

May 19, 2004

Hon. Bill Barisoff
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection
PO Box 9047
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

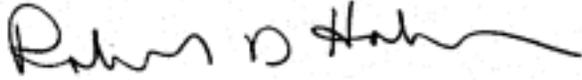
Attached for your information is a summary of the briefing session for local government held on May 12, 2004 in Richmond on the new riparian model and regulatory framework being proposed by your ministry. Local government appreciated the information provided by your staff, however, there was concern expressed regarding the general lack of public consultation on this matter.

Local governments in attendance raised a number of issues related directly to the regulation that is being developed by the province. One issue raised was the need to ensure that liability was not downloaded on to local government when implementing provincial standards. A second issue raised was the time frame for implementing the proposed directive. It was generally felt that 2 to 3 years may be needed to ensure that the new framework was fully in place. This time was needed to develop the cooperation agreement and guidebook, undertake the training of qualified professionals and federal/provincial/local government staff, and to undertake some pilot projects using the new process.

Some issues were also raised concerning the future implementation of the new riparian assessment process. Local governments raised the need to ensure that the new adaptive management approach being proposed by the province facilitated a working partnership between the three levels of government. Questions were also raised regarding the financial and staff resources that the federal and provincial government were proposing to provide for this new approach. The overall view was that additional resources were needed from both the federal and provincial government if this new process was to work effectively.

Your cooperation and assistance in addressing these matters would be very much appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chairperson Robert Hobson, Chair
UBCM Environment Committee

File: P-325
315.15: b-rar

- cc. Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
Gary Paget, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
Bruce Morgan, Director, Biodiversity Branch, Ministry of Water, Lands and Air Protection
UBCM Environment Committee