From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 5:22:48 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: "WAM comment submission"

To whom it may concern,

First and foremost 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.

Concerns voiced by citizens who attended the Water Act Modernization conference in Nelson 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

* We want 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 (for instance 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 (Section 9 of the Water Act devolves water protection to various other Ministries Acts (Forestry, Mining, Gas & Oil))

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

* Watershed Reserves must be re-established for source protection from

forestry and other resource extraction activities. Watershed reserves would protect our drinking water supplies.

* Collaborative science, traditional knowledge and local history should inform all allocation decisions. The precautionary principle should be functioning at all times

(no harm proof prior to new uses, not mitigation after damage). First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water must be respected and accommodated.

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

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

Water is life. The trees and forests and the plants and animals and rivers and lakes and mountains and streams, are a living, breathing system. Without considering these as

a whole and without our responsible co-existence with these systems we are surely living an unconscious life and heading for extinction. We need to evolve, we need to protect and preserve the very lands we dwell upon.

And from whom are we protecting them from?

Eachother? Ridiculous! We all have the right to water. Clean, fresh, free-flowing water. Not owned or bought or sold and especially not polluted. Water is our birth right. Everyone on Earths birth right. The ability to

respond to this 'Blue Gold Rush" in a radically conscious way will determine the quality of life for everyone, whether they think so or not. No one can avoid 'dealing' with this issue. We need to become living examples of how to take care of the land and the waters, for our children, for the entire world. We live in paradise in BC, in Canada, yet we take it for granted. If we do not take action to come together as Human Beings we will destroy this paradise.

The People need to be involved in all decisions regarding such extremely precious matters.

And remember, the government is supposed to be in service to the people, not above and beyond The People. We are all in this together and the sooner we start taking "Right Action" with absolute regard for all life, the less mess we're going to have to clean up after ourselves later.

While writing this I tried explaining to my four year old why I was writing this message. That I wanted to help to make sure that the Water is protected. She asked me why the water

would need to be protected. I told her that their are people who want to take the water and use the water and pollute the water and cut down forests without caring what they were affecting. I told her that we need to

protect the trees and the land and the animals so that we can all have fresh water to drink. She was quite upset and concerned that anyone could do such things. She said that we would die without water.

It really is that SIMPLE. What complicated matters is when money and greed and lack of 'a better idea' get involved. So this is why we need our government to make decisions based on the voice and concerns of the people and the communities involved, not make decisions for the people.

Please consider these comments sincerely. For all of life and the next seven generations.

What kind of legacy would you like to leave?

We're all People, in this together. Maybe we could start acting like it.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED