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## NEWS RELEASE BACKGROUND

### **WESTERN PREMIERS' CONFERENCE 2010: WATER CHARTER**

Following is the text of the Western Premiers' Water Charter, agreed on June 15, 2010.

Whereas water is an essential component of all life on earth and there is no substitute for water, and

Whereas adequate clean water is critical to human health, sanitation and the liveability of cities, and

Whereas water in its natural state is critical for supporting ecosystem health, maintaining fisheries, providing recreation and attracting tourism, and

Whereas water is an essential input to agriculture and is necessary for industry and resource development, and

Whereas the changing climate is already affecting this vital resource, and

Whereas Canadians recognize our collective obligation to be responsible water stewards for North America and the world and the need to continue to improve our water conservation and quality efforts, and

Whereas Canadians have the potential to help address global water issues by developing and commercializing innovative new technologies and services and to be leaders in the development and sale of new technologies and services to improve water conservation and quality across the world, and

Whereas, provinces and territories recognize that watersheds do not follow provincial and territorial boundaries, and

Whereas provinces and territories recognize we can improve our efforts by working in partnership and leveraging the successes in management of water conservation and protecting water quality in our individual jurisdictions.

Therefore we agree to:

- Reinforce water conservation and protection as a key priority for citizens and their governments.

- Make water use more efficient, beginning by challenging every water use sector to prepare Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plans.
- Increase our water monitoring effort and cooperate and share information on water conservation and water quality.
- Work with municipalities to ensure they have plans to deal with water-related emergencies and enhance best-practice sharing of planning tools among communities.
- Encourage Canadians and Canadian companies to be leaders in the development and sale of new technologies and services for water conservation and protection.
- Work with public and private sector groups to make a World Water Day – March 22, 2011 - a national event with a visible and co-ordinated focus on the above priorities.
- Collaborate with State governments on transboundary issues.