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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Oct. 3, 2005

The Editor  
The Daily News

Editor:

I would like to address a major point left out of your recent article about the disposal of treated sewage in Shuswap Lake.

Your article correctly notes the province has outlined four options the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District can choose that might help prevent private sewage discharge in the future. These options were discussed in August, when Minister George Abbott and I met with the regional district's board to talk about wastewater issues.

Your article, however, focuses on only one option – asking the province to ban private sewage outfalls into Shuswap Lake. The other three options, not explored in the article, would see the regional district use tools already available to it, like the development of an Official Community Plan and a Liquid Waste Management Plan.

The Ministry of Environment does not decide if local developments go forward – that is the responsibility of local governments. Instead, our role is to try to ensure there are no adverse environmental impacts from the projects and to maintain water quality standards in the lakes and streams of B.C.

The B.C. government will continue to work with the regional district to address the current growth pressures, but the best solution to local issues are local solutions.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner  
Minister of Environment