From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 12:55:33 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM Comment Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

Today , a bottle of water is more expensive than gasoline.

I write this letter in deep concern for the water that sustains my organic gardens and my home. I live in rural BC and all visitors to my home make comment on the clean water from my tap. It is precious. It runs direct from a pristine watershed creek through gravel filter and into my home. In 14 years, the water has maintained its good taste, clear look and revitalizing delicious nature right from my own tap! I have never been sick from this water nor known anyone who has.

I HIGHLY value this water, it is my essence. You, me, everyone, ... we are made almost entirely of water!! To put a value on this is beyond economic measure. I believe naturally clean water is a basic building block of good health. Government's role is to hold this vital link to all life in TRUST for its purity and availability to all.

This issue of water is of DEEP IMPORTANCE.

I thank-you all for your work on the Water Act Modernization, but i believe the WAM fails on many fronts.

I could write pages to you, but will highlight some important thoughts to me:

Firstly, if we do not have watershed reserves, we do not have water as nature provides. Watersheds are key to the hydrological cycle, they control the water quality, quantity and timing of flow. The WAM, like all government policy, fails to protect this vital ecosystem function. All government ministries must be included in the water dialogue and act in the best interests of water. For example, the Ministry of Forests MUST also be mandated to manage for all forest resources, most importantly, WATER. Without including this broader scope of vision to a sustainable future, we fail. We fail the future and we fail ourselves. Failure, when talking about water, is not an option.

Water is vital to all life. As such, it must be recognized as a HUMAN NEED and, therefore, a BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. Government's role is to hold this vital link to all life in TRUST. This must be guided by the precautionary principle which states,

"... if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public> or to the environment <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_environment> , in the absence of scientific consensus <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_consensus> that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burden_of_proof> that it is not harmful falls on those who advocate taking the action." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precautionary_principle>

It seems wise that the current water act remain in place while a broader public involvement strategy can result in a more meaningful process. Something as

valuable as water should not be rushed through a political and bureaucratic dance. And, obviously, there are enough people rushing around trying to meet this limited WAM agenda to prove that THE PEOPLE are interested and care. Such a profoundly deep and bold step forward need not be rushed. Many great ideas can be born if only we give them space and recognition to involve themselves.

No doubt, the catastrophe unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico, should deeply remind us that humans are not perfect and we should move forward with a precautionary approach. This approach would value water as more precious than gold. It would help ensure the world is growing and moving forward in a healthy way. It would avoid a "Drill Baby Drill" mentality and adopt an approach that values ecosystems, water and the Good Earth.

THank-you for taking time to read this. I look forward to a healthy reworking of this most important government endeavor.

Respectfully,
PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED