

CITY OF KELOWNA

MAR 11 2011

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

Original to: ~~Communications~~

Copied: Mayor

~~City Manager
Councillors~~

File Number: 1390-01

Initials: *Jay* Date: Mar 11/11

March 7, 2011

Mayor Sharon Shepherd
City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna BC V1Y 1J4

Dear Mayor Shepherd,

Re: Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team - update

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team local government participation pilot project, and to outline opportunities for continued participation.

As a reminder, the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team (SI RDWT) is an interagency committee with the mandate of addressing issues that might affect drinking water. Although the membership of the committee is primarily made up of provincial government agencies, the Memo of Understanding that enabled the creation of the SI RDWT also allowed for input and participation by local governments. Participation by local governments is valued because risks to drinking water are most often identified and dealt with at the local level. I previously contacted you in November 2009 with an invitation to participate in a local government participation pilot.

After launching the local government participation pilot the SI RDWT received correspondence from thirteen southern interior local governments. Specific actions to protect community water sources include:

- talks with the City of Kelowna on coordinated efforts to address threats to their Okanagan Lake intakes from activities outside the City's jurisdiction;
- providing direction to local governments on the processes and evidence required to effect changes to land use practices in the southern interior's integrated-use watersheds, including advising on land tenuring;
- investigation into well water quality in the vicinity of 100 Mile House;
- communicating local concerns about water to provincial ministries;
- developing a policy for provincial resource ministries for considering the impacts of land use activities on drinking water supplies when making decisions.

Full details on the team's activities are provided in the 2009/10 annual report posted at <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-safety.aspx?id=6256>.

Ministry of Natural
Resource Operations

Water Stewardship
Authorizations
Thompson Region

Mailing/Location Address:
1259 Dalhousie Drive
Kamloops British Columbia V2C 5Z5

Telephone: (250) 371-6200
Facsimile: (250) 828-4000
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env

The SI RDWT was encouraged by the level of input by local governments in the pilot project. Recognizing the value of formal communication links between local and provincial agencies in the region, and acknowledging the positive feedback received on this pilot initiative, the SI RDWT will formally integrate local government participation into their protocols for 2011/12.

I encourage you to bring your drinking water concerns to the SI RDWT via the process outlined in the attached. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ivor Norlin at Ivor.Norlin@InteriorHealth.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Z. Cameron", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Z. Cameron, P. Geo.
Chair, Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team
Regional Manager, Water Stewardship Division, BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

Attached:

- SI RDWT local government participation process

Local Government and the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team

The Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team (SI RDWT) is a regionally focused provincial agency group established to address land-use issues of strategic importance for drinking water protection. The following outlines the process by which local governments can participate in the SI RDWT to address drinking water protection issues of importance to their community:

1. Local government* submits description of a drinking water issue to SI RDWT which they believe:
 - a. is beyond the capacity of local officials and agencies to address and/or
 - b. a coordinated approach across the region would be more efficient than addressing at a local level.
2. SI RDWT provides written acknowledgement of receipt.
3. SI RDWT reviews request then provides a written response indicating:
 - a. request is not within scope of the SI RDWT, including reasons for position and other possible avenues for addressing concerns**, or
 - b. request is within scope of the SI RDWT with an invitation to discuss the matter further.
4. If within scope, solutions are identified through discussions with local government and/or through sub-committee work following the SI RDWT team protocol***.
5. Solutions are moved forward to the appropriate affiliated bodies (e.g. Provincial Directors Committee on Drinking Water) with an endorsement from the SI RDWT for implementation.

* Those submitting issues to the SI RDWT should have the appropriate support/authority of their respective local government leadership. As drinking water is a public health issue, this includes local government health liaisons established under Section 83 of the *Public Health Act*.

** In cases where local government disagrees with a decision, local government may request reconsideration based on new information. If a resolution cannot be reached, the SI RDWT will forward the matter to the Provincial Director's Committee on Drinking Water for direction on the scope and intent of the SI RDWT as it applies to the case.

*** Local governments are identified as leads for the issues they bring to the SI RDWT. Lead responsibilities may include chairing subcommittees established to explore the issue and identify solutions. Local governments are expected to bear the costs of their participation within the SI RDWT.

Your local government's issues can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to:

The Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team
c/o J. Ivor Norlin
Box 627, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E 4N7
jivor.norlin@InteriorHealth.ca
Fax - 250-833-4117

For more information on the SI RDWT, please visit <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-safety.aspx?id=6256>.