



February 10, 1999

Dear colleagues:

Today, Ministers Axworthy and Stewart announced a strategy to prohibit the bulk removal of water from watersheds, including for the purpose of export. The press release and backgrounder are attached for your information.

Your views, expressed during the July 10, 1988 Water Export Symposium, were influential in developing the strategy released today. The strategy respects the provincial and territorial roles for the management of freshwater resources and is environmentally sound and consistent with Canada's trade obligations. It focuses on sound water management principles already in practice and the need to protect the integrity of watersheds. Furthermore, it provides the groundwork for securing the long-term protection of Canada's freshwater resources.

Thank you for participation in helping us to address this important national issue. Please feel free to contact either of us for further details on the announcement.

Yours sincerely,

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