



## ST'ÁT'IMC CHIEFS COUNCIL

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March 15, 2011

Honourable Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2  
Fax: 250 387-1356

Dear Minister:

**Re: The Water Sustainability Act**

I am writing to express my support for the *ENGO Statement of Expectations* (2009) developed to inform the modernization for the *Water Act*. This coalition of 29 non-governmental organizations has identified the scope of the essential issues concerning water security, efficiency, and conservation. Appropriately, the *Statement of Expectations* acknowledges that water quality and quantity are interdependent with a healthy ecosystem and the current *Water Act* has been relying on the expenditure of our principal assets.

As well, the *Statement of Expectations* echoes the provincial *Living Water Smart* (2008) recognition that fundamental reform of the current water legislative regime is required to achieve a secure water future.

The St'át'imc believe some of the most important issues identified in this call for reform are:

- Protection of in-stream flow needs,
- Addressing the cumulative impacts caused by the 44,000 existing water licenses,
- Ensuring equity in water quality and quantity for the four-legged, winged, the finned, and the future generations,
- Mitigating climate change effects, and
- Better management of groundwater.

The St'át'imc encourages the Province of BC to collaborate more effectively with its wide range of stakeholders in the modernization of its *Water Act*. As well, the St'át'imc reminds the Province it does not enjoy exclusive jurisdiction over water. To date the Province has

attempted to ignore this fact and has not engaged the St'át'imc in any consultation on this issue. I encourage you to constructively address this omission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Leach", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kukpi7 Mike Leach  
Chair, St'át'imc Chiefs Council

xc: Craig Orr, Watershed Watch Salmon Society