



## 2. Discussion of Current Initiatives

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Manitoba's Water Strategy identifies six inter-related policy areas. These policy areas were first introduced in *Manitoba's Water Policies* (1990) and are further defined and explained on page 27. This section includes a broad range of water management challenges and opportunities that Manitobans have encountered on the landscape. The six policy areas are:

- **water quality**
- **conservation**
- **use & allocation**
- **water supply**
- **flooding**
- **drainage**

Each of these policy areas recognizes the important need for water education. A number of specific actions have already been undertaken to address issues within each policy area. Manitoba Conservation and appropriate agencies will, in conjunction with public feedback, develop ways to address other outstanding issues. These strategies must also be able to address emerging challenges and developments in other jurisdictions, within the Hudson Bay Drainage Basin in particular. It is important that future actions take a comprehensive watershed-based approach in order to manage Manitoba's water in a sustainable manner. By implementing watershed based planning, we are better prepared to address current issues and anticipate water problems on the horizon.

We recognize and acknowledge that all six areas are interdependent. Actions taken or developments underway relating to one item may affect another. Recognizing these interdependencies is a critical aspect of sustainable watershed planning.