From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 9:17:36 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization

I wish to comment on some of the guiding principles of the Water Act Modernization (WAM) proposal:

* The principle of giving up our water license rights to provide a “predictable investment climate across the province", OUR COMMON WATER RIGHTS ARE NOT FOR SALE!!
* The principle of giving up our public trust water rights to the “provincial government with its corporate policy”, when right now we currently have COMMON LAW Riparian Water Rights, which is part of our public trust. We DEMAND THAT our water be recognized as a human right and part of the commons owned collectively by all and held in trust by government to be managed in the public interest, not corporate interest!
* The principle of the provincial government dispensing water allocation based on "a higher economic purpose", with the requirement of a “permit” instead of our existing water license, which is based on 'first in time, first in right' (FITIFR). By allowing a 'permit' based license, would negate our common law water rights, and allow government to determine 'priority of use'. 'PERMITS' ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!! FITFIR should remain unchanged since it is a self-regulating system for over-allocation problems.
* None of the WAM discussion papers or reports mention a process for how our water supplies would be protected from resource extraction activities. Yet you are proposing that our domestic water use receive a “permit” while use for oil well drilling and hydro-fracking shale gas or oil wells carry on with no permit or license at all since they are devolved to other ministries. We DEMAND THAT, WAM not devolve water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil).

If this government really wanted to look at water conservancy it would unite it's Ministries and work toward this goal. With this proposed Water Act Modernization there are no standards being set for this!!

WE DEMAND THAT: WATERSHEDS BE LEGISLATED AS RESERVES AND DEMAND SOURCE WATER PROTECTION! DEMAND SURFACE AND GROUND WATER PROTECTION FROM MINING, GAS AND OIL AND ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES!!

WE DEMAND A BROADER PUBLIC IMPUT OF THIS PROCESS INSTEAD OF THIS UNANNOUNCED, 10 DAY REVIEW PROCESS!!!

Thanks for the opportunity to express our opinions on this very important issue.

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