

B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
British Columbia's Community Water Supply Sources

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May 14, 2018

The Hon. Doug Donaldson, BC Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
The Hon. George Heyman, BC Minister of Environment

Re: Peachland Creek Community Watershed, Okanagan

Dear Ministers,

We are forwarding you a copy of our [May 14, 2018 media release](#), calling on the BC government to “end logging, road building, and mining speculation” in the Peachland Creek Community Watershed.

Our media release includes a lengthy Backgrounder document, which features over 70 recent photographs of the Peachland watershed which may help you to begin to understand our concerns. What we recently witnessed and documented in the Peachland Creek Community watershed was shocking, to say the least.

Our organization has written extensively on the history of drinking watershed protection in BC, particularly in how Water Purveyors were once extended legal tenure rights, under the banner of “single use,” to protect their domestic and irrigation water sources, primarily through the implementation of Watershed Reserves. Those rights were unduly trampled upon and disregarded over time, particularly during the previous BC Liberal administration, where numerous Watershed Reserves were demoted without public consultation, and where almost all Community Watersheds fell under new and ill-conceived Forest legislation introduced under the rhetoric of the “not unduly” clause, in association with Professional Reliance guidance currently under review by your administration.

Metro Vancouver and Metro Victoria, representing the majority of BC’s population, have protected their community watersheds. The rest of BC’s population centres deserve the same, as was once the case.

We are asking this administration to do the right thing, as this, and other community watersheds, have had their water sources seriously impacted and degraded. Please put an **immediate stop** to further resource use activities in the Peachland Creek watershed (road building and clearcutting are about to continue), and in other Community Watersheds.

Sincerely, Will Koop, Coordinator

Cc. Michelle Mungall, BC Minister of Mines
Adrian Dix, BC Minister of Health
Andrew Weaver, Green Party
Dan Ashton, BC Liberal Peachland MLA
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Chief and Council, Westbank First Nation
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Mayor and Council, District of Peachland
Robert Byrtles, Interior Health Authority
Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance
West Coast Environmental Law Association
Union of BC Municipalities