**2021 UBCM Meeting Note Ministry of Environment**

**Protecting the Gibsons Aquifer and Inter Agency Cooperation and Communications**

**Attending:**

Town of Gibsons:

Mayor Beamish and Councillor Croal

Mark Brown, CAO

**Ministry of Environment:**

Laurel Nash (Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca) Assistant Deputy Minister

Tessa Graham - Regional Operations Branch

Brady Nelless – Compliance Branch

The purpose of this meeting was to follow up on concerns previously raised with respect to activities occurring on the Gibsons aquifer and the request that the Town be informed of investigations and the results of investigations by MOE into potential contaminated sites and offences. The meeting is a follow up to correspondence with Laurel Nash in July and August 2021 regarding complaints about the operation of a cement plant and other activities that have occurred in the area.

The Town has requested that it be informed of investigations as and when they happen and especially if there are potential impacts on the aquifer. MOE takes the position that information about investigations is published on their website but that in extreme cases they will inform the Town.

Our concern is that as an order of government with a specific interest in what occurs on the aquifer that provides drinking water to the Town and soon to the SCRD (Church Road wells), the Town needs any information about activities that might impact drinking water quality by penetrating the aquitard which lies under the area. The Town believes that there should be greater communication between it and the MOE for this purpose and as part of an early warning notice of potential issues in order to have better monitoring and a mult- barrier approach to protection.

In 2014, the Town applied to FLNRORD for protection over this area, however, this has not yet occurred and we are discussing this with the Ministry as well.

*(on Sept. 10th we also met with FLNRORD to discuss the outstanding application and it was agreed that a meeting-workshop will be held in October or November 2021 to further discuss this issue. MOE will be invited top participate in this meeting)*

Recent email correspondence (on the 2021 UBCM File) between Mayor Beamish and Laurel Nash refers to this matter.

Bill Beamish