

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Shuswap Watershed Council contributes to Agricultural Waste review

The Provincial *Agricultural Waste Control Regulation* (AWCR) is undergoing review and revisions, and the Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) has contributed to the review process.

“This regulatory review is significant in our region, and in BC,” says Erin Vieira, the SWC’s program manager. “The SWC is interested in this because of the potential impacts a revised AWCR may have on water quality.”

The AWCR came into force in 1992; it has been under review since 2009. The Province released an Intentions Paper in November that explained proposed revisions to the Regulation, and was accepting comments on the proposed revisions until January 15<sup>th</sup>.

SWC Chair Paul Demenok says that the SWC took a balanced approach to the review. “The SWC is made up of 17 people that represent various interests and perspectives in the watershed. On one hand, we have the lakes and rivers that support our tourism economy and are enjoyed by our residents. On the other hand, we have a critically important agriculture industry right here in our region, contributing locally grown food. Our perspective is that a revised Agricultural Waste regulation should take all of that into account.”

Vieira says that the SWC has asked the Province to consider four main points as it’s revising the AWCR:

- That the SWC and the Province work together to define and consider a “sensitive receiving environment” designation for the Shuswap. Pivotal to this would be the results of a nutrient research project, currently underway with UBC – Okanagan and anticipated to be completed later this year.
- Support for on-farm nutrient management practices including nutrient management planning and a prohibition for applying agricultural by-products to frozen, snow-covered or saturated soils
- Support for more protective measures to eliminate agricultural leachate and run-off
- An effective provincial strategy for engaging, monitoring and enforcing the regulation with all agriculturalists in the Province.

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