

Dear Mr. Premier,

You would be aware of the issue of logging in the public's drinking watershed from your time sitting as the Chair of the GVRD back in the early 1990's. We met on several occasions on this subject, and the issue was finally resolved when the new Water Commissioner Johnny Carline made a bold intervention and stated that there is no scientific proof that logging was by any means helping to improve forest cover stabilization from fire and pests, and thus he make a strong plea to the Water Committee to stop 'forest management' in the 3 GVRD watersheds. The resolution was passed, a new series of conservation measures were enacted.

The Chapman Creek Watershed valleys supply several Sunshine Coast communities with their drinking water, including Sechelt. The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) needs control of these lands to properly manage them to ensure water quality and water quantity objectives. You have heard of all the protests about how active logging is compromising the watersheds lands. How can removing 1,000 year cedars which hold soils in place on steep slopes be improving the conditions of the watershed stands? It cannot be and thus is seen as a crime against the rights of citizens for access to clean water. When a logged slope and road building adds more sediment into the creeks & rivers that feed the reservoir then it becomes a health hazard.

Currently Western Forest Products is logging on steep slopes for the sole purpose of timber revenues. Thus there is a clear contradiction in land management which begs the question: which side has the more noble intention: watershed management with the aim of improving water source conditions, or industrial scale logging with extraction as the prime motive?

If you know the history of BC watershed lands from the research provided by Will Koop of the BC Tap Water Alliance you will be aware that these lands were originally granted 'Reserve' status by the Provincial government meaning that no industrial activities, such as logging, mining cattle grazing were to be granted - their sole purpose was protection for water management.

To argue that because Chapman reservoir has a filtration plant now and thus if logging does introduce more sediment then the plant will screen out the sediment (dirt) is a bogus position because watershed management should be reducing the problem of sediment production at the source and filters will be need to be maintained and replaced more at the public's expense.

If you really believe that BC is the 'Best on Earth' then your decision making process should be clear. What logging is doing to this drinking watershed and others is clearly damaging BC's international reputation as a wild west nation where loggers still run rough shot over politicians and citizen's right to clean water.

This week I ask that you step forward as Mr. Carline of the GVRD did years ago and announce that the Chapman Watershed needs protection from clear-cut logging. Use

the power of your Cabinet and instruct the government to take back the Chapman lands from the Ministry of Forests and Range and simple issue the Sunshine Coast Regional District a 999 year lease on these lands.

I look forward to your comments on the points raised.

Ross Muirhead
Roberts Creek, BC