From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 11:44:48 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM comment submission

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about what is happening to our water and the Water Act Modernization.

Please consider the following:
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)
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) 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. First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water must be respected and accommodated
ITFIR and Domestic Use must remain unchanged!

I do look forward to a response from you.

Sincerely,
PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED