



## The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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### **Budget Leaves Alberta's Fish and Wildlife in the Dark!**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*(Edmonton March 22, 2017)...*

Alberta's largest and original conservation organization, the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) is greatly disappointed with the recent release of Alberta's 2017 Budget insofar as it affects fish and wildlife.

Of the \$54.9 billion in total expense that the Provincial Government has budgeted only \$44 million, or a meagre .08%, has been allocated to fish and wildlife both of which are coming more and more under stress as development continues and Alberta becomes more of a destination not only for those wishing to live here but also those that come here to enjoy our natural treasures firsthand.

Included in the budgeted amount is support for provincial woodland caribou management and recovery and the containment and management of whirling disease recently detected in Alberta. These two items alone could easily use up the budgeted fish and wildlife dollars.

"It is alarming at the rate that our Government has continually diminished the role that the Fish and Wildlife Departments, and their predecessor departments are undergoing," said AFGA President Doug Butler, "to the point that it leaves the impression that government views our wild resources as totally unimportant."

To put things into greater perspective the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin will receive \$40 million over the next four years to build a new facility for the museum's collectables.

A further \$149 million is allocated over four years, almost the equivalent to the fish and wildlife budget on an annual basis, to restore the aged University of Alberta's Dentistry Pharmacy building.

The AFGA implores the Government of Alberta to give consideration to greater inclusiveness of all that Alberta has to offer such as its fish and wildlife populations.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. The AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals and has a province-wide membership of more than 25,000 individuals spread among 80+ Clubs.