

From: Water Across Time [wateracrosstime@yahoo.com]
Sent: April-30-10 1:17 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Cc: Bond.MLA, Shirley LASS:EX
Subject: Changes to BC's Water Act

W.A.T.E.R.
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April 29, 2010

B.C. Ministry of Environment @ livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

Re: Submission of comments, B.C. Water Act Modernization.

As a publicly recognized citizen's water group, we are hereby objecting to many of the changes to B.C.'s Water Act . Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George – Valemount, who is cc'd on this correspondence, is well aware of our efforts to protect groundwater in the province and we were concerned that her office did not see our input as relevant to your consultation. Seeing the advertisement in the April 21, 2010, Valley Sentinel newspaper with the deadline for public input set at April 30, 2010 we are amazed at how little time was allowed for input in such an important matter as the changing of the B.C. Water Act. As this appears to be our only opportunity to voice our objections we will be brief.

We, the members of W.A.T.E.R. attending this Special Meeting, April 29, 2010 would like the Ministry of Environment, Shirley Bond, MLA, and the government of British Columbia to know that:

- 1) we expect we should have received a formal invitation to intervene as an identified stakeholder;
- 2) our position on the vulnerability of B.C.'s groundwater is one of protection from commercial exploitation; nowhere do we read that your "modernization" guarantees this, which is a grave concern. We direct you to review the information, which we took a great deal of effort in providing to you previously or, visit our website at the address above;
- 3) we are alarmed that the Water Act can be changed without full and open public consultation and question the haste in doing so;
- 4) we believe that the only way to enhance water security for B.C.'s future is by exercising a precautionary principal and enacting a moratorium on new, for-profit exploitation of water, in all its forms, in B.C.

In these uncertain times, it seems far too easy to support the desires of industry at the expense of the environment. Lack of proper protection for water will undoubtedly lead to irreparable damage to B.C. ecosystems and a decidedly insecure future.