



AI Infrastructure. Water Stress. Indigenous Rights.

Finding the Balance for Alberta's Future.

Drawing on Alberta case studies, Maya Bhargava's research surfaces a core tension in Canada's AI buildout: many proposed data centres sit in already water-stressed basins, and their cooling demand peaks in summer — exactly when river flows are lowest.

Building on this analysis, Maya proposes a Water and Indigenous Rights Assessment Framework for data centres, adapting governance practices from mining, hydro, and resource sectors.

The work sharpens three questions regulators and nations will need to answer as AI infrastructure scales:



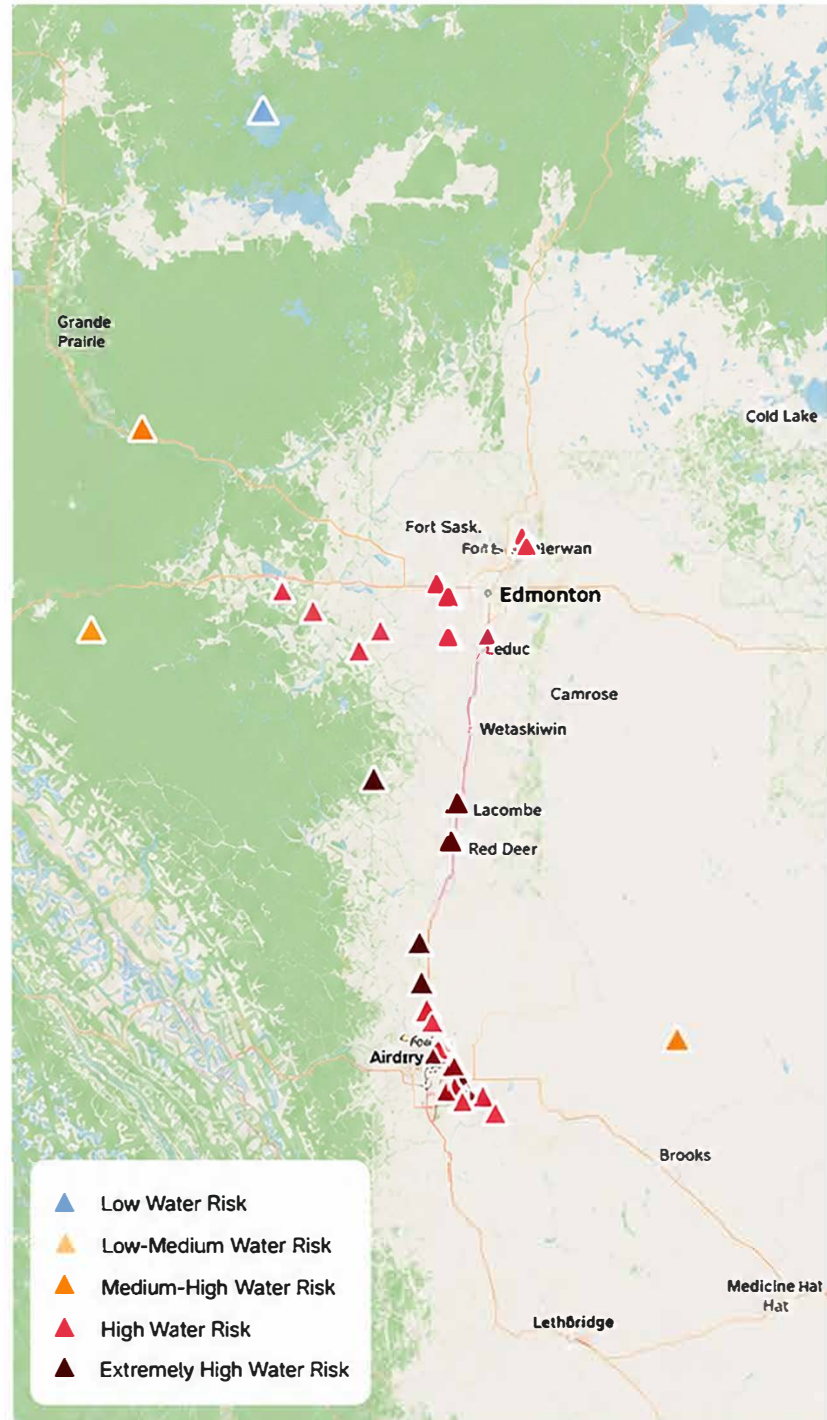
How water is allocated
in already stressed basins?



How cumulative impacts are assessed
across projects and seasons?



How Indigenous Nations are meaningfully engaged
in decisions that affect their water, lands and rights?



Why this matters

AI can drive innovation and prosperity — but only if it respects the limits of our water, strengthens stewardship, and upholds Indigenous rights.

**Better questions today.
Smarter decisions tomorrow.
Stronger communities together.**