From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 4:36:10 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM comment submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

Below, are my comments on changes to the water act. Overall the government and the public needs to realize that the current government proposal is a FALSE SOLUTION to WATER PROTECTION:

• water needs to be recognized as a human right and part of the commons – 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 – include land use (like resource extraction activities) since you can't protect the water without considering the land

• Water Act would 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 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 would inform all allocation decisions – precautionary principle functioning at all times (no harm proof prior to new uses, not mitigation after damage)

• Governence model: FULLY FUNDED local government model with local decision-making power –my caveat on this is that since there is no funding and they will 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) remain unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems – "if it's not broke, don't fix it" . 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 enlarged to cover further steps in the process –the government decision making model shows the workshop/comments as our one kick at the can.

-First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water are respected and accomodated

Sincerely,

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