
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Feb. 21, 2006

The Editor
Vancouver Sun

Re: Industry upset over cuts to water monitoring, Feb. 20

I would like to respond to your recent article about British Columbia's hydrometric network.

The Water Survey of Canada (a branch of Environment Canada) operates the network under a federal-provincial agreement. The B.C. Ministry of Environment and its provincial partners pay about two-thirds of the \$5 million annual cost.

Protection of public health and safety is critical, and it is a priority of this government. I raised this issue last week when I met with the Honourable Rona Ambrose, the federal Minister of the Environment. During this meeting, the new Minister demonstrated that she understands the concerns of British Columbians and provided a commitment to keep existing hydrometric monitoring stations in operation this year.

This commitment to British Columbians is one of the many benefits of maintaining a strong working relationship between the federal and provincial governments.

I remain committed to working with stakeholders and Environment Canada to bring long-term certainty to the funding formula, as we keep hydrometric monitoring stations operating in B.C.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment