From:***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 3:35:25 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization Submission

To Whom it may concern,

Please consider my comments on the Water Act Modernization:

Water is recognized as a human right and part of the common needs by all and held in trust by government to manage in the public interest. Water is something each and every human, animal, and yes- plants, need for their very survival. To put water in jeopardy is to put all life at risk. It is that simple.

A broadened scope of discussion for true water protection needs to include land use (like resource extraction activities) since you can't protect the water without considering the land.

Water Act should not devolve some uses and protections to other acts (Section 9 of the Water Act devolves water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil))

Watershed Reserves must be re-established for source protection from forestry and other resource extraction activities. Watershed reserves would protect our drinking water supplies.

Collaborative science, traditional knowledge and local history should inform all allocation decisions. The precautionary principle should be functioning at all times (no harm proof prior to new uses, not mitigation after damage). First Nations social and cultural practices need to be respected and accommodated. It is interesting to note that historically, the First Nations understand the relationship between maintaining a sustainable environment and long-term survival. Yet we do not listen to their time-honoured wisdom and ignore the profound ignorance that places short-term monetary gain above the very survival of the people and all life that is dependent upon a healthy environment for our very survival.

We need a Governance model: a FULLY FUNDED local government model with local decision-making power. Since there is no funding and the government may never grant local decision making powers, it would be best to go with the STATUS QUO (no change model) until broader scope, full funding and full public consultation is part of the process.

FITFIR (First in time, First in right system) must remain unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems. Modifying FITFIR could allow government to remove water rights from established farms,water systems, and other uses.

Domestic Use licensed use should NOT be changed to a "permitted" use in order to retain legal rights Public involvement must be enlarged to cover further steps in the process. The government deci he workshop/comments as our only chance for input, and this is not enough.

FITFIR and Domestic Use must remain unchanged!

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED