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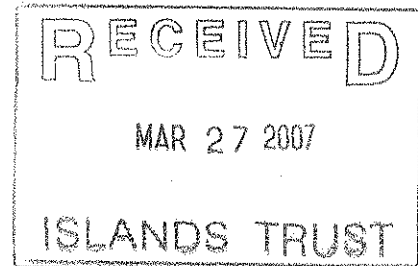
The Best Place on Earth

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Reference: 91474

MAR 26 2007

Kim Benson, Chair, and Trustees
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust
200 - 1627 Fort St
Victoria BC V8R 1H8



Dear Ms. Benson:

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2007 supporting the Ground Water Protection Regulation (GWPR) and requesting updates on Phases 2 and 3.

Phase 1 of the GWPR came into force on November 1, 2004 with the registration of qualified well drillers and well pump installers. On November 1, 2005 the remainder of Phase 1 - standards for well construction, maintenance and closure, and well identification - came into effect.

The six-member expert Ground Water Advisory Board (GWAB) continues to examine ground water issues in British Columbia and makes recommendations on standards for well design, construction and siting, ground water sampling, reporting requirements, aquifer protection, and other related matters.

The Board has recently completed its recommendations for Phase 2 of the GWPR. The Board has looked at well reporting requirements, additional standards for well construction, well pump installation, flow testing, water quality analyses, and flowing artesian wells with a view to safeguarding against ground water contamination, protecting public health, and securing critical information on the resource.

Thank you again for your interest and continued support for this important issue.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister

pc: James S. Mattison, Assistant Deputy Minister, Water Stewardship Division
Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust