From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 10:57:38 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM Comment 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 commons. Water
> is owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to
> manage in the public interest.
>
> 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 associated with water must be respected and accommodated.
>
> 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 decision
> making model shows the workshop/comments as our only chance for
> input, and this is not enough.
>
> FITFIR and Domestic Use must remain unchanged!
>
> Sincerely,
>
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