



ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Medicine Hat*

AR 27021

July 4, 2007

Dr. Hans Peterson  
Voluntary Executive Director  
Safe Drinking Water Foundation  
912 Idylwyld Drive North  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7L 0Z6

Dear Dr. Peterson:

Honourable Ed Stelmach and I appreciated receiving your recent letters expressing your concern with safe drinking water in rural and First Nation communities, and the kind invitation to attend the Water Quality Solutions Conference in Edmonton.

Unfortunately, I am unable to participate in the conference due to previously scheduled commitments; however, I have forwarded your invitation to Ms. Stephanie Clarke, Director, Drinking Water Branch, for her consideration. Ms. Clarke will be in contact with you to confirm her attendance in the near future.

The initiatives undertaken by the Safe Drinking Water Foundation to promote safe drinking water for people living in rural and First Nation communities are to be commended. In Alberta, provincial regulations ensure that all Albertans receive the same quality of drinking water, regardless of whether or not they reside in urban or rural communities. In fact, Alberta has a capital funding program in place to help smaller communities build facilities that meet Alberta Environment's standards. Similarly, while owners of private wells and water systems are responsible for maintaining and ensuring the safety of their water, Alberta Environment, Alberta Health and Wellness, and Alberta Agriculture and Food provide information to assist private owners in maintaining their water wells.

In regards to First Nation communities, Alberta Environment has no jurisdiction over the regulation of their waterworks systems. Nonetheless, we are working collaboratively with the federal government and representatives of First Nations to ensure that First Nation communities in Alberta meet provincial standards with respect to design, water quality, and operator certification.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Rob Renner  
Minister

c.c. Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier  
Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation  
Stephanie Clarke, Environment

425 Legislature Building 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone (780) 427-2391 Fax (780) 422-6259  
620 - 3 Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada T1A 0H5 Telephone (403) 527-5622 Fax (403) 527-5112