



Reference: 152988

NOV 01 2011

Bruce Ingimundson, PGeo.
Managing Director
British Columbia Ground Water Association
1708 197A Street
Langley BC V2Z 1K2

Dear Mr. Ingimundson:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2011, addressed to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, expressing the British Columbia (BC) Ground Water Association's support for advancing Phase 2 of the Ground Water Protection Regulation (GWPR). I am pleased to respond to your letter on behalf of the Premier.

Since 2009, we have been engaging broadly on *Water Act* Modernization with many British Columbians and have received suggestions and ideas on an unprecedented scale and quality. Ministry staff have been reviewing the public input and continue to refine the proposed policies and assess their implications.

I acknowledge your concerns respecting the progress of the *Water Act* Modernization process. Crafting new legislation and incorporating the regulatory provisions for groundwater is a complex task and we need to take the time to do it right. It is also important that the proposed groundwater legislation and policies are integrated with the other goals and objectives of the proposed *Water Sustainability Act*. Government has committed to take more time to further engage with British Columbians on draft legislation in 2012 before it is finalized and introduced into the Legislature.

I would like to express my appreciation for your role on the Ground Water Advisory Board in developing Phases 1 and 2 of the GWPR. Please be assured that modernizing the *Water Act* and the regulation of groundwater remain important priorities of the Ministry of Environment. As water is everyone's concern, we all have a role to play in determining BC's water future.

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Thank you again for your continued interest and commitment to BC's groundwater resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terry Lake".

Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
John Slater, MLA, Boundary – Similkameen