

**From:** susan and bob murphy \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 6, 2011 11:35 AM  
**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
**Subject:** CFUW BC Council Submission on Water Sustainability Act 2011

Attached is the submission from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) BC Council on the proposed new legislation, Water Sustainability Act.

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President, BC Council  
Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)  
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**British Columbia Council  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
Fédération Canadienne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

March 1, 2011

Ministry of Environment  
Government of British Columbia  
livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

**RE: Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)  
British Columbia Council - Submission on Water Sustainability Act 2011**

I am writing today on behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) BC Council about the proposed new legislation in British Columbia to replace the existing Water Act with the Water Sustainability Act.

CFUW has specific policies on water which are appended to this submission. Our policy that water is a common good and belongs to the public is shared by a significant number of organizations and individuals in Canada and around the world. On July 28, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly agreed to a resolution declaring the human right to “safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.”

We support a strong provincial governance framework to ensure that water is conserved, protected and regulated for long term sustainability. We support appropriate pricing of water as a key resource. Canadians are among the highest users of water resources in the world, and we must work to reduce our consumption, along with a view to improving the efficiency of ground water useage.

Although there are wide regional variations in the availability of water, in some areas, water is becoming scarce. There are also areas in British Columbia that do not have a secure and safe water supply, and many of these are First Nations Communities where living conditions are not acceptable. It is important that land and water useage are considered together.

Finally, we are strongly opposed to any consideration of bulk fresh-water exports and call upon all levels of government to ban such action.

CFUW BC Council is made up of about 2000 women university graduates, associates and students from across British Columbia. Our members live in twenty-three different communities, from large and small urban areas to rural and northern towns.

We are part of the Canadian Federation of University Women founded in 1919 that has about 10,000 women in clubs in every province. CFUW is the largest affiliate of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), an international, non-governmental organization with special consultative status with the United Nations.

Our organization is totally member-funded and our policies are developed at the grass roots level and voted on by all member clubs at regional and national annual general meetings. We place our education and professional training at the service of our communities, we take an interest and participate in public affairs, and advocate for improvements to the status of women and human rights. Our clubs also raise a significant amount of money annually for scholarships, bursaries and other charitable causes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Murphy  
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**Appendix A**

**Canadian Federation of University Women  
British Columbia Council  
Relevant Policies**

**CFUW British Columbia Council policy is integrated with that of Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).**

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**Canadian Water 2000 - Large Scale Water Exports**

CFUW, 2000

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to take all measures necessary to ensure that large-scale freshwater commercial exports carried out by any means do not take place.

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**Canadian Water**

CFUW, 2001

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to protect our water resources and specifically to declare that water, being a non-renewable natural resource of paramount importance, belongs to the Canadian public and its use must be regulated in the long-term public interest;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to adopt and implement a sustainable and prudent water management policy to respond to long-term regional needs with due regard to the ecosystem and hydrogeological reality; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote conservation and more efficient use of surface water and groundwater at individual, local, provincial, territorial, national and international levels.

## **Protection of Water**

IFUW, 2004

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

that National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to:

1. protect water resources and specifically declare that water, being a non-renewable natural resource of paramount importance, be protected at all levels of government and its use and price be regulated;
2. oppose all efforts to make privatization of water a condition for receiving financial aid,
3. adopt and implement a sustainable and prudent water management policy to respond to long-term regional needs with due regard to the ecosystem and hydrogeological reality; and,
4. promote conservation and more efficient use of surface water and groundwater at individual, local, national and international levels.