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## Sunshine Coast's drinking water placed at risk by government policy

SECHELT – The Campbell government's policy on management of community drinking water watersheds is behind a sharp conflict between the public and Western Forest Products in the Chapman Creek Watershed Reserve, according to Powell River – Sunshine Coast MLA **Nicholas Simons**.

"The Campbell government has failed to protect drinking water," said Simons. "The government's policies on logging in drinking water watersheds are putting public health at risk and are not in the public interest."

Efforts by Western Forest Products to log in the Chapman Creek Watershed Reserve near Sechelt have drawn protests because the watershed supplies 25,000 people on the Sunshine Coast with drinking water.

"Sunshine Coasters have been adamant in saying to me, and I agree wholeheartedly, that protection of public waters should be an urgent priority for the provincial government," Simons said. "The Campbell government could easily resolve this issue if it wanted to protect the public interest in this watershed."

Government policy permits logging by the holder of the timber license despite the highly degraded and unstable condition of the Chapman Watershed, Simons said. Current B.C. government forest policy requires only that logging not "have a materially adverse impact on water coming from a water treatment plant."

"The New Democrat Opposition understands clearly that the public interest in clean, safe drinking water is more important than the timber supply problems of corporations," Simons said.



**Nicholas  
Simons**