

From: S Lawson [mailto:councilfire@hotmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2013 8:28 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX; landwatch; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; minister of environment; minister of tourism; min. of natl resources; min of agriculture and lands; ministry of fisheries and oceans; ron cantellon, min. of ag. & lands; Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX

Subject: Re: Water Sustainability Act

To: Water Sustainability Process

From: Steve Lawson, First Nations Environmental Network

P.O. Box 394, Tofino, B.C., V0R 2Z0 250 726-5265

As a First Nations person in B.C., I am responding to your process of soliciting feedback on the proposed changes to the water act for B.C.

There are several absolutely principal issues that should not be compromised in this new proposal...

1. First Nations territories and natural water sources must not be compromised or diminished in any way regarding quality, amounts and sources for the survival of the people, the forests, and the wildlife including freshwater, marine and land based species and organisms. This includes removal, polluting, damming, erosion, development, industrial usage, and other factors which may compromise the integrity and clarity of pure water.
2. Industrial use of the limited availability of the provinces fresh water resources should not be allowed without the full agreement of the local populations residing and affected by such use and there should be maximum cost per litre (more than what the public pay for water in the stores and municipal charges) for the removal or use of this water. This is especially important in the face of fracking, mining, fish farming and other industrial uses around the province.
3. There should be no allowance of industrial emissions of waste water into our rivers and watersheds without full compliance of the most stringent applications of natural treatments to ensure that any water use is fully returned to its natural, living water pure form. This would also apply to the effects of industrial burning and fallout from polluted air particles that affect pure water.