



## Tour of Alberta Irrigation Infrastructure

*June 23 to 27, 2025*

*Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*

1.8 million acres of agricultural land is irrigated in Alberta. This represents almost 75% of the total Canadian irrigated acres making Alberta the Irrigation Capital of Canada. 84% of Alberta's irrigation takes place in 11 organized irrigation districts located within the South Saskatchewan River Basin in the southern part of the Province. Water conveyance through irrigation district infrastructure not only supports diversified crop production, but also provides water security to support communities, industry, wildlife habitat development, wetland maintenance and water based recreational activities.

The tour of Alberta irrigation infrastructure will showcase infrastructure and farms within several of the larger Alberta irrigation districts demonstrating how long-term commitments to infrastructure rehabilitation and modernization combined with favourable government policy support significant economic, social and environmental benefits in the region and Province.

Throughout the tour learn more about Alberta's approach to shared water management including how districts and other water users navigate years with reduced water supply.

Brief descriptions of several of the tour stops follow:

### **Bow River Irrigation District (BRID)**

Diverting water from the Bow River, the BRID conveys water through over 620 miles of linear infrastructure to support over 290,000 irrigated acres.

1. Travers and Little Bow Dams – Visit these Government of Alberta owned and operated dams creating the Travers and Little Bow Reservoirs, the headworks of the BRID irrigation system.
2. The Deadhorse Coulee Reservoir Site – Visit the location of the proposed Deadhorse Coulee Reservoir, a new reservoir being planned for construction.
3. BRID B/K pipeline project – tour through the area of the BRID's B/K pipeline project to understand the significant water efficiency gains achieved through this multi-year canal replacement project.
4. Weed Removal System - Stop at an innovative weed removal system within the BRID Main Canal.
5. Bennen Farms – Visit Bennen Farms to learn more about their irrigated crop production which includes potato production and view the family's potato storage facility.

6. Serfas Feedlot – Visit the Serfas Feedlot a new and very large feedlot developed within the BRID.

### Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District (LNID)

Diverting water from the Oldman River, the LNID conveys water through almost 500 miles of linear infrastructure to support over 200,000 irrigated acres.

1. Monarch Headgates – Visit the automated headgates of the LNID irrigation conveyance system owned by the Government of Alberta and operated by LNID.
2. Keho Barons Pump Station – Visit a fully automated pump station delivering water to over 12,000 irrigated acres.
3. Albion Control Gate – View fully automated control gates allowing total water control within the canal.
4. Picture Butte Diversion Canal – Showcase of a design upgrade to overcome historic canal water quality issues caused by wind action on the adjacent reservoir.

### St Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID)

SMRID, Canada's largest irrigation district, diverts water from the St Mary River, and conveys that water through over 1,200 miles of linear infrastructure to support over 506,000 irrigated acres.

1. Horsefly Emergency Spillway – Visit the site of this collaborative municipal/irrigation sector project to manage and mitigate municipal stormwater runoff.
2. Quattro Farms – Visit Quattro Farms to learn about the family's irrigated crop production which includes the growth of select herbs to produce essential oil. Tour their essential oil processing facility.
3. Cavendish Farms – Tour Cavendish Farms new state of the art frozen potato processing facility. Opening in 2019, the \$430 million facility tripled the production capacity of the company's previous production facility.
4. Visit a variety of conveyance infrastructure between the stops noted above. Along the way learn about ongoing infrastructure improvements including the Chin Reservoir Expansion project. These initiatives when completed can support up to 80,000 acres of new irrigation development in the St Mary River and Raymond Irrigation Districts.