

November 15, 2013

Mr. Mark Zacharias
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9362, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2

Dear Mr. Zacharias: *Mark*

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) would like to commend you and your Ministry for your efforts to renew the *Water Sustainability Act* and provide opportunities for our organization to engage with you on this important initiative. CBT would like to take this opportunity to voice our support for some of the specific directions being proposed under the *Water Sustainability Act*, including dealing with groundwater use issues and an openness to exploring alternative water governance models.

One item CBT would like to make specific note on relates to the current *Water Sustainability Act* and, in particular, section 12(2):

In considering an application under subsection (1) that relates to the region as defined by the Columbia Basin Trust Act, the comptroller or the regional manager must consider the current long term Columbia Basin Management Plan adopted for the Columbia Basin Trust under Section 15 of that Act.

We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss with your Ministry the intent behind this clause and ensure that the renewed *Water Sustainability Act* has language in it that reflects this intent. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Ministry and to brief CBT's Board of Directors before any final decision is made with respect to this issue.

I look forward to arranging an opportunity for this discussion.

Yours truly,



Neil Muth
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Lynn Kriwoken – Director, Water Protection & Sustainability