



Alberta WaterSMART Appoints New Board Chair

Calgary, AB – October 4, 2009. The Board of Directors of the Alberta Society for Sustainable Water Management and Related Technologies (Alberta WaterSMART) are pleased to announce that Stella M. Thompson has been appointed as the new chair of the board at its Annual General Meeting and Directors Meeting held on September 14, 2009. Stella replaces Fred A. Stewart, who will continue to serve as a founding and valued board member.

"I am very honoured to be selected and look forward to working with Alberta WaterSMART and the water community throughout Alberta," said Stella. "Our immediate priorities will focus on new opportunities for sharing knowledge, facilitating technology deployment, fostering innovation and building awareness."

Stella Thompson brings more than 30 years of executive and governance expertise to the WaterSMART board room. Over the last seventeen years she has sat on numerous boards and, as co-founder and principal of Governance West Inc. from 1996 to 2008, Ms. Thompson worked with over 250 clients providing consulting services to boards of directors of a broad range of corporate, not-for-profit, and crown organizations. Since 2008, Stella has focused on her various board commitments.

Currently, Stella serves on a number of Boards including the Atomic Energy of Canada, Alberta's Electricity Balancing Pool, Calgary Airport Authority, Genome Alberta, the Provincial Audit Committee, Resverlogix Corp. and Talisman Energy Inc. In past years, Stella has been a member of a number of other boards such as Enmax, Laidlaw Inc, Agra Inc, Perigee Inc, Allstate Insurance Company of Canada, Mount Royal College, the Prime Minister's National Advisory Board on Science and Technology, and the Alberta Research Council.

Stella has a B.A. in Economics from the University of Calgary and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Alberta. In 2005, she received the ICD.D certification granted by the Institute of Corporate Directors and was an instructor for the ICD's Director Education Program for a number of years. Also in 2005, she was recognized by the Women's Executive Network and the University Of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey School of Business as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women.

"I enthusiastically support the appointment of Stella Thompson to Chair by the Board," said Kim Sturgess, CEO of Alberta WaterSMART. "Her expertise in strategic planning and governance, and her passion on behalf of water conservation and management, are strong credentials for this leadership position."

The Board of Trustees cited outgoing Chair Fred Stewart's outstanding leadership on the Board, and his experience, commitment, contribution to addressing the challenges of water management in Alberta.

Alberta WaterSMART is a not for profit society dedicated to the improvement of water management awareness, technologies and practices in Alberta. Alberta WaterSMART is committed to improving water management through better technologies and practices. Alberta WaterSMART is implementing a collaborative model in which our programs are supported through public and private partnerships, with participation from the public and private sectors, business and industry groups and associations, watershed stewardship groups, other environmental communities of interest and dedicated individuals. Learn more at: www.albertawatersmart.com

CONTACT:

Mike Scarth

Secretary, Alberta Society for Sustainable Water Management and Related Technologies (Alberta WaterSMART)

mike@albertawatersmart.com