From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 3:10:39 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; Coons.MLA, Gary E LASS:EX
Subject: WAM Comment Submission

To whom this may concern:

First off, the new Water Act should involve the citizens of B.C. at all stages of its development. The government should present an opportunity for the general public to comment on the draft of the new Water Act once the draft has been written.

Some of my concerns include:

In allocation, *ecosystem needs come first*, followed by a modified version of FITFIR that acknowledges the need for setting priorities and sharing the resource where water scarcity arises.

There should be strong standards in place--*which are also enforced*--for protecting water, stream health, wetlands and watersheds. Standards should be set by transparent public process. Funding needs to be available to enforce standards.

The scope of the Water Act needs to be broadened to include land use (e.g. resource extraction activities) since you can't protect the water without considering the land.

The Water Act must be the overriding piece of legislation that determines what is able to occur in watersheds. Currently the Act does not protect stream, ecosystem or watershed health.

The Water Act should not devolve uses and protections to other acts, including those governing the Forestry, Mining, and Gas & Oil industries.

Sincerely,
PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED