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Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2013 1:05 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Thank you for providing time for public input into the new Water Sustainability Act.

Here are some of our thoughts for your consideration.

1. First Nations Traditional Water Use needs to be included in all water use considerations. First Nations water right need stronger recognition under Section 35 of the Charter of Rights.
2. A concern that the first or 'original' lease holders of surface water have full rights to water even if affected creeks are running dry.
3. It is reassuring that the new law is called Water Sustainability Act. Sustainable water use is essential. Please include a definition of what you mean by the word Sustainable.
4. Environmental Flow Needs and First Nations Rights need to be included. Water flow requirements are needed to sustain eco systems and human life for all of us.
5. Nature's Needs need to be determined and included.
6. There are no laws in place for extracting ground water. New uses for water (since the original Act) are mainly oil, gas (fracking), and mining and their impact on water needs to be considered for future generations.
7. BC water law is only catching up with other jurisdictions in Canada - not surpassing them. Please work to make BC current with other jurisdictions as well as leading the country in its awareness of the important of Sustainable Water.
8. Licenses that are in place are currently planned to be locked in without consideration of current use and needs for the First Nations and for the Environment. Addressing previous agreements is time consuming but may be essential for truly sustainable water planning.
9. Ongoing communication and consultation with the public is essential. People on the ground have information that is crucial for consideration in all decision making.
10. Cumulative impacts is a neglected part in legislation. Although aspects are difficult to assess some are obvious and need to be included. One project may not infringe on sustainable water but all 10 in a given area would degrade a water system. This is crucial for us to address if we want pure natural drinkable water for future life of our grandchildren and their grandchildren and the eco systems that support all of life.

Thank you,
Ann Jacob - Stan Tomandl

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