

New Name for Alberta Irrigation Projects Association

Submitted by Margo Jarvis Redelback

The Alberta Irrigation Projects Association (AIPA) on March 7th formally announced the change of their name to Alberta Irrigation Districts Association (AIDA). The AIDA represents the 13 Alberta irrigation districts that convey water through nearly 7,600 kilometres of canals and pipelines, and 42 storage reservoirs to supply water to more than 1.4 million acres of irrigated farmland in southern Alberta. Additionally, irrigation district infrastructure provides water security for rural municipalities, domestic water users, industry, business, wetlands and water-based recreation in an area that often experiences low annual precipitation.

Irrigation districts and their predecessor organizations have been conveying water through irrigation infrastructure to southern Alberta farmers and residents for over 100 years. During the early years of irrigation development in Alberta, when initial construction of irrigation infrastructure was occurring many of the organizations were known as irrigation projects. During that time, the desire by these organizations to provide educational and advocacy services for the irrigation sector brought about the creation of the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association. However, irrigation districts, established under the Alberta Irrigation Districts Act, have been known as Irrigation Districts for some time now.

“The new name more accurately reflects the membership of the Association which is the 13 irrigation districts in Alberta”, says Richard Phillips, Chair of the organization. “The name change will bring better understanding of who the Association represents to those outside of Alberta’s irrigation sector.”

For over 70 years, the Alberta Irrigation Districts Association has supported the needs of irrigation districts and the irrigation sector by supporting research and the development of new irrigation technology, providing advocacy, education and outreach services and assisting in irrigation sector professional development. Through these activities, the AIDA strives to ensure irrigation in Alberta is vibrant, sustainable and valued.

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