



CHESLATTA CARRIER NATION

P.O. Box 909 • Burns Lake, B.C. • V0J 1E0
Phone (250) 694-3334 • Fax (250) 694-3632

November 15, 2013

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
Victoria, BC

via email

Dear Minister Polak,

Re: Proposed Water Sustainability Act

Every aspect of the existence of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, from a historic perspective to a contemporary aspect, has been and is centered around the issue of water. We are here because of water, we exist because of water, yet issues surrounding our water, has populated our cemeteries with our young, and, has also ripped my ancestors from their cemeteries as a result of a litany of horrendous water use decisions made the BC Government, without consultation and consent of the Cheslatta t'en.

As a community, whose destiny was been driven by water, we demand a forum to properly be apprised of the proposed changes to a body of legislation so crucial to our future. Our voice must be given volume and respect in the issue of water. Without input from Cheslatta Carrier Nation your process is folly and meaningless. Consultation cannot be in the form of computer generated words or response, but rather face to face discussion with meaningful opportunity to question, to digest and to inject our perspective on the subject of legal water management.

The Cheslatta Nation currently holds a valid Water License and on September 30th of this year, Cheslatta applied for a water license on the upper Nechako River, a license vital to the economic and social future of my people. Minister Polak, we met with you in Victoria last February and briefed you on our proposal to install a water release facility at the Kenney Dam. This project is completely bound by current legislation and any proposed changes may have a drastic effect on our future...our survival.

Please assure the Cheslatta Carrier Nation that a full and formal process will be established to allow Cheslatta full and formal participation and input with regards to new policy and legislation being proposed by the Water Sustainability Act, before consideration is given to formalize the Act. Failure to do so constitutes a failure to consult with us on such an important part of our future.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Chief Richard Peters

Cc: Honourable John Rustad, Minister, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation