

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Hello,

Please ensure that this new act will empower local governments to have control over the uses of the lands and forests within the watersheds that supply the drinking water to their communities. Meaningful public participation will blossom if the province will listen to and hear the needs of municipalities to protect their water. In fact other than food supply , adequate clean water supply is more essential to any community than industrial uses that will threaten or reduce water supply. China has a water crisis because it has so destroyed its water supplies. This power to municipalities to protect watersheds must override any other uses of the lands and forest. The communities must be able to prevent deleterious logging and mining within the watersheds. No industrial uses except community drinking water production can be exempt from the act.

The citizens grant to the government a public trust to preserve the water sheds and water rights for future generations. The new act must give citizens through their local governments the power to uphold this trust.

Please ensure that any uses of the water for communities or private uses do not exceed the environmental flows required to sustain aquatic and stream-side habitat.

Please WAKE UP and use this act to protect watersheds.

Sincerely,

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

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

Gibsons, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I look at the Water Sustainability Act as an opportunity to empower the authorities who must supply water to the citizens of BC. About 6 years ago our watershed for Chapman Creek was damaged when old growth forest was put up for logging by Western Forest Products. We had tours to make people aware of what was going to be lost. It was clearly a part of the water retention system that made up the watershed. Thick mats of moss covered the forest floor, solid were healthy and deep. Some trees had been there since before Columbus. The community fought bitterly to try to preserve it. The SCR D did what it could with wide public support. The local health officer found that the anticipated turbidity from unbounded clearcut runoff would be a health hazard. People blockaded. Hundreds joined public protests. The community united. Still, the company obtained an injunction. The SCR D fought it and lost in the Supreme Court. The logging was permitted. The forest was destroyed and shipped out of Canada. The watershed was permanently damaged. The right to log a watershed trumped the community's right to protect its water. This is a very sorry state of affairs.

This new act must give local communities the right to protect their watersheds. That right must trump all other interests. No industry should be exempt. It will help keep sufficient water available during this period of climate change and after. It will give back to people the power to protect and uphold the trust to protect the watershed for future generations. It is the most public good that can be obtained from the watershed forests. In comparison, the profit from logging, the meagre stumpage, and the few temporary logging and road building jobs are trivial and so short sighted as to be nihilistic.

This act must protect the water so it is still there long after we are all dead. The water here is so good and healthful.

Please get it right. So many other places have blown it.

Respectfully submitted

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

Gibsons, BC  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

It is important to my family and me that the proposed Water Sustainability Act contain strict language that outlines boundaries and encourages sizable penalties for regulating any flow, regardless of size. The inherent value in BC's resources should not be undervalued during the writing of the act, which should involve public consultations to ensure the rights of all citizens are protected.

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Victoria, BC  
Canada

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PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Members,

I am writing to ask that you do everything you can to protect one of the amazing great "treasures" of our province. I say treasures because although other things at the moment seem to be worth more, say, profits for corporations that pay nothing & complete disregard for the environment, these will pale in comparison to the value of fresh water in our children's future and that of future generations.

I suggest a long term investment instead of what seems popular today, grab & go.

So I would beg you for Strong Legal Protection of our environmental flows. To provide for meaningful public participation, feedback and advise. To define the difference between beneficial use (for all) & corporate greed ( a privileged few) and to include and ensure a public trust doctrine that will keep our precious water available to everyone, without profiting only a few.

I would also request that no industry be exempt from theWSA, whether existing or new.

Please let's not forget, humans are made mostly of water and in this case, we are what we drink. We should honour that and one another by doing all we can to preserve and protect our most wondrous treasure.

Hopeful regards, **\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***

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

Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada

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PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To Whom it May Concern,

My comments on the proposed Water Sustainability Act include:

- Setting minimums on water flows is a great step- similar to what has been in affect in NZ for many years. It is important that critical environmental flows should not just be 'considered', but a legislated and enforcable minimum. I believe that it is also important that in watersheds that are already over-allocated, this can be applied to existing water licences- not just new or future licences.
- A coordinated and multi-discipline approach to the many types of land use that can affect water quality and quantity is needed. As part of this, it is important that all industries (e.g. agriculture, oil & gas) are treated equally and transparently. It is degrading to the value of the legislation and public trust if any one industry is exempt or favoured.
- I believe that ground water regulation is extremely important and should be a major part of the updating of the Act.
- Monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the Act is a necessary and important part of any strategy and too often too little attention is given to this. Funding must be made available by the government for this.

Regards,

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

Kelowna, BC  
Canada

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Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Hi there,

I'm writing today to contribute to the public consultation for the proposed Water Sustainability Act. This is a critical opportunity for government to protect this invaluable public resource upon which our communities depend for basic needs. I sincerely hope that the government considers the following:

- no exemptions for any industries from the Act
- applying the law to existing and new licenses
- putting a price on water for industry that reflects the inherent value of the resource in which the revenue that is generated gets invested back into freshwater management.
- including principles that protects water for the public good for future generations
- including provisions that protect environmental flows which will be vital in maintaining the health of freshwater bodies and ecosystems.

Fundamentally, it comes down to guaranteeing access to clean drinking water for communities all over BC, including the First Nations. The UN has declared this to be a universal human right and therefore protecting freshwater resources is essential.

With a large increase in fracking in BC, this is a vital opportunity for the government to draft a law that minimizes the environmental impacts associated with the process and protects the public from corporate negligence.

Climate change will also put a strain on our freshwater resources and it is of utmost importance that the government incorporates regulations that seek to conserve freshwater for future generations.

Respectfully,

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Victoria, BC  
Canada

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Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water is British Columbia's most important resource. Provincial governance of water must be dynamic enough to deal with the challenges of industrial development, climate change, peak debt, population growth, and the financial crisis. It must also respectfully engage First Nations as full partners in watershed governance.

Healthy communities require healthy watersheds. The State of the Water Movement in BC report (Morris & Brandes 2013) identifies an emerging trend towards regional watershed governance in BC. Local communities and regional boards must be provided the opportunity to participate in, and in appropriate circumstances, assume authority in the governance of regional watersheds.

Centralized governance of water is often costly and ineffective in the face of today's dynamic and often unpredictable water challenges. Effective governance at the watershed will require strong leadership from the Province in setting clear limits, standards and values while allowing for a transition of responsibility and resources to regional watershed governance.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to ensure that water remains protected as a public good and provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches. The new Act should include a public trust doctrine to ensure that private rights are subject to the best interests of the watershed and for present and future generations. It must above all ensure that water is available for nature, for fish and other non-human environmental values. Nature has a right to exist.

Environmental flows must be protected in order to protect the watershed and must be defined in terms of "beneficial use". The WSA must apply to all license users including existing licenses. No industry should be exempt from the WSA.

Fees and pricing for commercial users must reflect the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians and should be high enough to provide much needed resources to be allocated to regional initiatives to develop and implement regional watershed plans. The current proposal regarding fees for groundwater extraction are so low as to be meaningless.

Finally - I am concerned about the failure to consult First Nations in developing the legislation and the extension of the First In Time, First In Right system, which many First Nations organizations strongly opposed in the consultations that did occur, to groundwater. The Province must

respect First Nations right and title in all aspects of drafting and implementation of the new Water Sustainability Act.

A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Respectfully,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*, LLB, LLM

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

Vancouver, \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Giving water to the Americans ,at no cost , is folly .The world is running out of potable water .Allowing them to rape the environment is suicidal .

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Leduc, Alberta  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

In my view, these are some points that should be addressed in the proposed Water Sustainability Act:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas (esp. fracking), and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. We are one of the few jurisdictions in the world that currently has reliable, clean supplies of it.

The documentary "Last Call At The Oasis" provides what I believe is an accurate (and frightening) vision of the world's collective water future...

it's a grim one. Many believe that water will supplant oil as the most valuable resource of the 21st century. It is the duty of the WSA and our political leadership to ensure that it is kept plentiful and clean in BC. The current policies (i.e. fracking, and unregulated use of water) really are not protecting the integrity of our short, medium, and long term water future. The chemicals used in fracking are of particular concern to my associates and I... many of these chemicals being illegal or under review in other jurisdictions.

I look forward to seeing many of these points incorporated into the new legislation.

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Vancouver

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

Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I join my voice to the Wilderness Committee in saying that the most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you to consider some key points when writing the Water Sustainability Act.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
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- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water belongs to us all, and the right to healthy drinking water (and therefore a healthy environment) should be protected.

Thank you,

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Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

i agree with the above. **\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***

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

north vancouver, b.c.  
canada

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BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies  
ensure water remains protected as a public good,  
provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,  
define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,  
ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,  
include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,  
ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and  
ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

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lions bay, British Columbia  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Premier Clark:

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

1. enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good,
2. provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
3. define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
4. ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
5. include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
6. ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
7. ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Thank you for listening. Your actions are what count so please, please, do everything in your power to protect our water.

Sincerely,

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



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

Chilliwack, British Columbia  
Canada

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BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

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errington, BC  
Canada

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Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water is an essential ingredient in the common wealth. It is not something for which private ownership usurps public interest.

The governance of water resources must be evidence-based and with the fullest public input.

No industry must be placed above the public good. It is not part of corporate holdings. It should not be managed as such.

The protection of watersheds is one of the most critical things we can do for the generations that follow.

Fresh water resources cannot be used as a sewer for industry.

Therefore:

Please enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good,

provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

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Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures,

steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable.  
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precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

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Saanich, BC  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I would like to see strong, enforceable laws instead of guidelines to protect this precious liquid which is needed by ALL life forms. Long term user pay management of all water withdrawals, for any reason. Priority should be given to ensure enough water for wildlife at ALL times.

Detailed studies are needed to describe OUR water tables in this Province, and take enforceable steps to ensure the long-term viability, stability of the water tables. Removal of water to areas outside of the original watersheds should be discouraged. No exemptions for water use, withdrawals we need to know how much and where it is going, and get it back where it came from in better shape than when it was removed. NO NET LOSS, which is what the present situation is. No grandfathering of water rights.

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

Coquitlam, bc  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I strongly support the BC government in moving to protect BC's fresh water resources in the proposed update to the Water Sustainability Act. Below are some items of great importance that I hope the BC government will consider and act on appropriately:

- 1) enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- 2) ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- 3) provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- 4) define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- 5) ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- 6) include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- 7) ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- 8) ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

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Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Protect the water, rivers, lakes and wild fish, not the frackers and tarsands water pigs.

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies  
ensure water remains protected as a public good,  
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CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To Water Sustainability Act Legislators.

The Conservative Government in Ottawa has destroyed the habitat protection provisions in the Fisheries Act. Therefore, the new WSA must enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," to ensure flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies are maintained.

Nestle and other corporations are essentially pumping unlimited amounts of BC groundwater totally free of charge and using for their commercial benefit. Therefore the new WSA must ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC.

The oil and gas industry is similarly pumping unlimited amounts of groundwater and using it in the process known as fracking. This causes groundwater pollution and threatens the environment on which we all depend.

Therefore, the new WSA must ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA

- particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the new WSA, especially the environmental flow provisions, will apply to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Finally the new WSA must take a long term resource stewardship approach. Therefore, the new WSA must include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations. To enable that to happen the new WSA must provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches.

Thank you,  
Yours sincerely

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

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

Sooke, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)



"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Premier Clark & Minister Polak

I am writing to comment on proposals for BC's new Water Sustainability Act and urge you to ensure the following are included in the Act

- 1/enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- 2/ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- 3/provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- 4/define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- 5/ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- 6/include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- 7/ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- 8/ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Yours sincerely

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

Leicester, UK

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

Leicester, N/A

U K

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Hello,

The First in Time, First in Right model should be replaced by a Priority of Use model. Top priorities should be environmental flows that protect fish, public drinking water, and irrigation for food crops. The act must contain clear enforceable standards that do not exempt the oil, gas, and forestry industries; and these must be applied to all existing licences as soon as possible. 30 and 40 year terms are too long, and short term licences should not be renewed as a way to work around longer term's tougher requirements.

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

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

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Premier Clark, MLA Holman and Water Sustainability Act consultations,

I am pleased that BC is updating its water act, to strengthen it.

The new act must have enforceable standards, not mere "guidelines".

It must protect "environmental flows" which feed into creeks, rivers, lakes and other water bodies.

Funds will be needed to allow for local watershed governance groups to monitor and protect watersheds. These funds could logically come from fees paid by private water users. Fees should be high enough, not only to help fund watershed governance, but also to reflect the enormous value of clean fresh water.

All companies and individuals which use water must be subject to the WSA provisions for preventing depletion and contamination of water resources. The provisions must apply to current licensees, not just for new licenses.

An essential aspect of sustainability is fairness. Water must be managed to ensure essential public needs for households and agriculture are not jeopardized. Any private use must be subject to this "bottom line". The WSA should be codified as part of a Public Trust Doctrine.

The Water Sustainability Act must truly aim for sustainability; it must provide British Columbians with the legal tools to protect water for future generations, human and non-human.

Sincerely, **\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***

PS It would be great to extend the deadline for public comments regarding the WSA, as many people have only learned of it in the past week or so.

**\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Our water is a most precious commodity. We need to protect for our future generations.

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

Surrey, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\* (15 years old) SAVE OUR WATER!

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

North Vancouver, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

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- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

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

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

North Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
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- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
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- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

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

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

North Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
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- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

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

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

North Vancouver, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)



"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

As a concerned citizen, I am commenting on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Protection of environmental flows:

- Environmental flows are critical to healthy rivers and watersheds. The WSA must specifically set aside an "ecological reserve" of water that is not available for any other use than the conservation and maintenance of fish habitat and the preservation of the natural ecosystem;
- The WSA must define environmental flows and abide by a scientifically defensible method of determining these flows;
- The protection of environmental flows must be a clear requirement of all licensees and a central part of all water allocation decision, including licence reviews;
- Environmental flows must be included as a "purpose" in all water licences.

Public Participation:

- Any advisory committee created under the WSA should have public representation, and the proceedings and recommendations of these committees should be made public;
- Licence reviews, setting of water objectives, creation of area-based regulation and water efficiency standards must include public consultation;
- Applications for new water licences should be made public and members of the public should be allowed to object to water licences or appeal licences to the Environmental Appeal Board (with leave);
- Delegation of decision-making authority to persons outside of the provincial government should be limited to local government officials, First Nations representatives or an established local watershed council, and any decisions may only be exercised after appropriate public notice and comments.

Public Good:

- Provisions must be enshrined in the WSA to protect the "public interest;"
- The WSA must recognize the crucial public interest role for government to manage freshwater and affirm that licences are only temporary rights to use the resource and are not permanent or property rights;
- Water in all its forms is owned as a public resource and must be

sustainably managed for the benefit of the public. Private rights to water must be limited, temporary and subject to conditions that protect the public interest.

#### Pricing:

- Fees must meet administrative costs but also provide enough resources for robust water management and governance-related activities;
- The WSA must ensure that collected fees go to a designated freshwater management fund rather than general revenues;
- The price of water should reflect the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians.

#### Public Trust Doctrine:

- Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource;
- Any private water rights established under licences issued or approvals given should be sustainably managed in the interest of present and future generations.

#### Beneficial Use:

- Beneficial use is currently too narrowly focused on private use. The WSA must define beneficial use to encompass a broader set of community, social and environmental benefits so licence holders understand they are stewarding a public resource and not gaining a property right;
- The WSA must, at a minimum, define environmental flows and essential household needs as being prerequisites to beneficial use;
- In addition, the aforementioned values must be included in allocation decisions, licence reviews and other key government decisions.

#### First in Time, First in Rights (FITFIR):

- The WSA must create a progressive water allocation system that recognizes rivers, lakes, wetland and groundwater as "legitimate priority users," move beyond a prior allocation (First in Time, First in Right) system and codify a system based on the principle of equitable sharing amongst all identified water users.

#### Water Licence Reviews:

- The WSA should ensure that water licences are reviewed in a shorter timeframe than currently proposed. A tiered process should be used: within the next five years, licences 50 years and older should be reviewed; within the next 10 years water licences 30 years and older should be reviewed, and all other existing and new licences should be reviewed 20 years from their priority or issuance date.

#### Exemptions:

- The WSA must apply to all commercial freshwater uses in the province

including the oil and gas, and timber industries.

Governance:

- A WSA needs to require legally binding watershed plans, developed at the local level with public consultation in accordance with strong provincial standards, to address threat to water quality and quantity, and ecosystem protection;
- Licences must be subject to legally enforceable Water Objectives;
- The Act must require ongoing public engagement in monitoring, implementation and updating of watershed plans.

Groundwater:

- Current groundwater users should not receive final licences, or those licences should be fully reviewable, until at least five years of monitoring data for the aquifer obtained under the new monitoring requirements is available and any constitutional requirement to consult First Nations regarding specific licences be addressed;
- Licences must ensure that the use of the aquifer does not exceed recharge rates and does not negatively impact the health of the aquifer or nearby streams;
- If current water withdrawal levels are not sustainable, licences must be adjusted to ensure that the water use rates are sustainable and do not negatively impact the health of nearby streams;
- The rights of domestic well owners to the continued flow of water in their wells, as against licenced well owners, should be protected and clarified.

Sincerely,

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

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

North Vancouver, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I would like to say that the most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- ensure water remains protected as a public good
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Thank you

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

Surrey, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Sir:

Please be aware that I remain very offended when I discovered your government is OK with giving away, in essence, our most vital resource, our fresh water, to a multinational foreign company for the past several years. Shame on you for not protecting this resource as a public good and allowing meaningful, I stress "Meaningful" public participation in decisions regarding water governance. But with new legislation about to be enacted, here is your last chance to save face with your constituents as myself. Please ensure our water remains protected as a public good, and in doing so, insure that environmental flows is properly defined and essential household needs stands out as a beneficial use, rather than the current private-use definition that is proposed. Please ensure that no industry is exempt form the new proposed Water Sustainability Act (WSA) and that includes the oil and gas, and timber industries. Above all, please ensure that water use pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to all British Columbians and that commercial user fees offset the real cost to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water managemenat so essential in British Columbia. Please ensure that a public trust doctrrine is visibly included and ensures that any private rights granted under water licienes are subject to be managed in the interest of, not only present, but future generations of British Columbians. This is essential in view of proposed ciimate change and pressures from population growth and industial expansion. Consequently, it is essentially a "no brainer" that steps must be legislated to ensure that British Columbia's use of freshwater is sustainable. With this as a basis, a new WSA muyst ensure that private right to water do not take precedence over the sustainable management of our public resource.

Respectfully,

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

Parksville, BC

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

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

Parksville, BC

Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies  
ensure water remains protected as a public good,  
provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,  
define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,  
ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,  
include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,  
ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and  
ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.  
Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable.  
A  
new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over  
this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

North Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To all involved in the legislation proposal for the Water Sustainability Act;

I support the following actions be legislated and monitored :

- \* enact strong legal protection of 'environmental flows' for rivers & all water bodies.
- \* protect water as a public necessity.
- \* set stringently high commercial fees for freshwater use in BC.
- \* present a public trust doctrine.
- \* ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA.
- \* applies to existing, not just new licences.

I look forward to your response on these mandates.  
sincerely, **\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***

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

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act. Given how precious and life-sustaining water is, I urge the government to strengthen the proposed Act to ensure that BC has clean groundwater, rivers and oceans for future generations.

Please ensure that the new Water Sustainability Act provides strong legal protection of "environmental flows," which are critical to the healthy functioning rivers and water bodies. Environmental flows and essential household needs should be defined as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed. In addition, the new Water Sustainability Act, including environmental flow provisions, should apply to existing water licences and not just new licences

Water must also remain protected as a public good, including by providing meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches.

It is imperative that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC.

The new Act should also include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations.

All industries should be governed by the new Water Sustainability Act, in particular the highly polluting sectors such as the oil and gas, and timber.

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

Pemberton, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)



"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

PROTECT OUR FUTURE - PROTECT OUR WATER

Please do not allow industrial exemptions under the Water Sustainability Act.

Water is for the well-being of all, and not for the profit of a few. Any water license holders must be held to a strict code that ensures the land and water systems and then the people come first. Water must never be regarded as property!  
thank you

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

vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am pleased to see that the Legislative Proposal introduces some promising elements to BC's new Water Sustainability Act, including long-awaited regulation of groundwater, mandating water objectives are included in municipal land-use plans, and opening the door to more local control in regional watersheds.

It could, however, go further. I would like to see mandated consultation with First Nations included, as well as mandated public participation. We need to set aside water for nature, ensure that the pricing for commercial use reflects its true value with no exemptions for forestry or the oil and gas industry which currently use an inordinate amount of water without being respectful of this valuable resource, and I would like to see low water use fees for residential use.

Thank you for taking these first steps to protect our water for all British Columbians.

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

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

Langley, B.C.  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Local governance of our watersheds is essential and should include a public trust doctrine. Please insure that our water is protected locally and that the necessary funds are transferred from the Province. In addition, 'benficial use' must be clearly defined to include environmental flows and essential household needs. No industry should be exempt from the water sustainablility act if we are to insure an adequate supply for future generations.

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

Courtenay, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

In changing the Water Sustainability Act, please do not give everything your friends in the fracking, natural gas and mining industries have been lobbying for. Their deep pockets helped finance your election win but the people of B.C. will pay the price if our water quality suffers. Ground water, rivers and lakes are already being polluted and depleted for industrial use. I am not anti-industry but I am alarmed at the signals the Clark Liberals have been giving - that profit trumps the public interest.

It is time to force those who pollute public airspace, waters and land to pay for it. And no amount of money will restore what used to be our pristine wilderness.

A frustrated taxpayer,

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

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

Vancouver, b.c.  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Attention to those of you entrusted with protecting one of our most valuable resources.

I urge you to enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies. Water MUST remain protected as a public good and there must be provision for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding as water governance approaches. I urge you to define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use," rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed.

We must ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC.

Priority must be given to include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,

It is IMPERATIVE that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, will apply to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Thank you for making the best possible investment in your future and the future of those we have yet to meet!

Kindest regards

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

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

Surrey, Bc  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Re the new water act:

It is important that water flow is protected.

In the interest of our environmental heritage and future generations the act needs to protect with solid regulations and rules our right to fresh water for both humans and animals.

Any industrial use of water needs to be paid for with due process, and at rates that reflect the fact that water is not unlimited, even in BC. And in future this water will become scarcer and more valuable on a global scale.

For this there needs to be a well defined and enforceable public trust doctrine.

Thank you for your time and for giving me the right to put my opinions on the act forward,

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

Vancouver

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

Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

In the new Water sustainability Act please make sure that there are strong regulations protecting:  
The public good, environmental flow, beneficial use, meaningful public participation, the public interest in pricing, and that water resources be managed for the benefit of future generations. All entities should be regulated under the law. Old agreements should be amended to conform to the new regulations

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

Powell River, B.C  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear BC Premier Christy Clark & MC Minister of Environment Mary Polak,

The BC government has just announced it is updating its antiquated 104-year-old Water Act - this is good news, but we need to make sure we get it right. The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies

- ensure water remains protected as a public good,

- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,

- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,

- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and

- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Sincerely,

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

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



Victoria , BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at  
[wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Please consider our concerns and make appropriate action. Think clearly and do not jeopardize our fresh water wealth for current and future generations.

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

-Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

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

Nanaimo, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

My coments on the proposed Water Sustainability Act

At this point in history, when the natural environment which sustains us is collapsing day by day it is imperative that the proposed Water Sustainability Act is effective in maintaining adequate flows unpolluted water for the benefit of the human population and all wildlife, from the smallest microbes to the tallest trees. To this end the act should enshrine water as a Public Good providing for meaningful public participation in decisions on water governance, including decisions on water extraction for industrial purposes and adequate flows for fish, benthic invertebres and other water dwelling and dependent species. Fees for commercial extraction should be high enough to reflect the inherent value of the resource and provision made to ensure that any water returned to the flow is free polutants. The new regulations must be retroactive to old water licenses as well as new licenses. For Love Of Water, **\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***

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

Burton, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To whom it may concern;

Ensuring that we protect our waterways is an issue that affects every citizen in the province, as well as future generations. I am expecting my first child and feel compelled to share my thoughts in an attempt to ensure my children will grow up with respect for our natural resources, as I did, and with the ability to drink and otherwise enjoy our waterways. I am concerned that many of BC's current policies and contracts are not sustainable and will destroy our beautiful province before my children and grandchildren will get a chance to enjoy them. Furthermore, these waterways are vital to our survival, and the survival of the plants and animals that sustain us. I urge you to take personal responsibility for ensuring that our waterways are adequately protected so that exporting our water and toxifying large quantities by industry (ie fracking) does not destroy our beautiful BC for future generations.

The following are ways I feel we can ensure these common goals;

- 1) Enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- 2) Provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches, define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- 3) Ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- 4) Include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- 5) Ensure that no industry (nor the government) is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- 6) Ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource and our very survival depends upon its availability. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource. Please protect our waterways for future generations who can't. Sincerely,

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

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

Prince George, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at  
[wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Sir or Madam,

as a mother, I have dire concerns for the welfare of my children and the possibility of them ever having children who will live in this world.

If we are denied a fundamental need to life, our access to clean fresh water, how can we survive?

Water is BC's most important natural resource and at this time it is much more prudent to protect it than to exploit it for industry.

Who or what has the right to deny us this basic need?

Nobody Who is responsible to protect these resources ?

You are, on our behalf.

We, and future generations, sincerely,  
thank you.

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

Please address all of these points:

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies

- ensure water remains protected as a public good,

- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,

- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,

- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,

- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,

- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and

- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

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

White Rock, BC  
Canada

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[wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I would like to see water protected a a public good. Also; meaningful public consultation on WSA matters t

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Vancouver, Bc  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

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

Charlotte, NC  
USA

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To whom it may concern this is my submission of concerns and what I hope will be adressed in the development of this new Water Sustainability Act.

I want to ensure that first off water remains protected as public good and that to this effect I would like to see a that the new act include a public trust doctrine, which will ensure that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed and regulated in the interest of present and future generations.

I want to see that there are enforceable legal standards and accompanying language that is clear does what it says it will do on the ground. I also want to see that this act will provide for and ensure that there are ample opportunities for meaningful public participation in decisions on water governance and that processes for decision making are clearly laid out and are most importantly open and transparent in nature.

I am very concerned about any water licences for industrial use being approved for 40 years like what we see in the area of Fort Nelson and north eastern BC in particular for LNG fracking operations. This in my view is ludicrous. There needs to be full environmental impact and baseline studies done before any water licences of significant size are granted. There must also be accountability to local community and First Nations communities, where often these industrial activities are occurring on unceded traditional territories of First Nations.

In this Act there needs to be strong legal protection of environmental flows. These are the flows that are essential to continuing healthy functioning rivers and water bodies. I would also like to ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians. I also want to ensure that environmental flow provisions apply to current existing water licences , not just new licences. We must include in this act that private rights do not take precednce over the sustainable management of a public resource.

The Nestle situation in the Fraser Vally is totally unacceptable. I have concerns about this large scale corporate control of a community water source and no fair market price. This is not protecting the public interest which should be paramount and it is not sustainable.

I am opposed to the large scale export of our fresh water by frieghter or any other means. I want to ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA particularly with regard to the oil and gas and timber industries.

Finally we must, when developing this act consider the pressures of a rapidly growing population, a changing climate and expected and anticipated impacts of climate change and of course our rapidly expanding development pressures and growth industry such as fracking and production of LNG. I am also very concerned about the impacts of fracking on our aquifer and feel we have not done adequate environmental impact studies. I am very concerned about the millions of litres of toxic water used in

the fracking process and that this is left in the ground with high likelihood of contamination of ground water systems.

We must ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable and that the term sustainable is clearly defined.

Respectfully submitted

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

Mission BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

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

Mission, bc

canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Sirs,

I am deeply concerned about the protection of all fresh water sources in BC now that we are entering into the unknown of climate crisis. I strongly urge you to take action now to save this very fragile yet sustainable resource.

1. Water prices for private use of water must reflect the fact that water is going to be, in the future with rising populations and climate change, our most valued commodity. No industry should be exempt from the WSA especially oil, gas and timber industries.

2. Water management policies must reflect that private rights granted are, above all, subject to and sensitive to the interests of present and future generations of "commons" use - i.e. that of households and sustainable food production.

3. Strong legal protection must be put in place to ensure "environmental flows" sufficient for healthy rivers/streams/wetlands and with maintenance of wildlife systems are retained.

4. No licenses should be "grandfathered" - all currently granted rights should be subject to newly enacted WSA regulations.

Thank you for your attention to this vital necessity to human life.

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

saltspring island, BC  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies  
ensure water remains protected as a public good,  
provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,  
define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,  
ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,  
include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,  
ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and  
ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.  
Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

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

Near Byton Hand, Herefordshire  
United Kingdom

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Please remember this may be our province, our country BUT it is EVERYONE'S world. I am losing my pride in this country :( Please look after our environment and species for everyone, every creature in this world :)

Thanking you in advance, **\*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\***

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

Victoria, BC  
Canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Water is our most valuable resource to be managed in the public interest following key principles of ecological sustainability. It is not a commodity for private ownership or sale. The Water Sustainability Act (WSA) as proposed need to include the following key elements:

**Public Good:** First and foremost, water must be recognized and protected as a public good, and the new WSA must enshrine an overarching responsibility of government to manage freshwater in the public interest and affirm that licences are only temporary rights to use the resource, not permanent or property rights. Water in all its forms is owned as a public resource and must be sustainably managed for the benefit of the public. Private rights to water must be limited, temporary and subject to conditions that protect the public interest.

**Environmental Flows:** Managing this public resource sustainably means, firstly, protecting environmental flows which are critical to healthy rivers and watersheds. The new Act must specifically set aside an "ecological reserve" of water that is not available for any other use than the conservation and maintenance of fish habitat and the preservation of the natural ecosystem. The WSA must define environmental flows and abide by a scientifically defensible method of determining these flows. The protection of environmental flows must be a clear requirement of all licensees and a central part of all water allocation decision, including licence reviews.

Environmental flows must be included as a "purpose" in all water licences, and any private water rights established under licences issued or approvals given should be sustainably managed in the interest of present and future generations.

**Public Participation:** Any advisory committee created under the WSA should have public representation, and the proceedings and recommendations of these committees should be made public. Licence reviews, setting of water objectives, creation of area-based regulation and water efficiency standards must include public consultation. Applications for new water licences should be made public and members of the public should be allowed to object to water licences or appeal licences to the Environmental Appeal Board. Delegation of decision-making authority to persons outside of the provincial government should be limited to local government officials, First Nations representatives or an established local watershed council, with prior public notice and comment before any decisions are put into effect.

Pricing: Ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians. Fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC. The WSA must ensure that collected fees go to a designated freshwater management fund rather than general revenues.

Beneficial Use: Beneficial use is currently too narrowly focused on private use. The Act must define beneficial use to include a broader set of community, social and environmental benefits so licence holders understand they are stewarding a public resource and not gaining a property right. The WSA must, at a minimum, define environmental flows and essential household needs as being prerequisites to beneficial use. In addition, the aforementioned values must be included in allocation decisions, licence reviews and other key government decisions.

First in Time, First in Rights: The WSA must create a progressive water allocation system that recognizes rivers, lakes, wetland and groundwater as "legitimate priority users," move beyond a prior allocation (First in Time, First in Right) system and codify a system based on the principle of equitable sharing among all identified water users.

Water Licence Reviews: The Act should ensure that water licences are reviewed in a shorter timeframe than currently proposed. A tiered process should be used: within the next five years, licences 50 years and older should be reviewed; within the next 10 years water licences 30 years and older should be reviewed, and all other existing and new licences should be reviewed 20 years from their priority or issuance date.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important topic.

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

Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)



"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am writing to request that the proposed Water Sustainability Act (WSA) be revised to better address water scarcity, provide for environmental flows, and increase public participation. The language in the Act should contain clear and enforceable standards rather than vague language and voluntary guidelines. My specific suggestions for the proposed WSA are as follows:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Sincerely,

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

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

Pemberton, British Columbia  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

I am writing to express my hopes that the new Water Sustainability Act for BC is comprehensive and covers all of the important aspects related to this important resource. Some areas I feel need to be covered are keeping our water healthy for public use and available as a public good. Water used for industry, any industry, needs to be regulated and fees charged that cover the cost of the water use, as well as, the costs of maintaining health water for the present and future. This approach needs to apply to new and old water licenses.

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

Victoria, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

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

Lumby, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

take care our world!!!

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

bsas, bsas  
argentina

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at  
wildernesscommittee.org

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

You need to:

- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

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Abbotsford, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)

"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Thank you,

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Revelstoke, BC \*\*\*Personal Identifiers Removed\*\*\*

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revelstoke, BC

CANADA

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Re: The Water Sustainability Act

While pleased that the Provincial Government is attempting to establish guidelines over water use which will protect B.C.'s water in the future I am concerned that some factors may not be included.

1. Water prices for private use of water must reflect the fact that water is going to be, in the future with rising populations and climate change, our most valued commodity. No industry should be exempt from the WSA especially oil, gas and timber industries.

2. Water management policies must reflect that private rights granted are, above all, subject to and sensitive to the interests of present and future generations of "commons" use - i.e. that of households and sustainable food production.

3. Strong legal protection must be put in place to ensure "environmental flows" sufficient for healthy rivers/streams/wetlands and with maintenance of wildlife systems are retained.

4. No licenses should be "grandfathered" - all currently granted rights should be subject to newly enacted WSA regulations.

I appreciate this opportunity for input and hope that more public consultation will occur before passing this Act.

Sincerely,

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Salt Spring Island, BC  
Canada

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PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

The short timeline given to the public to make meaningful comment on a document which took the provincial government over 3 years to complete is totally unacceptable. What's the rush? Please reconsider your extremely unrealistic deadline and push it back by at least 3 months into the early spring.

Some inadequacies of your proposed legislation:

A. The act does not adequately address the need for protecting water as a public good

B. The act will allocate ground water to industry on a "first in time, first in right basis." This does not provide equitable access to all current and future users and it does not acknowledge historical aboriginal use.

C. Historical Water licenses issued for surface water will be grandfathered in, and not re assessed based on available water flows or the needs of other users.

D. The act provides little if any increased ability of local communities to control their watersheds

E. There are a number of exemptions for Resource, forestry, and agricultural industries who are regulated under differing legislation.

F. The regulatory frame work proposed is vague at best. More clarification is needed

Again, please rethink the unrealistic timeframe given the public on legislation that deals with such a critical and timely issue. Our lives depend on it!

Yours sincerely,

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

courtenay, bc  
canada

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"Comments on the Water Sustainability Act Proposal", "Water Sustainability Act  
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PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Re the proposed Water Sustainability Act

Water is surely our province's most important natural resource. Given the changing climate, increasing populations, and expanding pressures of industry, it is crucial that steps be taken now to ensure that our use of freshwater is sustainable.

To ensure that the Act provides REAL protection of freshwater in B.C., I suggest the following are the most important things to carefully cover:

- enact strong legal protection of environmental flows,
- ensure that our water remains protected as public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation regarding decisions in water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use" rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
- include a public trust doctrine which ensures that any private rights granted under water licences are subject to be managed in the interest of present and future generations,
- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Thank you for your consideration of these points in your important work of rewriting the WSA.

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Heriot Bay, BC  
Canada

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Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To whom it may concern,  
I'm writing concerning the new Water Sustainability Act. I've read through some fact sheets from various environmental groups and find their concerns have much merit. This new act should address these concerns. Firstly the question of Environmental Flows is vital . We have seen this principal not being followed by the private power projects that have proliferated. Too often, insufficient flows have been maintained to protect fish habitat and maintain a healthy river environment. Further, the waters of BC must be managed for the public good, not just for the for the benefit of private interests. With the provincial government's focus on fracking, groundwater must be protected with careful monitoring of the practise and a look back to existing fracking projects. All users/stake-holders must be part of the decision making process regarding water usage. Also, there should be no grandfathering of present water licences. All licences must meet the new regulations. Also, from what I've read, water pricing at present doesn't reflect waters true value to the many different users.  
Thanks for your attention.

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

CANYON, BC  
Canada

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Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

I couldn't believe my ears this morning when I was at a meeting where someone raised the issue of the Water Act changes. The number of times I hear the provincial government saying that it cannot afford this or that -- and, here is an opportunity for you to generate some revenue from corporations who are using a valuable provincial resource for their own means for free. Where is your business sense?

Water has value. A new WSA needs to ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence of the sustainable management of this public resource.

The most important things the BC government can do in the proposed Water Sustainability Act would be to:

- enact strong legal protection of "environmental flows," the flows that are critical to healthy functioning rivers and water bodies
- ensure water remains protected as a public good,
- provide for meaningful public participation in decisions regarding water governance approaches,
- define environmental flows and essential household needs as a "beneficial use, " rather than the narrow and private-use oriented definition currently proposed,
- ensure that water pricing for commercial use reflects the inherent value of freshwater to British Columbians; fees should be set high enough to fund a comprehensive approach to fresh water management in BC,
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- ensure that no industry is exempt from the WSA - particularly with regard to the oil and gas, and timber industries, and
- ensure that the WSA, especially environmental flow provisions, applies to existing water licences - not just new licences.

Water is BC's most important natural resource. Given the pressures of a growing population, changing climate and expanding development pressures, steps must be taken to ensure that BC's use of freshwater is sustainable. A new WSA must ensure that private rights to water do not take precedence over this the sustainable management of this public resource.

Please do what a responsible government is supposed to do -- work for the collective good.

Sincerely,

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Vancouver, BC  
Canada

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Ministry of Environment, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC, V8W 9M2

CC: BC Premier Christy Clark  
BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak

RE: Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act Proposal

Dear Sirs,

I understand that the legislature is in the process of revising the Water Sustainability Act and wish to emphasize a few points that are essential to this private citizen.

1. The act must reflect that fresh water is in fact, not just in poetry, an essential for life.

2. To the myriad species of plants and animals and micro-organisms on this planet it is an absolute necessity in and of itself regardless of any claims of one species (ours) or some sub-group of a species (say a farmer or a water bottling company or a natural gas drilling operation) to special access.

3. Flows which feed the environment as a whole and ground water needed to replenish surface flows must be protected.

4. When there is a conflict over water use, and there will always be such, the main consideration in resolution must be the public good not private gain.

5. No industry must be allowed to compromise the public use of water.

6. When it is deemed safe for water to be used for private purposes (but especially when it is deemed unsafe but still allowed) it must be paid for by the private user at a rate that reflects its real value to the public at large.

Thank you for your attention

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Powell River, BC  
Canada

This letter was created with the use of an online letter writing tool at [wildernesscommittee.org](http://wildernesscommittee.org)