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Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 1:28 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: New Water Act

Hi,

Unfortunately I just became aware of the late stage of the new Water Act today. Hopefully my comments can still be of some use in the making of the final act.

BC is fortunate to have so much fresh water available to us compared to many parts of the world. Going into the future it is likely to be recognized as the most important commodity that we as a province have. Recognizing this early and getting that idea enshrined in the new Act will help mitigate issues in the future.

I feel that we should be charging a reasonable rate for groundwater extraction that is being used for bottling especially. Also stream flows heights should be required to keep the fish alive during extraction for industrial purposes. Bulk water sales internationally should be banned or made subject to a referendum before proceeding. Industrial impacts on watersheds, through mining and forestry etc, should have the rules tightened not loosened. I spend a lot of time in the backcountry and the impact is greater than most people that never get out there can easily recognise.

In short we should look out for the best interests of our future by crafting this act to try and keep the best water quality and quantity available for the future. There will be some impact on jobs and available resources from that action but having clear rules in advance will allow companies the vision to plan accordingly.

Thanks
Jim Todhunter

