

MEET THE CHALLENGE



**OF BEING
MINISTER FOR THE DAY!**

Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

Albertans are lucky to enjoy an environment with abundant natural resources and beautiful landscapes. Albertans want to ensure our environment will be a legacy for future generations.

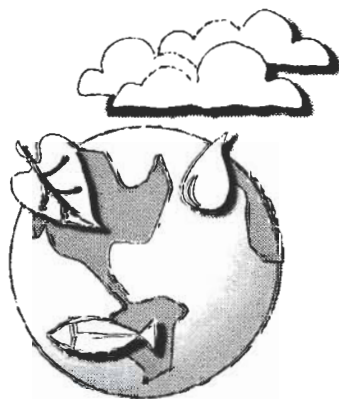


Alberta Environment is the provincial government department responsible for protecting and enhancing Alberta's environment.

Imagine you have been selected to be Alberta's new Environment Minister.

Alberta Environment's specific areas of responsibility are:

- **Climate Change**
- **Air**
- **Water**
- **Waste**
- **Land**



Vision:

Alberta's environment sustains a high quality of life.

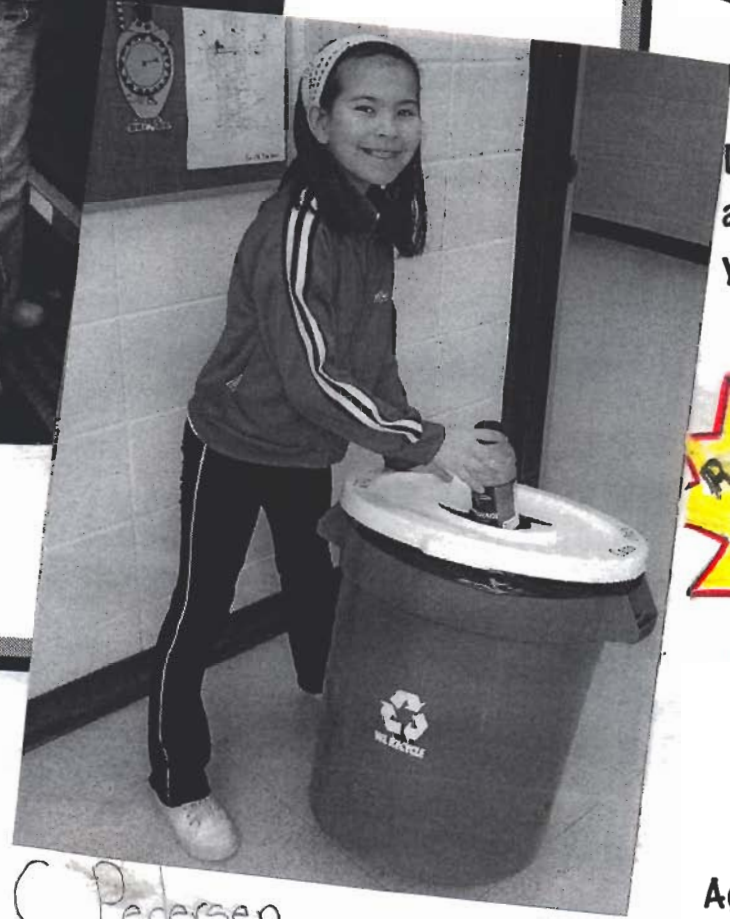


Mission:

Steward the use of and ensure the protection of our diverse environment to sustain natural ecosystems, healthy Albertans, strong communities and a prosperous economy.

YOUR PROFILE

save our wetlands!



Draw or place a photo of yourself here



Please print

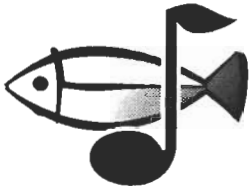
Name: Isabella C. Pedersen

Age: 10

Community: Canmore

School: Lawrence Grassi Middle School Teacher: Mrs. Duggleby

Tell us about...



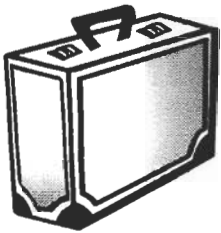
1) Your Hobbies and Interests

Writing, playing sports, studying animals, figure skating and acting is what I love to do in my spare time, and when a vacation comes, it's hiking outdoors and exploring nature as much as possible. I'm very concerned about climate change, and saving energy is important to me.



2) A Time You Spent Outdoors

One warm, summer day my friend and I went hiking through a trail, looking for a specific bush that produced berries for jam. Along the trail, we found lots of litter and decided to pick it up. When we reached the bush, I looked back and saw that we had cleaned the entire trail! Our gift to the forest was a major clean-up, and our reward was a scrumptious treat!



3) Your Reason(s) For Wanting to be Minister for the Day

Personally, I enjoy challenges, and I believe that being Minister for the day would be a great challenge for me! I love the environment, and I think that I've got the potential to save it. Our world has done so much for us, and I want to do something for it.

YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

As Environment Minister, it's important for you to think about the future. Air, land, water, waste, climate change, wetlands, and pollution are some of the areas that the Alberta Minister of Environment must think about. In the section below identify 3 issues related to these areas that you feel are the most important for the government to work on.

1) Priority: Air Pollution

Why? When vehicles and other appliances that produce gases and smoke pollute the air, our lungs have difficulty breathing and become much more vulnerable to lung disease. Burning fossil-fuels creates Sulphur-oxide and Nitrous-oxide, and when these acids react with moisture, they morph into destructive acids (acid rain). Polluted air is very bad for us and the environment. Animals and plants need this pure air to breathe, and with no animals and plants to consume, most life on earth would die.

2) Priority: Water Destruction

Why? We humans survive on water. With no clean water to drink, we could die. Many endangered animals live in water, and if the water is contaminated, those endangered species could become extinct! Waste should never be dumped in water. Waste has to eventually decompose. This takes up lots of oxygen from the water, and with no oxygen in the water, no fish or water plants could survive.

3) Priority: Land

Why? Erosion slowly wears away our land, and this erosion quickens if trespassing on detour trails happens regularly. Our earth is slowly being stuffed and wrecked by too much garbage. We must stop landfill soon! Building structures takes up LOTS of space. If there isn't enough room, the homes of wildlife may have to be destroyed, and this isn't a good thing.

ENCOURAGE AND MOTIVATE ALBERTANS

Protecting and enhancing the environment is everyone's responsibility – government, industry, business, communities and individuals. One of the biggest challenges is to get individuals involved in actions that help to protect the environment. The protection and management of Alberta's wetlands is one area in which the Minister of Environment is very involved.

As Minister of Environment, create your Wetlands Conservation Plan. What can be done to help Albertans change the way they treat and appreciate Alberta's wetlands? Answer the three questions below.

1) Describe **ONE** thing provincial or local governments should do to protect wetlands.

Explain why. If the government could inform us about wetlands, our lakes, rivers, and creeks would be much better! Wetlands are the filters of water bodies and are homes to lots of wildlife. This is why they need to be protected. Without wetlands, most would spend lots of money just for clean water! What I think that the government should do is create proper spaces for these wetlands. Maybe build a boardwalk around the wetlands instead of making people have to walk right through them, or put up signs and create restrictions for damaged wetlands that still need more time to heal.

2) Describe ONE thing individuals should do to protect and enhance wetlands. Explain why.

Having the government protect wetlands really helps, but having individuals protect wetlands helps every bit, too! Service groups could get together and buy wetlands, then get grants from the government to help clean up and improve this wetland. They could then make it a learning area for people that want to protect wetlands too. Schools and other programs would pay to visit this wetland and learn about it, and the money raised would go to helping wetlands that cease to even exist.

3) Describe ONE way the government could encourage and motivate Albertans to protect wetlands. Explain why.

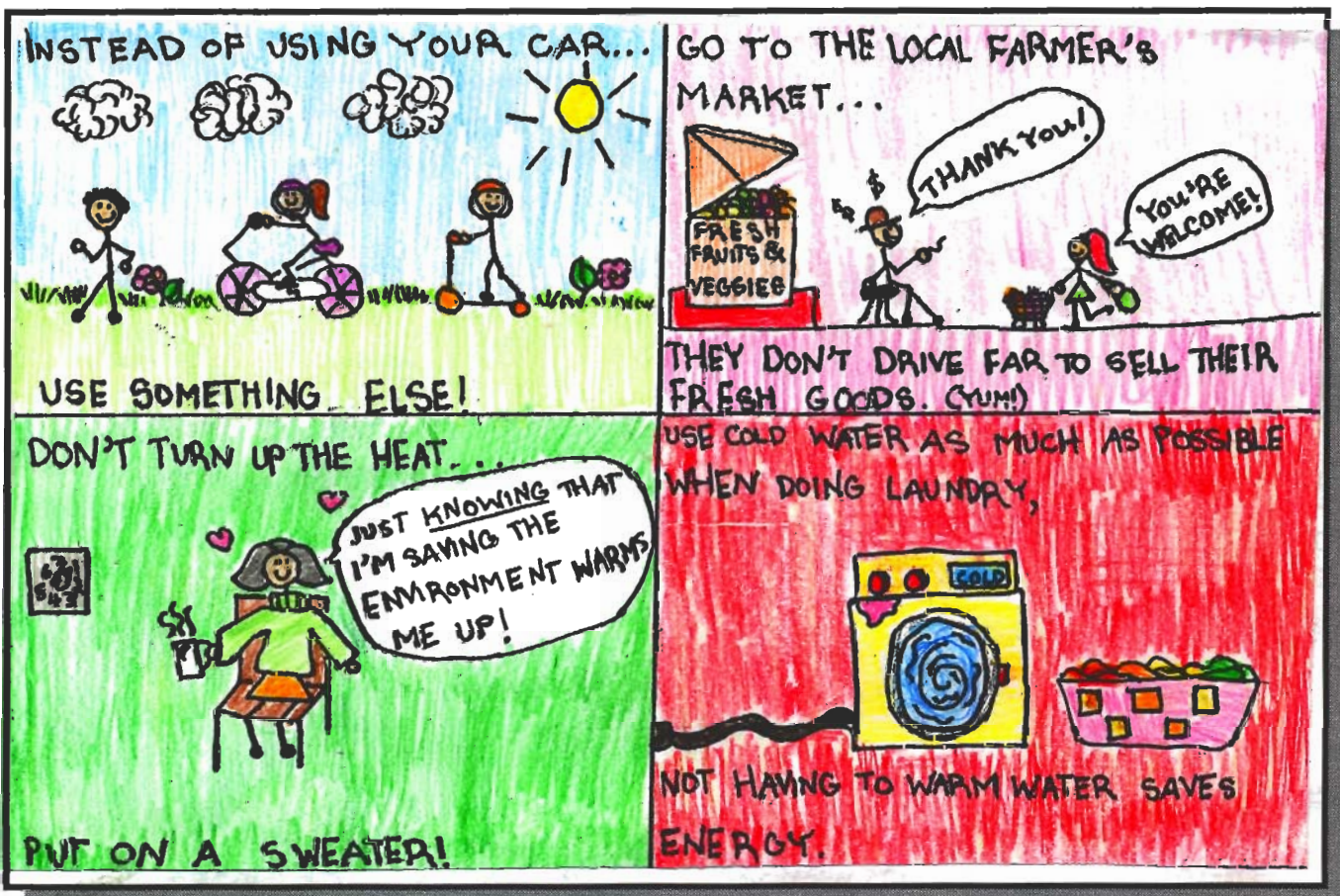
If only EVERYONE knew about wetlands... The government should create special programs that travel around Alberta and present knowledge about what these wetlands do for us. They could put up contests that would make individuals learn about wetlands while competing. Hopefully, this information about this vital part of nature could be passed on throughout Alberta and eventually, everyone would know about wetlands!

Draw A Picture

This year's topic for Alberta's Environment Week is **Climate Change**. Environment Week happens June 4 to June 10, 2006 and the Minister of Environment is involved in many activities to celebrate and raise awareness of our environment.

Much of the concern around climate change is the release of excess greenhouse gases from human activities into the earth's atmosphere. Burning fossil fuels for energy is a major source of greenhouse gases. By conserving energy, we cut back on emissions of greenhouses gases and the impact on our climate.

In the space below, draw a picture showing something you do to conserve energy and protect the environment.



Describe your picture:

Using transportation that doesn't release greenhouse gas really helps the earth's atmosphere.

Going to the local farmer's market not only helps our earth, it also helps the farmers.

When we save energy, we get one step closer to healing our ozone layer.

If we don't have to warm our laundry water using energy, we could really enhance our environment's health.

atmosphere.