



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

September 5, 2005

The Editor
The Province

Editor:

In response to your September 4th Editorial (Clean-up is welcome, but what took so long):

The Ministry of Environment first learned of illegal activities at the CPC site in Abbotsford in 2001. Since that time there have been site inspections, an investigation by the Conservation Officer Service and 11 charges laid under the Waste Management Act.

The BC Government prosecuted this case through the courts, which takes some time. Ultimately, in June of this year, CPC was given a \$10,000 fine by a judge for breaking BC laws.

At the same time, Ministry staff tried to work with the site owner on a clean-up solution that would see the waste removed, but not at taxpayers' expense.

Those efforts proved unsuccessful. Having exhausted the available options under the law, the Ministry moved in and began the clean-up itself last month.

The Ministry intends to recoup as many of the costs for the clean up as possible. We are reviewing regulations for hazardous waste operations to see how the rules can be tightened to prevent similar situations from arising again.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment