From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 3:28:25 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
CC: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX; Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX; Bennett.MLA, Bill LASS:EX; Slater.MLA, John LASS:EX; Atamanenko.A@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Water Act

April 28th, 2010

Re. BC Water Act

I am deeply concerned that the current effort to update the Water Act has suffered from a distinct lack of public consultation. Water repeatedly shows up as the number one environmental priority of citizens of our province and country and yet to the best of my knowledge the current updating process has not included any public consultation in my community. In order for the updated legislation to best reflect the concerns and wishes of the citizens of BC a comprehensive public consultation process is essential.

The updated Water Act must recognize the critical importance of healthy, functioning wetlands and riparian areas in the provision of quality water for environmental, social and economic purposes. Given the priority citizens place on water the Water Act should trump all other acts with respect to maintaining water quality and protecting the watersheds and ecosystems that provide for high quality water.

Water conservation measures need to be a priority in the new Water Act. The water supply is finite, and due to climate change, anticipated to diminish in the future. For example, at a recent Columbia Basin Trust presentation we were told that the loss of glacial cover is anticipated to reduce total Columbia River annual volumes by 30%, a truly massive reduction in available supply. Thankfully such reductions are decades away, but the only feasible way to ensure adequate future water supply for essential needs such as maintaining ecosystem function, agriculture, and domestic and industrial use is through management of human demands on this limited supply.

I regret that I am not able to more comprehensively provide input on this issue. I urge government to open the process up and to invite the public to be fully involved in crafting this new piece of legislation.

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED