



# Community Newsletter

E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant  
Fall 2024





## GREETINGS FROM THE E.L. SMITH WATER TREATMENT PLANT & KĪSIKĀW PĪSIM SOLAR FARM

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to all the great activities our winter city has to offer.

Our water treatment plant site continues to hum with activity, as we begin construction on the next phase of flood mitigation project. We've also been actively working with the local community and Indigenous Nations and communities to help make sure we move forward in a good way.

Read on for all the happenings, and don't hesitate to contact us (see back page) if you'd like to discuss anything going on at the plant.

**Vicki Campbell**  
**Director,**  
**Edmonton Water Treatment Plants**



Nearly 100 members of Indigenous Nations joined us for Ceremony to mark the beginning of the flood mitigation project construction.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

Construction has officially begun on flood barriers that are designed to protect the water supply for Edmonton and more than 90 surrounding communities.

EPCOR hosted a Ceremony on August 7, 2024 to mark the start of this portion of the project. The event included nearly 100 members of Indigenous Nations and communities, employees and contractors to honour the ground that we will be disturbing, to start the project in a good way.

The Edmonton Water Treatment Plants (WTP) Flood Mitigation Project will protect the region's drinking water supply by protecting critical assets, preventing river water from backing up into the plants, and installing flood barriers.

City Council approved the project in September 2023, and construction is anticipated to be complete in 2028.



## SOLAR FARM INTERPRETIVE SITE OPENING

After years of planning efforts with Indigenous and local communities, we have officially commissioned the E.L. Smith Interpretive Site.

The site includes seating, Indigenous interpretive elements, and signage that highlight's the area's history and significance to Indigenous people, as well as an overview of the solar farm.

Completion of the interpretive site was celebrated in October with Indigenous Ceremony.

While the construction is finished, we still have some work to do to update our process for accepting tour requests. We hope to open up the interpretive site to students and Indigenous communities who have an interest in the water treatment plant, solar farm and river valley. Stay tuned for more information in 2025.



The hearths, or fire pits, found at this site are estimated to be close to 5,000 years old. They signify powerful and sacred elements for Indigenous Peoples. The interpretive site includes elements to honour this history.







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## **NEW VIDEO SERIES:** **WATER, LIFE & SHARED HISTORY**

Water is life. It has a spirit. It is sacred.

From its icy source at the Saskatchewan Glacier in the Rocky Mountains to Hudson's Bay, the waters of the North Saskatchewan River bring life across the land. For more than 10,000 years, Indigenous Peoples travelled here for the water, to harvest, hunt, trap and fish.

As stewards of the land where the E.L. Smith, Rosedale and Gold Bar plants are located, EPCOR seeks to bring Indigenous stories about Edmonton's river valley to life and highlight our shared connection to water.

The **Connections: Water, Life and Shared History** video series features stories from numerous Indigenous Nations and communities, archeologists and historians, and EPCOR employees. All the river's a stage, and the Connections video project aims to recognize the historical and cultural significance of these lands.

The Connections series includes four videos:

- The interwoven connection between the North Saskatchewan River and communities with ties to the region
- Waterworks' role in developing this region
- How we work with Indigenous Peoples on reconciliation
- Our approach to providing clean water and energy into the future

Watch for more information on how to watch the series, coming soon.

## **EPCOR PARTNERS WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA**

EPCOR has recently partnered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to support their efforts to protect the natural habitats around Edmonton that play a critical role in protecting water supplies.

The NCC is at the forefront of land conservation in Canada, safeguarding over 2.8 million acres of natural habitat for the species they support and future generations.

A key aspect of NCC's work is ensuring the conservation of important natural spaces, such as those within the Upper North Saskatchewan River Basin. This area plays a critical role in maintaining the quality and security of Edmonton's water supply, filtering and regulating the flow of the North Saskatchewan River's watershed. The preservation of these ecosystem services helps increase resiliency to future flood and drought events.

Learn more and get involved at [natureconservancy.ca](https://natureconservancy.ca)





## LET'S TALK

We believe in listening to and engaging with the community. Community input and involvement is an important part of our decision-making and we want to hear what you think about our initiatives.

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