

November 30, 2022
Hon. Katrine Conroy, B.C. Minister of Forests



Dear Minister Conroy:

On November 22, 2022, I forwarded an email to you (cc'd to three parties) stating the following:

My name is Will Koop and am the Coordinator of the B.C. Tap Water Alliance (www.bctwa.org). Our non-profit organization, formed in 1997 which advocates the protection of public drinking water sources, [posted an October 28, 2022 letter addressed to Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring](#) by property owners near Avola, B.C.

In that letter they requested your Ministry to immediately cancel B.C. Timber Sales bidding process for a proposed cutblock and added road access located directly above their property.

I have learned from the said property owners that the Deputy Minister has failed to respond to their emergency request of one month ago and has also ignored their repeated phone call messages to speak with them regarding this matter. Because of the pressing nature of the property owners' concerns, I request that you advise the Deputy Minister to provide an immediate response. If the Deputy Minister remains unwilling to do so, we request that the Minister Herself should commence immediate communication.

We will be monitoring and reminding government of this pressing issue in the days and weeks to come, an issue that can no longer be ignored.

CC: Property Owners
Sonya Furstenau, Cowichan Valley, MLA
Peter Milobar, Kamloops / North Thompson, MLA

With respect to the above email, I have not yet received a response by yourself or from another representative in your Ministry. Yesterday, I phoned your office, and once again left a voicemail message. I haven't received a return phone call.

I have also contacted the property owners, who stated to me this morning that your Ministry has still failed to contact them after sending the October 28, 2022, document to your Deputy Minister.

I state again, **it is vital that you apply your Ministerial privilege and powers to promptly intercede on behalf of the said property owners in Avola, B.C. to remove the proposed forest development plans** (indicated in the document link above) **from Kamloops Regional B.C. Timber Sales bidding process**. In doing so – preventing the wrongful issuance of a legal contract – you will not only take the proper remedy in preventing the cumulative waste of public tax dollars related to future damages and costs, and but also the added grief that will be extended to your Ministry staff and to the ongoing grief to said property owners.

As someone familiar in forest development and forest hydrology issues, and as someone who has inspected and documented the site at Roddy Creek, it is my judgement that both the layout route of the Roddy Creek Forest Service Road and the said proposed, abutting cut block and access road above the said private property should never have been, and were inappropriately, planned.

Will Koop.

CC: Property Owners
Sonya Furstenau, Cowichan Valley, MLA
Peter Milobar, Kamloops / North Thompson, MLA
Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister of Forests