

February 13, 2007

Update from President Joe Harrison on the latest public meeting with SCRD. and Ministry Officials.

Dear Members and Neighbours;

Thanks, due in part to Sunshine Coast Regional Director John Rees, I am confident that AAQWA has won its fight to protect Hotel Lake.

The SCRD and BC Environment (MOE) officials, at a meeting on February 13th in Madeira Park, announced conditional cancellation of SCRD water licences on Hotel Lake (3 existing, 1 pending) totalling 25 million gallons, equivalent to 0.42 metres of water. The one remaining SCRD licence on Hotel Lake will draw down Hotel Lake 3.5 inches to about one foot most summers but it is still unclear what the maximum drawdown in severe drought will be.

Bob Herath (MOE) also announced that no new water licences on Hotel Lake will be issued - ever!

Director Rees deserves a lot of credit. This announcement is part of a new Master Water Plan backed up by first rate scientific studies (online at [www.aaqwa.org](http://www.aaqwa.org) <<http://www.aaqwa.org/>> ) to connect the North Pender system to Sakinaw Lake.

Fisheries official Grant McBain indicated that the Ruby Creek spawning channel, where BC Fish and Wildlife have a billion gallon water licence (yes a billion) has "lots of water". Regulating the inflow of two feet of this water for spawning needs and to stabilize summer levels on Sakinaw Lake, means a win-win for both fish and people. The new SCRD water licence on Sakinaw will have little or no impact on the lake level according to Kerr Wood Leidal, Consulting Scientists.

The SCRD framework that could eventually provide everyone in Area A with quality drinking water at an affordable cost will be introduced at the

We need the co-operation of everyone working together to build an Area A water system using federal/provincial funds available only to the SCRD. Everyone wants quality water, free of arsenic, e-coli and other 'nasties'.

The only way to do it without more huge increases in rates is joining together in one Area A system.

It's your turn to do your part. Please, if at all possible, plan to attend the meeting on February 27th to indicate your continued support for these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Joe Harrison  
President, Area A Quality Water Association