



Boreal Toad

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Anaxyrus boreas

The western, or boreal toad can be identified by the **parotid glands** behind their eyes. Tell them apart from the Canadian toad by the lack of ridges on their head. The boreal toad usually has a lighter coloured stripe down their back. Boreal toads have a more limited range in the province, but can be found as far east as Lac La Biche. There is limited data available on the extent of their northern range but they likely aren't present in the more northern parts of our watershed

Parotid glands produce a toxin to deter predators (but don't worry! boreal toads won't harm humans, but it still isn't a good idea to pick them up). They appear as a raised bump, usually just behind the eye.

fun fact:

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recognizes two distinct populations of the boreal toad: calling versus non-calling. Calling male toads have a special vocal sac allowing them to make a soft, trilling chirping sound. Almost all of the calling population of boreal toads are found in Alberta!

