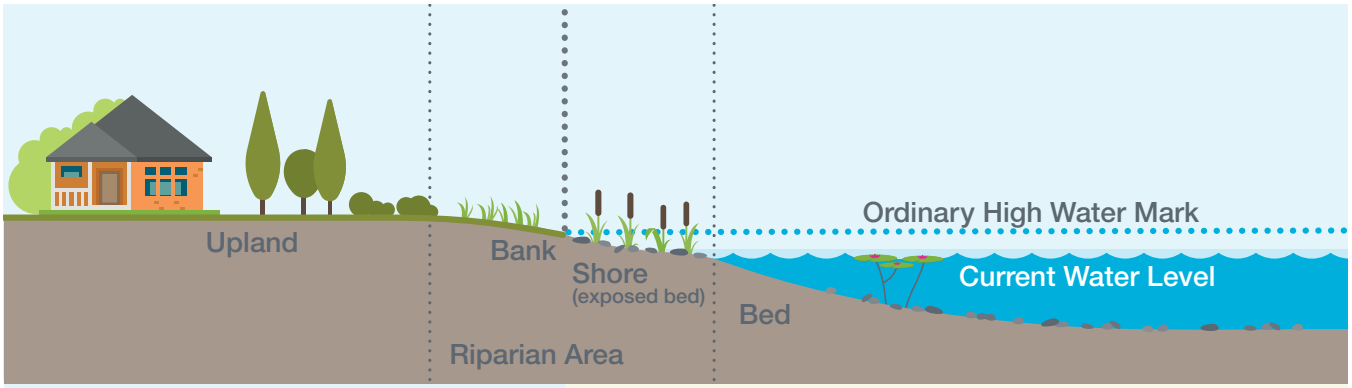
Respect Our Lakes

Lake Legislation in Alberta



Private Land | **Public Land**

Water Act
Applies to any activities that modify a waterbody, the bed and shore, aquatic vegetation, or may cause a negative effect on the aquatic environment (such as quality or quantity). Water diversion also requires an approval.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
Prohibits the release of substances into the environment, and covers pesticide regulations, fertilizer storage and application, storm water drainage and municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Fisheries Act (Provincial)
Identifies 52 prohibited aquatic invasive species, mandatory stopping at watercraft inspection stations, removal of the drain plug while transporting watercraft, and mandatory reporting of invasive species.

Safety Codes Act
Outlines private sewage disposal system regulations and standards of practice for dealing with sewage.

Public Lands Act
Any activities that are likely to result in soil erosion or damage to the bed and shore, or land within the vicinity, require an authorization. The occupation and use of public lands (like the bed and shore) of any waterbody requires an approval. The area of bed and shore fronting a waterfront property and located below the bank is owned by the Province and is open for public passage.

Municipal Government Act
Provides delegated authority to municipal governments to create environmental reserves to protect the wellbeing of the environment. Check with your local municipality for specific bylaws around your lake.

Surveys Act
Defines the bed and shore, and the natural boundary, referred to as the bank.

Federal Fisheries Act
Any activities that are in or near fish-bearing waterbodies that support a recreational or aboriginal fishery require approval. This act also provides prohibitions on the transport and introduction of aquatic invasive species.

Canada Shipping Act
Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations provides province-wide speed limits of 10km/hour within 30m of the shore.

Provincial

Federal

Alberta