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International Treaties

An international treaty is an agreement or contract that is entered into by willing parties in the international community. In Canada, when an international treaty is signed, the country is declaring its support for the treaty. If Canada then chooses to ratify the treaty it becomes legally accountable to international authorities if the treaty is breached (Carasco 2007).

However, treaties do not automatically become part of Canadian law—they must be incorporated into federal legislation before treaty obligations can be met at the domestic level. If the treaty pertains to matters dealt with at the provincial level then the treaty must also be incorporated into provincial legislation. Some of the international treaties relevant to protecting the aquatic environment in the Athabasca Oil Sands region are:

- [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#);
- [Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution](#);
- [Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol](#);
- [Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#);
- [Convention on the Protection of Migratory Birds in Canada and the United States](#); and
- [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance](#).



Finding a balance in the natural and the man made
Source: Devon Coles www.devoncoles.com
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