

*Ed -  
I look forward to getting  
together with you  
B*