

---

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sept. 22, 2005

The Editor  
Revelstoke Times Review

Editor:

I would like to respond to recent comments that appeared in your newspaper regarding the Province's Riparian Areas Regulation.

These regulatory changes were made to provide more choice for local government and increased flexibility for growing communities, while using informed science to protect riparian areas in British Columbia.

The Ministry has collaborated with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities as well as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in developing these regulatory changes. We've made the rules flexible enough to allow local governments to utilize the new system or use an alternative approach if it meets or exceeds the level of protection that would be provided by the RAR.

We have also worked with UBCM on the implementation of these regulations – including holding a number of workshops. When UBCM told us that some of its members needed more time to make changes, our government responded by extending the deadline to March 31, 2006.

Our goal is to see B.C.'s riparian areas protected and to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible. We're working hard to achieve both of these goals.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner  
Minister of Environment