

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 10:42 PM

Obviously the current pricing structure is completely inadequate, both for surface water and groundwater. This is obvious to any observer; I'm assuming the current version of the act is a half-assed first version, and there will be subsequent, major revisions that take the usage of our water resources seriously.

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:54 PM

WATER ACT      Livestock must be able to drink from streams. How many government employes will it take to monitor this act . Am I going to have enforcement people trespassing on my property?

Subject: opinions re new water act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:50 PM

Background.

The Salmon River Enhancement Society in Langley has been very actively involved in water issues participating in working groups, holding public forums several times on the issue, successfully involving local papers in publicizing water issues and lobbying government to finally bring forward effective protection for the resource (including a Water Act, more enforcement personnel, more resolve to enforce the issues etc.

I have been the main person involved in water issues for the Salmon River Enhancement Society in Langley. As you know the Hopington aquifer is at the top of the list of threatened aquifers in the province with the water table dropping a foot a year for over 30 years and with the provincial important Salmon River coho run being threatened as parts of the river are going dry in the summer months.

Unfortunately the pilot projects in regard to this issue including the Salmon River Watershed Management Partnership, The Water Resources Strategy and the Water Management Plan are essentially dead in the water. These groups too often were dominated by the users and were deflected from meaningful measures to deal with water quantity and water quality. A similar effort in the Nicola watershed a number of years ago (my brother was involved) also failed despite also spending a lot of money and occupying a lot of time for the volunteers involved. Little or nothing came out of these efforts.

Thus any attempt to download control and decision making to local groups would be repeating what has not worked. Encouraging local involvement and taking advantage of that involvement to tailor regulations to local conditions makes sense. But that involvement has to be given firm direction to prevent local groups from becoming dominated by user groups and/or using up large amounts of funding while becoming bureaucratic and ineffective.

My Main Points

- 1) The Act needs to be much stronger to protect base flows of streams (i.e. guarantee that sufficient water will be available for fish survival even in dry summer months) especially in areas like the Hopington aquifer where excessive withdrawals have caused the water table to drop a foot a year for

over 30 years resulting in danger to the provincially important Salmon River. Withdrawals must be curtailed where they are causing problems.

- 2) Will regulations follow in a reasonable time frame---the artesian well sections of Phase 2 of the existing act still have no regs over 5 years later?
- 3) More money will have to be raised from the users (higher rate for water) either initially or soon (I can see the rationale for a lower introductory rate with escalation over a reasonable period to time to allow users to adjust their operations) in order to pay for enforcement and rehab efforts. Eventually it would make sense for the cost for large users to approach the cost of municipal water less the costs of treatment.
- 4) Will there be the will to enforce the act and the personnel in the field. We cannot afford a repeat of the fiasco going on at DFO where they prefer to spend their money on layers of bureaucracy and public relations while abandoning work in the field to protect the resource. If this is accompanied by a reluctance to prosecute the Water Act, like the Fisheries Act, will be a toothless tiger.
- 5) Will the act have any traction vis a vis the Right to Farm Act since farming including manure and irrigation are a big part of the quality and quantity problems
- 6) Will the government reassure us that they are not going to download responsibility for planning and action to local stakeholder groups?

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: new Water Act for BC  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:45 PM

Dear Gov't of BC -

please protect BC water from being vulnerable to export obligations under the terms of the NAFTA and the WTO. The obligations to export bulk water under NAFTA are clear once water becomes both a "good" and a "service" in addition to being a resource let alone an investment.

So far I've seen no mention in the press or media of the spectre of NAFTA and its application to trade in water.

I'm sure you are aware of a Sept 1999 publication entitled: "A legal opinion concerning Water Export Controls and Canadian Obligations Under NAFTA and the WTO" published by Westcoast Environmental Law.

This generation and all those into the future rely on the government's (B.C.'s, that is) to safeguard this resource and be ever vigilant about NOT exporting our water resource which is represented to us as being scarce, precious, worth metering etc.

Do not underestimate the effect of NAFTA rules and the impossibility of reversing decisions made now that would effectively open the flood gates to a thirsty America.

Sincerely

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

North Vancouver, B.C.

Subject: BC water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:07 PM

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. Limits are important. Clear beneficial uses for communities are paramount.

We need a law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC

Subject: BC's Water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:58 PM

Dear sir or Madame,

It is time that corporations are required to not only pay for the water they take, but also be metered for all their use of water. In times of water shortages, it is the companies who market bottled water who need to shut down their operations as watering restrictions come in. The water we get out of our tap is some of the best water in the world. Bottled water is a convenience - that we can get from our own taps. Water that is not used for the support of life, should be designated as non-essential usage. Companies need to cut back or cease non-essential use of water in times of water shortage. We need water legislation that recognizes the life giving necessity of water not only for human, but for animal and plant life as well. Water is for our needs - not for our greed.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Surrey BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act Feedback  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:48 PM

Hello,

To begin I'd like to quote the first line of the Introduction to A Water Sustainability Act for British Columbia: Legislative Proposal - "Water is British Columbia's most important natural resource." By now we're all familiar with the importance of water in our daily lives, the functioning of BC's economy and the conservation of our province's treasured natural spaces. I fully support the efforts being made by the province to modernize the Water Act and applaud the policy changes put forth by the legislative proposal. However, I feel that the proposed legislation could improve on select areas so as to protect what the government itself recognizes as BC's most important natural resource both now and into the uncertain future.

1) Seeing as water binds us all, I believe that the Water Sustainability Act should be applied to all freshwater users in the province. The current proposal seems to suggest that the oil and gas and forestry industries would be exempt from the regulations within the legislation put forth. To sustainably manage these industries, water must be sustainably managed within these industries.

2) Water must be fairly priced within BC so as to recover the costs associated with its management. Revenue generated from appropriately priced surface and groundwater should be directed back into water conservation initiatives and not into general provincial coffers. An accountable pricing structure is especially important to establish at the outset of the proposed groundwater regulations.

3) Environmental flow needs must be legally binding standards (not guidelines) applied to both new and existing licenses. The environmental demands for water should not be superseded by industrial or commercial water demands. Furthermore, existing water licenses should be reviewed within a shorter timeframe than proposed to incorporated up to date knowledge.

I believe that water should be managed as a public trust within the province. The Water Sustainability Act must make it clear that water users are not purchasing water rights but instead renting water for use with the implicit responsibility to maintain its quality. A strong Water Sustainability Act is important to me as a young man with the hopes of one day raising a family within BC. I feel an obligation to protect BC's most important natural resource for my generation and the generations to come.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

PhD Student  
UBC Okanagan, Kelowna, BC



Subject: water rights

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:44 PM

I am writing to insist that B.C. water legislation put public interest ahead of corporate profits. BC needs a law that gives our communities and Aboriginal Peoples the power to responsibly steward our country's precious water supply. In the Water Sustainability Act our long term well being has to be a priority for the next 100 years and more. Water is a basic living requirement and not for making money. Corporate interests in water will tie up individuals' freedom to maintain our inherent public Water Right.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Nelson, BC

Subject: I oppose higher drug prices in CETA  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:04 PM

It is my understanding that FITFIR will guide the granting of water licenses. If this is the case, the sustainability of a healthy environment should come first, and Indigenous use of water should come second. (It is my understanding from history that the ancestors of our Indigenous people were here long before my European ancestors were here. It is simply dishonest to assert that settler interests should come before Indigenous interests, even if this mistake has been made in the past.) Once environmental protections and Indigenous interests have been established, communities must be significant participants in planning water use from their watershed(s). Communities (those most affected by the granting of a license) and certainly including Indigenous communities, should also be actively involved in granting water licenses. FITFIR is no longer an appropriate model to use.

The "public interest" in granting water licenses should not prioritize "jobs" and economic use. The "public interest" should include basic life support first: water should be a human right so that every person has enough clean water for drinking, sanitation and basic household use. Again, Indigenous communities should have their water and water rights protected above any economic use. Protecting the environment should come before using water for economic purposes (ie. fracking for oil and gas or giving/selling to Nestlé's for bottling). Since access to clean water should be recognized as a basic human right, it should not be commodified.

Water licenses should be granted for a specific use; a change in water use should require another application and approval.

It is my understanding that saline water has not been included in the new Act; this looks like it's intended to support the fracking industry and there is absolutely no certainty that this use will prove to be benign to aquifers and the subterranean environment.

Everyone, including senior license-holders, should be accountable to flow requirements.

WHAT, precisely, is the definition of a "low risk situation"? Without a definition, it's a meaningless concept.

Rather than providing "remediation" for damage to watersheds or water systems, PROTECTION FROM DAMAGE should be provided in the new Water Sustainability Act. Calling the new Act "Water Sustainability" is doublespeak as the Act is now written.

Finally, I would like to say that British Columbians are busy with their jobs, busy with their families, busy with their lives. We expect our politicians and bureaucrats to serve British Columbians, not multinational corporations. Of course, the multinational corporations (and even home-grown industries) hire people to lobby politicians and bureaucrats, so the bureaucrats and politicians consider the wishes of industry over ordinary citizens. It is a sad commentary that we, ordinary citizens, are considered meaningless, non-stakeholders (even though we are invited to comment on this new Act).

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Maple Ridge, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:59 PM

The licencing of water, no matter where it comes from, lakes, rivers or groundwater, should be for the people, that is household use, first and foremost. Industry should be better regulated and pay for what it pollutes, not the taxpayer. Companies like Nestle take as much as they want, profit hugely, and pay nothing. There is no fairness in that whatsoever and it has to stop. In times of short supply, the general population's needs must be considered first. The people who run the industries and work in them are part of this population as well. Water is life itself and therefore a basic human need. Access to clean water should also be a basic human right, not a commodity to be controlled for profit.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Kelowna, BC

Subject: regarding the re-writing of BC's water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:47 PM

Dear Sir / Madam,

BC's water and water-ways must be protected as publicly accessible and usable by all British Columbians, without qualification, in so far as that use does no harm to the quality of the water or the eco-systems of which it is an essential part. Using water or waterways for profit must require a license from the BC government, and users must be restricted in their use of the water in terms of treatment and quantity used. Such business use of our water must be taxed by the government and closely controlled and monitored, so that should a business' use of the water become harmful or excessive in some way, its license will be revoked.

British Columbia's, and Canada's, water and waterways - glaciers, lakes, streams, rivers, oceans - must be protected as public weal, accessible to all unimpeded, unless above-mentioned misuse should occur.

As an example, a natural gas business that pumps over five hundred harmful chemicals into the ground water in our province, over and over and over again, must not be allowed a license to practice their violent, public-harming, environment and water destroying business in British Columbia. It's bad business literally to pull the ground out from under your feet, and it's bad for all stake-holders and stock-holders.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, British Columbia

Subject: WSA review  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:46 PM

November 11, 2013

Water Sustainability Act Review,  
Ministry of Environment,  
Water Protection and Sustainability Branch,  
Province of British Columbia,  
Victoria BC  
V8W 9M2

Email: livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

My comments regarding the Water Sustainability Act are made within the philosophical 'lens' of a) water is a human right that must be available to all, and b) water is a common heritage, that is, water must not become a commodity to be bought and sold on the open market for realization of private profit. With this in mind, my comments are as follows:

#### Section 1 – Protecting stream health

“... Expanding prohibitions on dumping debris including human and animal waste, pesticides and fertilizers ...into streams and aquifers”.

This objective will be achieved, in my view, only if the Province is prepared to adequately fund the enforcement function combined with meaningful and expedient court sanctions and deterrents. With resource cutbacks in most government departments, one questions whether this worthwhile objective is achievable; hopefully, this will not become another statute on the books that is inadequately enforced.

#### Section 3 – Regulating and protecting groundwater use

“... ground water can be used without government authorization and no annual fees apply, even to large scale users ...”

Changes to the present situation are both desirable and commendable. Ground water use must be regulated. Sufficient and commensurate charges for commercial use must be levied against large-scale commercial users to provide adequate compensation to the Province as well as to encourage conservation on the part of these users. Ideally, ground water usage should be charged according to volume in a manner similar to what residential users are charged. Conservation of a dwindling resource is key.

#### Section 5 – Make most water licences reviewable after 30 years

The proposed time frame is laughable. With the onset of climate change and global warming, many areas of the globe are experiencing drought conditions *now*. To suggest, for example, that a large scale water licence should not be reviewed for 30 years in this period of significant and rapid climate change is totally unrealistic. This should be changed to every five years at a minimum.

Section 7 – Intent behind the wording “a range of governance approaches”

Increasingly, government appears to promote ‘public-private partnerships’ in the provision of traditional public services; for many, this is nothing more than a euphemism for ‘privatization’. If this is the intent behind “governance arrangements to better suit local needs” and/or “water management activities or decisions to people or agencies outside of the provincial government”, I am strongly opposed to any movement in that direction. In my view, the record of privatization of water services world-wide is nothing less than abysmal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria BC

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\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water water water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:24 PM

Water is a human right, not a commodity. It must be shared freely by all plants and animals. We as humans must protect water for ourselves, and the rest of nature. This must be the underlying value to all decisions about all water on this planet. It is necessary for our survival and our future.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Fanny Bay BC

Subject: Water Life Sustaining.

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:24 PM

To All Concerned.

The new Act must protect the water as life sustaining.

Within the Act it must be clear that no person corporation or government has rights to water under any circumstances. Stewardship of water is the only important thing which has to be considered. This has to include all aspects of not polluting or wasting it and have laws in place to severely punish those the would deliberately choose to do so.

This is an important piece of legislation and will require the highest level of ethics of those who draft it.

No one owns the air, no one owns the water and it's integrity is the responsibility of all people for all time. We have taken the richness of our envoinment for granted for to long. Now is the time to reverse that down ward trend.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Richmond, BC



Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:20 PM

Water is not indispensable. It needs to be protected. It should not be sold for pennies for commercial use. Fracking uses criminal amounts of water. Every drilling area should be monitored for the assault on the environment, caused by the unconscionable amount of water withdrawn from lakes & river. The Colorado river have dried up from overuse & the same will happen to waterways in BC. The Act must be changed to reflect today's technology & industry must pay for the water proportionately to the income, they derive from it. The Act must be changed to protect water that will be more precious than oil in years to come.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Ladner, BC

Subject: BC's Water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:16 PM

Regarding the new Water Sustainability Act, I am writing to call for water to be a public trust, a commons and a human right. As a basic essential for life, like air is, water must ALWAYS be protected from becoming a commodity.

Additionally, saline water usage should be included in the legislation. Exempting it from the legislation leaves saline water usage open to misuse.

Licenses should NOT be issued for fracking. Fracking serves short-term economic interests (particularly for the few), and is not in the long-term, greater public interest.

The FITFIR model of licensing should be abolished, because new awareness of ecological and social impacts makes seniority a poor criterion for granting licenses, and because the public interests must always take priority over economic interests. Instead, each license should be reviewed periodically-- I suggest within each decade. When granting or renewing licenses, the public interest should be prioritized before economic interests. In other words, only when usage of water for economic interests does not negatively impact the public interest should it even be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate formulating the new water legislation.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Duncan, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 7:04 PM

To the Legislative committee---

Here is a chance to put things right for the future of all people of BC...nothing is more basic than our access to clean, abundant potable water for sustaining life. This needs to be described as a Right, not just a "preferred" reality.....not much else separates us from countries where clean drinking water is still an unaffordable dream....without our health (which, to a large extent is dependent on sustained access to pure unadulterated sources of drinking water), there is no economic productivity, let alone creative enterprises. Since governments seem to think no farther than the "bottom line" these days....this is a very compelling argument, n'est-ce pas?

I am particularly concerned that the new legislation allow for the prioritization of ecological needs and account for Indigenous use of water, which in all fairness should be considered "First in Time." It is also critical that we make plans for a future commitment to designating water as a public trust meaning that water, including groundwater, belongs to communities and cannot be privately owned or controlled.

What is also needed are regulations as to the specific uses that would be allowed in a water license....we have seen too many examples in the past of industrial uses taking priority over local municipal needs and environmental concerns. For instance, it is not acceptable that our limited resources should be licensed to be squandered by oil & gas extraction companies....moratoriums must be imposed in many jurisdictions that are particularly vulnerable to contamination.

Once again, do the right thing and say NO to corporations absconding with our drinking water....it's not yours or mine to sell (or give away) to anyone who is making off with millions of gallons! Extractions of water must always be guided by the Precautionary Principle, which aims to safeguard our most precious commodities for unending generations....nothing to be taken for granted. Thank you for representing your voting public in a thoughtful, caring manner to allow our water treasures in this province to remain for posterity, and not go to the highest bidder.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Nanaimo, BC

Subject: Water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 6:58 PM

Water is going to be of the extremely crucial to the survival of life. We need strong legislation and smart legislation, now.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 5:20 PM

The continued willingness of the government to sell necessary resources to the highest corporate bidder must stop. These resources are a public trust to be managed, not sold. Water is among our most precious resources and in the face of changing weather patterns, more prudent management is essential.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

E. Sooke, B.C

Subject: BC's New Water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 5:11 PM

BC and all of Canada needs water legislation that puts public interests ahead of, indeed replaces corporate profits. Water should never be for sale as a marketable commodity.

Communities need to be granted the right to effectively steward our water nation wide. Hopefully BC will draft legislation to lead the rest of the country in this most important public concern

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Calgary, Alberta

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Cc: McRae.MLA, Don LASS:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 5:00 PM

I am very pleased that the government of BC is moving forward to modernize BC's Water Act. The prosperity and health of our communities is dependent on quality and availability of water. It is good that the public is being given the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act (WSA). However, the timeline is much too short to provide for the thoughtful consideration that the WSA deserves. I would urge you to extend the public comment period.

My primary concerns are as follows:

Ground and surface water must be protected as a public trust, with ecosystem needs and public good placed above commercial interests. Consideration must be given to the level of water use that is sustainable and best serves the public interest.

With the projected impacts of climate change, including drought and groundwater shortages, the health of underground aquifers must be considered. Unsustainable water use must not be locked in by new regulations.

It is imperative that BC move away from the controversial "First in Time, First in Right" (FITFER) system of allocation. FITFER limits the effectiveness of local planning and local stewardship of watersheds. Environmental flows, drinking water, agriculture or other publicly supported water uses must be given priority. The changes proposed in the WSA will enhance the rights of existing well users, locking in unsustainable water use without considering its best use.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Courtenay, BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

*There is only so much we can do at our computers. Sometimes our physical presence is required.*

Alexandra Morton

Subject: Water Air

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 4:55 PM

I don't think people voted to support this corporization of mother earth to make the 1% rich. It seems they ignore the importance of water, clean food and air to basic survival for any living being rich or poor. I have heard talk about the Agricultural Land Commission being turned over to oil corporation interests. Has this country gone insane. The way things seem to be going clean water, one day will be the most expensive commodity that we could possess. If we have any left.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Ladysmith BC



Subject: water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 4:35 PM

Our water needs to be protected but never should it become a commodity. Water is a right for all life, it shouldn't ever come at a high premium so that in the future only the wealthy can afford to drink clean water.

Please keep our water safe, protect it, care for it and make it always available for life on this planet.

Thank you

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: BC Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 4:00 PM

"Take only what you need" is a First Nations principle that we must now list at the top of our policies when it comes to using any of our natural resources, but above all, water, without which none of us can live beyond a few days.

But who is "you"? Who may take what is needed? If the definition of "you" expands to include corporations and industries, there will be no end to their "needs". That's the direction society has taken for the past seven or eight decades and the consequences are now clear--it's a pellmell rush to destruction of the ecosystem upon which every living being depends. Therefore "you" must be better defined if we are to strike out in a new and more sustainable direction.

"You" are the people who belong to the land in question--not the people who think the land belongs to them. Ownership of nature and her treasures is an idea dreamt up by humans to justify untrammled growth and power, without regard to the thousands of equally valuable species who, like us, need to use the water and air of the earth's crust during their lifespans.

The notions of growth and continually rising GDP are so last-century! It is time to think on the concept of Forever: how can we make BC's plentiful, sparkling waters stay that way for at least seven generations into the future? It is time to consider every proposal in the light of sustainability and a steady-state economy, because that is the only honorable way for our species to assume its self-styled role as steward of the wilderness.

Remember: "In wilderness is the preservation of the world." We know that now.

No one shall export BC's waters. No one shall stop their flow. No one shall muddy the waters without promptly restoring them to a pristine state. No one. Good water must run free for the beings who live here sustainably.

That's the only kind of law that will satisfy me. And if that means BC shows less GDP or fewer jobs, that's fine, because it will make us think about why. Perhaps there are too many of us? Perhaps we're trying to live in the wrong spot. Perhaps there's a better technology to ensure BC people can take what they need. We'll work it out. But if the government sells our birthright for a mess of pottage cooked up by industry, we'll never know what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong.

Make sure this law has teeth--big, strong ones--and jaws that are easy to operate.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Powell River, BC

Subject: Protecting our water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 3:22 PM

Many of us in Canada have been very fortunate through the years to always have had access to pure, clean drinking water. We, as citizens, have never had to suffer the lack of this most important resource. As a result, government bodies and citizens alike have learned to take our drinking water for granted.

It is time for all of us to come to terms with what we're risking by allowing private, industrial concerns to take more and more control of our precious water resources.

Humans cannot live without fresh water. Many people around the world are facing this death sentence. No drinking water, no crops to feed themselves...It is vitally important and absolutely essential for Canadians to understand the importance of water and to insist on maintaining our governments' and citizens' jurisdiction and control. Companies must not be allowed to mine this priceless resource for the personal profits of their shareholders.

Fracking is the elephant in the room. One day we'll look at our prized water reserves and realize that, while our backs were turned, our water tables were completely contaminated and made entirely useless.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, B.C.

Subject: Water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 2:55 PM

I am fully in agreement that we need changes/updates to our present BC water legislation.

Commercial usage has increased dramatically at the expense of residential usage and I am of the strong opinion that Commercial usage must be more strictly regulated and at a much higher cost (than what exists under present legislation).

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Dawson Creek, BC

Subject: water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 1:44 PM

My thoughts are simply this. Water is our finite resource and should definitely not be for sale. Corporations are in the business of making profits with a free resource snatched from every member of the community. This is stealing and fraudulent. Firm up the laws. Our water is in our trust, we must see to it that it is available to our people.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, BC

Subject: Thoughts to consider for new Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 1:43 PM

Hello. I'm a 43-year-old B.C. resident born and raised here in Vancouver. I'm also a business executive working in clean energy understanding the importance of profit (and the environment) and a passionate advocate to protect the limited water we do have access to throughout Canada... much less than many think especially here in B.C. where so many mistakenly believe rain means abundance.

My sole request for this new Water Sustainability Act is do not think short-sighted. Too often I have seen Canadian government bodies downplay and overlook the value of our biggest strength - our natural resources - allowing other countries, companies, etc. to take advantage of what we have to offer. Yet it's the exploitation of these natural resources that will hurt Canadians in the end, whether due to environmental damage or simply leaving us with nothing in the end while others profit and prosper. I ask that B.C. lead the way and show other Canadian government groups how to properly value what we are so lucky to have. If you take a short-sighted perspective with this new Act that does not protect our water and instead, allows others to profit while B.C. residents suffer in the longer term, you will have failed your citizens. That means the very children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren you have today and in the future. Water is our most important resource. Let this!

new Water Sustainability Act be your most important achievement for everybody within B.C.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, B.C.

Subject: Commercial water Extraction licensing and fees

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:46 PM

I am concerned that the corporations that have benefited from FITFIR legislation will continue to extract commercially without monitoring from community aquifers and surface water, including from Agriculture Land Reserves which should be protected for food security (especially on the Gulf Islands). There is little or no protection for community aquifers on the Gulf Islands and the huge amounts of water extraction is permitted without any monitoring procedure. This is endangering private wells. Please assure the sustainability of commercial extraction before handing out licenses without limitations from our local aquifers.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Gabriola, BC

Subject: Water sustainability ac

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:42 PM

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. A law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water.

There should be a provincial tax on the use of water from crown owned land whether the water is used for drinking. generating electricity, fracking, pulp mills or any other industrial use.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

West Vancouver



Subject: New Water Sustainability Act - not good enough!

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:30 PM

Dear BC government personnel working on the Water Sustainability Act, Thank you for taking and reading comments from the public about the proposed new Water Sustainability Act.

#### FITFIR

The First in Time, First in Right (FITFIR) model of prioritizing water licences severely limits the ability for local planning and stewardship of watersheds, does not allow for the prioritization of ecological needs and ignores Indigenous use of water.

Retaining FITFIR is a fundamental shortcoming of the current proposal as it prevents any means to prioritize water stewardship, Indigenous use and the public interest over the economic interest of providing certainty to industrial licence holders.

FITFIR should not be used as the model for groundwater licences.

#### Water as a Public Trust

The new Act should declare water as a public trust, rather than owned exclusively by the crown, so that a collaborative stewardship model can be promoted through the Act.

#### Beneficial Uses

The beneficial use of water must prioritize the public interest, Indigenous social and cultural use, household use and ecological needs. The public interest should be prioritized in all licensing decisions and economic use should be of lowest priority - meaning only approved when social, cultural, household and ecological needs are not impacted.

#### Limits on Water Use per Licence

More clarity is needed on what the statement in section 2.3.1 of the proposal - "the limit of three water use purposes per licence would also be removed." - is implying and licences should be issued for specific uses with some related uses being allowed.

#### Saline Water

Saline water use should not have a licensing exemption. The impacts of withdrawing saline groundwater from deep formations are unclear, and, although dependant on hydrogeology, a saltwater intrusion of a freshwater aquifer and groundwater drawdown are key concerns.

#### Environmental Flows Requirements Needed

Environmental flows should be regulated based on strict requirements established by scientific data. This should be required of all new licences and again the FITFIR model should be eliminated in order to make senior licences accountable to flow requirements. All licences should be reviewed periodically for consistency with environmental flow requirements.

#### Decisions on Water Licence Applications

The licensing process needs to involve more public engagement. Decisions on the issuing of licences must involve the most impacted people that are dependent upon the watershed/groundwater sources and Indigenous communities. All applications should be publicly posted so that communities are informed of proposals and can meaningfully engage in decision-making. The Act must assure adequate funding is provided for local and Indigenous communities to fully participate in planning and regulation process. Full and appropriate participation of Indigenous communities and the public at large must be embedded in the new Water Act as well as in the process of developing it.

#### New Oil & Gas use

A great deal of pressure will be placed on watersheds due to the dramatic increase oil and gas development in the region. While this industry needs far more regulation of its water use, I do not consider oil & gas development as a beneficial use of water. There must be serious consideration given to whether licences should be issued, particularly for shale gas fracking, which has seen moratoriums imposed in many jurisdictions.

#### Environmental Offsets

Offsets are primarily an economic solution to environmental problems in order to allow for continued economic growth. In order to assure the protection of water, users that do damage to a watershed or water system must be held responsible for remediation of that system - not another systems or area. Environmental offsets is not a sustainable solution to protecting our watersheds.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to seeing amendments to the proposed Act that address these issues.  
with respect,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver BC

Subject: Water lost to fracking process  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:29 PM

Increase water prices for industry, to encourage innovation and conservation (currently companies pay nothing for the water they use, or nominal charges of just \$2.75 for each Olympic swimming pool of water).

I believe the above Canadian Centre for Policy Alternative (CCPA) 2011 recommendation is a start for stemming the loss of water to the fracking process. I would like to see far more restrictions on industries that use water to produce products that are nowhere near as dear as the water used to produce them. The water lost to the fracking process is huge and permanent.

Maybe it would be better to lease the water. I've heard that selling it sets some precedent with the NAFTA agreement. Don't let industries police themselves, I can't see how that could possibly work.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Honeymoon Bay, B.C.

Subject: water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:18 PM

Please enact water legislation that is in the public's best interests, not the corporations'. Nestle has been helping itself to truckloads of water from Hope - we are giving it to them for nothing. What has Nestle done for us that they deserve such a gift?

And please reconsider fracking in northeastern BC - harmful chemicals will inevitably make their way into the groundwater- that is a no-brainer.

Put people before profit - PLEASE!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Merritt, BC

Subject: Privatization concerns

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:11 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

As a Canadian and a friend of BC I would like to urge the government to seriously investigate how it can keep BC's water in the hands and control of its residents. Allowing profit-seeking corporations, especially foreign-owned ones such as Nestle, to obtain rights over water and then sell that very water back to citizens for an exaggerated price (with zero value added) is detrimental to all, including to the watershed. As a resident of Guelph I've come to know the harms inflicted by Nestle's water bottling plant in my own watershed. Water is the source of life for us all and cannot as such be viewed as a commodity. Water needs exceptional treatment, and research and experience shows this is best accomplished by the public sector. We need foresight and leadership to avoid crises in water availability (such as in the southern US) and supply to citizens (such as in areas of Africa where water has been privatized and turned into an elite commodity.) Thank you sincerely for your attention and thoughtfulness on this matter.

Kind regards,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Guelph, Ontario

Subject: B.C.'s new water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:07 PM

Let's do everything we can to keep our environment 'supernatural'. No to corporate freeloaders like Nestles. Who do you think has more respect for our environment and would make better stewards, First Nations or Nestles? Let Nestles stick to producing the junk they make effecting our children, and First Nations to caring for our natural resources like water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

W. Sechelt, B.C.

Subject: fresh water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 11:41 AM

Dear Sirs: Let me add my comment to the new water legislation. I want to see fresh water strictly protected and off limits to corporate industry. I am thoroughly opposed to anything that may jeopardize the purity (drinkable quality) of fresh water, as for example oil and gas pipelines over water courses, the sale of fresh water by corporate exploiters, fracking, and in a particular case, the criminal proposal of Taseko Mines to mine the area around Fish Lake in the Chilcotin. I want to see clean fresh water protected as a human right and for the exclusive use of the general public. Corporations, keep your hands off our water!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Lillooet, B,C.

Subject: Salmon River, Hopington Aquifer  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 11:10 AM

Thanks for the opportunity to comment...

The act must be updated to reflect the impact of the increasing number of people moving to the Fraser Valley and pressures on our rivers, streams and aquifers from development and agriculture. The Hopington Aquifer, which provides water to 60% of the people living in Langley, has dropped 30 feet in 30 years!

However, I am very concerned that the provincial government will try to shirk its responsibility for upholding and policing regulations. Past experience has shown that, under the guise of "local control," all the responsibility is shifted to the local level. Protecting our rivers, streams and aquifers are not priorities for our local council and small bands of committed volunteers will not be able to hold back the developers when the financial incentives are so high.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Aldergrove, BC



Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 10:53 AM

I feel very strongly that the water, both salt and fresh, must absolutely be protected from abuse in this province. This would mean, first of all, no transportation of oil or oil products in our coastal waters. Public interest should have first priority in all licensing matters and economic use should be the lowest priority. Full consultation with indigenous communities, local communities and existing water users must be part of any water act. Users of any water source should be held responsible for remediation for any damage to a watershed or water system. Finally, absolutely no licenses should be approved for shale gas fracking!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Lillooet, B.C.

Subject: Protect our sources of water  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 10:40 AM

There can be no life without water. It's that simple. No life - no corporate profits. So, in this case, "which came first - the chicken or the egg" has been answered. Please ensure that our water is protected for our generation and every generation to follow. Public interest takes priority over corporate profit- just in case that is not blatantly obvious. No corporation should have carte blanche use of public water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Vancouver, BC

Subject: New Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 10:39 AM

To the BC Government,

The new Water Sustainability act must protect BC's freshwater resources. Our freshwater is a shared commons which is not to be privatized, not to be polluted, and not to be allowed to be bulk exported. We must safeguard communities water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Campbell River, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 10:13 AM

### The Proposed Water Sustainability Act

Water is our most important natural resource: without it, there would be no life on Earth. We all need it – for drinking, washing, cooking, growing food, and supporting every aspect of a healthy environment, a growing economy and our prosperous communities.

In British Columbia, we're fortunate to have more than 290 unique watersheds, including fish-bearing rivers and streams, spectacular lakes and exceptional wetlands. But even with this apparent abundance, our water supply is finite.

Given the pressures of a growing population, a changing climate and expanding development, we must take steps to ensure our supply of fresh, clean water is sustainable – not just to meet our needs today, but for generations to come.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
British Columbia

Subject: New Legislation to protect our water for all

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:57 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

Water is NOT a corporate monopoly, nor is it a resource open to private monopoly!  
Water is life, and the basis for all life, and it needs our protection NOW!

Canada has been given an immense gift in our water resources; BC has the opportunity and the power to offer the world a model of resource management for the future of all people. The idea that the big corporations can buy off our democratic process is shameful for all Canadians.

I urge you, the legislators, who have been given the trust of the people of this province, to wake to your full responsibility, and put major restrictions on corporate water use, and to protect your citizens. right to clean, available water into the future.

Thank you for you wakefulness at this time.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Lund, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:47 AM

I am writing to express my deepest concern regarding the management of our water resources. Governments across Canada have been far too lax in regulating the use of fresh water by commercial interests. Water use limits need to be set, and Government needs to retain the ability to revoke licences to support public use as a first priority. The Nestle's of the world need to pay for the utilization, and sustainability of this precious resource, and legislation needs to address this. That said, I don't support the commercialization of water.

Moreover, I object to the use of fresh, potable water for the purpose of fracking. This is a reckless use of scarce resources, a process that leaves the water unfit for human consumption, and deleterious to the environment. Simply put, water is necessary for human life, "fracked" natural gas is not. We need investment in new, renewable, less polluting sources of energy, not outdated sources that are poisoning the planet. It's time to wake up, and move in more productive directions with respect to resource use, and management.

Please remember to act in the public's interest, your first priority, versus being seduced by commercial interests under the guise of serving the public.

Many thanks,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC

Subject: liivng water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:34 AM

BC Govt..you are devaluing our precious water. Why is that? The mines take whatever they want and spew out waste. make them pay or do not dig. We are already regretting the laxness of the regulations and Nestle is one of the worst.They are mining our most valuable resource, making a profit and laughing all the way to the bank. They have proven to be one of the worst corporate citizens today[ie:stop breastfeeding..Drink Nestle Milk !}Most of all I regret your lack of vision

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Kamloops,BC

Subject: New water regulations  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:19 AM

New water legislation should contain the following regulations:

Protection for current water license holders accessibility to water.

Restrictions on the amount of water that corporate interests can take from our systems and public input on the price charged for that water. Income from water sales should go into the public coffers, and should be specifically used for continued protection of water in BC.

Natural resource extraction (mining, natural gas exploration and fracking, etc) must be heavily regulated in order to protect water that might be negatively impacted by their activities. There should be a provincial and federal environmental review of these activities before they are allowed, and local public input must be mandatory and respected by all parties involved. If any degradation of water or surrounding lands occur after commencement of activities, these activities should be immediately halted and the problem resolved. Corporate and industrial resource extractions companies must exhibit a long term plan that will illustrate how they will restore any disturbance to the local environment after their activities are concluded, (tailing ponds, etc) and must be held responsible for these reparations. A large and meaningful fine must be levied against companies that do not comply.

Exporting of water to foreign companies should not be allowed under the new legislation. Only in humanitarian cases such as drought should tankers of fresh water be allowed to leave British Columbia.

Water usage for First Nations peoples should be upheld.

Saline water sources, underground aquifers, etc. must also be protected.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Kaslo, BC, Canada



Subject: Protect the water at all cost.  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:48 AM

The primary principle of the new las should be to ensure the absolute sustainability and prevention of any negative impact on all precious water. The absolute protection has to supersedes all economic and resource development, and there must to be absolute proof that any of such development has no negative impact on any water in any way.

BC is a costal and island province much of our groundwater is connected to the ocean. We must include saline water into our groundwater regulation.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Vancouver

Subject: Proposed new Water Sustainability Act for B.C.

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:13 AM

While the proposed new act would be an improvement, it still does not adequately protect our water, which is a precious resource. In particular, B.C.'s groundwater must be protected from large corporations who currently are able to access it for free, and would continue to be able to do so under this proposed new act. It is crucial for our future generations that this practice not be allowed to continue, and I would urge the B.C. Government to amend this proposed Act. Our province must have complete control over this resource.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Richmond, B.C.

Subject: rewriting of the Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 1:39 AM

We, the people of British Columbia, need a new Water Sustainability Act which gives our communities and our Aboriginal Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water. We must protect our water from corporations that are able to withdraw as much groundwater as they like free of charge. The future of our province is in your hands. Water is life- public interest must be put ahead of corporate profits. Thanks you.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, B.C.

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 9:28 PM

I wish to submit three points:

1. Keep B.C.'s water solely in the public domain. No private, for profit involvement in any community's water purification or sewage treatment facilities.
2. Our B.C. water is not for sale to any corporation or foreign country.
3. Give our communities and First Nations the power to steward our precious water. Let them decide if any resource extraction or transportation represents a threat to our surface or groundwater.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Campbell River, B.C.

Subject: Water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 9:26 PM

Dear Legislators and Policy Writers,

Please pay close attention to the points that the Council of Canadians bring up in supporting public interest above corporate profits while you are preparing your legislation.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC

Subject: Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 9:24 PM

Dear BC government,

As a citizen of BC, I want water to be declared a human right, and not bought or sold.

Thank you.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

New Westminster, BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Public Over Corporate

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:43 PM

Hello,

I would like to see change in the legislation to consider citizens of British Columbia first and foremost over any and all corporations which might benefit from our water.

Hello,

I would like to see British Columbians being considered in referendums for any and all topics the government might deal with in the future.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

White Rock, B.C.

Subject: Public Over Corporate  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:42 PM

Hello,

I would like to see change in the legislation to consider citizens of British Columbia first and foremost over any and all corporations which might benefit from our water.

I would dearly like to see British Columbians being considered in referendums for any and all topics the government might deal with in the future.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
White Rock, B.C.



Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 7:47 PM

I'm concerned about the potential decision for corporate profits to be put ahead of public interests in the new Act as well as the fact that there doesn't appear to be any limits on water use per licence. Communities and First Nations should be able to protect our valuable water resource better than corporations that have their own profits foremost in mind, not the greater public good.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

North Vancouver, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 5:47 PM

I am concerned that water will become a commodity for sale and not equally available to all citizens of BC in the future. I ask you to view water as a human right and something that needs to be protected for all living things from pollution and abuse. All living things should have the very highest priority for its free use. I am depending on the government to protect this basic human right as I see that as the mandate of any government.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\* Comox, BC,  
\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: protect our most precious resource

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 5:34 PM

Please do not allow companies such as nestle to help themselves to our clean drinking water which they then sell all over the world. I have to pay for my water in West Vancouver... why should one of the largest most callous corporations in the world take it for free. Protect our water from oil and gas companies. They pollute at such an alarming rate. they must be made responsible by law to clean and purify the water they use at the site before it leaches into our water table.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

West Vancouver, BC

Subject: A Sustainable Water Act for all of BC's Water.

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 5:17 PM

Dear Government and Opposition, BC Legislature:

Let's be very clear on what "water" means in terms of the need for protection, preservation and sustainability.

Fresh Water: rivers, lakes, streams

Fresh Water: groundwater (shallow), groundwater ( deep ) Fresh Water: aquifers and other very deep sources ( those used with "fracking")

Salt Water including Inter Tidal: All of BC's coastal waters within Canada's territorial limits. These waters nurture all marine life, wild, as well as farmed.

What categories of protection, preservation and sustainability need to be addressed?

Fresh Water extraction for: domestic distribution; bottled or bulk water commerce; industrial processes; sewage and sewage treatment.

Fresh Water used for: irrigation, navigation, electric power generation; resource extraction; natural life support systems

Salt Water used for: navigation, transportation, aquaculture

What are the threats and hazards our water resources face?

Toxic pollution; Over-use; Wasteful practices; Climate change; Sewage; Garbage; Pests to wild marine fishes and mammals;

What kinds of regulations covering uses can be put in place?

Demand side management; User Pay for Consumption; User pay for contamination; Mitigation and compensation; Criminal Prosecution

Whatever we legislate it must address the "whole systems" that are involved and interconnected and would probably work best if done on a natural watershed-river basin model for fresh water and tidal zones and location for salt water.

A "level playing field" decision support model is mandatory to assist with priorities, mitigation and compensation. "Net Social Benefit" aka "Triple Bottom Line Planning and Assessment" aka "Integrated Resource Planning" -- all these measure the present value of the long-run costs and benefits arising from an alternative and include social, environmental and economic costs and benefits.

This is a huge challenge and one that could serve as a model not only for Provincial jurisdiction but perhaps Federal and International as well.

Best Wishes!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
GABRIOLA ISLAND

Subject: New Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 5:00 PM

I am deeply concerned when I hear that the proposed new water act does not adequately regulate industrial use.

The government should be excellent stewards over our water resources for the good of the public, including First Nations, Industrial use should come last and not at the expense of our communities. Please make industrial use regulations that are water tight.

Please tell me when this is accomplished. Thank you,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Coquitlam, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 3:29 PM

Nov 10, 2013

Good afternoon,

We just read the proposed WSA and are unclear whether or not it will impact us.

We have a 185 foot well which serves as domestic water use as well as water for approx 100 head cattle, and regulate our water use severely so the well doesn't run dry more than once or twice per day all winter long.

We also have 2 dugouts that often dry up by Oct/November each year.

We paid for the dugouts, the well drilling, the pump. the power and every other cost involved with getting our water supply, so, not wanting to come across as too adversarial, but any plan to charge us a fee on any of these water sources would be very unwelcome not to mention unfair. and we see no mention of agriculture users in our situation being exempt.

Please clarify,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water Sustainability Act Proposal  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 2:56 PM

After reading through the overview and the full legislative proposal, I find that there is insufficient time in which to review the supporting acts (eg. the Water Protection Act) and work out how these relate to the proposed document. The government has taken three years to bring us to this point, yet we are permitted only a month to review and work out the potential consequences of our suggestions/concerns. If we, who can only work at this part-time, are to produce anything meaningful or useful we need more time on this. Would you please consider extending the deadline for comments?

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*



Subject: protect us from the corporate psychopath  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 1:06 PM

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. A law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Duncan \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water Legislation for BC

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 1:00 PM

Hello,

I feel strongly that the first priority for water is BC residents. Always the public interest comes first. This should be before any corporations take any water and definitely before any goes out of the country!

If a corporation is using our water for any profit making venture then they should be paying for it and know that they are in line after the people, agriculture and the fishery.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Coldstream, BC

Subject: B.C. new water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 11:54 AM

Water is the most valuable precious commodity on our planet. Nothing can survive without it. The sources of our water must have strict laws to protect it and must be done now before it is too late. My concern is: I do hope those doing the Water Sustainability Act put due diligence into it without any outside influence. Life itself depends on it. There is not a never ending supply of it so please, please. wake up to this fact. Thank you

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Little Fort. British Columbia

Subject: Ground Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 11:51 AM

App;ication to exploit ground water for industrial or commercial use should be made to the community or Aboriginal Nation affected, and, when either approved or not by the community, passed on to the Province for appropriate action. Licence to exploit ground water should include a considerable initial cost to the successful applicant and a fee per liter be collected to be shared between the community and the Province. Both approval and denial should be final.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Mayne Island, B.C.

Subject: water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:21 PM

if our water is left in a sink for the night, it smells. our water was never like that, our water of Alert Bay was pure not smelly....what happened to our water?

concerned

Alert Bay BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:19 PM

When considering provisions for inclusion in the new WSA I encourage you to look far into the future. We know how precious this resource is to a liveable planet and the fact Water is a finite resource . . . what we have on earth is all there ever has been and all there ever will be. We must be careful not to make decisions on this resource to address short term considerations which could conflict with the preservation of clean water for the use and benefit of all mankind in the future. Our planet is growing in number of people . . . the supply of Water is not

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, B.C.

Subject: Protection of our water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:07 PM

Water is essential to life. It must be protected from contamination from any source and it cannot be used by industry unless there is a strict check on the quantity they are allowed to take and they must be made to pay for it. In cases of shortage priority must go to agricultural and domestic use before industry.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Black Creek B.C.

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 11:52 AM

Water needs to be protected for the use of the people who live in the community. Corporations should not be given preferential treatment. Water should not be for profit but protected as a human right for all. Public interests must be prioritized over all others.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Chilliwack



Subject: As Requested Feedback Re: BC Water Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:06 PM

**As Requested Feedback Re: BC Water Act**

***"The BC Government is inviting feedback on A Water Sustainability Act for BC: A Legislative Proposal from groups, organizations and individuals until November 15, 2013."***

Good Fishing, Tight Lines & Conserve Our Waters

Yours In Conservation....for our children's children's children....for seven generations

Respectfully,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

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The following "Engagement Toolkit", provided by the Freshwater Alliance, for grassroots & stewardship groups, Re: BC Water Sustainability Act legislative proposal ", might be useful for some BC groups province-wide...especially the references on page 9.

[https://www.freshwateralliance.ca/sites/default/files/resources/wsa\\_engagement\\_toolkit\\_freshwater\\_alliance\\_nov4.pdf](https://www.freshwateralliance.ca/sites/default/files/resources/wsa_engagement_toolkit_freshwater_alliance_nov4.pdf)

Subject: RE: A Water Sustainability Act for BC: Legislative Proposal  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; eco justice  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 11:17 AM

Honourable Ms Mary Polak, Minister of the Environment:

If this started in 2009, how come I didn't know it was happening. The Premier's office has had my email address since Gordon Campbell became Premier.

1. "our most important natural resource" is not a resource at all, which suggests selling, trading, manipulating: our water is a "common" essential to Life! The Life of British Columbians.
2. In several paragraphs you have made this assumption: consulted with BC citizens, First Nations, Stakeholders, etc. Are "First Nations" not citizens of BC? Drop the comma and say BC citizens including First Nations, Stakeholders.
3. Now there's a scary word: Stakeholders. Not once did you tell us who these Stakeholders are. Could this be Nestle and other water bottling companies? In the first place if they bottle our water for Canadian use is one thing; if they are bottling to export is a totally different matter. If they are bottling for export, does that not come under the Free Trade Agreement with USA and Mexico? If you withdraw large amounts of water from a lake you could actually change the environment: making it dryer and hotter; if you withdraw from a river or stream or creek you are robbing the users downstream. An example of changing the climate by industrial use is the Tar Sands: I grew up about 150 miles south of Fort McMurray, near Grassland, and it was always colder in that area, the temperature is warmer than it used to be.
4. What the Tar Sands are doing to that area around Fort McMurray is inconceivable. Lake Athabasca and the Athabasca River that flows from the Columbia Glacier near Jasper Park, will never recover from this assault. Which brings me to the point of POLLUTION. What provisions are you going to have in the ACT to make users pay for polluting our water by an oil spill, fracking, mining, and other means? There's another significant area that you have not mentioned that is equally important: the first twelve miles of an ocean from a coast line of a country is deemed to belong to that country. If Northern Gateway is allowed to proceed that changes the scenario significantly; not only does it include pipelines but also Tankers not belonging to Canada therefore they are not under our control.
5. The "common" you were referring to was it fresh water, was it ocean water or does it include both in your water act proposal?
6. I saw a curious "Stakeholder" in Proposals Part Three: Rent Water? What does that mean?

Regards,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 10:59 AM

Water is the most precious natural resource we have and it belongs to all B.C. residents. It should not be given free of charge or at ridiculously low fees to private companies like Nestle or any other industrial user. It seems to me that a government levy of at least 20% of the retail price of every product using our water would be perfectly reasonable.

After all, we do not hesitate to put substantial taxes or royalty payments on all of our other natural resources. It seems unreasonable to me to treat water, another natural resource and more vital and necessary than all the others, any different.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Abbotsford, BC, \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: water protection

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 10:58 AM

Please update the legislation to save our precious resource that we have in B.C. namely WATER.

The system is obviously out of date to let someone take as much water as they want FREE and then sell it

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Port Coquitlam British Columbia

Subject: Water for Common Good

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 9:43 AM

As a resident of BC, I welcome the opportunity to shape the future of water control in BC. I feel sickened to learn that corporations like Nestle steal our water for pennies or no charge so they can sell it on the open market for profit. I feel sickened to learn that water close to fracking sites becomes contaminated and that water from the tap can be set alight with a match while no one knows which toxic chemicals are in the water. What does that mean for humans who need water for drinking, cooking and other uses - disaster.

There are many things that we can live without. Water is not one of them. Clean water is basic for our survival as a species. As water becomes scarcer, struggles to control it will become fiercer. I ask the review board to ensure that water is enshrined AS A COMMON GOOD for at least the next 100 years when the Water Sustainability Act becomes law.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, BC

Subject: Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 10:01 AM

Water is our life blood. With out access to abundant, clean water our health is at risk; all we have to do is look at 3rd world countries to see the horror of that. We have a responsibility to protect our water and not allow it to be compromised in any way. Corporations should be only be allowed to take a small amount of water, never when the supply is questionable, and NEVER for free!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Nanaimo, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 9:46 AM

The BC Government

I was pleased to hear the government has proposed a new water sustainability act. We all know without water there is no life so the act will need to include the following:

Public interest and use of water for citizens of BC needs to be at the forefront. Limits on corporate use, with strict regulations to ensure water safety (no contamination from mining and industry) Salt water and its environment needs protection, damage done by raw sewage, industrial or agricultural run off, and fish farms.

Sincerely

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, BC



Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:51 AM

First, I would like to ask for an extension for comments to this act to at least March 1, 2014. For such a complex act to be read and understood and then take the time to express good and bad and ugly comments the time frame is way too short.

But, one positive for this proposal is the protection of ground water.

Then there are all the negatives....in just a part list of item:

No protection for the relatively new concept of Aquifer Storage and Recovery.

Does not comment or protect salt water.

Treat all water the same whether the water is surface or ground water.

Need Environmental Flow Needs and Critical Environmental Flows in the new act.

Need Monitoring and Reporting for all and the threshold must be much lower than 250 cubic metres per day.

Need written in the act, who will regulate the monitoring and reporting and how the act will be enforced.

There are many more insufficient or non existent parts to this proposed act. One that needs to be dealt with in the act is control of water for fracking, and under what conditions fracking can occur if any.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water rights

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:25 AM

I am deeply concerned about the quality, quantity, usage, and accessibility of water in Canada. Right now where I live in rural BC, I am on a private water system run by an unqualified person. My water used to be looked after by the community and when I moved here 20 years ago we had clean, fresh drinkable water from Shuswap Lake. Now the water is undrinkable as it is and must be boiled and we pay \$100.00 a month for this water! I am also concerned that hydraulic fracking, and resource extraction and the transportation by pipeline, rail or truck could very well in a spill and completely ruin the water supply for everyone. Water is our human need... We need clean water to live!!!! Please put people and life before money and profit and protect our water rights!!!!!!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Lee Creek, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:21 AM

Please ensure that the Water Sustainability Act lives up to its name and makes sure we have sustainable uncontaminated available water resources for generations and centuries to come. Do this by upholding 2 principles: water is a human right and water is not a commodity to be bought and sold.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, B.C.

Subject: Clean Drinking Water for all people living in Canada

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 6:40 AM

I want the Water Act to consider individual's human needs first. Put them before corporate interest in making profits for their shareholder profiteering.

The authors of this legislation need to look at countries where water has become a commodity "managed" for corporate profit. How it keeps people in slave-like conditions...thirsty, dirty and downtrodden.

And check out the Canadian Press brief article on what is in front of the BC Human Rights Tribunal regarding the case of about 50 tree planters who alleged they endured such slave-like conditions in Khaira Enterprise Ltd. in 2010. This happened near Golden, BC. Water and food is a human right. Canadians cannot feel smug about this. Many of the Khaira tree planters were (in 2010) recent immigrants. They said they also hadn't had food for 2 days.

And check out some of the reserves in remote Canadian communities where people go into the hills to get creek water in garbage bags because their local water is not "good".

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Kamloops

Subject: Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 6:18 AM

I am very concerned that the proposed changes to the Water Sustainability Act will not be enough to protect our water. In the current political climate of economic growth above all other considerations, our resources become vulnerable. Our most precious one is pristine water, fundamental to all life. Water must not be abused. I do not agree with giving priority to business interests in their consumption of water. We must not lose sight of worst case scenarios: jobs and dollars mean nothing in a dead zone. A public trust guided by millennia-old wisdom of our aboriginal people will offer the best protection, in my view.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, BC

Subject: bc WATER LAW

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:43 PM

Dear legislators,

I would like to see a component of the law prohibiting the extraction of water for commercial use, beyond the needs of the people inhabiting the land. Water travels in aquifers beneath the surface so depleting the stores in a certain location affects the availability of water over a large area.

Thanks,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Cowichan Bay, B.C.

Subject: BC's new water legislation  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:46 PM

To whom it may concern:

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. A law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water.

There is a need for strict environmental flows requirements and there certainly needs to be limits on water uses per license.

There is inarguably nothing more important than the protection and preservation of clean drinking water for everyone. Determining "beneficial uses" must prioritize public need over corporate interests.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: new water act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:11 PM

We need a binding referendum on any law the government passes

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Nanaimo



Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 9:36 PM

The Water Sustainability Act must be based upon the premise that water is a human right which means that everyone has a right to clean water for consumption and sanitation (currently there are still many people in BC, particularly indigenous people, who do not enjoy this right). Watersheds must be protected and managed by those who live in the watershed, and water must not be owned privately by either individuals or corporations.

Water allocation under local, community management must be based first on the consideration of water as a human right (and as a right of the other living organisms in the watershed). Secondly, water allocation should be based on the concept of food sovereignty whereby local inhabitants retain control over production of their food; in other words, agricultural use would be considered next after personal and ecological needs.

Only after these two primary uses of water have been fully met, should any other uses be considered, and only with local approval.

Extremely questionable uses, such as for oil and gas industries, and especially for hydraulic fracturing, should be highly regulated, and allowed rarely with strict limitations.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Kamloops, BC

Subject: water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 9:31 PM

water should never be privately owned but held in trust for the public good.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Sechelt

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 8:56 PM

I believe this: "Water allocation must be based upon water as a human right, water as a commons and water as a public trust. Water as a human right means that every person has a right to clean and adequate water for drinking, sanitation and basic household use. Water as a commons would mean our watersheds are to be shared, protected, carefully managed and enjoyed by all who live around them. Water as a public trust means that water, including groundwater, belongs to communities and cannot be privately owned or controlled."

First Nations must be respected and corporations need to pay for the water they use. It is criminal the Nestle's pays nothing for the water it takes. This is ridiculous.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Salt Spring Island

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 8:21 PM

The major concerns I have about water in the province of B.C. is that many people are part of small water user groups and need more help from government. I belong to a small water society and although we've been given good advice from government officials, there will come a time in our neighbourhood when the volunteers who run our system will no longer be willing, or able, to do the work. We'd like to plan for that future and at the present time have no indication that anyone can help us.

We were given the opportunity to purchase water meters with discretionary income from our area regional director and it was been a very good move in terms of awareness of the use of water in our system. We have a fairly expensive structure and because of it we are finding people are more careful in their use of water which reduces the work for our volunteers. Water metering, I feel, is essential, for any group operating a water system. It simply makes users aware of what they use and that awareness is a good thing. Potable water is a resource that many think is a "right" but we have a responsibility to use it carefully because it is like all resources - limited!

Thank you.

Yours truly,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: BC's New Water Legislation - a letter of request

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 7:52 PM

I don't have a water degree, or claim to know all the in's and out's of ground water and the water table, but I do know that I don't like what I see floating down our streams, rivers and in our lakes. I know that I don't like the way my skin and hair feels after swimming sometimes, esp after falling in the Columbia River after an epic windsurfing session. I don't like to think what's on my skin and hair when it takes 3 shampoos and rounds of soap to lather up and feel clean again. This is the water I drink. It's the water I cook with. This is the water I love. It is the source of life and everything that goes with it. It needs to be protected and we, as Canadians ... and the global community in general, ... need to take care of it. Please rewrite the legislation to help protect our water to the fullest ... it's the most precious resource we have. Thank you! \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*, Kelowna BC

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Kelowna

Subject: water sustainability

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 7:42 PM

I am writing to voice my concern that government and big business fails to consider the long term outcome of their actions. When considering making our water a priority please consider that fresh water is limited resource and letting big business dictate the use of our water should not be allowed. Companies that want to extract our fresh water and then sell it to others should not be allowed, there must be some control put on this practice.

The practice of fracking to extract oil and gas is a big concern of mine and I would hope that this practice receives careful review and a wish that science can come up with a solution that leaves our fresh water clean and the keeps our environment eco friendly.

When revising our water regulations local concerns must be addressed and controls firmly in place to make sure all have the right to fresh clean water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Keremeos, BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water Sustainability Act public consultation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 7:42 PM

-----Original Message-----

I am writing to say that water is sacred. Both clean water and clean air are necessary for life and that the province has the duty of being the default protector and steward of the fresh water in the province. The new Water Sustainability Act should include the following principles:

1. Access to clean drinking water is a human right.
2. The public's right to clean water trumps the right of industry to access water and use water to make a profit.
3. When the health of the public is at risk due to water quality issues the Provincial Health department shall have the power to call a halt to industrial activity which may be responsible for the water quality crisis. Scarcity shall also constitute a public health crisis.
4. The province shall have the right to grant or withhold water use privileges and shall have the right to levee usage fees. Municipal authorities shall be partners in monitoring and reporting water use in their jurisdictions and in sharing usage fees paid for such use; such reports shall be made available to the public on request.
5. The "polluter pays" shall be an up front principle in determining liability for damage to water supply and consequential and corrective costs to a community whose water has been violated.
6. All municipalities shall maintain, in good working order, free access to potable public water for their citizens through access points such as water fountains in all public institutions and community pump houses. Closure of such access points shall constitute a public health emergency.
5. Industries which use clean water when "grey water" shall suffice, will be required to switch to using grey water or be penalized via a fee structure that increases over time until use of clean water is discontinued.
6. Decisions and laws relating to the stewardship of water shall be based on current and developing best practices and the most up-to-date science available.

These are my suggestions. Thank you for receiving them.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Winnipeg

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Winnipeg, MB

Subject: bc water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 7:24 PM

BC needs tough legislation to protect all sources of water

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

merritt, bc.



Subject: water sustainability act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 7:12 PM

Let us as Canadians have a level playing field for all, private citizens and corporations, we need to protect our precious resource. Sincerely

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Castlegar, B.C.

Subject: Water sustainability

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 6:37 PM

BC is under assault by the big plans of both the province(s) and the federal government. It is pretty clear that the present tack assures a future of polluted air and water, if serious controls are not soon put in place.

The rights of all citizens must be protected but the foundation of the new law has to be guaranteed access to clean water for people in perpetuity.

BCers and Canadians in general have long been reluctant to "sell" our fresh water so we have an old law that basically gives it away to any comer. Maybe it is time to put a price on this precious resource.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Oliver BC

Subject: Water governance

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 7:09 PM

Hello Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. Water must remain public. No corporation should profit from public water, First Nations and individual Municipalities should have the ability to control what happens with water in their own watersheds. Industries that pollute water should have to pay a very high price to use water and should be obligated to treat it and return it to potable use. Fracking is a bad idea, no fuel is worth contaminating our water to get. There are other ways. The environment and aquatic life should get first priority in all water use. Any use should be strictly regulated and heavily monitored - NOTHING matters more than water. The oil and gas industry should have no say in water governance.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Port Coquitlam BC

Subject: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 6:48 PM

I am deeply opposed to the privatization of water.

Water should remain a 'public good' for the indefinite future.

Cheers

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act deadline  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 5:44 PM

I have read the Water Sustainability Act for BC Legislative Proposal and am preparing comments for the November 15th deadline.

The Ministry's proposal for changes to the Water Act is dated October 2013 so there is very little time for public feedback on the legislative proposals. If the government truly wants to hear from the citizens, then the deadline should be extended.

I do not need to impress upon you the importance of water and thusly the new Water Sustainability Act. Most communities on Vancouver Island have been working on quality and quantity water issues for several years and are hoping that the new water act will help to solve some of these problems through legislation and improved management of our water resources. The proposed legislation will not be sufficient to address the various issues that we are facing. Therefore, more time is needed for those of us who are reviewing and discussing the new legislative proposals in order to provide the Ministry with comments we feel are important and beneficial to not only our communities, but to the province as a whole.

Respectfully,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Maple St., Qualicum Beach, \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: BC's new water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 5:31 PM

Water is of primary concern to all of us - regardless of political viewpoints. I urge the BC Government to make legislation that protects BC water for British Columbians, now and in the future, and puts public interest before corporate profits. Our children and grandchildren will thank you.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Golden BC.

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 5:20 PM

To Whom it May concern,

I would hope that those who are granted the responsibility to act on behalf of the people will support the interests of the people. This would mean ensuring that there is a limit to water uses per license, and ensuring that there is a transparent public process for obtaining those licenses. It would certainly mean carrying the interest of the public over and above the economic interests of corporations.

Yours Sincerely,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

West vancouver, B.C

Subject: our water act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 4:40 PM

Hi,

I'll just go with point form to make it easier on you:

- we need participation of first nations and the general public. It's a natural resource of the land.

- we don't want corporate representation in composing regulation as that use is nearly always contrary to the common good and simply favours their greed.

- the final decision should rest with the effected peoples like the referendum system in Switzerland.

- water is a human need and a human right. It should *\*never\** be corporately owned or controlled. Ever.

- no water licenses for the oil and gas industry. none. point finale.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Terrace, BC



Subject: water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 4:53 PM

Water is our most valuable resource

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria BC

Subject: Concerned about use of BC fresh water and the amount guaranteed to industry and USA

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 4:45 PM

Help keep water for BC

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC

Subject: B.C.'s new water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 4:15 PM

First off, there must be full and appropriate participation of Indigenous communities and the public at large (not corporations!) in the new Water Act as well as in the process of developing it. Also, the final decision on any application must rest with the community that relies on that water and NOT be in the hands of some appointed bureaucrat.

Without a doubt the FITFIR system HAS TO GO! People should ALWAYS take precedent in every situation, especially this one. The people and communities that rely on the water source MUST have control over that water source in order to safeguard it for their children and grandchildren.

Water allocation MUST be based upon water as a human right, water as a commons and water as a public trust. Water as a human right means that every person has a right to clean and adequate water for drinking, sanitation and basic household use. Water as a commons would mean our watersheds are to be shared, protected, carefully managed and enjoyed by all who live around them. Water as a public trust means that water, including groundwater, belongs to communities and cannot be privately owned or controlled.

Under no circumstances should water licences be granted to the oil and gas fracking industry. Pumping poisoned carcinogenic water into the ground to eventually reach the aquifers is just completely insane and also criminal in my opinion.

Offsets are NOT environmentally responsible. In order to assure the protection of water, users that do damage to a watershed or water system must be held responsible for remediation of that system.

Water and air are basic to sustaining life. There should be absolutely NO compromises with relation to them. We have to stop treating our environment like it is one big garbage dump!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Terrace, B.C.

Subject: B.C. Water Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 4:09 PM

It is absolutely unacceptable that any corporation ( Nestle ) should be able to extract B.C.s water and sell as bottled water at profit...I understand that Nestle pay nothing for this !!

This is outrageous and must stop immediately. FYI the profits go back to Switzerland....What possible good does this do for the citizens of B.C. ?

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Ladysmith B.C.

Subject: New Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 4:09 PM

I urge you to revise the Water Sustainability Act to tax all industrial uses of water in BC including the bottling of water and water based beverages for public consumption. Corporations such as Nestle should not be allowed to continue to profit from BC water without paying for it.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Burnaby, BC

Subject: proposed new Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 3:45 PM

Please ensure that any new Water Sustainability legislation protects and prioritizes public community access to clean and sustainable water supply over corporate interests.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Burnaby, BC

Subject: Water /a public resource

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 3:25 PM

"Living water smart" I believe means understanding that the right to safe water is a universal human right and should be kept out of the public market and the stock exchange. If profits are to be made they should go right back into protecting water sources from toxic contamination. Some bottled water may be necessary for emergencies but not for merely profit of any government or private industry. Wars over water are only going to escalate unless nations work together to protect this fundamental right.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Campbell River, BC.

Subject: BC New Waters Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 3:22 PM

Water is tomorrows oil and a more valuable resource because it sustains all life. Please be very cautious and protective of this most valuable commodity for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Thank you for your attention.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

vancouver, bc



Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 3:02 PM

Why am I under water restrictions and billed for water use if corporate entities can take as much as they want?

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

SUMMERLAND

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 2:59 PM

First I would like to commend the government for finally getting these regulations out for public review. Regulation of groundwater in British Columbia has lagged behind most other jurisdictions in Canada and with the increased emphasis on resource extraction, we need to be monitoring, regulating, and protecting all groundwater sources in this province. The possibility for shared decision making around watershed protection in all communities is a step in the right direction. We all benefit from clean water.

However there are some areas that need to be addressed in a more rigorous manner. There appear to be no binding standards to guarantee water for fish, wildlife, and stream health. We share our water with many other species and they need access as well.

The user fees for water extraction are not nearly high enough to encourage conservation by the extractor or to discourage indiscriminate extraction, especially for bottled water. I think that there should be no extraction of surface or groundwater water that is then put into a plastic bottle.

The language in the document also leaves open the possibility that the oil & gas sector and forestry industry will be exempt from the regulations. This cannot be supported. Everyone needs to work together to protect and conserve our water supplies.

In the final analysis water for human consumption should have precedent over all other water uses.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Courtenay BC

Subject: B.C.'s water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 2:20 PM

To whom it may concern,

I see many flaws in the proposed new legislation, which I would like to address.

I think it should clearly state that water is a human right and that its use should always prioritise the needs of all people, including indigenous people, of communities and of the environment and put industrial needs last.

The public and the communities MUST be part of the allocation process.

Protection MUST be more important than remediation.

Groundwater and aquifer pollution and depletion should be against the law.

Saline water needs to be part of the process.

I don't see that this re-write puts the needs of people and nature AND future generations CLEARLY first, and that's not good enough.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Quathiaski Cove, B.C.

Subject: BC Water Legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 1:13 PM

Why is the government so quick to sell out a valuable resource that belongs to all to a multi-billion dollar corporation so that they can make millions of dollars bottling this water and selling it back to Canadians for obscene profits? Groundwater is not an unlimited resource and just because British Columbia is blessed with an abundance of fresh water, we need to be good stewards of this resource rather than giving it away essentially for free (given the ridiculous amount they want to charge Nestle).

It's time for the BC government to look at the big picture and not be a sellout to big business purely for the sake of economic interests. This legislation doesn't just apply to companies such as Nestle as the oil and gas industry use enormous amounts of water during extraction and processing.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver

Subject: Water Sustainabiliy Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 12:53 PM

I totally support the new Water Sustainability Act. In times to come, water will become more precious than gold and certainly more precious than oil. It is time NOW to protect our water for both present and future generations. I hope the new proposed legislation also includes restriction of "fracking" to extract oil.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

North Vancouver, BC

Subject: Comments regarding Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 12:44 PM

Response to Proposed Water Sustainability Act

by \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*, Victoria, BC

Please note: I see this opportunity to communicate with my provincial government on a topic broader than just the Act in front of me. Please retain these comments for consideration on other legislation that it pertains to, and I will do my best to stay on-point. Thanks.

-----

British Columbia, and Canada, are facing a correction now under which there's a disparity between the permits and licenses issued to companies by the Provincial Government and the 'Social License' (and Legal elements) involved.

One example of such disparity is illustrated in the Tsilhqot'in legal case currently before the Supreme Court of Canada.

What this case illustrates is a difference in the ways that land allocation/rights are perceived by the people as compared to the permits and licenses that have currently been issued.

My opinion (outside of this or any case) is that land use is not restricted to any ridiculous notion of the trails, rocks, and such features that people use [continuously?!]. The use of that land is not restricted to what you can see. It encompasses everything that is and that is not there, example being: the wild game, the clean water, and the clean air.

If helicopters and operations in the next valley over scare off game, then it's having an impact on a traditional hunter. If those same helicopters are in the valley that you're in, then duh: that's awful.

The weird notion of First Nations treaties being a burden on Crown lands is also ridiculous to me. First Nations may choose to allow these uses on their land, or they may choose to not accept them, period.

If the First Nation asks that the resources remain in the ground, then they remain in the ground. The Province has no perceived justifiable position than to back away from these projects, cancel issued licenses, and leave the resources in the ground.

Contaminated is contaminated,

No means no.

This video from Beyond Boarding, of a conversation between a Tahltan member and a member of the RCMP speaks volumes to me: <http://vimeo.com/74393294>

The government is increasingly placing the burden of the disparity of perception on the RCMP to assert the rights afforded to companies by the government, thereby violating other Rights in the process.

As is noted in the video : if you want to talk about rights, you have to talk about all rights.

: The RCMP officers in the video are being asked to violate the rights of our citizens : because they're being ordered to. The RCMP is clearly on the side of government (an understandable position), but they are not stupid. They know that they are violating peoples' rights: they're just doing their part though; doing what they're told.

When the government backs industry, the people are put in an unjust position.

When the government takes action in advance of resolution by courts, the RCMP are also put in an unjust position in their role.

When the law does not stand up for the people by making decisions that are inconsistent with the 'Social License' afforded by the people, then a disparity is created which ultimately will leads to a correction.

Please consider that resource extraction permits and licenses will need to be scaled back in this province due to an over-allocation, and inappropriate allocation that has generally taken place. This applies to water and land both.

Poorly defined rules and excessive gamesmanship have led to what results to look like greed and corruption.

Our age is one of a constant need for evolving and changing laws.

Gamesmanship appears to me to be the most important factor in many decisions made by industry today. Weak legislation is a common aspect that companies exploit to great financial benefit.

A new Water Sustainability Act is a great step for British Columbia, to CLARIFY for all parties involved, for the fairness of both company and resident.

First Nations are at the forefront of the shift/correction of ecological and social values, but only due to exceptional circumstances: many of Canada's lands need stronger protections because Government and Industry have over-stepped their bounds as to what the people are ready to accept for the use of their resources for their future. Change to issued Licenses may come by a Supreme Court ruling on the Tsilhqot'in legal case in the coming weeks (or it may not).

As we move in to our future, we may have some large dollar law suits brought against the British Columbia government by companies who were issued licenses for resources that will need to 'remain in the ground'. I am aware of this, and I accept these financial consequences of these decisions: we're moving in to a new paradigm, and there will be costs associated.

The lands/ watersheds that are of concern for me extend far beyond First Nations lands, to include many of the 'Crown Lands' of the Province. Please note that Crown Lands are owned by the people, not the Government: the people have a right to oppose and ultimately stop these projects, thereby accepting the financial consequences of broken commitments and potential lawsuits.

Please note that water legislation is a fundamental underlying protection for biodiversity (which is becoming an increasingly prevalent world issue). Major watersheds of concern for me are the Peace River / Athabaska River / MacKenzie River watershed, the North Saskatchewan River/ Nelson River watershed, and the South Saskatchewan River.

British Columbia plays a part in each of these major watersheds of Canada: the cumulative impact of activities in each of these watersheds is a cause of great concern for me, and British Columbia should not be contributing to these issues which reside largely in other Provinces.

So let's talk water.

Water needs to be clean.

Water needs to be plentiful.

Contaminated water needs to be cleaned up at the pollutant source, not just at the point of population.

Water carries contamination to the Biome, and the Biome carries the contamination too.

Every time that Canada Geese pass over my head, I stop, look up, and lovingly watch them pass. I revere them.

Canada Geese need clean and plentiful water all across Canada. All migratory birds need clean water all across Canada, and in fact, all life needs this.

Contaminated water needs to be cleaned up immediately.

The regulator needs to be RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INDUSTRY : I mean : if my water gets contaminated, I should go to the regulator who should then test my water. If my water is contaminated, the regulator should undertake to resolve the issue and restore the watershed. No delay, no suing, no 'going after the company'. Land owners need to be protected : not forced to go through drawn-out legal battles with



extraction companies, not being roped-in to signing gag-orders, and not suffering long-term consequences like trucking in water for human use (leaving the land and the watershed contaminated). No arguing over where the contaminant came from. Get it done. Clean it up.

Ok, we're still talking water:

Surface water and Aquifers are under immense pressure these days, and British Columbia has one of the best resources of fresh water IN THE WORLD.

We are stewards of this resource not only for the needs of British Columbians and companies operating in British Columbia, but my feeling is that we are stewards of this resource for the world, for generations to come.

So existing groundwater extraction uses are going to be legitimized without oversight, eh?

Nice (sarcasm).

: Please define Environmental Flows and Instream Flows in the Act.

: Do not define the term 'Beneficial Use' as used in the old Act, in the new Act. Defining this term would lead to great confusion and frustration over the interpretation of the old Act and the changes to the new Act.

: Quality, Quantity, and Flow.

: 'Water Sustainability Plans' are the mechanism of rolling back usage : I heard this, but I don't understand it. Will this lead to good certainty for corporate and private investments? The whole topic seems complicated.

There should be a public voice in new water use decisions, and a right to appeal those decisions. It is also important that democratic processes don't get hijacked, causing delays that can be exploited by either party.

Note that the 30 year period of a license in which there is no required review, and ultimately following that period there is no required review, is something that I find a bit insulting.

Surely there are factors beyond my basic understanding, but for me this is an unacceptable way to manage our resources. I believe that this policy will lead to the same types of disparity of perception and course corrections that we now face.

All that being said, thank you for this work on the Water Sustainability Act. It is a great improvement, and a great step forward for British Columbia.

There's a lot of work to do and a lot of progress to be made in correcting the disparity of perception that causes some of our existing licenses and commitments to not be valid.

Proceeding with legislation that the people can support, and working toward agreements and a unified whole, will lead to better clarity and certainty for all.

The Water Sustainability Act should be a solid underlying piece of legislature that creates a foundation that can be built upon. This legislation should be made to pass, replacing the 100+ year old legislature that currently exists. As we improve the protection of our Water, Land, Air, and Biome though, we will need to produce and refine more legislation in order to achieve our goals that should lead to improved clarity and certainty for all.

Thank You and Best Regards,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC

Subject: Water sustainability

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 12:28 PM

How can we keep giving water away to corporations of every type without considering the long term consequences? Why, because of simple greed of course. I would add stupidity to that as well, due to the blindness of those that allow and construct legislation concerning this flagrant mis-use of power. Has not Nestle, Coke and so many other corporate giants of all sorts, defiled our planet for the greed, power and benefit of so few at the top??? How can anyone with half a brain and in good conscious condone and move ahead with such abdication of responsibility to the people, country and the planet? I urge the re-thinking of such abrogation of rights and responsibilities and to seriously curtail the rights of corporations to access these natural resources that are for the health and well being of all, not just those who can afford to buy it. I won't even get into the mass destruction of environment regarding the exploitation mentioned above. Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Nelson, BC

Subject: Control of our water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 12:20 PM

Any and all agreements have to keep control of our natural resources in the hands of Canadians, including our water systems.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Surrey ,BC

Subject: As Requested Feedback Re: BC Water Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 12:18 PM

**As Requested Feedback Re: BC Water Act**

***"The BC Government is inviting feedback on A Water Sustainability Act for BC: A Legislative Proposal from groups, organizations and individuals until November 15, 2013."***

Good Fishing, Tight Lines & Conserve Our Waters

Yours In Conservation....for our children's children's children....for seven generations

Respectfully,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

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<http://bcwf.net/index.php/committees/fisheries/tidal-water-fisheries>Tidal Water Fisheries

**Tidal Water Fisheries Committee Chairs:**

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Changes to the Water Act and Fisheries Act - UVIC Environmental Law Clinic - Update, April 30th

BCWF recently received a memo from the Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Victoria, who had been asked to provide a "review of potential law reform options that the province of British Columbia could utilize to offset the loss of protection afforded to fish and fish habitat as a result of amendments to the federal Fisheries Act."

The following memo

"provides a more comprehensive review of section 9 of the Water Act and law reform opportunities. Included is a discussion of the current role of the Water Act in British Columbia, its limitations, and recommendations for how it might be reformed to enable improved protection for fish and fish habitat. The information and recommendations contained herein are based upon legal analysis and interviews with front line staff of the provincial Ministry of Environment."

[Changes to the Water Act - UVIC Environmental Law Clinic Memo](#)

ATTACHED

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 12:03 PM

I would like to add my voice to the proposed new legislation regarding the Water Sustainability Act. It is my sincere and enduring opinion that fresh water resources, including all lakes, rivers, tributaries, and sources, be protected from any direct or indirect source of pollution. Further, I would like to see legislation in place that would severely penalize any individuals or corporate bodies who infringe on such policy or threaten the safety and purity of fresh water resources in BC. It should also be made illegal for individuals or corporate bodies to remove fresh water from any and/or all BC fresh water resources for the intent of making profit on the water extracted.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns and suggested improvements to the Water Sustainability Act.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Coquitlam, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:09 AM

I'm writing to implore you to ensure that water remains a protected right for all, rather than an exploited resource for corporations. It is the citizens of BC, especially the First Nations communities so affected by water policy, that should steward the resource. I urge you to refuse to grant corporate titles to any public water supply, and to place community health as the top priority over economic growth.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Toronto, Ontario

Subject: New Water Sustainability Act for BC  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:52 AM

“Water is a sacred gift, an essential element that sustains and connects all life” (Keepers of the Water, 2006). It therefore seems ludicrous that many First World governments favour short-term economic gains with private industries over life on Earth (Barlow, 2011). Existing social power structures urgently need rebalancing, for water wars are already occurring in Mexico, South America, Africa, and the Middle East (Arsenault, 2011). By 2030, 47 percent of the world’s population will be living in areas stressed for water (Organization for Economic Cooperation Report, 2008, p. 5).

#### The Global Context

Water is life – but for some, it is the harbinger of death. On April 8, 2000, 17-year-old Victor Hugo Daza lay dead in the streets of Cochabamba, the third largest city in Bolivia. Two others were blinded, and 175 were critically injured in what was a peaceful demonstration until the Bolivian Army descended upon the crowd, showering bullets and tear gas. This grassroots demonstration was a response to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan made to the Bolivian government, which required the government to sell its water and sewage utilities to Aguas del Tunari, a multinational consortium of private investors. According to this contract, people in Bolivia were required to pay for water and sewage; it was even against the law to collect rainwater. The conflict exploded onto the streets of Cochabamba and other Bolivian cities when the consortium increased tariffs to 25% of average Bolivian family incomes, making water a luxury that few could afford. (Finnigan, 2002.) The water wars in Bolivia continue to this day (Woronoff & Utz, 2010).

Across the globe, world governments are handing over water rights to other countries and private interests through free trade agreements (Barlow & Clarke, 2002). As the world faces burgeoning demands for fresh water, water supplies are dwindling and growing increasingly toxic. “(T)he human race has taken water for granted and massively misjudged the capacity of the earth's water systems to recover from our carelessness” (Barlow & Moist, 2011, p. 206). There is urgent global need for responsible watershed stewardship.

Human water rights and Indigenous Treaty rights versus government and industry.

On July 28, 2010, dignitaries from around the world gathered on the balcony at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Headquarters, holding their breath in anticipation of the UN Council’s voting results. Relief swept through the crowd, and cheers of celebration broke forth as it was announced that the UN Resolution on the basic human right to water and sanitation (General Assembly of United Nations, 2010) was passed (Barlow, 2011, p. 4).

It was a hard-won victory for global society as many First World governments, counting Canada, had fought hard to protect the rights of private industries over the basic needs of fellow humans for potable water and adequate sanitation (Barlow, 2011, p. 4).

The UN Resolution on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (General Assembly of First Nations, 2010), coupled with the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), 2007], which protects the cultural integrity of First Nations people around the world,



should ensure the health of Earth's fresh water resources. The sad reality, though, is that existing power structures continue to defy these prudent laws.

In North America, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (Organization of American States General Assembly, 1998) underscores the aforementioned UN Resolution and Declaration, and reminds North Americans of our duty to protect the environment, and to value and nurture all life. A myriad of environmental, economic and socio-cultural challenges must be overcome if we are to fulfill such obligations.

Climate change, changing environments and socio-cultural impacts.

There are numerous competing demands upon our waters. Sixty-five percent of fresh water used by humans is for irrigating crops. Industries presently command another twenty-five percent, and demand is rapidly increasing. Households and municipalities consume the remaining 10 percent. Although there is no more water on the planet today than there was in the time of dinosaurs, human consumption and disposal of water is swiftly depleting fresh water supplies. (Barlow & Clarke, 2003, pp. 7-8).

Socio-cultural impacts on global society from climate change, receding ice and snow packs, loss of permafrost, changing precipitation and water flow patterns, as well as burgeoning demands for fresh water resources must also be urgently addressed.

Canada, despite possessing twenty percent of the world's fresh water, is not immune to these global threats and challenges (Cote, 2004).

#### The National Context

The Federal government Freshwater Management in Canada report (2004) summarizes threats to Canadian fresh waters in a diagram entitled, "Threats to Canadian fresh water," presented on page x, by the National Water Research Institute in the Environment Canada (2001) publication, "Threats to Water Availability in Canada." This diagram should be referred to when considering what demands are made on Canadian waters.

Review of available literature suggests that there are two significant challenges to addressing national water threats. The first is the lack of a national water resource inventory (Cote, 2004; Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2011).

No comprehensive baseline water data.

Comprehensive federal or provincial state of the water reports and baseline water data do not exist for surface or ground waters in Canada (Cote, 2004; Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2011). Nonetheless, just 12 water quality stations exist for 3,000 First Nations communities in Canada.

The erosion of environmental protection acts, and related decreases in environmental agency funding further underscore the fact that our federal and provincial governments prefer to support short-term private (often foreign) industry demands, rather than sustain our Canadian economy or the environment in the long term.

Governments support industry, not the environment.

"After quietly gutting the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Harper government now proposes to dismantle the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act as well as the Fisheries Act, Canada's strongest and last remaining water safeguard" (Nikiforuk, 2012).

## The BC Water Act

The BC government hands out water licences to anyone who cares to apply.

Shock reverberates throughout the province as public become increasingly aware that anyone - anywhere in the world - can obtain a BC water licence through an online application process on the BC Ministry of Environment website. What is most irrational about this process is that no one in the province, including the BC government, possesses any comprehensive water quality and/or quantity database.

What would motivate a government to sell off our life-giving waters in such a wanton manner?

## Northeastern BC

A population of approximately 15,000 people in the Dawson Creek, BC area relies upon the second most polluted river in the province, the Kiskatinaw River, for drinking water. This summer, the Kiskatinaw experienced a no-flow period. If it had not been for the dedication and foresight of the Kiskatinaw grassroots community watershed association and City water works employees, the area would have suffered a drinking water crisis.

Northeastern BC water crises are mainly due to recent burgeoning and seemingly insatiable oil and gas industry demands on local drinking water. What is most angering about this situation is that the BC government allows the oil and gas industry to use, for example, the Dawson Creek potable water for fracking and testing pipelines. There is no legislation in place for the collection and reuse of these industry-used waters. There is absolutely no reason why the billions of liters of water that are used to test pipes could not be collected, filtered (as they only contain some dirt and rust sediments) and re-used by the pipeline companies.

Furthermore, whenever oil and gas companies exceed the arbitrary water quotas put in place by the Oil and Gas Commission (OCG) in BC, the response by the OCG to this misuse of our waters is to simply increase the quotas. The Apache Oil water fiasco on Fort Nelson First Nation lands is a perfect example of how the OCG handles corporate water theft in this province. What is most laughable about the process is that the OCG accepts whatever the industries decide to report for water use - laxer government monitoring could not be imagined!

## International Trade Agreements

The whole mess with water licencing and oil and gas demands upon drinking water and the waters that humans and the natural world of BC requires for sustenance is further exacerbated by Canadian current and potential international trade agreements.. Under these agreements, the greedy, insatiable demands of water giants like Nestle, as well as foreign industrial corporations supersede domestic needs. Do we want a country like Brazil? Seriously???? Does the BC government want to encourage that kind of wedge between its own citizens and the interests driven by foreign, corporate greed? What will be the long-term consequences of such short-sighted actions?

What the new BC Water Act should include:

The BC Water Act should include legislation to protect the people and natural ecosystems of this province. Short-term economic gains that obligate the province to share more than can be afforded are irrational and irresponsible to

the long-term health of the people and the ecosystems that we rely upon in this province.

A new water act must favour the present and future people and ecosystems of BC. It must possess legislation that includes:

- A sustainable, transparent rationale and process for selling, monitoring, and maintaining water licences, as well as determining water licence priorities. This system must be governed by a third party trusted by the public of this province and not influenced by political government agendas or corporate interest lobbyists
- Addressing the current and foreseeable needs of the people and ecosystems of this province, clearly placing these needs before domestic and foreign interests/corporations
- The immediate implementation of strict third party monitoring and regulation of oil and gas use of domestic waters. Industry-reported use of waters will not be accepted.
- Strict environmental flow requirements and environmental offsets for remediation
- Saline groundwaters in groundwater regulation.
- Fair, just, and democratic opportunity for the people of this province to be active, equal members in the stewardship of our BC waters.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Dawson Creek, BC

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:47 AM

I was appalled to hear that BC's precious water supply is being tapped, for free, for sale in plastic bottles. The proposed price for water in this update of our Water Act is ridiculous. Personally I refrain from using bottled water, and fill my own bottle from the tap.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Coquitlam, BC

Subject: Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:43 AM

Protect our Water!How can we let big Corporations(from other Countries),have no limits set on how much of our water they're allowed to have,free of charge?It's absolute stupidity & a crime!

Put limits on how much can be diverted & set a price on it,to go into preservation of OUR watersheds.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Clearwater, B.C. \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: cisterns save water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:41 AM

About 60 to 65 years ago I lived in two houses which had large concrete rainwater cisterns in the basement. Rainwater was diverted from the roof into the cistern providing plenty of water for everything from watering the garden to baths and toilets. The soft water is wonderful for washing your hair. We had a third tap for well water for cooking and brushing teeth. I've never seen this technology in use since that time but I think it could easily be incorporated into home designs where there is enough soil cover to allow a basement, even above ground. Not only does this save a lot of water being depleted from the reservoirs, it also prevents some flooding from runoff.

A few weeks ago I saw a program on TV from Seattle about a landscaping practice they are using that facilitates the diversion of rainwater into gardens. This too could be incorporated into municipal standards for building permits where appropriate. Of course, this practice also lightens the load of water entering the storm sewers and may prolong the life of the sewers.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Sidney BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: B. C.'s proposed Water Sustainability Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:40 AM

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. B.C. needs to establish a law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water. B.C. needs to recognize and establish that water is a common good which needs to be protected. It needs to be established that no corporation - local, national, or international - has rights or controls over our water.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Surrey

Subject: Water Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:39 AM

I say ENOUGH ! Draw the line on WATER !

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, B.C.



Subject: Water Agreement

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:38 AM

Please stop handing over our resources to corporate interests. They have never stood by the agreements they signed, unless they were so permissive as to leave them completely free of responsibilities and obligations. They have polluted our rivers, poisoned our food, exposed us to chemical disasters and pharmaceutical experimentation, subverted natural cycles in agriculture and forestry, dumped mercury in oceans and, in general, created a monstrous world that has endowed us with autism, diabetes, cancers of all kinds, heart disease and silent forests, seas and prairies. All in the sacred name of money. With our governments total and abject complicity.

I'd say, draw the line on Water. Stand up, for once, and begin to be part of the solution, not the major part of the problem.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Delta, B.C.

Subject: Water Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:26 AM

I am only 13, but am sick to my stomach witnessing politicians wholesale of this Province to corporate insterests. Water is essential to life and should NEVER be allowed to fall in the hands of business. They get enough of our environment for free, let them pay for what they want, like they want us to pay for what they provide, and REGULATE, as opposed to hand over.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Delta, B.C.

Subject: Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:25 AM

There is an old Indian saying; (we don't own the Land, we just borrow it from our Children.

I take that to mean we owe our future generations good clean land and Water.

After all that's what we inherited from our ancestors. Water should be declared a human right. Not a necessity, necessity's are bought and sold every day. Clean water, like clean air should be free and available to everyone. And certainly not be treated like a Commodity.!!!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Prince George

Subject: Water Act Renewal

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:21 AM

Dear B.C. Government:

I understand that next in our march towards extinction is a renewal of the regulations on water use in this province.

Enough damage has been done to forests and marine life by ceding control to business interests.

See if you can, for once, stand up to their power and separate our last and most basic life-support element from the maws of the corporate raiders who already control the rest of our lives.

Unconscionable as it appears that corporations are helping themselves to our resources free of charge, it may get even worse if Government doesn't stand up to them. Your record is not encouraging. PLEASE, for once, DO THE RIGHT THING for the people who put you there. Don't turn coats on us like you did on Enbridge. Because of it, I will never vote Liberal again in my life, But I'd like to have something to think about, before automatically spitting on you if I find you on the street somewhere.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Vancouver, B.C.

Subject: Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:18 AM

I keep hearing that we need to preserve water in Kelowna. There are some things I don't understand. Each year the Okanagan Lake is at, or above, flood stage. Where does all of this water go so that by summer time we are talking drought? Is our agreement with the US in supplying water from Lake Okanagan an agreement that we have to supply 'x' amount of water no matter what the Lake level is?

Secondly, I see the city water sprinklers operating even when it is raining. That would seem like a waste of good water.

Thank you.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Subject: Water Agreement

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:09 AM

Please leave at least water out of the contaminating reach of business.  
It's unacceptable and enough that politics, education, industry, culture, the environment and marine life are firmly in the hands of business. Water is too close to vital to monetize.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Delta, B.C.

Subject: New water legislation act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:06 AM

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. A law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water. We want an act so that it fully protects our water for the next 100 years.

And not having limits on water uses per licence is a unacceptable!

Please improve the act or my family will vote accordingly for the NDP.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Sooke, BC

Subject: New water legislation

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:05 AM

B.C. needs water legislation that puts public interest ahead of corporate profits. A law that gives our communities and our First Nations the power to effectively steward our precious water. We want an act so that it fully protects our water for the next 100 years.

And not having limits on water uses per licence is unacceptable!

Please improve the act or my family will vote accordingly for the NDP.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Sooke, BC



Subject: Water Control

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:58 AM

I am entitled to the water I need, and so is everyone else!! Then the money grabbing Corporations can pay the government for the extra water they want (if there is enough left over for them) to make money off that which belongs to everyone else!

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Salmon Arm, B.C.

Subject: Water sustainability

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:52 AM

The Act revision should define "beneficial use" to include environmental flow needs and requirements so that all new licence applications meet a minimum standard of conservation in order to qualify for a licence. The Act revision should introduce a flexible water allocation system that regards water as a public trust. "First in time, first in right" is a seriously flawed allocation system. The Act revision must ensure designation and protection of local watershed governance arrangements. It should also ensure that approvals of Water Sustainability Plans undertaken through local government arrangements are done through an independent, non-political process based on clear accountability and representation criteria. The Act revision must enable local watershed governance arrangements to access sufficient resources to carry out their activities. There should be a pool of funds from water-use royalties or a delegated taxing authority. There must be legislative support for local !

initiatives and pilot projects that test a range of watershed management approaches. The San Jose Watershed study group is working on the most effective approach for this particular watershed.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Williams Lake, British Columbia

Subject: Water Act

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:51 AM

Dear B.C. Gov. Ca

in view of the capitulation to Big Oil on the Enbridge project, I urge you to please protect our water from commercial exploitation. There is very little left now that the forests, landscape and marine life are considered fair game. Please set aside water as off-limits to business. It doesn't get any more basic than that.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Delta

Subject: Fresh Water

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:47 AM

Fresh water in this province belongs to the people. I live next to a stream and neither I nor my neighbours have a right to divert water from that stream either underground or overground or our own or commercial purpose.

No person, persons or entity should have the right to take fresh water in this province.

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

Victoria, BC

Subject: new Water Sustainability Act  
From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:40 AM

Thank you for this opportunity for citizens of B.C. to have a direct say on is important Act.

Here are some concerns that I have with the welfare of our water. I feel that protecting our water resources are vital for our health, the environment, supporting biodiversity and for future generations that will be inheriting this beautiful land. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the land and to ask ourselves if we are meeting the criteria of these requirements. Some of the current issue in our province that don't meet these essential stewardship responsibilities are as follows.

1. Corporations such as Nestle should not be allowed to draw upon our fresh water resources at a extremely low cost to them and profit so heavily.
2. Fracking for LNG will use large quantities of fresh water and ultimately create large cess pools of heavily polluted water or worse seep into groundwater further polluting fresh water.
3. IPP's in partnership with B.C. Hydro are poorly regulated and are a concern on waterways.
4. Under the new Federal regulations on relaxed protection for non fishery species. It is a concern that Fresh water systems will be neglected further making it a Provincial priority to protect the water that supports native fish species.

Thank You

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Victoria, B.C.

Subject: Nestle freeloaders

From: \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 10:38 AM

Nestle should not be able to draw our ground water for their personal profit. Make nestle pay for every drop of water they pull out of the ground.

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burnaby, bc