

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

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November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment  
Water Protection & Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2

Honourable Mary Polak:

**Re: Government's *Water Sustainability Act* for British Columbia Legislative Proposal**

This is to advise the Township of Spallumcheen Council reviewed the above-noted document which was discussed at the Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

The following feedback is being provided in regards to concerns and comments related to the proposal:

- Concern with the first bullet on page 14 relating to how the new act supports government powers to regulate groundwater during scarcity. The Township of Spallumcheen would like to know specifically which level of government will be provided these powers, how that will look, how they will govern and how it will be enforced. The answers to these questions determine local government position regarding the new legislation.
- Concern with third bullet on page 16 relating to how the new act is making water licenses, which are generally issued without a defined term, reviewable every 30 years. How will the reviewable water license impact a local government's ability to pursue the long term supply of water if its licenses are being managed by another local government. Furthermore, as the Township holds water rights on Fortune Creek will this be reviewed with the new legislation and how could that potentially effect the Township moving forward if those licenses aren't utilized in the next 30 yrs. This item also requires confirmation as to who will provide the governance, follow up and enforcement.

The Township agrees that we must take steps to ensure our supply of water is sustainable for our future and that everyone equally deserves the right to fresh, clean water conscientiously managed, respected and available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, if you have any questions in this regard please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,



Cindy Graves  
Deputy Corporate Officer