

FROLEK CATTLE CO. LTD.

P.O. BOX 188
KAMLOOPS, BC V2C 5K6

PHONE OR FAX (250) 374-1873

From: Lucille Dempsey ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:54 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Modernization March 2011

Water Act Modernization Submission – March 10, 2011

Frolek Cattle Co. Ltd. is a family owned ranch that has operated south of Kamloops since 1906. The foresight of our ancestors to secure water rights and construct and maintain the necessary storage dams that capture spring runoff has been essential to grow the forage and sustain our livestock operation for over a century. The public has also benefited greatly in that those storage reservoirs have provided recreational opportunities and fish habitat for all, and controlled release of the water has enhanced stream environments and prevented unwanted erosion.

While we recognize the Water Act should be updated, we request that the following concerns be considered:

- In allocating water, food production and food security must be given top priority over other uses. Water must be tied to the lands producing that food.
- Water allocated to agriculture should be priced so that the resulting food production remains economically viable now and in the future.
- Implementation of advanced technology as well as conservation should be encouraged through economically practical and appropriate incentives.
- Existing livestock watering requirements need to be recognized and grandfathered as an existing use. Off-stream watering could be encouraged where practical but without reducing existing water allocation to the licensee.
- Compensation should be available for existing water rights that are reduced or taken away when the loss negatively impacts the agriculture production.
- Financial resources need to be allocated for additional water storage infrastructure including the responsibility for maintenance and inspection. Ranchers should not bear the full expense and liability for storage dams or stream enhancement that also benefits all of society.

Government must acknowledge and recognize the importance of maintaining a viable agriculture economy to support and secure food production within the province. Implementing changes to the Water Act should not jeopardize that goal.