



Haisla Nation Council

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March 14, 2011

VIA FAX TO: 1-250-387-1356

Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9047
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Attention: Minister Terry Lake

VIA FAX TO: 1-250-387-9100

Government MLA Offices
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Attention: John Slater, Parliamentary Secretary for Water Stewardship Division

Dear Minister Lake and Mr. Slater:

Re: Policy Proposal on British Columbia's New *Water Sustainability Act*

We are in receipt of your letter dated December 17, 2010 enclosing a copy of British Columbia's Policy Proposal on its new *Water Sustainability Act*, and inviting us to participate in the next phase of *Water Act* modernization by interacting through the Living Water Smart blog.

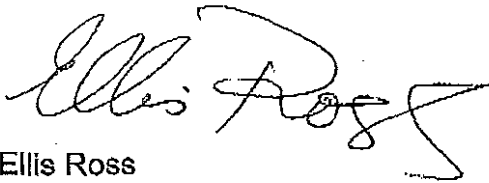
As set out in our letter of April 30, 2010, the Haisla Nation expects to engage directly with the Province of British Columbia on any proposed *Water Act* modernization. In that letter we set out our view that any process of modernizing British Columbia's water legislation must consider how to reconcile provincial legislation with the Haisla Nation's water governance and stewardship laws. We also identified concerns with the first in time and first in right principle for water allocation and the current approach to "ownership" of water in British Columbia.

We are not confident that your policy shows that you have "heard" the Haisla Nation on these topics. Moreover, you have an obligation to do more than just listen. We expect our concerns to be demonstrably integrated into your decisions.

Finally, expecting us to engage in consultation through the Living Water Smart blog is insulting. It is not an appropriate approach to meaningful consultation aimed at meeting the honour of the Crown.

The Haisla Nation remains open to intended new approaches for water management in the Province, but expects any such discussions to take place directly between representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the Haisla Nation.

Yours truly,



Ellis Ross
Acting Chief Councillor
Haisla Nation

cc: Donovan & Company
Fax: 1-604-688-4282

Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations
Fax: 1-250-953-4856