

beesafemonashees.org  
Cherryville Water Stewards  
Mid-Shuswap and Lumby Water Stewards

June 25, 2025,

Via Email to:

Honourable Premier Eby                      Premier of British Columbia  
Honourable Randene Neill                  Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Honourable Tamara Davidson              Minister of Environment and Parks  
Cc: Jennifer Mayberry, Claude Labine, Carla Vierke, Jane Girvan, Russ Collins Jim Johnson.

**Subject: Urgent Demand for Protection of Water at Source**

On June 20, 2025, a meeting was held between Jennifer Mayberry, Director of Operations for Compliance and Environmental Enforcement, and five longtime defenders of the Middle Shuswap River. For years, we've reported serious pollution issues to the Ministry of Environment, watching with alarm as a river once proudly called "the cleanest at this latitude" is allowed to degrade.

This meeting was convened for one reason: to finally understand why, in the face of clear and ongoing pollution, enforcement continues to be absent.

We raised two cases — KT Ranches and Blue Springs Creek — both involving significant water contamination. We were told enforcement has not occurred due to a lack of resources as there are over 5,000 similar cases under review! **This reveals a system designed to allow environmental harm rather than stop it.**

While your Compliance and Enforcement Branch is called the "law enforcement arm" of the Ministry, it is now the public doing the monitoring, raising alarms, and trying to prevent "Super, Natural British Columbia" becoming nothing but a slogan used by a government that sells nature while allowing its destruction.

The solution is a decisive shift away from the protection of polluters and toward the protection of water at source. This includes urgently closing regulatory loopholes including those that fall outside of your branch. Clean water is not optional — it is fundamental to public health, ecosystem survival, and the provincial economy.

Tourism pumps roughly \$22 billion a year into British Columbia's economy and contributes well over \$9 billion in direct GDP — more than any individual resource sector such as forestry, mining, or oil-and-gas. It also supports roughly 126 000 jobs and nearly 17 000 businesses. Tourists come to BC for its wild rivers, pristine lakes, and rich biodiversity — not for algae blooms, polluted shorelines, or the stench of contaminated water.

We recognize that meaningful change demands substantial effort. But given the urgency of preventing irreversible harm to BC's environment, public health, and tourism industry, we expect nothing less from those entrusted with the title 'Honourable' — a title that implies integrity, responsibility, and decisive action in the public interest. We represent a large and growing network of residents in our region, and know that communities across BC are facing equal or worse water pollution.

We hope this letter will prompt a timely government response signalling a genuine shift toward prioritizing environmental protection. Social media now enables rapid public awareness, and while we would prefer not to jeopardize confidence in BC's tourism industry and in government integrity, we are prepared to reach out to all BC communities also suffering from government inaction regarding water protection and take further social, political and legal steps to ensure the protection of our watersheds. That said, we remain committed to constructive solutions. We would welcome further dialogue with Ministry leadership and are open to meeting at your earliest opportunity.

Huguette Allen on behalf of BeeSAFE, Cherryville Water Stewards, Mid-Shuswap Lumby Water Stewards.