

From:
Hornby Water Stewardship Project
Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society
Hornby Island, B.C.
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April 7, 2014

To: livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

Submission to: The Water Sustainability Act.

It is past time to establish good plans as water availability in British Columbia, let alone sustainability, is affected by climate change already upon us.

We, the Hornby Water Stewardship Project and Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society, are agreed that the following principles are basic necessities in modernisation of this Act.

- **First**, we ask that the BC Water Sustainability Act (Bill 18) adopt as its *principle aim* the protection of water as a public trust; **that water is to be managed for future public interest.**

- **Second**, we recommend that the BC Water Sustainability Act protect environmental water flows critical to the health of watersheds and ecosystems through good science and local information.

- **Third**, that priority be given to water flows critical to the sustainability of wild fish habitats, and that this take precedence over *any industrial use*.

- **Fourth**, that full consideration and consultation be given to First Nations land use settlement and cultural protection.

- **Fifth**, that specific areas, such as islands in The Gulf of Georgia, be seen as water challenged; that community-based solutions be supported in legislation and be funded.

- **Sixth**, that water withdrawal from a critical aquifer in one area for delivery to another area be governed by permit, details of which to be locally determined.

And:

A Ministry of Water

It is the consensus of Hornby Water Stewardship Project and Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society that the provincial government of British Columbia must establish a Ministry of Water Protection. Within this Ministry there will be a department of Groundwater Protection adequately funded to include scientific monitoring and open reporting to the public.

It is no longer possible for protection of water to be folded into other ministries, such as mining, oil and gas production and industrial agriculture, each having a focus on promoting their own interests to the detriment of water source protection.

It is our contention that clean water is a public right, and it is the responsibility of provincial government to protect and assure that right.

Respectfully,

Hornby Water Stewardship Project

Members: Mary MacKenzie, Betty Fairbank, Elen Leslie, Cathie Howard, John Howard, Judith Lawrence, Rudy Rogalsky, Bob Sarti, Ilze Raudzins

Hornby Island, B.C.

April 8, 2014