

September 6, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

Given the increasing importance of freshwater resources in the world, Canada and, more directly, in peoples' local communities, there is a need for citizens to be knowledgeable and wise about all aspects of water. It is this knowledge and wisdom that can help people to make informed decisions concerning freshwater resources and, more specifically, drinking water. Developing such knowledge and wisdom involves exploring the scientific, technological, economic, socio-political and environmental aspects of freshwater. A prime site for such exploration is the grade K-12 experience, yet these issues are not always focused upon in schools or in curricula. Given this context, the Safe Drinking Water Foundation (SDWF) programs are an important learning opportunity for students, teachers, their families and communities as they educate on a variety of levels, in a variety of ways, and relate to an essential necessity of us all.

Meaningful learning involves orchestrating opportunities in which people can integrate what they are learning across a variety of domains and do this in ways which are meaningful to peoples' everyday experiences. The SDWF programs offer this type of learning opportunity and fit well with the science, technology, society and environment goals desired by the Pan Canadian Curriculum (a set of provincially agreed upon common goals in science and other subjects) which has a primary goal of creating scientifically and socially knowledgeable and aware citizens possessing critical thinking skills who can act in informed ways as responsible citizens.

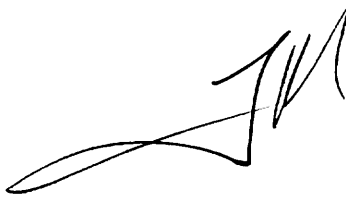
The SDWF programs are highly adaptable to local curricula and programming and offer opportunities for development of learning communities. The SDWF programs incorporate, but also transcend, the usual strictures of classrooms—encouraging a learning community which involves not only students and teachers but families, experts,

and the larger community. This type of linkage is highly motivational and augments peoples' commitment to social responsibility.

Finally, curricula or programming found in schools and outlined by provincial government agencies often have difficulty in being renewed. However, this is not the case with SDWF programs as the SDWF seeks to frequently review their programs, in an effort to improve the quality of the learning experience for students and teachers. This is highly desirable in maintaining the relevance and meaning for learning communities.

I believe the work of the SDWF and the development and instruction of their educational programs is a highly desirable undertaking not only as a learning opportunity in which students can develop intellectually but also as a focal point for their development as scientifically, technologically and socially responsible citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TM', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Tim Molnar

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