

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

**Reference: 416687**

**July 23, 2025**

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, Alan Forshaw, Jim Johnson,  
Kathryn Forge.

**Subject: Follow-Up: Urgent Demand for Protection of Water at Source (June 25, 2025)**

The July 16 reply to our “Urgent Demand for Protection of Water at Source” received by Kathryn Forge, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division, is alarming.

First it fails to address the government’s systemic failure to protect water or enforce environmental regulations—both key issues in our letter—and second, it directs us back to the same ineffective enforcement tools that were the reason for our letter in the first place.

Since our June 25 letter, a toxic algae bloom in Nicola Lake has killed at least one dog and reportedly sickened others, as covered by CBC News on July 8, 2025. Now, on a weekend full of major waterfront events, Vancouver Coastal Health has issued swimming advisories for nine popular beaches due to unsafe levels of E. coli. The escalating pollution across BC’s waterways is not random but results from the government’s ongoing failure to protect water at the source.

**Our Middle Shuswap River remains a vital resource worth protecting now, while it is still clean and its pollution sources are known, localized and already proven unlawful.** It continues to support healthy ecosystems, safe water, and vibrant community life. However, government often deems it a low priority precisely because it is comparatively in good condition. Without immediate action to protect it at the source, it risks the same degradation seen in countless BC waterbodies, ruined by industrial agriculture and regulatory negligence.

While we cannot expect a province-wide overhaul overnight, we urgently need targeted action to safeguard the Middle Shuswap River while it is still possible. With prompt government intervention to stop identified unlawful pollution, this watershed can be preserved. We urge you to respond by August 10 with specific measures to protect this river at its source. There is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

**Huguette Allen**

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