

THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING

Water Act Modernization Workshops

Purpose of the Workshops

Living Water Smart: B.C.'s Water Plan identifies modernizing the *Water Act* as an important way to ensure water security for B.C.'s future. Modernizing the *Water Act* is about making our water laws simpler to understand, administer and enforce. A modern *Water Act* will also provide greater certainty for people, businesses and the environment and allow us to better adapt over time to changing demands and priorities.

The purpose of the one-day workshops is to share information, discuss principles for a new *Water Act*, and explore proposals for change. Options and solutions proposed in a discussion paper, to be released in February, will be the main focus of the workshops. Facilitated group discussions involving stakeholders from a range of sectors will help inform a modernized *Water Act* for B.C.

Who should attend?

To ensure that a diversity of interests and issues are fully explored, we invite representatives from a range of sectors including:

- Water licensees
- Water supply organizations
- Industry sectors
- Professional associations and unions
- Local and senior governments
- Environmental NGO's
- Recreation groups
- Riparian landowners
- Academic institutions
- First Nations

Register your interest!

To attend a workshop, please respond directly to livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca or (250)387-9481. Please let us know which workshop you would like to attend and the organization you represent. Provide your contact information including phone and email.

Responses should be received by Friday, February 26, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

Seating at the workshops is limited and it is possible that not all requests can be accommodated. Participant selection will ensure that the widest range of interests is represented at each session.

Please note

The workshops are only one of several opportunities to provide input on modernizing the *Water Act*. You are encouraged to keep informed of the project by visiting the Living Water Smart website at www.livingwatersmart.ca and the blog at <http://blog.gov.bc.ca/livingwatersmart>.

Workshops locations

- Nanaimo – March 5
- Prince George – March 8
- Kamloops – March 11
- Kelowna – March 12
- Abbotsford – March 29
- Smithers – April 13
- Nelson – April 16
- Fort St. John – April 20
- Vancouver – April 21

2010 Drought Response Planning workshops

Separate half-day drought planning sessions are being scheduled the day after, or the day before the *Water Act* Modernization workshops in some locations. More information is available at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/public_safety/drought_info