From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:25:01 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: WAM Comment Submission

To Whom it May Concern

My name is ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***I would like to make the following points about the new BC Water Act:

1. Ecosystem needs come first.

2. Strong, enforced standards in place for protecting water, stream health, wetlands and watersheds. Standards should be set by transparent public process, and public funding needs to be available to enforce standards.

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

4. The Water Act must be the overriding piece of legislation that determines what is able to occur in watersheds. It must protect stream, ecosystem and watershed health.

5. The Water Act must never devolve uses and protections to other acts (Section 9 of the Water Act devolves water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil))

6. The province needs to put a priority on water conservation rather than allocation and supply management.

7. Watershed Reserves must be re-established for source protection from forestry and other resource extraction activities. Watershed reserves would protect our drinking water supplies.

8. Collaborative science, traditional knowledge and local history should inform all allocation decisions. The precautionary principle should be functioning at all time (no harm proven prior to new uses, not mitigation after damage). First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water must be respected and accommodated.

9. Avoid an emphasis on market mechanisms in allocating water - priorities need to be set by communities first

10. The Water Act needs to recognize wetlands and their critical processes.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED