



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

AUG 08 2018

Laurie Hamilton, Vice-President
Alberta Native Plant Council
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Dear Laurie Hamilton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Alberta Conservation Information Management System. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Your letter is timely, as Alberta Environment and Parks is holding internal discussions to identify funding and resourcing options that will ensure the ongoing availability of this critical data. My department is committed to finding a solution that maintains the database and the level of accessibility Albertans have come to expect.

Alberta Environment and Parks uses the Alberta Conservation Information Management System for projects such as regional, conservation, and land use planning; environmental reviews; species at risk management; and key strategies such as the Alberta Parks and Protected Areas Strategy. It also widely used by academia, industry, and non-government organizations such as yours.

As you are aware, every Canadian province and territory has a similar database in the NatureServe Canada network. Thus, maintaining the quality and accessibility of affiliated data is critical for future conservation planning and environmental management. Accessible data supports our government's work on Canada Target 1, the Federal General Status of Species Reporting, Conservation 2020, and similar projects. It is a key component of advancing our environmental objectives both in Alberta and the whole country.

I appreciate your concern for this issue, and for the important work your organization does to help secure a greener future for the province. Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Shannon Phillips
Minister