



P.O. BOX 2000
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
CANADA, C1A 7N8
TELEPHONE 368-4860

Submission to the Environmental Advisory Council regarding a P.E.I. Water Act

To the Division of Environment, Department of Communities, Land and Environment
From the Prince Edward Island Women's Institute Board of Directors
January 6th, 2016

Water Act Considerations

Dear Chairman Richard Davies, Vice-Chairman Dean Stewart, members of the Environmental Advisory Council, Mr. Jean-Paul Arsenault, Minister Robert Mitchell, Deputy Minister Steven MacLean, and members of the Division of Environment,

We would like to thank the government and the Environmental Advisory Council for the opportunity to comment on issues important to us regarding water.

The Prince Edward Island Federated Women's Institute (PEIWI) is an educational organization with the core principle of "Being a voice, taking action, and creating change in PEI communities". Important principles for the PEIWI are:

- We focus on women, family & home
- We believe in a culture of collaboration & sharing
- We always strive to protect the environment
- We believe that through education, leadership and goodwill, we can build stronger communities.

Provincially, we spearhead the annual Island Roadside Cleanup, and have several environment convener kits for Branches to explore aspects of water and water use. Internationally, the Associated Country Women of the World (which the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada is a member) has many water-related projects on-going in various other countries.

At our PEIWI Provincial Convention on May 24th, 2014, three resolutions were passed:

1 - Therefore be it resolved Prince Edward Island Women's Institute supports and urges the development of a comprehensive water policy for Prince Edward Island that will manage and monitor our water on behalf of our present and future generations.

2 - Therefore be it resolved Prince Edward Island Women's Institute urges the government of Prince Edward Island to maintain the current moratorium on deep water irrigation wells until such time as unbiased, transparent, peer reviewed, proven scientific evidence is available to support the lifting of the moratorium.

3 - Therefore be it resolved that the government of Prince Edward Island establish a moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing in Prince Edward Island, for now and future generations.

As per our resolutions, we wish to see our government's water act protect the quality and the quantity of our Island water, through conservation of our water resource, application of the precautionary principle related to usage demands, including hydraulic fracturing, and protection of water for generations to come.

As our role is primarily educational, we have informed our members about the process of the water act consultations and provided links to supplementary information; and we will continue to encourage Islanders to be involved in the process. As an organization of women of all ages and from all parts of Prince Edward Island, we see the long-range view of the importance of protecting our water for the future.

To all, and especially the members of the Environmental Advisory Council, we appreciate your commitment to listen and consider, and wish you well as you make your recommendations to the Department of Communities, Land and Environment, regarding this paramount issue.

Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Jacquie Laird,
President
Prince Edward Island Women's Institute