From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 10:42:34 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: water

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,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

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