From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 6:20:48 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM Comment Submission

Its hard to tell if this proposal on the part of the government is a genuine attempt to correct inherent problems with water management in BC, or just setting the stage for privatization and the sale of water to industrial interests. Even though the track record of this government is bad in regard to actually helping out its citizens, especially in the rural areas, I will make the assumption that this 'modernization' is for the public good, and not to benefit corporations.

The place I would start is with the Water Act. As it stands now, the Act devolves responsibility for water resources to various other Ministries, such as forestry, mining, gas and oil extraction. The Water Act should stand above all other acts, and should have the overall responsibility of protecting and maintaining our common water resource.

Water should be recognized as a part of the commons (like air) and access to water recognized as a human right. The private ownership of water resources should be discouraged on crown land.

Water resources cannot be protected without protecting the land where they occur. Therefore watersheds should receive protection under law from other uses, such as industrial occupations of the land. The precautionary principle should be used to make decisions concerning possible future harm to water resources.

'first in time, first in right' should not be changed. Modifying FITFIR could allow government to remove water rights from established farms, water systems and other users.

Licensed use should not be changed to 'permitted use'.

Since water resources, water use and the availability of water is something that touches everyone, public involvement should continue past the workshop/submission of comments stage.

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